

Nipissing University
Minutes of the Academic Senate Meeting
December 10, 2021

2:30 p.m.

Zoom Videoconference

Members Present:

K. Wamsley (Chair), A. Vainio-Mattila, C. Sutton, P. Maher,
J. McAuliffe, J. Nadeau, P. Radia, D. Iafrate

A. Burk, D. Campbell, N. Colborne (Speaker), S. Connor,
J. Dech, H. Earl, R. Gendron, A. Hatef, L. Hoehn, K.
Lucas, C. McFarlane, J. Murton, S. Renshaw, M. Saari, S.
Srigley, M. Tuncali, R. Vernescu

J. Allison, C. Anyinam, A. Armenakyan, G. Brown, B.
Elliott, K. Ferguson, C. Greco, R. Hoffman, A. Kociolek, T.
McParland, J. Muterera, L. Peachey, G. Raymer, A.
Schinkel-Ivy, T. Sibbald, A. Wagner

C. Irwin

J. Smith, K. Wilcox

S. Pecoskie-Schweir, M. Taylor, M. Murray

Absent With Regrets:

N. Black

M. Litalien, G. Phillips, S. Winters

O. Pokorny

P. Ravi

J. McIntosh, E. Wilson, M. Parsons

Approval of the Agenda of the Senate Meeting of: December 10, 2021

Motion 1: Moved by C. McFarland, seconded by T. McParland that the agenda of the Senate meeting of December 10, 2021 be approved.
Carried

Adoption of the Minutes of the Senate Meeting of: November 12, 2021

Motion 2: Moved by T. Sibbald, seconded by J. Smith that the minutes of the Senate meeting of November 12, 2021 be adopted with revisions.
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

Following a request that the breakdown of the specific number of student enrolment increases spoken to by the Provost and the Registrar at the November 12, 2021 Senate meeting be recorded in the Senate minutes, the minutes will be revised to include this information.

Reading and Disposing of Communications

None

Reports From Other Bodies

The President spoke to a number of topics including the pandemic, moving towards more in person meetings in the new year and a gradual opening following public health regulations. He reported that information has not yet been received from the Ministry regarding the November meeting to discuss funding. Senate will be advised when information is received.

The President was pleased to report on this year's Day of Giving. He thanked the Advancement Department for providing their ideas and communications. He advised that last year \$2300 was raised. This year the Advancement team set a target of \$4000, with a call and challenge put out to our alumni. Donations were received from 27 donors who had never donated to the University before. Generous donations were received from alumni, faculty, and staff members, as well as from our students. The President expressed his gratitude to everyone who participated either by donating or helping spread the word about the importance of student scholarships and bursaries. Together, over \$18,000 was raised to support our students. Congratulations everyone and thank you for your generosity!

The President advised that an email invitation will be sent out later this afternoon to staff and faculty to bring your families and pets to join us for a luminary walk and bonfire on Sunday, December 19. Hot chocolate and cookies will be provided. This will be a wonderful opportunity to meet in person and celebrate the season and our campus.

The President extended holiday greeting to all Senators. He also expressed his gratitude to Senators, faculty, and staff members for their hard work in very challenging circumstances through another pandemic season. Have a wonderful holiday, get some rest, and recharge.

In response to a request regarding the creation of an accessible and secure donation link on our website to continue this fund-raising initiative, the President advised that this was a great idea and would be investigated further.

The Manager of Digital Marketing, Jade Nighbor, provided the following link to the Faculty and Staff Giving Enrolment Form: <https://www.nipissingu.ca/giving/faculty-staff-giving>

The Provost and Vice-President Academic and Research provided a report. Highlights of the report included an application update, the Youth in Care tuition waiver program, new program development, Quality Assurance update, links to workshops held by the Teaching Hub, links to Virtual Learning Systems projects and student mental health supports. The report is attached to the minutes.

The Provost expressed her gratitude for this past year, and thanked Senators, faculty, and staff members for all the work that has been done. Have a joyous and restful holiday season.

In follow up to the Provost's report regarding a recommended book on avoiding systemic barriers around diversity, equity and inclusion, a question regarding the email announcement sent to students advising that unvaccinated students would be de-registered from on campus courses and removed from Blackboard was raised. Could online and individualized study options be considered as more accessible opportunities for students? As well, could the language be reframed to make it more supportive, and the narrative shifted to include a response on mental health?

The Provost advised that we are following the vaccination policy for students attending on campus courses. We have only a few areas that require student onsite presence in the winter term except for nursing. If students have not sought an exemption and remain unvaccinated, they cannot come on campus and cannot be accommodated. We have tried to figure out ways of accommodating our students. If courses have an online option, students will not be de-registered. The Registrar also advised that de-registering students is a last option. The Registrar's Office is working closely with students to find alternate options.

