

Nipissing University
Minutes of the Academic Senate Meeting
September 11, 2020
2:30 p.m.
Zoom Remote Conferencing

MEMBERS PRESENT:

C. Sutton (Interim Chair), A. Vainio-Mattila, J. McAuliffe, P. Maher, J. Nadeau, P. Radia, D. Iafrate, N. Black

A. Ackerman, A. Burk, D. Campbell, N. Colborne (Speaker), S. Connor, N. Kozuskanich, K. Lucas, S. Renshaw, M. Saari, S. Srigley, M. Tuncali, R. Vernescu, S. Winters, H. Zhu

J. Allison, C. Anyinam, K. Ferguson, C. Greco, D. Hay, R. Hoffman, T. Horton, A. Kociolek, D. Lafrance Horning, T. McParland, L. Peachey, P. Ravi, G. Raymer, A. Schinkel-Ivy, T. Sibbald, A. Wagner, P. Zou

C. Irwin, O. Pokorny

B. Ray, K. Wilcox

H. Mackie, M. King, W. Loveday, C. Foster, S. Pecoskie-Schweir

ABSENT WITH REGRETS:

H. Earl, A. Hatef, L. Hoehn, M. Litalien, C. McFarlane
E. Lougheed

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA OF THE SENATE MEETING OF: September 18, 2020

MOTION 1: Moved by N. Kozuskanich, seconded by S. Srigley that the agenda of the Senate meeting of September 18, 2020 be approved.
CARRIED

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE SENATE MEETINGS OF: May 22, 2020 & July 21, 2020

MOTION 2: Moved by R. Hoffman, seconded by A. Ackerman that the minutes of the Senate meeting of May 22, 2020 be adopted.
CARRIED

MOTION 3: Moved by J. Allison, seconded by T. McParland that the minutes of the Special Senate meeting of July 21, 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 Interim President, on behalf of the Executive Team, expressed appreciation in recognition of all of the hard work and effort that faculty, students and staff have exhibited over the past six months. Although this term looks much different than anything experienced before, we are slowly and carefully beginning to return to campus with students registered and 400 students in residence. The President welcomed new Senators and Board members, and advised that Board and Senate orientations had been held earlier in the day for members to learn about the important work that we do. Two well attended Town Hall meetings were held via Zoom over the summer months. To provide further clarification on how best to present the budget at upcoming Senate meetings, Senate Budget Advisory Committee meetings will be scheduled over the next several months.

The Provost and Vice-President Academic and Research provided a written report. The report covered growing the university, engagement in scholarship, program sustainability, and winter and fall 2021. The report is attached to the minutes.

The Senate representative of the Board of Governors, Bobby Ray, welcomed new Senators and Board members, and introduced the new Board of Governors, Senate representative, Kathy Wilcox. He wished all Senators, faculty, staff and Lakers a successful year.

A report was provided by the Alumni Advisory Board. The report is attached to the minutes.

The NUSU President, Hannah Mackie, provided a report. The report is attached to the minutes.

The Council of Ontario Universities, Academic Colleague, provided a report from a recently attended meeting. A new president was elected and topics discussed included: EDI (Equity, Diversity and Inclusion), cluster hires, mentoring, SMA3, micro credentials/certificates for specialized training, research and innovation, internationalization and safety issues.

QUESTION PERIOD

In response to a question as to how Senate will be included in future decision making, the Provost responded that Senate has a role in the academic delivery of courses at all universities. Due to the changing nature of the pandemic, circumstances could quickly change due to decisions by the province and the Health Unit. We have two Senate committees, the Academic Quality Assurance and Planning Committee (AQAPC) and the Teaching and Learning Committee (TLC), that will be able to assist in the decision making process. Discussions will take place at the next AQAPC meeting on how best to start conversations for fall/winter 2020-21 and future decision making in the academic delivery of courses.

Following a question as to when the Dean of Education and Professional Studies position would be posted, the President (and former Chair of the Search Committee) advised that discussions are currently taking place and that information will be provided in the near future. She advised that the Provost will be Chairing the search.

In response to a question regarding the use of PCards and whether training will be provided for faculty members that may not be familiar with the process, the Assistant Vice-President, Finance and Infrastructure (Interim), advised that information on upcoming training sessions will be provided.

