

Nipissing University  
Minutes of the Academic Senate Meeting  
March 13, 2020  
2:30 p.m. – Room F210

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

A. Burk, D. Campbell, L. Chen, N. Colborne, S. Connor, H. Earl,  
L. Hoehn, B. Kelly, N. Kozuskanich, S. Renshaw, S. Srigley, H.  
Teixeira, R. Vernescu, H. Zhu

J. Allison, C. Anyinam, D. Hay, T. Horton, A. Kociolek, D.  
Lafrance Horning, L. Manankil-Rankin, K. McCullough, P.  
Millar, G. Raymer, C. Ricci, A. Schinkel-Ivy, T. Sibbald, M.  
Sullivan

C. Irwin, O. Pokorny

B. Ray

H. Mackie

ABSENT WITH REGRETS:

C. Sutton

A. Ackerman, O. Atari, A. Hatef, M. Litalien, K. Lucas, D.  
Tabachnick

C. Hachkowski, D. Jarvis

S. Kidd

E. Lougheed

T. Sullivan, C. Foster, N. Muylaert, S. Pecoskie-Schweir

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA OF THE SENATE MEETING OF: March 13, 2020

MOTION 1: Moved by H. Mackie, seconded by S. Renshaw that the agenda of the Senate meeting of March 13, 2020 be approved.

CARRIED

The Provost was pleased to advise that approval of the revised BSc Specialization and BSc Honours program in Data Science had recently been received from the Council of Ontario Universities. A Motion to approve the program will be presented under New Business.

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE SENATE MEETING OF: February 14, 2020

MOTION 2: Moved by S. Renshaw, seconded by T. Sibbald that the minutes of the Senate meeting of February 14, 2020 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.

REPORTS FROM OTHER BODIES

The President advised that an outline sampling of activities he had participated in over the last month would be included in the Minutes. In response to the email sent out to all faculty, staff and students earlier that afternoon regarding the COVID-19 update and statement from the University, the President advised that over the last week intensive collaboration had taken place with COU, Universities Canada and various health professionals to decide whether classes should be cancelled and universities closed. A copy of the email sent is attached to the Minutes. The President advised that all events on campus currently scheduled up to and including March 27, 2020, are being cancelled, postponed or offered virtually. This includes, Open House, Research Month events, the Robotics Competition, student camps and campus tours. Further meetings to coordinate with other universities will take place later today. He thanked the faculty and staff who have been working tirelessly to ensure that we are prepared to respond.

In response to concerns expressed regarding student practicums and/or clinical placements, the Dean of Education and Professional Studies advised that she is working on an FAQ to provide to students with questions. Students will receive an email personally from their Director or Chair.

In response to questions regarding moving classes online, the Dean of Teaching advised that most courses have unique circumstances and that there is no cookie cutter or master fit for each course. He reported that the University has many licenses for Blackboard. He advised that we will do everything we can to support faculty and students. For assistance, please contact [teachinghub@nipissingu.ca](mailto:teachinghub@nipissingu.ca)

In response to a question as to whether faculty are prohibited from meeting with students, the Provost advised that faculty members can meet with small groups of students while the university is open. As we are unable to put all exams on-line, alternate methods are being looked at. The Teaching Hub will provide information and share best practices. The Dean of Arts and Science advised that the Deans have met and a spreadsheet advising of the courses that need to be completed will be sent out. Faculty will be asked to advise if they wish to deliver the remainder of their courses on-line, if an alternative exam is required and if additional support is required. It was suggested that take home exams be staggered so that students don't have deadlines all at once. The Provost asked that any questions regarding the scheduling of exams be forwarded to the Registrar. The NUSU President advised that the students overall concern is to know what is happening. The Provost advised that information will be shared with the students as soon as possible.

The Provost provided a report, noting that some of the events have since been cancelled. The report included an enrolment report and an Academic Plan update. The Report is attached to the Minutes.

The Report from the Alumni Advisory Board is attached to the Minutes.

The Minutes of the February 11 & 12, 2020 Council of Ontario Universities (Academic Colleague) meeting are attached to the Minutes.

NUSU President, Hannah Mackie, provided a Report. The Report is attached to the Minutes.

### QUESTION PERIOD

In response to a question as to how proposals will move forward for discussion at the March 24, 2020 Academic Curriculum Committee meeting, the Provost advised that the institution is not being shut down. Operational and other internal meetings will continue as scheduled.

In response to a request for an update regarding the recent changes to the delivery of registered nursing education programs in Ontario, specifically the collaborative nursing degree model, the Provost advised that we are working together with Canadore College to look at ways to strengthen our MOU.

