

Nipissing University  
Minutes of the Academic Senate Meeting

May 24, 2019

10:30 a.m. – Room F210

MEMBERS PRESENT:

M. DeGagné (Chair), A. Vainio-Mattila, C. Sutton, P. Radia, C. Richardson, D. Iafrate, N. Black

D. Lafrance Horning, M. Litalien, L. Manankil-Rankin, K. McCullough, P. Millar, P. Ravi, M. Sullivan

A. Burk, N. Colborne, A. Hatef, B. Kelly, K. Lucas, K. Srigley, S. Srigley, D. Tabachnick, T. Vassilev

J. Allison, C. Hachkowski, B. Hatt, D. Hay, T. Horton, D. Jarvis, C. Peltier, G. Raymer, C. Ricci, A. Schinkel-Ivy, G. Sharpe

O. Pokorny

L. Lambert

J. Nighbor

C. Foster, T. Sullivan

ABSENT WITH REGRETS:

J. McAuliffe, J. Nadeau

L. Chen

S. Connor, E. Dokis, L. Kruk, G. McCann, S. Renshaw, H. Teixeira, H. Zhu

J. Allison

T. Curry, B. Ray

H. Mackie, S. MacCarthy, N. Muylaert

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA OF THE SENATE MEETING OF: May 24, 2019

MOTION 1: Moved by K. Srigley, seconded by K. McCullough that the agenda of the Senate meeting of May 24, 2019 be approved.

CARRIED

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE SENATE MEETING OF: May 10, 2019

MOTION 2: Moved by N. Colborne, seconded by A. Burk that the minutes of the Senate meeting of May 10, 2019 be adopted.  
CARRIED

The Speaker opened the meeting with a welcome to the traditional territory:

As we begin this Nipissing University Senate meeting, I would like to acknowledge that we are in the territory of the Robinson-Huron Treaty of 1850 and that the land on which we gather is the Nipissing First Nation Traditional Territory and the traditional territory of the Anishnabek. We respect and are grateful to hold this event on these lands with all our relatives.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Moved by N. Colborne, seconded by D. Tabachnick that the attached report from the Standing Joint Committee of the Board and Senate on Governance regarding an update on the eight recommendations included in the Report of the Special Governance Commission be received.  
CARRIED

REPORTS FROM OTHER BODIES

The President advised that northern university presidents met with senior officials at the Ministry of Education to discuss the investment and development of northern Ontario. He advised that universities will be required to provide a sustainability plan with markers to ensure that budgets are balanced and sustainable. The budget cuts made in the past few years have put us well on the way to sustainability. The President reminded of the upcoming convocation ceremonies and advised of the following honorary degree recipients: Evanka Osmak, Gordon H. Durnan, George Flumerfelt, Anne Gingras and Richard Tafel. He offered his congratulations to Dr. Maria Cantalini-Williams who will receive the designation of Professor Emerita at the final joint Wilfrid Laurier/Nipissing University Brantford convocation ceremony on June 4.

The Provost spoke to the Annual Academic Plan 2019-2022 which was sent to Senators by e-mail. She advised that this plan is a work plan and it is connected to the Budget. It should become operational over the summer. The plan does not cover everything that we do, but points out what needs to be done over the coming year. Templates are included for academic and non-academic units so that information can be shared and collaborated on with Chairs and Directors. The Provost expressed gratitude to the many staff that assisted in the creation of the Annual Academic Plan. The Provost advised that she was looking forward to seeing a healthy participation of faculty at the upcoming convocation ceremony celebrations. She also congratulated the Arts and Science faculty on the success of their recent Faculty Retreat.

In response to a question as to when the Annual Academic Plan will be presented to Senate for approval, the Provost responded by advising that we already have an Academic Plan that has been approved by Senate. The Annual Academic Plan operationalizes that plan on an annual basis.