In response to a question regarding whether the website is the best place to refer students to for the most up to date flow of information, the Director of External Relations advised that students should be directed to the student page on the website. The External Relations team is working on ensuring that the website is up to date and is the most accurate depository, so that everyone will be informed as we move forward.

The Executive Director of Library Services, advised that interlibrary loan services are available for electronic resources, but no specific date has been set for the sign out of hard copy materials. The Library is being prepared to accommodate users at safe distances apart and staff will be transitioning back over the next few weeks. Staff have been monitoring email and voicemail and returning correspondence during the closure. Please check the website for updates and information.

Following a question as to when labs will be available for graduate students to collect data for thesis proposals, the Dean of Graduate Studies and Research advised that research recovery is currently in Stage 2 which allows graduate students access to labs under the direction of faculty members. Pilot data requires Research Ethics approval. If it was sent in pre-COVID it will have to be sent in again. PPE will be required for face to face research, and if physical contact with another person is involved. This will come with Stage 3 approval. Work is being done to clarify practices which are similar to practices used at hospitals and nursing schools.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES AND FACULTY OR UNIVERSITY COUNCILS

SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

MOTION 4: Moved by C. Sutton, seconded by T. Sibbald that the Report of the Senate Executive Committee dated June 10, 2020 be received.
CARRIED

MOTION 5: Moved by C. Sutton, seconded by T. Sibbald that the Report of the Senate Executive Committee dated June 23, 2020 be received.
CARRIED

MOTION 6: Moved by C. Sutton, seconded by T. Sibbald that the Report of the Senate Executive Committee dated July 14, 2020 be received.
CARRIED

MOTION 7: Moved by C. Sutton, seconded by T. Sibbald that the Report of the Senate Executive Committee dated August 20, 2020 be received.
CARRIED

MOTION 8: Moved by C. Sutton, seconded by T. Sibbald that the Report of the Senate Executive Committee dated September 3, 2020 be received.
CARRIED

ACADEMIC QUALITY ASSURANCE AND PLANNING COMMITTEE (AQAPC)

MOTION 9: Moved by A. Vainio-Mattila, seconded by A. Ackerman that the Report of the Academic Quality Assurance and Planning Committee dated August 14, 2020 be received.
CARRIED

BY-LAWS AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

MOTION 10: Moved by T. Sibbald, seconded by T. Horton that the Report of the By-Laws and Elections Committee dated September 2, 2020 be received.
CARRIED

TEACHING AND LEARNING COMMITTEE

MOTION 11: Moved by G. Raymer, seconded by P. Maher that the Report of the Teaching and Learning Committee dated June 8, 2020 be received.
CARRIED

MOTION 12: Moved by G. Raymer, seconded by J. Allison that the Report of the Teaching and Learning Committee dated July 16, 2020 be received.
CARRIED

The following motions were presented to Senate for approval, by the Teaching and Learning Committee:

MOTION 13: Moved by G. Raymer, seconded by A. Burk that Senate approve that only the "Comment Sheet" portion of the current Nipissing University *Student Opinion Surveys* (i.e. referenced in the FASBU CA 2019-2022 Article 27 and CASBU CA Article 19.2 (b) and (c)) be administered for all courses in the 2020-2021 academic year (i.e. FA, WI, FW, SP, SS, SU), and that the "Course & Instructor Evaluation Questionnaire" be suspended (not administered and no data collected) during this time.

Rationale: During a time where both faculty and students are contending with the COVID-19 pandemic; and where the University is requiring that all courses move to online delivery; and where most faculty and students will be adapting to primarily asynchronous instruction; and where we do not currently have a Student Opinion Survey designed or approved for online teaching; and where the NUFA and the Administration have recently struck a *Joint Committee of the Assessment of the Teaching and Learning Environment* to examine NU's Student Opinion Surveys and to make a recommendation within a year; and where the Ryerson/Kaplan decision exposes the potential flaws with the numerical data; rather than repeat and possibly amplify those flaws before the *Joint Committee* has done its work; the Teaching and Learning Committee recommends the suspension of the numeric portion of the *Course & Instructor Evaluation Questionnaire (Student Opinion Surveys)* during the 2020-21 academic year and that only the comment-based feedback be collected during this interim period. The comment-based feedback will continue to allow students the opportunity to provide their opinions to instructors about the courses and the instruction they receive.