In response to a recent decision to restrict access to use of the everybody group email list, the Director of External Relations advised that several workplace complaints had been received regarding improper use. She advised that the team is working on a strategy for open lines of communication. The Director of Technology Services reported that we are currently in Phase 1 of a clean up our email, and in the next year we will be moving to Microsoft Outlook, Microsoft 365 and Microsoft Teams. Phase 2 will include a clean up of all the email groups. The Deans' offices have generic accounts and can send out mass emails pertaining to university business. Sub groups will still be available for faculty to communicate. An email policy is currently being worked on. Feedback and concerns were invited to be shared at: [communications@nipissingu.ca](mailto:communications@nipissingu.ca)

In response to a question regarding students registered as both Nipissing and Canadore students and which institution's statement they would be subject to, the President advised that the colleges are providing a more unified approach and that statements are expected to be released later today.

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

#### SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

MOTION 1: Moved by M. DeGagné, seconded by H. Mackie that the Report of the Senate Executive Committee dated March 5, 2020 be received.  
CARRIED

The President requested that under New Business, Senate consider re-visiting the powers of the Senate Executive Committee to approve graduates in case of a university closure.

#### ACADEMIC QUALITY ASSURANCE AND PLANNING COMMITTEE (AQAPC)

MOTION 1: Moved by A. Vainio-Mattila, seconded by H. Mackie that the Report of the Academic Quality Assurance and Planning Committee dated February 21, 2020 be received.  
CARRIED

MOTION 2: Moved by A. Vainio-Mattila, seconded by M. Sullivan that the modification of Senate Policy Document, Article 3.46, Course Changes, be accepted and approved.  
CARRIED

**SENATE BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

MOTION 1: Moved by A. Vainio-Mattila, seconded by S. Renshaw that the Report of the Senate Budget Advisory Committee dated March 3, 2020 be received.  
CARRIED

**TEACHING AND LEARNING COMMITTEE**

MOTION 1: Moved by G. Raymer, seconded by S. Renshaw that the Report of the Teaching and Learning Committee dated January 14, 2020 be received.  
CARRIED

**NEW BUSINESS**

MOTION 1: Moved by H. Zhu, seconded by A. Vainio-Mattila that Senate consider receipt of the revised BSc Specialization and BSc Honours program in Data Science.  
CARRIED

The Provost advised that Senate had previously approved the BSc/BA proposal on Data Science and the final revision was sent to the Quality Council about 6 weeks ago. The previous submission limited the proposal to Data Science programs. Because the proposal is substantially different than the initial proposal, the Provost requested Senate approval. Dr. Murat Tuncali was recognized and provided background and spoke on the differences.

MOTION 2: Moved by H. Zhu, seconded by H. Mackie that Senate approve the revised BSc Specialization and BSc Honours program in Data Science.  
CARRIED

In response to the rapidly evolving COVID-19 situation and its effects on how we do business at the university, the President requested that the powers of the Senate Executive Committee to approve graduates until the next Senate meeting or until students graduate in case of a university closure be re-visited. The Senate Executive terms of reference as outlined in the Senate By-Laws, currently state, “when required, to exercise Senate’s authority and act on Senate’s behalf during the Senate summer recess period, with the understanding that all such actions shall be reported at the September meeting of Senate;”. The President requested that By-Laws Article 14 be amended to include the addition of a sunset clause. Following discussion, it was noted that a Motion to amend or suspend the Senate By-Laws requires a two-thirds (2/3) plurality.

MOTION 3: Moved by M. DeGagné, seconded by P. Millar that Senate suspend Senate By-Laws Article 14.  
21 votes in favour - 11 votes opposed; therefore a two-thirds (2/3) plurality was not met.  
DEFEATED

MOTION 4: Moved by M. DeGagné, seconded by H. Mackie that Senate move in camera.  
CARRIED

President DeGagné provided a Motion from the Honorary Degrees Committee.

MOTION 5: Moved by M. DeGagné, seconded by N. Kozuskanich that Senate move out of camera.  
CARRIED

**ADJOURNMENT**

Senate was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. DeGagné', written over a light blue rectangular background.

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M. DeGagné (Chair)

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sandy Landriault', written over a light blue rectangular background.

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

## **President's Update**

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### **Sampling of Activities and Events: February 15, 2020 – March 13, 2020**

#### **Campus**

- Women's Hockey: Seniors Game
- Women's/Men's Volleyball: Seniors Game
- Lakers Hockey: Women's Playoffs
- World Social Work Week
- CPP Convocation in Ottawa
- NU 360

#### **Community**

- Men's Leadership Breakfast
- Research Month Launch @ City Hall

#### **Meetings**

- FRAYME Board meeting
- Canadian Nurses Association: Discussion
- OUA HR Committee
- Quality Assurance Audit
- Miranda Huron
- COU Executive Committee meeting
- Tanya Lukin-Linklater
- Senate Executive
- Enterprise Risk Management
- Executive Committee of the Board
- Max FineDay
- Call with Red River College
- Gabriel Miller
- Board of Governors meeting