The Vice-President Finance and Administration (VPFA) presented the 2019-2020 Operating Budget. The proposed Budget allows for a \$2.9M deficit. Revenues are projected to be \$1.4M higher than the previous year mainly due to strong student application numbers. Note that the provincially mandated 10% reduction in tuition is included in this budget. The grant projections allow for \$2.6M for the Northern

Sustainability Fund, which was created to help alleviate the effects of the tuition reduction for northern institutions. Overall expenses are up \$630,000 and the VPFA advised that budget holders have done a great job finding efficiencies and reducing expenditures. Previous investments in areas such as recruitment (including international recruitment) and retention strategies such as “The Nipissing Promise” are beginning to positively affect revenues. The Academic Plan guides the budgeting process by setting out the academic priorities of the university. This Budget has been approved by the Audit and Finance Committee and will be presented to the Board of Governors at the June 6, 2019 meeting.

The President of the Alumni Advisory Board advised of the upcoming Donor Celebration hosted with the Alumni Board to take place on June 13. It is an opportunity to recognize the gift from the Alumni Board and celebrate with donors, stakeholders and friends of Nipissing University during convocation. A summary of the year and upcoming Alumni initiatives is attached to the Minutes.

The NUSU Vice-President, Advocacy & Awareness, Charlotte Foster, provided a report. The report is attached to the Minutes.

### QUESTION PERIOD

In response to a question regarding the hiring status of the Dean of Teaching position, the Provost advised that an announcement will be made once the contract has been signed.

In response to a question regarding whether contracts for LTA positions have been sent out, the Provost advised that a number of LTA positions were included in the Budget. Once the Budget is approved, consideration of LTA positions will take place as sustainability of programs is an absolute priority.

### REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES AND FACULTY OR UNIVERSITY COUNCILS

MOTION 3: Moved by M. DeGagné, seconded by K. McCullough that Motions 4-15, approval of Senate Committee and Subcommittee Reports and Annual Reports, be considered for approval as an omnibus Motion.  
CARRIED

MOTION 4: Moved by M. DeGagné, seconded by K. McCullough that Motions 4-15, Senate Committee and Subcommittee Reports and Annual Reports, be approved as an omnibus Motion.

### SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

MOTION 5: Moved by M. DeGagné, seconded by K. McCullough that Senate receive the Report of the Senate Executive Committee dated May 16, 2019.

MOTION 6: Moved by M. DeGagné, seconded by K. McCullough that Senate receive the Annual Report of the Senate Executive Committee dated May 16, 2019.

### BY-LAWS AND ELECTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

MOTION 7: Moved by M. DeGagné, seconded by K. McCullough that the Annual Report of the By-Laws and Elections Subcommittee dated May 16, 2019 be received.

**HONORARY DEGREES SUBCOMMITTEE**

MOTION 8: Moved by M. DeGagné, seconded by K. McCullough that the Annual Report of the Honorary Degrees Subcommittee dated April 30, 2019 be received.

**UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES COMMITTEE**

MOTION 9: Moved by M. DeGagné, seconded by K. McCullough that the Annual Report of the Undergraduate Studies Committee dated April 25, 2019 be received.

**UNDERGRADUATE STANDING AND PETITIONS SUBCOMMITTEE**

MOTION 10: Moved by M. DeGagné, seconded by K. McCullough that the Annual Report of the Undergraduate Standing and Petitions Subcommittee dated April 25, 2019 be received.

**UNDERGRADUATE SERVICES AND AWARDS SUBCOMMITTEE**

MOTION 11: Moved by M. DeGagné, seconded by K. McCullough that the Annual Report of the Undergraduate Services and Awards Subcommittee dated April 3, 2019 be received.

**STUDENT APPEALS COMMITTEE**

MOTION 12: Moved by M. DeGagné, seconded by K. McCullough that the Annual Report of the Student Appeals Committee dated April 25, 2019 be received.

**LIBRARY ADVISORY SUBCOMMITTEE**

MOTION 13: Moved by M. DeGagné, seconded by K. McCullough that the Annual Report of the Library Advisory Subcommittee dated April 17, 2019 be received.