A comment was made that the vast majority of people in society are in favour of being vaccinated and wish to be in a safe environment. The anti-vaxing perspective should not equate to equity, diversity, inclusion, or mental health. This is a choice, and we have a system in place now that allows students to take courses online. We don't want to confound an anti-vax petition with mental health or EI issues.

For clarification, it was noted that this was not an anti-vax statement, simply a comment around systemic barriers that have been put in place for students and how we might try to avoid them.

It was noted that NUSU supports the universities' decision that unvaccinated students, by choice and not for health and religious reasons, should not be permitted on campus. Unvaccinated students are encouraged to request a letter of permission to take a virtual course at another institution if a course is not available. A concern was expressed that information about what would happen to students if they were de-registered from classes was difficult to find. A request was made that important communication emailed to students about accommodations be sent out earlier and not on the first day of exam period. In response to a question as to whether communication was sent to fall and winter students, the Registrar clarified that communication was sent to students registered in fall and winter courses.

The Vice-President Finance and Administration extended greetings for a restful holiday break.

The Senate representative on the Board of Governors, Judy Smith, congratulated all those involved in Giving Tuesday. On behalf of the Board, she expressed best wishes for a restful and well-deserved holiday. A report is attached to the minutes.

The Alumni Advisory Board representative, Erika Lougheed, provided a report. The report is attached to the minutes.

The Council of Ontario Universities Academic Colleague, Dr. Darren Campbell, provided several documents shared from the COU. Highlights included reports from previous meetings, a sampling of experiences and issues, shared expectations, and decolonization. The documents were included in the Senate agenda.

The NUSU VP Advocacy and Awareness, Sarah Pecoskie-Schweir, provided a report. The report is attached to the minutes.

Question Period

A discussion was held as to whether an academic bullying policy should be developed within the academic side of our bicameral system. It was noted that a harassment policy currently exists in our Board of Governors policies and a respectful workplace policy exists in our Human Resources policies. We don't normally duplicate a policy or have two parallel policies in place. It was initially suggested that this matter be referred to the Teaching and Learning Committee.

Moved by R. Vernescu, seconded by M. Saari that an academic bullying policy be discussed devised and developed, within the framework of the Teaching and Learning Committee.

As a possible alternative, it was suggested that the Senate representatives to the Board of Governors inquire to the status of the policy and ask the Board if they feel that this matter should belong to the Joint Committee. Following discussion, it was agreed that this matter be referred to the Joint Board/Senate Committee on Governance to determine where this policy should rest. Once determined, the Joint Committee will respond to Senate and the matter will be referred to the appropriate Senate committee.

The mover and seconder agreed to the following friendly amendment:

Moved by A. Vainio-Mattila, seconded by P. Maher that an academic bullying policy be discussed devised and developed, within the framework of the Joint Board/Senate Committee on Governance.

Carried

In response to a question regarding whether the operating hours of the Library will be extended for the winter semester, the Provost advised that it depends on status of the pandemic in January. The goal is to hire more people to work in the evenings and on weekends and extend the hours in the new year.

In follow up to a letter sent to the Board of Governors in May 2021 regarding the change from Board of Governors' meetings being held via Zoom link to a one-way live feed broadcast, it was noted that a formal response to the letter has not yet been received. As 30 other faculty members also signed the letter expressing concerns for transparency, could an update be provided to advise if any progress has been made? The President advised that the transition over this period and the pandemic has resulted in a lack of response. The intent of the letter has been brought to the Board, and the letter has been turned over to the Joint Board/Senate Committee on Governance. The Joint Committee discussed at length the importance of people being recognized and the possibility of asking questions at Board meetings and will be turned back to the Board Committee on Monday to provide solutions. In follow up, it was noted that the spirit of the letter and the concerns that those who signed it are not so much about asking a lot of questions of the Board, but to be present and be seen and be a part of the meeting process.

Reports of Standing Committees and Faculty or University Councils

Senate Executive Committee

Motion 3: Moved by K. Wamsley, seconded by C. McFarlane that the Report of the Senate Executive Committee dated December 2, 2021 be received.

Carried

Academic Curriculum Committee

Motion 4: Moved by A. Vainio-Mattila, seconded by C. McFarland that the Report of the Academic Curriculum Committee dated November 18, 2021 be received.
Carried

Faculty of Arts and Science

It was noted that discussions have been held at Academic Curriculum Committee meetings about what determines substantive and non-substantive motions. The Dean of Arts and Science clarified that the ACC has the power to choose to decide if the information received is substantive or non-substantive. Does Senate also have the power to decide if the information received is substantive or non-substantive? The Provost clarified that information submitted in Senate as non-substantive can be changed to become substantive if there are questions. The general guidelines are included in Quality Assurance Protocol. The most fundamental guideline is whether the learning outcomes are being changed.