#### **Government**

- NRCAN Speaking engagement
- Canadian Roots Exchange Board Retreat
- DAC briefing session
- CIRNAC and ISC departmental audit committees
- Canadian Nurses Association: Guest Lecture
- Executive Heads urgent teleconference

**Collaboration**

- Presentation to the CRE Indigenous Youth Policy School

**Research / Other**

- Speaker HALE series: MSU

**Provost's Report for Board of Governors on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2020, and Academic Senate 13<sup>th</sup> March 2020**  
8<sup>th</sup> March 2020, Arja Vainio-Mattila

**I Highlights**

Nipissing University is pleased to announce a new Social Work Indigenous Student Award. This award will be available to an Indigenous student enrolled in the professional years of Social Work who has a minimum overall average of 75% and demonstrates financial need. Funding for this award was generously provided by the [Knowledge First Foundation](#).

Teaching Hub is now open after a soft launch on February 6<sup>th</sup>. Board Committee days will be held there on April 6<sup>th</sup>. Teaching Hub website: <https://www.nipissingu.ca/academics/teaching-hub>

March is Research Month. A successful launch was held at City Hall to highlight the community impact of research at the local, national, and international levels. The full programme can be found at: <https://www.nipissingu.ca/events/research-month-2020> The programme show cases research engagement by Faculty (e.g. NU 360), Graduate Students (e.g. 3MT), and Undergraduate Students (e.g. Undergraduate Research Conference)

Canadore College and Nipissing University are pursuing the strengthening of the collaborative nursing programme through a development of a new MOU to govern the degree delivery.

The Faculty Council of the Faculty of Education and Professional Studies (created in 2019) has approved its constitution. As a result, the faculty will now elect members to an Academic Regulations and Curriculum Committee (ARCC), and can move forward with officially doing the business of the faculty. This is a very important step forward with respect to the new two-faculty structure of the university.

The School of Social Work is pleased to welcome a new tenure track faculty member, beginning in July of 2020, Jeff Thornborrow. Jeff has been teaching for us on a limited-term basis and we will be delighted to continue our work with him as a tenure-track faculty member.

Education students are currently doing their Community Leadership Placements in Trois Pistoles, Costa Rica, France and Kenya. We look forward to welcoming them home.

On Feb 25, 2020, our faculty hosted a screening of "Cradling the Heart: An Anishinaabek Creation Story," a video presentation featuring Terry Dokis, organized by Dr. Katrina Srigley, Chair of the Department of History and produced by Greg Foster.

Nursing, political science and the Indigenous Cluster Hire searches are in progress, as is the search for the new Dean of EPS.

The Data Science proposal has been submitted to the Quality Council. Also, discussion about developing a new program exploring environmental issues from interdisciplinary perspectives is underway (Humanities, Social Science, and Science), in alignment with the A & S Recommendations Action Plan.

Congratulations to Nebyu Daniel for winning the ESRI Canada GIS Scholarship Award 2020, and Jordan Cascagnette for being named the recipient of the prestigious Ontario College of Teachers Scholarship (Intermediate/Senior).



The Department of Political Science and its students will host Roseanne Archibald, the Regional Chief of Ontario. She will give a guest presentation on March 13<sup>th</sup>.

The Quality Council carried out a focussed institutional audit of Nipissing University 2-3 March 2020. Their report is expected in April.

The English Studies external review is 12-13 March 2020.

**Omni**, is an outcome of the Ontario Council of University Libraries (OCUL) Collaborative Futures initiative and is powered by the skills and expertise of team members from 14 Ontario university libraries. The project was in planning for the past three years and in implementation for the past 12 months. Omni went live December 13, 2019. This represents a significant amount of work by our library staff.

The BEd Expo was held 7 March 2020 and was successful drawing 65 students.

## **Nipissing University Spring Open House will be held March 21<sup>st</sup> 2020.**

### **II Enrolment Report (as per 6 March 2020)**

#### ***Enrollment Report to MTCU:***

<b><i>Enrolment Date</i></b>	<b><i>Headcount</i></b>	<b><i>FTE</i></b>
February 1, 2020	4593	1828.76
February 1, 2019	4469	1733

#### ***Admissions Fall/Winter 2020:***

<b><i>Year</i></b>	<b><i>Applications (all)</i></b>	<b><i>Offers</i></b>	<b><i>Acceptances</i></b>
Fall/Winter 2019	4620	2599	557
Fall/Winter 2020	4265	2267	514
Difference	-7.7%	-13%	-15%

#### **Context:**

While our overall applications are down this year, we have seen significant increases in our international applications (+ 68 applications) and graduate studies (+49). Provincially, all application types are down, including, Teacher Education, non-secondary applications, and for the first time ever Ontario high school applications.

