

Nipissing University
Minutes of the Academic Senate Meeting

May 13, 2022

10:30 a.m.

Zoom Videoconference

Members Present:

C. Richardson (Vice-Chair), C. Sutton, J. McAuliffe, J. Nadeau, D. Iafrate, N. Black

D. Campbell, N. Colborne (Speaker), H. Earl, R. Gendron, L. Hoehn, M. Litalien, K. Lucas, J. Murton, G. Phillips, S. Srigley, R. Vernescu, S. Winters

J. Allison, A. Armenakyan, B. Elliott, K. Ferguson, A. Kociolek, T. McParland, P. Ravi, G. Raymer, A. Schinkel-Ivy, T. Sibbald, A. Wagner

L. Sinclair

S. Smits

R. McEntee, M. Taylor, H. Panchal, P. English, S. Pecoskie-Schweir

Absent With Regrets:

K. Wamsley, P. Maher, P. Radia

S. Connor, J. Dech, A. Hatef, C. McFarlane, S. Renshaw, M. Saari, T. Stewart, M. Tuncali

C. Anyinam, G. Brown, C. Greco, R. Hoffman, J. Muterera, L. Peachey

C. Irwin, O. Pokorny

J. Smith, K. Wilcox

Approval of the Agenda of the Senate Meeting of: May 13, 2022

Motion 1: Moved by N. Black, seconded by S. Winters that the agenda of the Senate meeting of May 13, 2022 be approved.
Carried

Adoption of the Minutes of the Senate Meeting of: May 13, 2022

Motion 2: Moved by G. Phillips, seconded by M. Litalien that the minutes of the Senate meeting of April 8, 2022 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 relations.

Business Arising From the Minutes

In follow up to a question raised regarding the reintroduction of access to communication via the everybody group email, the VPFA advised that internal discussions continue as we seek a solution to this issue. UTS is polling other Ontario universities for best practices and alternatives will be presented for consideration.

Reports From Other Bodies

The Provost and Vice-President Academic and Research (Interim) provided a report. The report is attached to the minutes.

The Vice-President Finance and Administration provided a report. The report is attached to the minutes.

In response to a request for further information on the Value for Money audit to be conducted by the Auditor General of Ontario, the VPFA reported that the focus of the audit will be related to financial management and governance. They will be ensuring that Nipissing is using the funds provided by the province in a fiscally responsible way, as well as looking at our governance practices. Nipissing is one of four universities that will be audited this summer. The names of the other three universities have not been made public. The audit will require a significant amount of work for many members of the UMG team as a great deal of information has been requested. The VPFA advised that she looks forward to sharing the information and recommendations in the fall.

The report from the Board of Governors is attached to the minutes.

The Alumni Advisory Board representative, Steven Smits, provided a report. The report is attached to the minutes.

The Council of Ontario Universities Academic Colleague, Dr. Darren Campbell, reported that agenda items discussed at the recent meeting included updates on where COU is in terms of promoting university funding and autonomy, and an ongoing focus on decolonizing and indigenizing. He noted that an interesting comment, including the following distinction, was made by one of the speakers. "We can all work on decolonizing the university in the classrooms, but we aren't all qualified to indigenize them." The minutes from the meeting will be provided to Senate once they are available.

A request was made that a question be raised at the next COU Academic Colleague meeting regarding whether there are concerns about university autonomy given the Laurentian University situation and the decision of the province to carry out these audits on Ontario universities.

The NUSU VP Advocacy and Awareness provided a report. The report is attached to the minutes.

Question Period

A question was raised as to whether the Indigenization Steering Committee, which was formerly included in the Senate agenda under Reports from other Bodies, would be recreated. It was noted that this committee was replaced by ad hoc committee meetings at the faculty level and will be an important part of our plans moving forward as well as our strategic plan.

In response to questions raised regarding the scheduling of part-time courses, cuts to part-time instructors and the impact on departments and registration, the PVPAR advised that budgets were reviewed across the university, not just on a per course level, to get as close to a balanced budget as possible. She requested that specific budget questions be directed to your Dean.