CARRIED

MOTION 14: Moved by G. Raymer, seconded by H. Mackie that Senate approve for the 2020-2021 academic year (i.e. FA, WI, FW, SP, SS, SU), the *Student Opinion Surveys* be presented to students, during a two-week period in the final two-weeks of each session, in an online manner, in the following format:

Rationale: The Teaching and Learning Committee has revised the comment-based portion of the Student Opinion Surveys to allow it to be administered without the numeric portion, which typically guided the process. This revised form draws its wording from the current *Course & Instructor Evaluation Questionnaire*.

Format:

Student Opinion Survey

General Information:

Completion of this survey is voluntary. The purpose is to collect information for use in assessing and improving courses and their instruction.

Only after final grades have been submitted and approved will the comments be provided to the course instructors.

The comments will be seen only by instructors.

Please provide your comments on the course presentation:

Comments on the Course Presentation may include, but are not limited to: usefulness of required texts and other instructional materials; usefulness and relevance of tests and assignments; usefulness of labs, seminars, and field components, if applicable; appropriateness and level of difficulty of course content.

Please provide your comments on the Instructor:

Comments on the Instructor may include, but are not limited to: the ability to convey course objectives and grading/evaluation criteria; the effective use of communication; the provision of meaningful examples and helpful/meaningful feedback on graded work; effective organization of course material; responsiveness; and the creation of an appropriate and respectful learning environment.

General Comments:

MOTION 15: Moved by G. Raymer, seconded by D. Campbell that Senate approve that the administration of the interim *Student Opinion Surveys* in the 2020-2021 academic year (i.e. FA, WI, FW, SP, SS, SU), be conducted in such a way that the anonymity of students is maintained and that the Survey results received are returned unexamined to the faculty member, in keeping with FASBU Article 27.2 (b) and (c) and CASBU Article 19.2 (b) and (c).

Rationale: This motion asks that current practice, for the collection of Comment Sheets in the Student Opinion Surveys, remain unchanged. Anonymity for students will be maintained and any comments received will only be seen by the faculty member/instructor.

CARRIED

ELECTIONS

- Elect one (1) A&S faculty Senate representative to serve on the Academic Quality Assurance and Planning Committee for a three-year term effective July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2023. No nominations were received. The election will be included in the October 9, 2020 Senate Agenda.
- Elect one (1) A&S faculty Senate representative to serve on the Joint Committee of the Board and Senate on Governance for a three-year term effective July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2023. No nominations were received. The election will be included in the October 9, 2020 Senate Agenda. Senator Campbell advised of several of the duties involved, and the importance of maintaining communication between the Board of Governors and Senate.

NEW BUSINESS

MOTION 16: Moved by D. Iafrate, seconded by H. Mackie that Senate move in camera.
CARRIED

MOTION 17: Moved by D. Hay, seconded by D. Campbell that Senate move out of camera.
CARRIED

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Senator Campbell informed that he had created an online "Get to Know You" Forum for his students. He advised that discussion was going very well with 110 students posting and 157 posts shared so far. For further information, please contact Dr. Campbell.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION 18: Moved by D. Hay, seconded by H. Mackie that the Senate meeting be adjourned.
CARRIED

Senate was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.



.....
C. Sutton (Interim Chair)



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

SENATE
SEPT. 11, 2020

I GROWING THE UNIVERSITY

A ***Addressing Academic Policy Deficits***

1. Re-organize Senate Policies
2. Revision of Senate Policies

B ***Student Recruitment***

1. Create a SEM Plan

C ***Strategy for Indigenous Education***

1. University-wide Plan for Indigenization
2. Development of Indigenous Studies

D ***Internationalization***

1. Internationalization Strategy
2. Internal response to international recruitment
3. External response to international recruitment
4. Review International Exchanges Agreement processes
5. Outbound Student Mobility

E ***Data Monitoring Dashboards***

1. Dashboards for monitoring

F. ***Develop the process for Strategic Academic Plan Framework for 2023-2027***

G. ***Equity Audit and Action Plan***

II ENGAGEMENT IN SCHOLARSHIP

A

Research

1. Strategic Research Plan
2. Equity, Diversity and Inclusion
3. Canada Research Chairs
4. Research Communication Plan
5. Innovation
6. Research Success
7. Centres and Institutes

B

Teaching

1. Dean of Teaching
2. Teaching Hub
3. Teaching Chairs
4. Strategic Plan for Teaching

C

Library

1. Expand and strengthen Information Literacy Instruction Program
2. Assess learning outcomes of IL instruction sessions
3. Information Literacy Course