We continue to focus on conversion, including the activities below:

#### ***Recruitment Activities:***

- BEd Expo – Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup>
- Shadow Days – March 17<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>
- Excellence Breakfast – March 21<sup>st</sup>
- Open House – March 21<sup>st</sup>
- Calling campaign continues to all applicants that have received our offer

### **III Update on the Annual Academic Action Plan 2019-2020**

#### ***IA1 Re-organize Senate Policies - ongoing***

The draft outline was discussed with the Senate By-laws Committee on February 20<sup>th</sup>. The Registrar's Office is working on a new proposal that incorporates the ideas discussed.

#### ***IA2 - Revision of Senate Policies - ongoing***

Working on this at the same time as above. This one is more challenging because we're having a difficult time finding out when policies were last reviewed, some of the information in the policy document isn't a policy and some policies aren't in the document but should be. Once IA1 is finalized this initiative should move quicker.

#### ***IB1 - Create a SEM Plan - ongoing***

The SEM Committee met on January 29<sup>th</sup> to determine the goal and scope of the committee and identify the data required. The next step will be to determine enrolment targets.

#### ***IC Strategy for Indigenous Education - paused***

This initiative is waiting for the results of the Cluster Hire process.

#### ***ID1 Internationalization Strategy - ongoing***

The Committee has been formed and has started to meet.

Received report from EAB on "International Student Support Systems".

#### ***Initiative ID2: Internal response to international recruitment***

A position and job description has been developed that will provide cross-cultural training for staff and faculty. The position is waiting for approval.

#### ***ID3 External response to international recruitment - ongoing***

We have joined the Local Immigration Partnership, and are in preparation for a partnership event with service providers in the community.

An International Symposium was held on February 26<sup>th</sup> in the Teaching Hub that brought together several community stakeholders to discuss how we can better support international students and family to North Bay.

#### ***IE1 Dashboards for Monitoring - ongoing***

We have invested in 14 licenses for PowerBI Pro that will allow the IR office to share reports (in the form of interactive visual dashboards) amongst the active PowerBI user group.

Currently the 14 members include the Deans of EPS and A&S and their administrators, the Registrar (and some Associate Registrar's), the PVPAR, VP Finance and the AVP students and a hand full of "Directors".

Beginning in December 2019 we deployed our first dashboard that tracks our 2020 applications. This dashboard (which contains about 8 sub-reports) was demonstrated at the January 13<sup>th</sup> Provost Council and our office will continue to tweak this dashboard to meet the needs of our end users (e.g., we will add a view regarding international enrolment ASAP).

We are currently in the process of creating additional dashboards and anticipate them being ready for sharing amongst the relevant members of the PowerBI user group in the next 3-8months:

- SMA 3 Metrics Tracking
- Student Profile (i.e., dynamic dashboard that allows us to break down our student body by program and see key demographic details)
- Financial Reporting (e.g., tuition projections vs. actual; department spend vs. previous years and/or YTD) -- these will be developed in direct consultation with the Director and VP of Finance

#### ***IIA1 Strategic Research Plan***

- Approved 2019 – completed
- Posted as PDF on NU website – completed
- Summary submitted to CRC – ongoing
- Meeting with External Relations & Advancement to launch web version – ongoing
- Meeting with FASS to create interactive web/condensed version – ongoing
- Financial metrics are in place – completed
- Publication metrics – email sent to PVPAR requesting access to publication data in year-end reports - ongoing

#### ***IIA2 Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion***

- Developed EDI statements for CRC process and posted online – completed
- Research Co-ordinator served as EDI officer for CRC renewal process – Aug- Oct 2019
- Representation of the EDI officer during current conversations (new allocations and upcoming available position) Dec-Jan – ongoing
- EDI Policy is in draft form
- Environmental scan (Ontario and ACCRU) of offices of responsibility for EDI – ongoing

#### ***IIA3 Canada Research Chairs***

- Developed Policy on Management of Canada Research Chair allocations at Nipissing University - May 15, 2019
- Submitted three applications for renewal - October 2019
- Held two meetings of CRC Advisory Committee to establish research areas for replacement of one Tier 2 CRC who has completed 2 terms (i.e., 10 years) and the new allotment of a Tier 2 CRC - ongoing

#### ***IIA4 Communications***

- Meetings with External Relations - Advancement to plan for communication strategy - ongoing
- Process and conversations within OGSR - ongoing

<b><i>Initiative II.A.5. Other Initiatives - Innovation</i></b>	
Goal	Innovation management and community relations
Description	Establish a process to commercialize research and measure impact on the community.
Responsibility	Office of GSR and External Relations
Success Measures	Number and amount of industry and community investment in research. Develop and hire Innovation Officer.
Timeline	Fall 2020 for hiring - Ongoing