Reports of Standing Committees and Faculty or University Councils**Senate Executive Committee**

Motion 3: Moved by C. Richardson, seconded by T. McParland that the Report of the Senate Executive Committee dated May 5, 2022 be received.
Carried

Academic Curriculum Committee

Motion 4: Moved by C. Richardson, seconded by S. Pecoskie-Schweir that the Report of the Academic Curriculum Committee dated April 13, 2022 be received.
Carried

Academic Quality Assurance and Planning Committee (AQAPC)

Motion 5: Moved by C. Richardson, seconded by N. Black that the Report of the Academic Quality Assurance and Planning Committee dated April 22, 2022 be received.
Carried

Motion 6: Moved by C. Richardson, seconded by A. Schinkel-Ivy that Senate approve the revised Academic Integrity Policy.
Carried

The Speaker reminded that the motion to approve this policy is on the floor. Concerns have been raised but no explicit revisions or motions for revision have been provided. Options to move forward include: a motion for revision, but with a policy of this size revising at the Senate level could be awkward and not normal practice. The policy could be referred back to committee or the policy could be approved with feedback or a requirement to come back in one year.

The Registrar advised that if the policy is sent back to the TLC for revision, the policy will not take effect in this academic year.

The PVPAR advised that revisions to this policy have been in the works for three years now and it is important that it move forward. She would hate to see it go back and an entire year be lost. The policy will be reviewed, hopefully on an annual basis. Valid points were made, and they would be great additions to the policy. A thorough discussion ensued and detailed notes from this meeting will be forwarded to the Teaching and Learning Committee for their consideration. (Note: Motion 6 was ultimately passed after Motion 7 was withdrawn.)

Motion 7: Moved by H. Earl, seconded by S. Srigley that the revised Academic Integrity Policy be sent back to the Teaching and Learning Committee.
WITHDRAWN

Motion 8: Moved by H. Earl, seconded by M. Litalien that Senate recommends that the revised Academic Integrity Policy be sent to the Teaching and Learning Committee for review and consultation of the three issues raised at the May 13, 2022, Senate meeting regarding, Dean and faculty consultation after a major offence, part-time instructors, and the appendix.
Carried

Teaching and Learning Committee

Motion 9: Moved by G. Raymer, seconded by N. Black that the Report of the Teaching and Learning Committee dated March 10, 2022 be received.
Carried

Motion 10: Moved by G. Raymer, seconded by S. Srigley that Senate approve the Institutional Syllabus Template.
Carried with the inclusion of the following friendly amendment:

In response to a question as to whether this is a mandatory template that faculty will be expected to use, the Chair of the TLC advised that this is not a mandatory template, and it is not enshrined in the CA in any way. The template was designed to be a tool to assist instructors, and was created in consultation with students. The template will include a guide and a handbook. Support from the Teaching Hub will be provided to assist instructors to populate the template and can be modified as they see fit.

A suggestion was made that the language in the second sentence in the second paragraph on page 2 of the Syllabus Template Guide be clarified to avoid confusion. The first paragraph states, "The following ten items in the list below have been identified as strongly recommended (best practices)...", in the next paragraph the items below in italics may be viewed as optional compared to the items set in regular font that implies that the items set in regular font are not optional. The wording might be clearer if the items below in italics are less strongly recommended than the ones in regular font.

Motion 11: Moved by S. Winters, seconded by M. Litalien that the second sentence in the second paragraph on page 2 of the Syllabus Template Guide be reworded from, "For example, the items below in *italics* may be viewed as optional compared to the items set in regular font", be revised to, "For example, the items below in *italics* may be viewed as less strongly recommended than the items set in regular font."

A friendly amendment was made to revise the wording from "less strongly recommended" to, "the items below in italics could also be considered".
The mover and the seconder accepted the friendly amendment. The Speaker reminded Senators that this is a motion to amend the template.
Carried

Other Business

Motion 9: Moved by D. Iafrate, seconded by M. Litalien that Senate grant approval to graduate the students who have completed their degree requirements prior to the 14th of June, 2022.
Carried

The Deans will announce the graduands by faculty and degree at the May 27 Senate meeting.

Elections

A notice of election was announced for a Speaker and a Deputy Speaker of Senate for three-year terms effective July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2025. The elections will be included in the May 27, 2022 Senate Agenda. The Speaker announced that he does not plan to allow his name to stand for another three-year term.