**GRADUATE STUDIES COMMITTEE**

MOTION 14: Moved by M. DeGagné, seconded by K. McCullough that the Annual Report of the Graduate Studies Committee dated May 6, 2019 be received.

**RESEARCH COUNCIL**

MOTION 15: Moved by M. DeGagné, seconded by K. McCullough that the Annual Report of the Research Council dated May 6, 2019 be received.  
CARRIED

**AMENDMENT OF BY-LAWS**

MOTION 16: Moved by N. Colborne, seconded by D. Tabachnick that Article 8.1 of the Senate By-Laws be amended as outlined below:

- 8.1 General Committee/Ad Hoc Committee Procedures
- (a) In general, where appropriate and feasible, the procedures of Senate standing or ad hoc committees shall parallel those of Senate.
  - (b) Except as stated otherwise in these By-Laws, the President shall be an *ex officio* non-voting member of every Senate standing or ad hoc committee.
  - (c) Unless otherwise stipulated in these By-Laws, all Senate standing or ad hoc committees shall report directly to Senate, while ad hoc committees within Senate standing

committees shall bring reports and recommendations to their parent committees for consideration and possible conveyance to Senate.

- (d) A Senate standing or ad hoc committee/subcommittee may also report to another such committee/subcommittee at the other committee/subcommittee's request. Any such report shall also be conveyed to Senate, for information.
- (e) The Chair of Senate shall appoint a recording secretary for each standing committee. In the event of his/her absence, the committee shall appoint another person to act as recording secretary.
- (f) Secretarial support for each committee/subcommittee shall be provided through the office of:
  - (i) the Chair of the committee/subcommittee, when the Chair is an *ex officio* voting or non-voting member; or
  - (ii) a senior *ex officio* voting member of the committee/subcommittee, when the Chair is a faculty Senator.

CARRIED

MOTION 17: Moved by N. Colborne, seconded by D. Tabachnick that Article 9.6 of the Senate By-Laws be amended as outlined below:

9.6 Joint Committee of the Board and Senate on Governance

- (a) *Ex Officio* Members:
  - i) the President of the Nipissing University Student Union (NUSU) or designate.
- (b) Members elected by Senate:
  - (i) three (3) faculty Senators.
- (c) Members elected by the Board of Governors:
  - (i) three (3) members of the Board of Governors, including the Chair of the University Governance Committee and two (2) non-constituent Board members elected by the Board;
  - ii) the President & Vice-Chancellor (ex-officio – non-voting).

CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

MOTION 18: Moved by D. Iafrate, seconded by A. Burk that Senate consider receipt of the Report on Graduation Applicants dated May 23, 2019.

CARRIED

MOTION 19: Moved by D. Iafrate, seconded by K. Srigley that Senate receive the Report of Graduation Applicants dated May 23, 2019.

CARRIED

MOTION 20: Moved by D. Iafrate, seconded by C. Foster that Senate grant approval to graduate the students listed in the Report of Graduation Applicants dated May 23, 2019.

CARRIED

MOTION 21: Moved by D. Iafrate, seconded by C. Hachkowski that Senate grant authority to the Senate Executive to consider, receive and grant approval to any late applications to graduate for June 2019.

CARRIED

As per request, presentation of the 2019-20 Operating Budget was moved up on the agenda for discussion by the Vice-President Finance and Administration under Reports from Other Bodies.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Provost and Deans read out the June 2019 graduands by faculty and degree and congratulated the students and faculty on their achievements.

### ADJOURNMENT

Senate was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.



.....  
M. DeGagné (Chair)



.....  
S. Landriault (Senate Secretary)

REPORT FROM THE **STANDING JOINT COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD AND SENATE ON GOVERNANCE**  
REGARDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SPECIAL GOVERNANCE  
COMMISSION.