Progress Jan 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Dean attended Expert Panel on Intellectual Property consultation (Sudbury) - October 2019</li> <li>- Dean and Cristin Christopher, External Relations, met with City of North Bay to discuss research and community impact - December 2019</li> <li>- Mayor and City Managers tour of research facilities – December 2019</li> </ul>
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<b>Initiative II.A.6. Other Initiatives: Research Success</b>	
Goal	Inform the community on the increase in research funding/success.
Description	Create interactive metrics and dashboards
Responsibility	Office of GSR and Institutional Planning
Success Measures	Increase in the number of grant submissions and awards year over year and increase the number of knowledge translation units.
Timeline	Winter 2020 - Ongoing
Progress Jan 2020	Will meet with Director, Institutional Planning and Research to develop the metrics and dashboards to university standards - ongoing

<b>Initiative II.A.7. Other Initiatives: Centres and Institutes</b>	
Goal	Increase community and institutional profile of Centres and Institutes
Description	Review of existing Centres and Institutes. Approved new Centres. Review policy for Centres and Institutes.
Responsibility	Office of GSR
Success Measures	Funding and knowledge mobilization metrics linked to the centres.
Timeline	Winter 2020 - Ongoing
Progress Jan 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Include funding for Centres and Institutes in Budget – completed</li> <li>- Review policy for Centres and Institutes – ongoing</li> <li>- Establish database of active Centres and Institutes – ongoing</li> <li>- Approved Centre for War and Atrocities (CWAG) – Fall 2019</li> <li>- Liaise with Facilities to establish space for CWAG – ongoing</li> <li>- Office of GSR to work with CWAG to develop a CFI proposal to support the Centre – winter/spring 2020</li> </ul>

### ***IIB1 Dean of Teaching - complete***

Dr. Pat Maher started in the position in October 2019.

### ***IIB2 Teaching Hub - complete***

The Teaching Hub was opened on 6 February 2020.

### ***IIB3 Teaching Chairs - ongoing***

The Dean of Teaching is exploring opportunities to connect the Teaching Chairs to programming at the Teaching Hub, and is developing the programme itself in consultation with the Chairs (comparing their deliverables to expectations, what new expectations we might set with the Teaching Hub coming online, next priority areas, etc.). These events can be found on the Teaching Hub web site.

The call for new Teaching Chairs has gone out.

#### ***IIB4 Strategic Plan for Teaching - ongoing***

Consultation has started with other institutions on best practices relating to this initiative.

#### ***IIC Library - ongoing***

We are experiencing slight increases in the number of our instruction sessions for Nipissing and Canadore.

As a result of the transition to our new library system (Omni), a number of our online tutorials needed to be removed; we are in the process of re-doing/updating those to reflect our new system. We also offered drop in sessions for students, faculty and staff to learn about Omni.

We continue to provide instructive guidance/assistance at our Info Desk (we are seeing slight increases to our interactions at the desk) and we continue to reach out to faculty to offer and encourage library instruction sessions.

The Library is also exploring its connections to the Teaching Hub and to the First Year Foundations Programme.

#### ***III.A.1. Tenure Track Faculty Positions***

Positions in place by July 2020

- TT hire completed in GESJ, Social Work
- TT hires in progress with search committee:
  - o Political Science
  - o Potentially 3-4 positions through Cluster Hire of Indigenous Scholars in Various Disciplines
  - o Nursing

Positions in place by July 2021

- Discussions are ongoing with Deans to establish priorities as part of the budgeting process

#### ***IIIA2 Sabbaticals - completed for 2020-2021***

#### ***IIIA3 Teaching releases: Administrative - completed for 2020-2021***

#### ***IIIA3 Teaching releases: Research - completed for 2020-2021***

#### ***IIIB3 Strategic Plan for Graduate Studies***

Preliminary discussion of new Interdisciplinary Doctoral program – ongoing

- Preliminary discussions of new MSc in Nursing program and/or health stream in the MEd program - ongoing

- Environmental scan of similar institutions' Strategic Plan for Graduate Studies - ongoing
- Initial discussion of Graduate Plan with Graduate Coordinators/Chair at GSC Retreat - September 2019
- Draft plan complete – presentation and deliberation of plan at GSC - winter 2020
- Submitted proposal to increase GA rate to be more in line with other Ontario universities – September 12, 2019
- Submitted proposal to offer an International Graduate Student tuition subsidy – December 17, 2019

#### ***IIIB4 Degree Architecture***

We're in the process of creating a chart listing all programs (degree, certs, diplomas) and their current structure, this will help us identify areas of inconsistency. The work to map current degree architecture is ongoing.

#### ***IIIC1 Quality Assurance***

The expedited institutional quality assurance audit was carried out by Ontario Universities Quality Council in early March. We expect a report in April.

Current IQAP reviews:

English Studies

IQAP process has been initiated for:

Child and family Studies

Gender Equality and Social Justice

History (undergraduate and graduate)

Religions and Culture

### **NUAAB Senate Update March 2020**

We just received official confirmation from Ten Thousand Coffees and RBC Future Launch that funding has been renewed for Year 2 of the NU Café program.