Philosophy**Non-Substantive:**

That the prerequisites for **PHIL-2306 “The Pre-Socratics and Plato”**, and **PHIL-2307 “Aristotle and the Schools”**, be removed.

- 1) PHIL-2306 - The Pre-Socratics and Plato
Current Prerequisite: either PHIL-1116 or PHIL-1117
New Prerequisite: None
- 2) PHIL-2307 - Aristotle and the Schools
Current Prerequisite: either PHIL-1116 or PHIL-1117
New Prerequisite: None

Rationale:

None of our other 2000-level courses have prerequisites, and many of them are popular elective choices for students in other programs. The proposed change thus brings PHIL 2306 and PHIL 2307 in line with PHIL 2246, PHIL 2506, PHIL 2507, PHIL 2526, PHIL 2706, PHIL 2716, and PHIL 2717.

Non-Substantive:

That the prerequisites for **PHIL-3336, PHIL-3337, PHIL-3467, PHIL-3616, PHIL-3706, PHIL-3707, PHIL-3756** be changed as outlined below, to any “3 credits in Philosophy”.

Current Prerequisites:

- 1) PHIL-3336 Reason and Experience – “6 credits of 1000-level Philosophy”
- 2) PHIL-3337 Idealism and Its Critics – “6 credits of 1000-level Philosophy”
- 3) PHIL-3476 Existentialism I – “PHIL-1116 and PHIL-1117”
- 4) PHIL-3616 Philosophy of Religion – “PHIL-1116 and PHIL-1117”
- 5) PHIL-3706 Eastern Philosophy I – “PHIL-1116 and PHIL-1117”
- 6) PHIL-3707 Eastern Philosophy II – “PHIL-1116 and PHIL-1117”
- 7) PHIL-3756 Special Topic in Social and Political Philosophy– “PHIL-1116 and PHIL-1117”

New Prerequisite for all of the above: Any 3 credits in Philosophy

Rationale:

Many students who now enroll in PHIL courses do so for the first time in one of our 2000-level courses, rather than in one of the Introductory, 1000-level courses, and they often do so in their

second year of study. Such students then find it difficult to continue to take additional PHIL courses, whether as part of a Minor, a Major, or as an elective, because of the current prerequisite structure, which requires them to go back, often in their third year, and take a 1000-level course. Our 3000-level PHIL courses often have low enrollments, as a result. Students in 3000-level courses will ideally have some familiarity with philosophical approaches; but there is no reason to require a particular PHIL course as the source of that familiarity. The proposed changes reflect this, as well as eliminating some inconsistencies in the current prerequisite language.

Non-Substantive:

That the prerequisites for **PHIL-4206 “Seminar in Philosophy”** and **PHIL-4207 “Seminar in Philosophy”**, be changed as outlined below, to “12 credits in Philosophy”

Current Prerequisites:

- 1) PHIL-4206 – PHIL-2305, 3336 and 3337
- 2) PHIL-4207 – PHIL-2305, 3336 and 3337

New Prerequisite for PHIL-4206 and PHIL-4207: 12 credits in Philosophy

Rationale:

There is no justification for the current discrepancy in the prerequisites for our 4000-level seminars (PHIL 4217 and PHIL 4217 list “restricted to 4th year students in an honours program”), and PHIL 2305 is no longer offered at all; thus some change is needed. As a result of enrollment issues, we have also initiated a plan to cycle the seminars, offering just one (3 credits) per year; this requires that 3rd year honours students take a seminar in their 3rd year, which some of our current prerequisites do not allow. The Program changes described below will also require that Majors and Specializations in PHIL have access to the seminars. The new prerequisite structure accommodates these changes.

Non-Substantive:

That **PHIL-4216 “Seminar in Philosophy** and **PHIL-4217 “Seminar in Philosophy”** be banked.

Rationale:

We were wrongly informed when we introduced these courses that students who had taken an honours seminar could only do so again under a different code. Since that it is not the case, provided the topic has changed, these additional 4000-level seminars are unnecessary.

Motion 5: Moved by A. Vainio-Mattila, seconded by K. Lucas that Senate approve that the degree requirements for a Specialization in Philosophy be changed, as outlined in the attached supporting documentation.
Carried

Motion 6: Moved by A. Vainio-Mattila, seconded by P. Radia that Senate approve that the degree requirements for a Major in Philosophy be changed, as outlined in the attached supporting documentation.