New Business

Motion 10: Moved by S. Winters, seconded by H. Earl:

Whereas the Nipissing University Senate unanimously passed a motion on April 9, 2021 affirming its support for the Senate of Laurentian University's avowal of its power and responsibility to pronounce on the academic integrity of the proposals that come before it, and expressing strong concern with the Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act (CCAA) process at Laurentian that effectively by-passed transparency and academic decision-making;

And whereas the Auditor-General of Ontario released a preliminary report into the Laurentian University insolvency that found that senior administrators were at fault for the financial crisis and did not have to file for CCAA protection but did so strategically;

And whereas the senior administrators used the CCAA process to weaken Senate's role in forming educational policy as set out in the Laurentian University Act;

Be it resolved that the Nipissing University Senate call for the resignation of senior administrators Laurentian University President Robert Haché, Vice-President Academic and Provost Marie-Josée Berger, and Registrar Serge Demers.

Carried

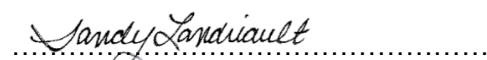
A request was made that it be noted in the minutes that NUSU Senators McEntee, Taylor, Panchal and Pecoskie-Schweir abstained from the vote.

Rationale: Since the Auditor General's preliminary report became available https://www.auditor.on.ca/en/content/specialreports/specialreports/Laurentian-U_Preliminary_Perspective_en.pdf it became very clear that this act was used in an unethical and dishonest way and that the administrators were secretive, dishonest, incompetent and manipulative, and kept Senate out of its proper role in deciding what programs should be offered by the university. It is important that this Senate stands up for the Senate of its closest university and supports its rights, duties and privileges to make academic decisions.

Adjournment

Senate was adjourned at 12:20 p.m.


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C. Richardson (Vice-Chair)


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S. Landriault (Senate Secretary)

Senate Report – May 13, 2022

Carole Richardson, Provost and Vice-President, Academic and Research (Interim)

REGISTRAR'S OFFICE

Spring/Summer enrollment:

SS22 4,123 (# of total registrations) 90% online

SS21 4,226 (# of total registrations) 93% online

Note: registration is still open for SS22

Domestic Admission FW22:

Offers: We have sent 2,976 offers as of April 29th vs. 2,887 last year - up 3.1%

Acceptances: 888 vs. 904 last year - down 1.8%

Note: June 1st is the 101 deadline to accept offers, this will fluctuate greatly until then.

International - degree seeking & Post Bac:

402 applicants

170 offers

50 accepted offers (some have their study permit & some are still waiting for it)

TEACHING HUB

Please visit our newly designed Teaching Hub website at <https://www.nipissingu.ca/academics/teaching-hub>.

Although results are embargoed, we were successful on one NU-led proposal to the second round of funding under the Ontario Government's Virtual Learning Strategy (VLS). We are also partners on two other successful VLS proposals, led by the University of Windsor and Lakehead

We supported a number of applications to the STLHE Awards schemes earlier in the year and congratulate Shandon Ashitei as the first student from Nipissing University to receive a 3M National Student Fellowship. Shandon is a well-respected leader in the NU community and joins 9 other students from across Canada to receive this prestigious recognition in 2022.

GRADUATE STUDIES

The Three Minute Thesis (3MT) 2022 Competition took place on Thursday, May 5th. 14 graduate students competed from the MA History, MEd, MEdSc, MSc Math, MSc Kin, and PhD programs. Further information on the event can be found at nipissingu.ca/3MT/.

RESEARCH

Since the last meeting of the Senate, researchers at NU received the following awards. Note that the competition for the SSHRC Institutional Grants was administered internally.

| Award | Funder | Number | Total Value | Notified |
|--|---------------|---------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Awards for Research, Scholarly and Creative Activities | Internal | 6 | \$40,700 | March |
| SSHRC Institutional Grant (SIG) | SSHRC | 5 | \$71,000 | March |
| Insight Grant | SSHRC | 1 | \$81,752 | April |
| Research Tools & Instruments Grant | NSERC | 1 | \$28,000 | April |
| Fellowship | CIHR | 1 | \$90,000 | April |
| Undergraduate Student Research Award | NSERC | 7 | \$42,000 | April |

STUDENT DEVELOPMENT & SERVICES

Student Development & Services (SDS) continues to support students through face-to-face appointment opportunities while also offering services through virtual or alternative methods.