In the last 8 months NU Café has:

- Provided access to career conversations to 300 students and alumni
- Introduced 1300 students and young alumni to industry professionals every month
- Hosted NU Café Office Hour chat on campus about the importance of mentorship subsequent events are being planned in the near future
- Collected success stories and positive feedback from students and young alumni

If you would like to join the platform or learn more please visit the website [www.nipissingu.ca/nucafe](http://www.nipissingu.ca/nucafe).

March 4th our direct email campaign with our affinity partner TD Insurance was sent to all eligible alumni to promote our new suite of Life & Health and Dental & Health benefits. This is the first time we've been able to provide the option for our alumni to purchase dental benefits.

NUAAB and the alumni office will begin planning for Homecoming October 2-4, 2020. More information will start to be released as details are confirmed. Please save the date.

The alumni office has been reaching out to faculty and alumni to feature them in our weekly social media success story. Follow us on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter to see all the stories. If you or an alumnus you know would like to be interviewed for a feature please contact Bridgette Perron at [alumni@nipissingu.ca](mailto:alumni@nipissingu.ca).

## **COU Minutes**

Presented to the Senate 13 March 2020

-Two-day meeting, February 11 & 12, 2020

### **Dinner meeting, February 11, 2020**

Conversation with Eva Busza, Vice-President Policy and Sector Collaboration, Council of Ontario Universities on her path from the United Nations to COU and on the role of Academic Colleagues in COU (6:15-8pm).

The conversation with Eva Busza focused on the role of Academic Colleagues at COU. The night started with each colleague sharing the process by which they had been selected for the position and their understanding of their role.

Colleagues noted that they enjoyed Academic Colleagues' meetings. They said that these meetings are important opportunities to interact and have conversations with faculty from different disciplines from across the province; these meetings are also an opportunity to get a sector-wide perspective on issues affecting universities. Colleagues appreciate learning about postsecondary education policy and the provincial government's relationship with the sector.

The process by which Colleagues are selected varies depending on the institution. Some are asked to the role by the executive head or provost at their university and others are elected by senate or faculty. In some cases, the role is a highly contested position, and in others there is a requirement that the Colleague be one of the academic deans.

Colleagues also reflected on the reasons why they were selected for the position. For some, the role complemented other roles they held at the university. Some believed that there was a professional development/advancement element to their appointment.

On their role and impact, many colleagues expressed that they considered themselves conduits of information. Some deliver a brief or report to senate and some see themselves as providing a different perspective on sector-wide issues than the ones provided by executive heads. One colleague noted that their knowledge of issues affecting the sector allows them to be a liaison between faculty and executive heads.

Eva Busza noted that some of the comments expressed by colleagues as they discussed their role are similar to what she had read in past documents (e.g., previous white papers on the roles of colleagues and a history of COU) and what she had heard more recently through the current ongoing affiliate consultation, which included Executive Heads. She suggested that three key roles/functions emerged (1) an ambassadorial role—bringing what they learn at COU about whole of sector positioning, approaches, and priorities back to their own institutions; (2) their particular expertise and networks that can be leveraged to inform thinking about the future of the sector; and in a slightly different vein, she stated that a number of executive heads had conveyed that they saw the function as providing professional development for promising future sector leaders.



## Academic Colleagues Meeting, February 12, 2020

- **Dinner Debrief**

Colleagues discussed references to Academic Colleagues in COU's past Affiliate Reviews (2006 and 2015). They discussed their role at COU and considered options for engaging with Executive Heads at Council meetings as well as increasing their visibility and engagement within their universities, particularly in senate.

Colleagues noted that a previous indigenization discussion at a Council Meeting, which included guest speakers at both the morning Academic Colleagues' meeting and the afternoon Council Meeting, was a success and a model to follow in future Council meetings. Mental Health was suggested as topic for future engagement at Council.

- **COU update**

### SMA3

- Universities are having their second round of SMA3 meetings with MCU. The ministry expects drafts to be submitted for later this month and for SMA3 documents to be signed by the end of March.
- In response to sector advocacy, MCU has issued some revisions to SMA3 guidelines. These provide more flexibility and predictability for institutions:
  - Universities will now have three reweighting opportunities, one in each of the first three years of the SMA3 (2020-21 to 2022-23).
  - The ministry removed the "continuous improvement" factor for (1) institutions whose average performance for the past three years places them in the top quartile for the sector in select metrics (employment rate, graduation rate, Tri-Agency funding), and (2) for institutions that meet or exceed their minimum expected performance in the first three years of SMA3 (for all metrics except the institutional strength/focus and the economic impact metric).
  - For the Tri-Agency funding metric, the ministry will increase the minimum band of tolerance from 1% (which applies to all metrics) to 4%.
  - The Innovation metric, which measures revenue attracted from private sector sources, will now include research funds from foundations and not-for-profits. These revenue sources had previously been excluded.