Rationale:

As noted earlier, many of the students who decide to take some form of PHIL degree—especially one short of the honours major—do so only after taking a PHIL elective course, often in their second year. The requirement for 6 credits at the 1000-level thus presents a difficulty for them, often requiring them to go back in their 3rd year to take two 1000-level required courses. The proposed changes will at least lessen that difficulty by requiring 3 credits, instead of 6 credits. In its place, requiring participation in the 4000-level seminar will bolster enrollment in that course, but is also typical of other Philosophy programs: it is unusual to be able to satisfy

the requirements for a double-major, including Philosophy, without taking any 4000-level courses. The proposed changes will rectify this.

Carried

Motion 7: Moved by A. Vainio-Mattila, seconded by C. McFarland that Senate approve that the degree requirements for a Minor in Philosophy be changed, as outlined in the attached supporting documentation.

Rationale:

There is no specific rationale for requiring both PHIL 2306 and PHIL 2307 as part of the Minor. Those courses cover important historical periods, but so do PHIL 3336 and PHIL 3337. The move to require either PHIL 2306 or PHIL 2307 will make the Minor program somewhat more flexible for students looking to pursue other interests within Philosophy.

Carried

Gender Equality and Social Justice

Motion 8: Moved by A. Vainio-Mattila, seconded by S. Renshaw that Senate approve that the 3-credit course **GEND-3106 “Race and Gender in Popular Culture”** be added to the calendar as outlined in the attached supporting documentation.

Rationale:

This course provides a focused discussion of intersectional critical race issues as they appear in popular culture. While these are issues embedded in and across the curriculum in GESJ, there is a need for increasing our course offerings which focus primarily on race issues.

Carried

Motion 9: Moved by A. Vainio-Mattila, seconded by S. Renshaw that Senate approve that the existing course **GEND-3236 “Memory and Violence”**, be cross-listed with History as outlined in the attached supporting documentation.

Rationale:

The course deals with public violence, often in a historical context and including things like state violence both in a historical context - think here of the Holocaust and various other wars - as well as in contemporary contexts.

Carried

English Studies

Motion 10: Moved by A. Vainio-Mattila, seconded by P. Radia that Senate approve that the program requirements for the Honours Specialization in English Studies be changed as outlined in the attached supporting documentation.

Rationale:

The discipline of English Studies has deemphasized British literary history. We are revising our requirements to align with wider disciplinary shifts and to meet the needs and interests of our students.

Carried

Motion 11: Moved by A. Vainio-Mattila, seconded by P. Radia that Senate approve that **ENGL-2006: British Literature Before 1800** be added to the ENGL Literary History Group I list for the Major, Specialization, and Honours Specialization in English Studies as outlined in the attached supporting documentation.

Rationale:

When ENGL 2006 was a required course, it was not part of English's Literary History Groups. Literary History Group I concentrates on early literary history and texts and ENGL 2006 is an appropriate fit for that group. Adding ENGL 2006 to Group I increases choice and flexibility for students.

Carried

Non-Substantive:

That the prerequisites for 2000 level ENGL courses (excluding 1-credit courses and those that cannot be counted toward a program in English Studies) be changed as outlined below.

New prerequisite:

Three credits of 1000 level ENGL (excluding ENGL 1501, ENGL 1502) or any 18 credits completed (excluding ENGL 1501, ENGL 1502, ENGL 2001, ENGL 2011).

Old Prerequisite:

Three credits of 1000 level ENGL (excluding ENGL1501 and ENGL 1502).

Rationale: This change opens up additional pathways into our 2000-level courses and increases flexibility for students.

Non-Substantive:

That the prerequisites for **ENGL-2207 "Gender, Literature, and Culture"** be changed as outlined below.

Old Prerequisite:

Three credits of 100 Level ENGL (excluding ENGL 1551 and ENGL 1552) or six credits of 1000 level GEND.

New Prerequisite:

Three credits of 1000 level ENGL or any 18 credits completed (excluding ENGL 1551 and ENGL 1552).

Rationale:

This change opens up additional pathways into the course. The Departmental Curriculum Approval Form is included in the attached supporting documentation.

Non-Substantive:

That the prerequisites for 3000 level ENGL courses (excluding ENGL-3516 and ENGL-3517) be changed as outlined below.

New prerequisite:

Six credits of 2000 level ENGL (excluding ENGL 2001, ENGL 2011) or any 45 credits completed (excluding ENGL 1501, ENGL 1502, ENGL 2001, ENGL 2011).