For an introduction to the work of the Special Governance Commission and Recommendations see the report:

<https://www.nipissingu.ca/sites/default/files/2018-05/Collegial-Governance-at-Nipissing-University.pdf>

The list of the eight (8) SGC recommendations were accepted by the Board of Governors on January 12, 2017, and by Senate on January 13, 2017. The current status of the recommendations is as follows:

**1. *The SGC recommends that Senate create a Budget Advisory Committee to consider and make recommendations to the Board through the President on the - 6 - 6 allocation of resources for academic purposes, in conformity with the Nipissing University Act [22.2 (i)].***

This committee was created at Senate on November 10, 2017.

**2. *That the Board of Governors, through the President, advise the Senate Budget Advisory Committee as to the schedule for the preparation of the annual budget indicating deadlines for submissions of recommendations and provide a draft budget, prior to approval by the Board, to the Senate Budget Advisory Committee to permit recommendations to be made to the President, as the representative of the Board, in accordance with the established schedule.***

The Budget Advisory Committee has been meeting regularly.

**3. *The SGC recommends to the Board a modification of its policies on the hiring of Non-Academic Vice-Presidents, as follows: to require the President to solicit the advice of Senate [24(3)], through Senate participation in a joint Board-Senate hiring committee, for the hiring of any official, academic and non-academic, for which the approval of the Board is sought.***

Currently under discussion at the Standing Joint Committee of the Board and Senate

**4. *The SGC recommends to Senate the amendment of its bylaws to include Senate participation in joint Board-Senate hiring committees for the hiring of any official, academic and non-academic, for which the approval of the Board is sought.***

Currently under discussion at the Standing Joint Committee of the Board and Senate

**5. *The SGC recommends that Senate and the Board adopt and maintain unified and consistent policies and bylaws regarding such joint Board-Senate hiring committees.***

Currently under discussion at the Standing Joint Committee of the Board and Senate

**6. *In acknowledgement of the shared interest in collegial governance structures, which encompass the respective roles of the Senate and the Board of Governors, the SGC recommends the creation of a Standing Joint Committee of the Board and Senate on Governance. The mandate of the committee***

***would be to review on an at least an annual basis the governance structures and practices of the University to foster bicameral communication and collegiality. This committee should consist of equal membership of Senate and the Board: three members elected by each, and a single representative of the Student Union. It is the expectation that the standing committee would operate on a consensus basis. If and when necessary, the services of an independent Chair may be sought.***

The Senate Members of this committee were elected at the May 26, 2017 Senate Meeting.  
The Board Members of this committee were appointed at the August 18, 2017 Board of Governors meeting.

***7. The SGC recommends that the abovementioned committee establish a procedure for providing a joint orientation to new members of the Senate and Board as a means of promoting the effective governance of the university.***

The first Joint Orientation for Board of Governors and Academic Senate was held on Friday, September 14, 2018 from 11:00-2:30.

***8. The SGC recommends that the Standing Committee generate a statement on the importance of collegial governance at Nipissing, to be endorsed in the policies and bylaws of each of Senate and the Board. It is further recommended that any issues that may arise concerning a lack of civility and decorum in the conduct of the business of the Senate or Board and which cannot be satisfactorily addresses under the existing policies and bylaws of each, be considered by the Standing - 7 - 7 Committee which may make such recommendations for amendments to by-laws, practices or policies as may be advisable.***

The Statement of Collegiality was adopted by the Board of Governors on January 10, 2019 and by Senate on Feb 8, 2019:

We believe collegiality is essential to the structure and practice of university governance. Given the diversity of its constituent groups and its mission of advancing truth and knowledge, Nipissing University is best served by the open expression of ideas and opinions; encouraging thoughtful dissenting views. Successful collegial governance depends on all participants acting in good faith and having access to relevant information to offer sound opinions. In the same spirit, we must strive for inclusiveness, equality, transparency, and broad participation in our decision making. Recognizing the obligations, responsibilities and jurisdictions of the Senate and the Board of Governors, collegial governance requires interdependence and the highest standards of mutual respect and good relationships. The shared governance and mission of the University is best served when the principles of collegiality are respected. All of us must do our part to uphold the ideals of academic freedom and democratic practice inherent in our system of collegial governance.