### Collaborative Nursing

- On Feb 11 the Minister announced that colleges will be allowed to offer stand-alone bachelor's degrees in nursing, overturning the collaborative program framework for colleges and universities that has been in place for 20 years. Universities are disappointed at this development.
- The government's rationale includes that students leaving smaller/rural college communities to do the university portion of the program often do not come back to their home communities. There is no clear evidence of this.

- Moving forward, an institution that wants to break its collaborative agreement will have to apply to the ministry with their partner(s) and present a business case.
- The impact of this decision is not clear, but an immediate flood of dissolutions is not expected. It is also important to note that many partners are happy with their current arrangement.

## Tuition Framework

- The current tuition framework reduced all funding-eligible program fees by 10% in 2019-20 and froze fees at those rates for 2020-21. These changes have resulted in a sector-wide two-year revenue loss of approximately \$1.1B. The government has signalled that it is thinking about the development of the next framework. COU and its affiliates are working on principles and options to inform the government's decision.

## Mental Health

- COU is working with Colleges Ontario, College Student Alliance and Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance to update [In it Together](#). The original 2017 report had more than 2 dozen recommendations and was one of COU's most successful and impactful policy advocacy papers.
- This updated version will launch in late February with an event at Queen's Park where students will talk about their experiences navigating postsecondary education with mental health challenges.

## IP Strategy

- On February 11, the province's Expert Panel on Intellectual Property (IP) delivered its final [report](#) to government. The panel's mandate was to look at emerging policies to improve IP and commercialization at publicly supported postsecondary institutions.
- COU submitted a report to government in December 2019, [Driving a Strong and Globally Competitive Economy through Innovation](#). The submission, informed by the work of a cross-affiliate Working Group, dispels common misconceptions around research, commercialization and IP at Ontario's universities, as well as puts forth a number of recommendations on how the province's research and innovation ecosystem, particularly around commercialization and IP, can be further strengthened. Recommendations focus on the multiple players in Ontario's innovation ecosystem, such as government, industry, and universities.
- The Expert Panel report helpfully acknowledges the differentiation between and within the university and college sectors – noting that “the ecosystem needs to do better at achieving IP commercialization goals, but always in step with individual disciplinary and contextual strengths.”
- Recommendations
  - Better IP education for innovators – standardized (free) web-based IP education curriculum, mandatory for individuals/institutions getting public dollars for entrepreneurial activities

- Better support for capacity – government to create a centralized provincial resource to provide consistent, sophisticated legal and IP expertise & education.
- Clear Structures – TTOs should have clearly defined mandates about their roles and responsibilities for generating IP for benefit of Ontario

## Digital Learning

- On January 6<sup>th</sup>, Higher Education Quality Council on Ontario (HEQCO) released a [report](#) on digital learning programs. This followed a 2019 directive by Minister Fullerton to conduct a review on digital learning programs with a focus on the “relevance, delivery, reach and effectiveness of existing digital learning programs, including any insights on how the existing ministry-funded programs [*Contact North* and *eCampusOntario*] carry out their mandate and meet their objectives.”
- HEQCO developed a framework for the review based on three inferred government objectives: (i) improving access for rural/remote residents; (ii) improving quality of PSE offerings; and (iii) promoting collaboration and improving student mobility.
- The report provided *nine recommendations*, including:
  - Government should develop metrics / collect data from universities about the student experience with digital learning.
  - Government should invest in fully online programs to support rural access (and invest in digital infrastructure).
  - There should be one central portal for students to consult on digital learning – but no specific recommendations about whether to leverage the existing portals in place through *eCampusOntario*, *ContactNorth* or *ONCAT*.
  - Government should not be overly prescriptive with its plans, and let institutions do the work of innovating in digital space, but they should have competitive grants that are contingent on outcomes and aligned with government priorities.
- Ministry staff have signalled an interest inside government to develop a digital strategy for the postsecondary sector. COU is considering opportunities to influence government directions.

### • Affiliate Review

Discussion on the Affiliate Review and described what is perceived to be COU’s three lines of business:

1. Coordinating activities that universities do better and more efficiently together: for example, Ontario Universities Application Centre (OUAC), University Health Insurance Plan (UHIP), library procurement (OCUL).
2. Provide support for “communities of practice”--groups of individuals that have the same type of role across universities (Provosts (OCAV), Planning and Analysis (CUPA), Administrative Officers (CSAO), Registrars, etc.).

### 3. Policy and advocacy with government.

Exchanged over the characterization of the way in which academic colleague roles and functions are described in the literature and how it has surfaced in discussions at the Executive Head Table: i.e., as ambassadors who communicate whole of sector information and positions back to their institutions and as experts that can inform thinking and shaping of the future of the sector in their areas of specialization. A number of executive heads in recent years have expressed the view that they see this position as providing an opportunity for professional development with a view to foster leaders in the sector.