Athletics

Nipissing Lakers hosted their 29th annual Awards Gala on April 14th at the RJS Athletic Centre.

Student Intervention Services

Student Intervention Services has engaged effectively with students this academic year. There has been higher utilization of Student Retention Alert by faculty and staff. This has resulted in a 50% increase in referrals and a 71% increase in service utilization.

Student Learning and Transitions

New Student Orientation (NSO) will take place July 4th-8th this year.

Sexual Violence Education and Protection

The Sexual Violence Prevention & Education Outreach team led its final academic year workshop on Monday, April 4th. The outreach team offered almost 50 training opportunities to the university community and had over 800 student participants.

The Action Against Gender-Based Violence committee is in the final stages of the Sexual Violence Prevention, Support and Response Policy three-year review.

International Initiatives

The International Initiatives Department is going to be renamed International Student Support starting this Fall. As part of that process, a new international student landing page will be created on our website.

Announcement

The PVPAR reported that Nipissing University and the Nipissing University Faculty Association were pleased to announce the joint ratification of a one-year Collective Agreement (May 1, 2022, to April 30, 2023) between the university and the full-time academic staff bargaining unit. She thanked NUFA for their hard work and cooperation throughout the process.

Report to Senate
Vice-President, Finance & Administration
Dated: May 13, 2022

On April 1-3, 2022, we hosted approximately 550 guests at the Athletics Centre for the FIRST Robotics North Bay District Competition again this year. Participants came from various regions around the province and were excited to not only participate in the event but also see our beautiful campus. This event operated in a reduced capacity in order to mitigate risks associated with Covid-19, and participants and volunteers alike were delighted to be competing again for the first time since 2019.

Conference Services is pleased to be hosting up to 850 Legion members on campus May 13-17, 2022, for the Royal Canadian Legion's Provincial Convention event. This event will also take place at the Athletics Centre and is proving to be an excellent opportunity for the university to foster relationships within the local community while also building the university's provincial profile.

Elections Ontario will be holding polling stations on campus in the coming months, starting with Advanced Polls running from May 19-28, 2022, at the Chancellors House Assembly Room. We'll see them back on campus again on Election Day, June 2, 2022, at the Founders House and Governors House Assembly Rooms.

Nursing Simulation Lab – Project Update: The project tender package was posted for contractor review in late April with a closing date of May 17. Interested parties attended mandatory site visits this past week to confirm the scope and physical area of the renovation. Tender results will be evaluated in the coming weeks.

We have received notice that the Office of the Auditor General of Ontario will be conducting a “Value for Money” audit at Nipissing University. Nipissing is one of four universities in Ontario to undergo this review over the summer months. AGO staff will be on site next week and work will continue through the summer with the goal to having the report complete later in the fall.

Last night the Board of Governors passed the 2022-23 Budget. We will be working with Senate Executive to schedule a presentation to Senate. We will be discussing more details in the Town Hall meetings next week.

Board of Governors' Report to Senate

Friday, May 13, 2022

The annual general meeting of the Board of Governors was held on May 12th, and as always, the budget was the main focus of the meeting. The elimination of the deficit remains a significant challenge due to a number of factors including Covid, unfunded seats, tuition freezes and others. This year the budget resulted in a \$1.6M deficit reduced to \$767,776 after a transfer from internal reserves. There was fulsome discussion of many areas of the budget including areas of increases to support strategic growth and revenue generation. Two of these include a projected modest growth in international students and ancillary services.

Nonetheless, the Auditor General of Ontario has targeted Nipissing University and three other universities for a value for money audit of financial management and governance. It is a massive report and will require a lot of work by the administration and finance team.

In good news, new funding was announced including \$695K for facilities repairs and maintenance, \$275K to the Teaching Hub to support virtual learning and \$1.9M for the Nursing program. These new funds are not reflected in the current budget but will be included in the fall update.

Despite the sobering report, the tone from administration remains hopeful and focused on navigating our shared challenges. The dedication of staff and students is the driving force for all we do, and we look forward to the in-person convocation to celebrate the successes of this year.