Old Prerequisite:

Six credits of 2000 level ENGL (excluding ENGL 2001 and ENGL 2011)

Rationale:

This change responds to our recent IQAP review. It opens up additional pathways into our 3000 level courses and increases flexibility for students.

Current 3000 level courses affected:

ENGL 3036: Topics in Media Studies

ENGL 3047: Topics in Digital Culture

ENGL 3056: Topics in Canadian Literature

ENGL 3066: Get Smart: Strategies for Understanding Culture

ENGL 3093: Bawdy Politics: Writing the Restoration
ENGL 3097: Vice and Folly; The Age of Satire, 1660-1730
ENGL 3126: Writing for Mass Media
ENGL 3127: Writing for Digital Media
ENGL 3146: Topics in Postcolonial Literature
ENGL 3176: Falling Apart: British Literature 1900-1950
ENGL 3177: Contemporary British Literature
ENGL 3196: Dangerous Liaisons: The 18-Century Novel
ENGL 3217: Topics in Literature, Culture, and Sexuality
ENGL 3246: Desire and Identity in Early Modern Literature
ENGL 3247: Transgressing Boundaries in Early Modern Literature
ENGL 3276: Indigenous Literatures on North America
ENGL 3277: Topics in the Indigenous Literatures of North America
ENGL 3346: The Romantics
ENGL 3347: The Victorians
ENGL 3486: Topics in Genre
ENGL 3487: Topics in Poetic Genres
ENGL 3496: Topics in Dramatic Genres
ENGL 3497: Topics in Prose Genres
ENGL 3606: Topics in Popular Culture
ENGL 3617: Topics in Popular Fiction

Non-Substantive:

That the prerequisites for **ENGL-3516: Creative Writing Poetry** and **ENGL-3517: Creative Writing Prose** be changed as outlined below.

New prerequisite:

Three credits of 1000 level ENGL (excluding ENGL 1551 and ENGL 1552).

Old prerequisite:

Three credits of 1000 level ENGL (excluding ENGL 1551 and ENGL 1552). Students who register in this course are also required to submit for assessment a selective portfolio of their creative work or an essay demonstrating creative reasons for wishing to take the course to the Department Chair by the first week of January and approval to register in the course will be granted by mid-February.

Rationale:

Removing the portfolio requirement increases access to the course and serves the needs and interests of students.

Non-substantive:

That the prerequisites for **ENGL-2001 “Sex, Death and Textuality”** and **ENGL-2011 “Short Stories: Snapshots of Life”** be changed as outlined below.

New prerequisite:

Any 15 credits.

Old Prerequisite:

Any 18 credits.

Rationale:

We have offered these courses for over 5 years and are revising our prerequisite based on that experience.

By-laws and Elections Committee

Motion 12: Moved by T. Sibbald, seconded by M. Saari that the Report of the By-Laws and Elections Committee dated November 23, 2021 be received.
Carried

Honorary Degrees Committee

Motion 13: Moved by K. Wamsley, seconded by C. Anyinam that the Report of the Honorary Degrees Committee dated November 17, 2021 be received.
Carried

Joint Committee of the Board and Senate on Governance

Motion 14: Moved by K. Wamsley, seconded by D. Campbell that the Report of the Joint Committee of the Board and Senate on Governance Committee dated November 1, 2021 be received.
Carried

Teaching and Learning Committee

Motion 15: Moved by G. Raymer, seconded by C. McFarlane that the Report of the Teaching and Learning Committee dated October 13, 2021 be received.
Carried

Other Business

None

Amendment of By-Laws

- **Notice of Motion that Senate By-laws, Article 9.1 and 9.2 be amended as outlined below:**

Rationale:

The Registrar brought forward the following proposal to create a stand-alone Academic Appeals and Petitions Committee and a stand-alone Academic Awards Committee. In 2019, the Undergraduate Standing & Petitions Subcommittee, Undergraduate Services & Awards Subcommittee, Undergraduate Student Appeals Committee, Graduate Leave & Time Extensions Subcommittee, and the Graduate Standing & Petitions Subcommittee were condensed and combined into the Academic Awards, Appeals and Petitions Committee. The merging of these committees created a great deal of work for the faculty members on the committee and the academic awards being determined by faculty and students only, which has been identified as a gap by the members.