#### • **Quality Council Update**

The Director of Operations at the Quality Council's Secretariat joined the colleagues to discuss a decision made as part of the outcome of the 2018 Review of the Quality Assurance Framework to no longer require that two Academic Colleagues be explicitly represented as members of the Quality Council.

The description of these positions has now been amended to "two representatives from COU member institutions not otherwise represented on the Quality Council." This change would not exclude Academic Colleagues from continuing to be nominated to the Quality Council, but would allow for a broader pool of candidates for the Provost's to consider for future nominations.

Academic Colleagues currently represented on the Quality Council will continue to serve their terms. The amended Quality Assurance Framework will be revisited two years after it is approved, including the revised Terms of Reference for the Quality Council. The Academic Colleagues' feedback will also be taken back to OCAV and the Quality Council.

#### • **Committee Updates**

##### **a. Relationships Committee Update**

- Review of Final Assessment Reports and Major modifications remains ongoing
- Preparation of Quality Council Annual Report continues, highlights the dynamic changes to university curriculums as tracked by the large number of Major modifications reported to the Quality Council.
- Review of the Quality Assurance Framework continues through consultation with key contacts at Ontario Institutions. Alberta's Quality Council is interested in the result of the review to incorporate into their QAF. A Panel to review Protocols was scheduled for Feb 6; a panel to review the audit framework is set for March 16.
- Senior director's report outlined a memo from the Ministry discussing streamlining the approvals process for new program (particularly for Ontario colleges which can be reviewed by the Ministry and PEQAB concurrently).

- MTCU announced that Algoma and OCADU can now offer a full range of degrees (Bill 132). Meetings were being arranged between MTCU and the QC Senior Director to ensure that any new programs come through QC and not PEQAB (who currently monitor their quality assurance processes). This will require changes to the Algoma and OCADU University Acts.
- Ontario's new French University will be funded by both the Ontario and Canadian governments with programming beginning prior to building construction. Program quality assurance will be handled by PEQAB initially.
- Vector Institute has accredited all Artificial Intelligence program submitted to Vector. QC may be potentially stepping back from an oversight role as Vector now has established quality assurance standards in place.

#### **b. Quality Council**

- It seems Universities will struggle in the future with identifying what space they are in from an educational perspective as colleges can begin to offer stand-alone degrees keeping in mind that the Ontario government is very supportive of facilitating transfer credits between educational institutions.
- It was agree that COU staff would at least keep going in the same direction as it has done in the past investigating the points that David mentioned above



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Nipissing University Student Union

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### **NUSU Senate Report**

#### **CFS Lobby Week**

The week after reading week Hannah Mackie attended the CFS Ontario Lobby Week at Queen's Park. This was a great opportunity to talk to different MPP's about student issues in post-secondary education. Some of the topics we spoke about included; Indigenous and International access to education, the cuts to OSAP and education funding, student concerns about performance based funding and protecting students rights to organize. This was a great chance to have discussions with students from all over Ontario, but specifically students from other northern schools. We were able to have some conversations about what access to education in the north means to students and the benefits it provides our province with these MPP's

#### **New Academic Year**

Our Frosh Leaders and coordinators have been selected for the upcoming year which means our heads have begun to turn to orientation and planning for the next academic year. We often are engaged in international orientation, graduate orientation, and others. If there is feedback or ways you would like to participate in our orientation specifically, planning for us begins now!

#### **Food Bank Donations**

We would also like to say thank you to everyone who has donated to our foodbank recently, and also this year. Just in the last month we have had almost 50 students use our foodbank, and we are constantly needing to restock.

#### **Relay for Life**

We would also like to note that our Nipissing Canadore Relay for Life club has raised around \$18,000 as of Tuesday, March 10th. Their main event that they have been leading up to all year is taking place on Friday, March 13th (tonight) and they are trying to reach their goal of \$35,000. We are very proud of our students for the hard work they have been doing for a great cause.

**Report of the  
Honorary Degrees Committee**

**February 14, 2020**

The meeting of the **Honorary Degrees Committee** was held on Friday, February 14 at 11:00 am in the Provost's meeting room (F307). The following members were present:

Mike DeGagné (Chair)  
Charlotte Foster  
Odwa Atari  
Christopher Greco  
Tom Palangio  
Arja Vainio-Mattila

**ABSENT WITH REGRETS:**

Pavlina Radia

**RESOURCE GUESTS:**

Maggie Daniel  
Abby Blaszczyk, Recording Secretary

As per past practice, an e-mail was distributed to the University community at the beginning of the academic year to solicit names of potential candidates for Professor Emerita/Emeritus. The committee met on February 14, 2020, to discuss several nominations and it was agreed to forward the nominees for consideration at the February 14th meeting of Senate and for final approval at the March 13, 2020, meeting of Senate.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Mike DeGagné  
Chair