Nipissing University Alumni Advisory Board Report

- The NUAAB has put out their call for nominations for the 2022 Alumni Awards. Please consider nominating an alumnus in one of the five categories:

- Rising Star Alumni Award
- Dr. James Jamieson Influential Alumni Award
- Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award
- Honorary Alumni Award
- Philanthropy Alumni Award

Nominations close June 1, 2022. Please email alumni@nipissingu.ca if you have questions or visit www.nipissingu.ca/alumniawards for more information.

- The NUAAB will be holding their annual retreat on May 14th at the new student centre to discuss their goals for the upcoming year and to engage with new members. This is the first in-person NUAAB gathering since the start of the pandemic.
- NUAAB is happy to report that a vote was made at the March general meeting to make an annual reoccurring donation to the NUSU Student Foodbank. The 2021/2022 donation was transferred last week and NUAAB is proud to continue to support the needs of Nipissing students.
- NUAAB President Lisa Snider and Dr. Wamsley met with 2021 Alumni Award winner Emily Gillespie last week in Toronto to discuss ways to engage and grow a Toronto Alumni Chapter. A similar meeting took place in Newfoundland with Dr. Wamsley and alumni there to discuss a potential Newfoundland Alumni Chapter. NUAAB is excited to support the expansion of alumni engagement nationally and one day internationally also.
- With convocation just around the corner NUAAB is working closely with the alumni office to create an increased presence at the event and to engage with new graduates. Plans include an expanded alumni activation zone within the reception area and a revamped alumni address. NUAAB is looking forward to the in-person event in June.



Academic Senate Report
May 13th, 2022

New Executive Team

Good afternoon, my name is Harikesh Panchal and I am the VP Advocacy & Awareness at NUSU, as well as the Chief Student Senator.

Joining us are Riley McEntee (President), Montana Taylor (VP Finance & Administration), and Sarah Pecoskie-Schweir (Education & Professional Studies Student Senator) who are all voting members in the Academic Senate. Our team is really looking forward to working with the Senators over the next year!

3MT (Three Minute Thesis)

On Thursday, May 5th, 14 graduate students took part in the university-wide Three Minute Thesis competition. Congratulations to KJ Hills who won the competition, Jamie Jackson who was the runner-up, Jackie Rochefort who won the People's Choice Award, as well as the School of Graduate Studies for this successful event.

Alumni Advisory Board

NUSU would like to thank the Alumni Advisory Board for their kind donation of \$3000 to our student food bank. We are always appreciative of the Board's support for our students.

Tree Planting

In collaboration with Clean, Green, Beautiful North Bay and Trees for Nipissing, NUSU will be planting an orchard at the Student Centre on Monday, May 16th at 12:30 pm. All are welcome to join. This initiative is being sponsored by YourTV North Bay and we are extremely grateful for their support. We are hoping to use this orchard as a way to engage with students and faculty. We are looking to also grow vegetable patches between the trees to not only replenish the soil but potentially give food to our student food bank in the future.

Provincial Elections

With the provincial election taking place on June 2nd, NUSU will be hosting two events to engage students and the general public, in collaboration with RTOERO, Canadore Students' Council, and the Nipissing University Political Science Society.

On May 18th at 7 pm, we will be hosting an online election debate with the local provincial candidates.

On May 27th at 2 pm, we will be hosting an in-person Meet The Candidates event at the NUSU Student Centre where light refreshments will be provided.

To register for both events, please go to nusu.com/ontario.

Heritage Months

NUSU would like to recognize this month as Asian Heritage Month and Jewish Heritage Month. Both groups have faced a lot of discrimination for centuries and we have seen it escalate in the past few years. We, as the Student Union, will continue to advocate for these groups and bring awareness to organizations and initiatives that support these groups.

Nurses Week

Yesterday was International Nurses Day and we would like to celebrate our nursing students, faculty and alumni for the incredible work that they do.

Giving weight to how incredible their work is, in 2018, the Bachelor in Nursing program was chosen by the Guinness Book of World Records as the hardest degree!

We also want to thank the Nipissing University Nursing Society for their continued support of our nursing students and fierce advocacy.