The Speaker advised that 9.1(a) (iii) & (iv) were included in the Senate agenda showing strikethrough. He requested that the strikethrough be removed, and that 9.1(a) (iii) & (iv) be included in the Notice of Motion. The following revisions were suggested (revisions in bold and strikethrough):

- 9.1 Academic ~~Awards~~, Appeals and Petitions Committee
- (a) *Ex Officio* Members:
- the Registrar, who shall be Chair;
 - the NUSU VP Advocacy and Awareness, or designate;**
 - ~~a Dean appointed by the PVPAR;~~
 - two (2) undergraduate student representatives, one elected from each Faculty by NUSU;
 - one (1) graduate student representative elected by NUSU.
- (b) Members Elected by Senate, Faculty Council:

- (i) four (4) Faculty Senators, **with at least one** from each Faculty, one of whom shall be elected by the Committee to serve as Vice-Chair;
- ~~(ii) a member of the NUSU Executive;~~
- (ii) two (2) non-Senator Faculty; one elected from each Faculty;
- (c) Terms of Reference:
 - (i) to consider and rule on petitions and appeals by undergraduate and graduate students for exceptions to University academic regulations;
 - ~~(ii) to consider and recommend undergraduate and graduate awards for those that require the committee review;~~
 - (ii) to convene appropriate ad hoc committees to ensure compliance with regulations and responsibilities respecting awards, appeals, and petitions;
 - (iii) to recommend to Senate, as deemed by the Chair in consultation with the Vice-Chair, revisions to academic regulations;
 - (iv) to deal with such other matters as may be assigned from time to time by Senate.

New Committee:**9.2 Academic Awards Committee****(a) Ex Officio Members:**

- (i) **the Registrar, who shall be Chair;**
- (ii) **the NUSU President, or designate from the NUSU Executive;**
- (iii) **Student Senator;**
- (iv) **the Assistant Vice-President, Students;**
- (v) **the Director, Office of Indigenous Initiatives;**
- (vi) **the Manager, Financial Aid and Financial Services, or designate;**
- (vii) **the Manager, University Advancement.**

(b) Members Elected by Senate or Faculty Council:

- (i) **two (2) Faculty Senators, one from each Faculty;**
- (ii) **two (2) non-Senator Faculty; one elected from each Faculty.**

(c) Terms of Reference:

- (i) **to consider and recommend undergraduate and graduate awards for those that require the committee review;**
- (ii) **to convene appropriate ad hoc committees to ensure compliance with regulations and responsibilities respecting awards;**
- (iii) **to consider and rule on petitions by undergraduate and graduate students for exemptions to University academic scholarships and awards.**

- **Notice of Motion that Senate By-laws, Articles 9.1 and 9.2 be amended as outlined below:**

Rationale: As no language currently exists in the Senate By-laws to allow full-time instructor representatives and Librarian Senators to serve on Senate Standing Committees, the following language was suggested: (revisions in bold)

9.1 Academic Awards, Appeals and Petitions Committee

(b) Members Elected by Senate, Faculty Council:

- (i) four (4) Faculty Senators, two from each Faculty, one of whom shall be elected by the Committee to serve as Vice-Chair;

To:

9.1 Academic Awards, Appeals and Petitions Committee

(b) Members Elected by Senate, Faculty Council:

- (i) four (4) Faculty Senators, **with at least one (1)** from each Faculty, one of whom shall be elected by the Committee to serve as Vice-Chair;

9.2 Academic Curriculum Committee

(b) Members Elected by Senate, Faculty Council:

- (i) four (4) faculty Senators*, two from each Faculty elected by Senate;

To:

9.2 Academic Curriculum Committee

- (b) (i) four (4) faculty Senators*, **with at least one (1)** from each Faculty elected by Senate;

9.10 Teaching and Learning Committee

- (b) (i) four (4) Faculty Senators, two from each Faculty, one of whom shall be elected by the Committee to serve, on an annual basis, as Chair and one of whom shall be elected to serve as Vice-Chair;

To:

9.10 Teaching and Learning Committee

- (b) (i) four (4) Faculty Senators, **with at least one (1)** from each Faculty, one of whom shall be elected by the Committee to serve, on an annual basis, as Chair and one of whom shall be elected to serve as Vice-Chair;

Elections

- Elect one (1) EPS faculty Senate representative to serve on the By-laws and Elections Committee for a three-year term effective July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2024. *No nominations were received. The election will be included in the January 14, 2022 Senate Agenda.*
- Elect one (1) A&S or EPS faculty Senate representative to serve on the Senate Budget Advisory Committee for a three-year term effective July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2024. *No nominations were received. The election will be included in the January 14, 2022 Senate Agenda.*

New Business

Motion 16: Moved by K. Wamsley, seconded by D. Campbell that Senate move in camera.
Carried

Motion 17: Moved by K. Wamsley, seconded by C. McFarland that Senate approve that four names be added to the roster of potential Honorary Degree recipients.
Carried

Motion 17: Moved by K. Wamsley, seconded by J. Dech that Senate move out of camera.
Carried

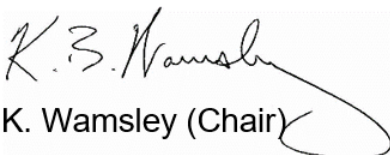
Announcements

The Speaker acknowledged and thanked Senator Burk for her valuable service as an active member of Senate and wished her well in her future endeavours.