III PROGRAMME SUSTAINABILITY

A *Faculty Renewal*

1. Tenure Track Faculty Positions
2. Sabbaticals
3. Teaching releases: Administrative
4. Teaching releases: Research
5. Non-Faculty Positions

B *New Programme Development*

1. **New Programme Development Fund**
2. **New Programme Marketing Initiative**
3. Strategic Plan for Graduate Studies
4. Degree architecture

C *Quality Assurance*

1. NU-IQAP roll-out
2. New Programme Proposals
3. Cyclical Reviews

D. *SMA III Preparation*

1. Establish SMA III Working Group
2. Establish Priorities for Differentiation
3. Defining Institution Specific Metrics and Targets

WINTER 2021

- Plan A and Plan B
- Most courses will be on-line., including:
 - All courses that start on-line in the Fall Term
 - All Education Programmes
 - All professional years of Social Work
- All on-line courses will continue asynchronously, with increased synchronous events made possible with schedule
- Increased on-site courses, possibly including:
 - Graduate programmes
 - On-site section with separate on-line sections in high enrolment courses
 - Piloting courses that are technology assisted courses simultaneously offered on-site, on-line, and asynchronous

NOTES: FALL 2021

- SMA 3 will be posted
- QA Focus report will be posted
- Recruitment events will continue virtually
- Focus will very quickly become Fall 2021



NUAAB/Alumni Report

September 2020

- From the middle of July until the beginning of August we ran an address update contest with the chance to win an alumni jacket. We received over 200 address updates from alumni across the country and internationally.
- Alumni award nominations closed August 7th and the winners will be announced in the coming weeks. Thank you to all who took the time to nominate an outstanding alumnus.
- We hosted two NU Café office hours mentor chats in the month of August. One with BOG member Bobby Ray and one with NUAAB member Nathan Snider. After a brief pause during the summer we are back to regular introductions every 4 weeks between our members. We successfully qualified for year two of funding for the NU Café networking and mentoring platform hosted by Ten Thousand Coffees and supported by RBC FutureLaunch and are focusing on engaging more of our students by continuing to provide opportunities for learning and networking through office hour events like mentor chats.
- The NUAAB have continued to support the needs of our students by donating another \$3000 towards the student food bank and promoting the annual Shinerama fundraiser.
- Our monthly e-newsletter went out at the end of August and reached just over 17,000 alumni. We look forward to engaging more alumni through targeted communications this year.



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Nipissing University Student Union

NUSU Senate Report Friday, 11th September, 2020

Summer

This summer we had a new executive team start. I (Hannah) am in my role again as President this year and Shannon MacCarthy is also returning as the VP Student Life. We welcomed Mykayla King, VP Advocacy and Awareness, and Ward Loveday, VP Finance and Administration to our team.

Survey Results

Throughout the summer we had many students contacting us with concerns about how the academic year would look. We decided as a team to send out a survey to get more information. This survey is different from the two Nipissing University sent out. The top concerns from students included communication with the university, communication with faculty, academic workload, potential burnout, and internet connection. We have shared these results with NUFA and the Administration.

Moving forward we will be working on continuing to support the students as they navigate through this year. If anyone has any concerns, feedback or ideas of how to support students please feel free to reach out to NUSU.

Student Centre

The NUSU Student Centre construction was stalled for a small amount of time during the summer. We are thankful to Kenalex Construction for their hard work in getting our project up and running. We are tentatively looking at the building being completed by the middle of November; however, we will not be opening the building until 2021. We are looking forward to students and faculty being able to use this space for further academic development.

Lakers Orientation/ O-Weekend

NUSU worked with the Lakers Orientation committee to provide incoming students a week filled with academic and social activities, both in-person and online. The week went well and we had a lot of engagement both in the Lakers Orientation week and NUSU's Frosh Weekend, which we named O-Weekend this year. We are hoping that students in North Bay and online will be able to continue to connect with one another throughout the semester.

Food Bank

The food bank is still operating for students to access every Wednesday from 8:30am-4:30pm at Chancellors House for the time being. We are continuously looking for donations, both monetary or food items. If you would like more information please contact us.

NUSU

We are currently still working from home and will be for the foreseeable future. We can all be contacted via email.