## **Alumni Advisory Board Report – May 24, 2019**

### **Gift Announcement**

Please join us for a gift announcement in the library on June 13th at 12. We will be announcing our commitment of support for students, alumni, and the community. See attached invitation below for details.

### **Alumni Awards**

Our alumni award nominations closed on April 1st and the board has voted on recipients who will be honoured at the event during Homecoming. Invitations to this event will follow.

### **Board Vacancies**

Our board has two vacancies that we are hoping to fill with engaged individuals who have a special place in their heart for Nipissing University. Please refer appropriate individuals to <https://www.nipissingu.ca/alumni/advisory-board/board-member-application>.

### **Convocation**

Our members will be supporting the new graduates at convocation and will also have degree frames for sale. See link for details - <https://www.nipissingu.ca/alumni/degree-frames>

### **Affinity Programs**

Our Alumni Relations Coordinator has been working diligently on expanding our affinity programs to boost revenue and provide benefits to our graduates. We are currently exploring options for clothing sales, a cell phone plan, and a life and health insurance plan.

### **Homecoming**

Planning for homecoming is under way with some new events in the schedule so save the date for October 4 - 6!

### **Terms of Reference**

We have updated our terms of reference to reflect changes in our strategic plan and updated process for funding requests and commitments.

This year has been very productive for the board as we are making calculated changes in the way we allocate funds and support alumni. Our focus for the 2019-2020 is to engage the local alumni and community with smaller events throughout the year and expand our affinity revenue so that we may continue to give back to the students in a meaningful and long-lasting way.

On behalf of the board, I'd like to wish you all a safe and happy holiday.

## **NUSU Academic Senate Report**

### **May 2019**

#### **Faculty of Arts & Science Retreat**

Yesterday Tayler, our VP Finance & Administration, and Shannon, our VP Student Life, attended the Faculty of Arts & Science Retreat. We would like to thank Dr. Pavlina Radia, Dr. Andrew Weeks and their team for hosting us, as well as the Faculty of Arts & Science for welcoming us and sharing ideas. The round table discussions allowed our student representatives and the faculty attendees to have open conversation surrounding ideas for student engagement and community outreach opportunities. We look forward to all the great initiatives, programs and courses that will be offered over the next year.

#### **Clean, Green, Beautiful Campaign**

NUSU and Nipissing University have joined the North Bay Clean, Green, Beautiful campaign. This initiative looks to foster stewardship of the land, water, and community, with a focus of raising civic pride and enhancing the beauty of North Bay.

Between now and May 31st, NUSU and Nipissing University have a social media contest for students, alumni and community members to post photos of themselves taking positive action to help the environment. For anyone who participates in this initiative they will be entered into a contest to win a gift basket only if they tag Nipissing University and NUSU in their pictures.

We are also looking to do further activities in July and September regarding cleanups on and off campus. We would love to work with faculty and staff to build relationships while enhancing the beauty of our campus.

#### **Summer Jobs Program**

NUSU, through the Summer Jobs Program, is able to hire four employees throughout the summer. Job postings for the first two positions have been posted. Information can be found at [nusu.com/summerjobs](http://nusu.com/summerjobs).

#### **Military Appreciation Month**

This month is Military Appreciation Month and we would like to thank our students, faculty and staff who are serving military members, family members of military personnel or veterans for their service. We would also like to recognize the North Bay Military Family Resource Centre for all the work they do for military personnel and their families.

#### **Food Bank**

We would like to say thank you to the History Department for their donation of \$750 to the NUSU Student Food Bank.

#### **Graduation**

We would like to congratulate all of the students graduating from the class of 2018/2019 in June. We are extremely proud of each and every student and look forward to engaging with them as alumni.