It was noted that the May 28, 2021 Senate Minutes are not available online. The Senate Secretary will ensure that the Minutes are posted.

Adjournment

Senate was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.


K. Wamsley (Chair)


S. Landriault (Senate Secretary)

Senate 10th December 2021

Arja Vainio-Mattila, PVPAR

Applications

Our applications are up 8.8% from last year, this represents an increase across the board; in application types and areas.

UG applications +13%

BEd applications +3.8%

GR applications +71%

101 applications +12.8%

105 applications +9%

TEAS +4%

Youth in Care tuition waiver

A media release will be going out next week announcing Our Youth in Care tuition waiver program in partnership with Canadore College.

Ontario University Fair is scheduled to go ahead in a hybrid format October 1st and 2nd 2022.

New program development:

Post-baccalaureate diplomas and certificates have been approved by the Ministry for funding of domestic students

1. BSc Environmental Science submitted to ACC
2. BA Environmental Studies to be submitted to the next ACC
3. ad hoc working groups on the following new program initiatives have been struck:
4. Liberal Arts and Science conversion to online
5. Post-Bac Diploma development: Enviro Studies and Science; Data Science/Analytics; Health
6. ad hoc working group: BSc in Health

Quality Assurance

GESJ, RLCT, SWLF IQAPs submitted to AQAPC

Biology, Computer Science, and Mathematics are in progress

Nursing programs have received annual program review approval from the College of Nurses of Ontario (CNO)

Teaching Hub

In the past month, we have run four workshops:

- *Wholism? Humour? Keys to Critical Thinking and Relationships*, with Dr. Pamela Toulouse
- *Cultivating Safer Spaces*, with a variety of panelists
- *Learner Empowerment & Engagement*, with a variety of panelists
- *COVID Fatigue and Burn Out*, with a variety of panelists

The latter 3 were recorded live and can be viewed on our [YouTube channel](#).

The interim SOS was successfully rolled out in Fall courses (including those with start/end dates outside the regular schedule). Preliminary accounting suggests a response rate of 9%, on average. Please remember: we are still in a pandemic with stressful situations for many, and fully-digital surveys typically have a lower response rate, even with reminders, etc.

The Joint Committee on the Assessment of Teaching and Learning (JCATL) submitted their report to the Joint Committee on the Administration of the Agreement (JCAA) on Oct. 29th. Subsequently, the co-chairs also made a presentation to the JCAA, via Zoom, on Dec. 2. Expect further follow up in a number of areas – particularly the Senate Teaching and Learning Committee and NUSU.

A number of our content-based VLS projects are progressing very well. A few examples of their deliverables are:

- For Humanizing Learning, check out our [opening video](#) to 8 weeks of critical conversations that occurred with many partners, follow #ONHumanLearn on Twitter or check out some early reflections posted by Laura Killam on her [personal blog](#) and UWindsor participants through their [OOL blog](#).
- For Liberated Learners, check out the [project trailer](#).
- We have a number of Pressbooks being built and pilot tested on topics such as: Digital Humanities, Designing Quality Tech-enabled Learning Experiences, and Universal Design for Learning (UDL) for Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility (IDEA). Please note that these are still “works in progress”, but may be seen soon in [eCampus Ontario’s Open Library](#)

The capacity supports provided by VLS funding (5 contract positions in the Teaching Hub and 5 Online Learning Partners) have also been well-utilized by the NU community over the past month.

NU had a strong presence at the annual eCampus Ontario TESS Symposium (Nov. 15-19). The theme was *Co-creating the Future* and there were 4 sessions led by NU-affiliated presenters, including one by our OLP student team.

Our 6th Professional Learning Committee wrapped up at the end of November. This PLC spoke to systemic barriers to equity, university access, etc. using the book *The Privileged Poor*, by Anthony Jack, as the centre piece.

Student Mental Health Supports:

Over the course this semester we have launched three new Mental Health Support programs for students. MENTal Strength - focusing on the stigma around Men's Mental Health. We have hired a new Student Counsellor - BIPOC student support and just last week we have launched a new Peer Support Mental Health Drop-in program for students.

Board of Governors
Academic Senate Report – December 10, 2021

The Board of Governors met on November 19, 2021 for their regular meeting followed by the annual retreat, held at the splendid new Student Centre. The retreat included a tour of the facility, a social, and a brainstorming session on a variety of topics including national reputation; continuing and extended education; ancillary services; and alumni.

To kick-start spirit of Giving Tuesday, donations from the participants were collected on Saturday morning with proceeds going to the scholarship fund. A photo from the steps of the Student Centre shows the generous spirit evident even through their masks. The in-person meeting was the first since COVID began and was a very warm welcome back for the participants.

Thanks to the NUSU team which included Warren as Director of Services and Sarah as the Director of Communications as well Abby Blaszczyk, Maggie Horsfield and Christine Dowdall for coordinating this fine event.



Alumni Report to Senate

Alumni Awards

We are thrilled to announce the Alumni Award winners. These 5 individuals are exemplary alumni who are doing amazing things in their communities. The following recipients were announced individually across social media channels each day of this week.

The Dr. James Jamieson Influential Alumni Award: Emily Gillespie

The Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award: Dillion Richardson

The Rising Star Alumni Award: Alexander Maycock

The Philanthropy Alumni Award: Tammy Morison

The Honorary Alumni Award: Mike DeGagné

For more information on all of the recipients and their accomplishments, please visit nipissingu.ca/alumniawards.

Giving Tuesday

We were proud to participate in Giving Tuesday this year with a gift from the board of \$2,500. All of our board members participated individually as well with personal donations or sharing the \$100 Alumni Challenge across social media channels.

NU Café

Introductions on the café went out November 23. 62 introductions were made last cycle and we hosted 6 events in November for Career Month. The last round of introductions for 2021 is December 14. If you would like to join the hub or learn more about it, please visit [NU Café - Ten Thousand Coffees | Nipissing University](#).



NUSU Academic Senate Report
Friday, December 10th, 2021**Night Owls**

NUSU held Night Owls Study Sessions where we kept the Student Centre open until midnight for four nights. These evenings were well attended and allowed students to study or work on group projects. We provided them with coffee, tea, hot chocolate, snacks and school supplies.

Thank you to Student Development and Services and the Office of the Dean of Arts and Science for supporting those nights financially. Also, thank you to Gail and Hilary from the library, the Office of Indigenous Initiatives Wiidooktaadwin Student Mentors, St. John's Ambulance Therapy Dogs, and Lindsey and Veronica from Student Learning and Transitions who supported students throughout Wellness Week and Night Owls.

BOG Retreat

On November 19th and 20th, NUSU hosted the Board of Governors Retreat at our Student Centre. It was a great opportunity to show members of the Board this new building, as well as provide a space for brainstorming and conversation in regard to the future of Nipissing University.

Movember

Led by NUSU and the Men's Volleyball Team, the Lakers Community raised \$2855 for men's mental and physical health as part of the Movember campaign. We would like to thank Dan Miller, Mason Blais and the Men's Volleyball Team for their hard work in raising money and awareness for this cause.

November also saw the first annual event of a men's mental health forum, MENTAL Strength, which was created by Deven Doodnath, a student and member of the men's soccer team. Congratulations to Deven, Katie and Brooke on a great event.

Food Bank

We would like to say a huge thank you to all the Nipissing faculty, staff, students, and community members who donated food or monetary donations to our student food bank for our Holiday Baskets. Our students have been overwhelmed by the kindness shown and we are so thankful to be part of a community that looks after one another.

We also received a generous donation from Calvin Presbyterian Church for the fourth year in a row. Dr. Kristen Ferguson and her J/I Class of 2023 also donated financially to our student food bank.

**NUSU Student Centre**

221 College Drive, North Bay, ON P1B 0G1

Tel: (705) 474-3450 ext. 4801 Fax: (705) 474-7732

Web: www.nusu.com**Community**

We had over 80 students who participated in the North Bay Santa Claus Parade and showed their Lakers spirit. Thank you to Dr. Wamsley for walking with us.

We will be dropping off over 200-holiday cards to the North Bay Regional Health Centre Foundation. The cards have been filled out by students and NUSU staff sending their good wishes and thoughts to the patients and staff who will be at the hospital on Christmas Day.

Academic Dishonesty

We wanted to acknowledge the work the Student Learning and Transitions team has been doing highlighting Academic Dishonesty on their social media. This has been a great way to explain to students the different types of Academic Dishonesty.

Survey

NUSU is looking to send out a student survey in January to receive feedback about the Fall semester, as well as input for the Winter semester. We have met with numerous groups and will be releasing the results at Senate after the survey is completed.

Bus Stop

The City of North Bay has now moved the bus stop to directly outside of the NUSU Student Centre.

NUSU Office

The NUSU office will be closed from December 17th to January 10th. We would like to wish everyone a happy holiday season and hope you all get some well-needed rest. We look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.