

**Nipissing University**  
**Minutes of the Academic Senate Meeting**

**July 8, 2022**

**10:30 a.m.**

**Zoom Videoconference**

**Members Present:**

K. Wamsley (Chair), C. Richardson, C. Mady, P. Radia, D. lafrate, N. Black

L. Chen, N. Colborne, S. Connor, J. Dech, A. Hatef, K. Lucas, C. McFarlane, G. Phillips, S. Renshaw, S. Srigley, N. Stevens, L. Thielen-Wilson, M. Tuncali, R. Vernescu, R. Wenghofer, S. Winters

J. Allison, C. Anyinam, A. Armenakyan, J. Barker, G. Brown, C. Greco, R. Hoffman, T. Horton, T. McParland, J. Muterera, P. Ravi, G. Raymer, T. Sibbald (Speaker), R. Vanderlee

C. Irwin, L. Sinclair

J. Smith, K. Wilcox

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

**Absent With Regrets:**

C. Sutton, P. Maher

H. Earl, R. Gendron, J. Murton, M. Saari

B. Elliott, L. Peachey

O. Pokorny

S. Smits

The Senate Speaker offered a Traditional Territory acknowledgement.

**Approval of the Agenda of the Senate Meeting of: July 8, 2022**

Motion 1: Moved by J. Allison, seconded by N. Black that the agenda of the Senate meeting of July 8, 2022 be approved.  
CARRIED

**Adoption of the Minutes of the Senate Meeting of: May 27, 2022**

Motion 2: Moved by N. Black, seconded by R. Wenghofer that the minutes of the Senate meeting of May 27, 2022 be adopted.  
CARRIED

## **Reports From Other Bodies**

The President provided a report. The report is attached to the minutes. In response to questions regarding the PVPAR and AVPR positions, the President reiterated that the AVPR would continue to have oversight over everything related to research.

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

The Senate representative on the Board of Governors, Kathy Wilcox, reported that the Board of Governors held its last meeting of the academic year on June 9. Each committee Chair provided a brief summary of the year's accomplishments. Resolutions were passed updating the Sexual Violence Prevention, Support and Response Policy for Students, amending the Free Speech Policy, and revising both the Gift Acceptance Policy and the Naming of Campus Assets Policy. The Board also approved the setting of the out of province tuition rates as recommended by the Audit and Finance Committee. At the end of the meeting Board members were asked if they had not already completed the End of Year Board Survey to do so at that time, thus encouraging greater participation in the process. The meeting was followed by a well-attended year end social at the Student Centre.

A question was raised regarding the Free Speech Policy approved by the Board. Discussion ensued. The Speaker requested that the Free Speech Policy be included in the Senate minutes. Senators were reminded that all Board policies are posted on the Board website. The link to the Free Speech Policy is included below:

<https://www.nipissingu.ca/sites/default/files/2022-06/Free%20Speech%20Policy%20-%202022.pdf>

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

## **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 June 30, 2022 be received.  
CARRIED

### **Academic Curriculum Committee**

Motion 4: Moved by C. Richardson, seconded by N. Black that the Report of the Academic Curriculum Committee dated June 21, 2022 be received.  
CARRIED

### **Faculty of Arts and Science**

#### **MSc Mathematics**

Motion 5: Moved by C. Richardson, seconded by M. Tuncali that Senate approve the creation of COSC-5057 Computational Thinking as outlined in the attached template.  
CARRIED

Motion 6: Moved by C. Richardson, seconded by M. Tuncali that Senate approve the requirements for the thesis route MSc in Mathematics program to be changed as outlined in the attached document.  
CARRIED

#### Post-Baccalaureate Diploma in Environment and Sustainability Proposal

Motion 7: Moved by C. Richardson, seconded by D. Iafrate that Senate approve the creation of the Post-Baccalaureate Diploma in Environment and Sustainability as outlined in the attached document.  
CARRIED

A question was raised regarding consultation with departments concerning courses in the Post Bac program. Senate was reminded of the processes and committees through which programs pass before coming to Senate.

#### Admission Requirements

Motion 8: Moved by C. Richardson, seconded by N. Black that Senate approve that the admission average for Concurrent Education be changed to 70%.  
CARRIED

Motion 9: Moved by C. Richardson, seconded by A. Armenakyan that Senate approve the modified admission requirements for the Business post-baccalaureate diplomas.  
CARRIED

#### Academic Quality Assurance and Planning Committee (AQAPC)

Motion 10: Moved by C. Richardson, seconded by C. McFarlane that the Report of the Academic Quality Assurance and Planning Committee dated June 21, 2022 be received.  
CARRIED

Motion 11: Moved by C. Richardson, seconded by N. Black that Senate approve the revised Graduate Studies Oral Defence Examination Regulation.  
CARRIED

#### By-Laws and Elections Committee

Motion 12 : Moved by N. Colborne, seconded by R. Wenghofer that the Report of the By-Laws and Elections Committee dated June 21, 2022 be received.  
CARRIED

It was advised that there was an error in the link to the Governance Review of Laurentian University included in the By-laws and Elections Committee Report. The correct link was posted in the chat and is included below:

<https://www.laurentianu.info/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Laurentian-University-Governance-Review-Feb-2022.pdf>

It was noted that the Governance Review of Laurentian University was brought forward only as a possible point of discussion. It was also noted that the report includes a disclaimer advising that it was prepared for the benefit of Laurentian University.

**Amendment of By-Laws****NOTICE OF MOTION**

Rationale: To clarify the interpretation of the language to indicate that elections for student Senators shall be conducted by the NUSU general membership, not the NUSU Board. Information regarding the fall by-elections was also added. Changes to the By-laws will better reflect the NUSU By-laws and what actually takes place.

**5.0 Election of Student Senators****5.2 Conduct of Elections**

*Current:*

- (a) Elections for the undergraduate and graduate student representatives shall be conducted by the NUSU Board, coincident with its annual delegate elections.

*Change to:*

- (a) Elections for the undergraduate and graduate student representatives shall be conducted by NUSU in accordance with its annual Director-at-Large elections. If any student Senator positions are vacant after the elections, a by-election will be held in the early fall semester in attempts to fill them.

*Current:*

- (b) Notwithstanding the conduct of the elections in (a) by the NUSU Board, the elected undergraduate and graduate student representatives shall be deemed to have no formal affiliation with NUSU or accountability to NUSU, in carrying out their responsibilities as Senators.

*Change to:*

- (b) Notwithstanding the conduct of the elections in (a) by NUSU, the elected undergraduate and graduate student representatives shall be deemed to have no formal affiliation with NUSU or accountability to NUSU, in carrying out their responsibilities as Senators.

**Elections**

- Elect one (1) faculty Senate representative to serve as Deputy Speaker of Senate for a three-year (3) term effective July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2025.  
*No nominations were received. The election will be included in the August 12, 2022 Senate Agenda.*
- Elect four (4) tenured faculty members, with at least one from each faculty, to be elected by Senate to serve on the Committee for the Search/Appointment/Reappointment of the Provost and Vice-President, Academic.  
**ACCLAIMED:** N. Colborne  
C. Dokis  
C. Greco  
P. Nosko  
~~N. Stevens~~ (nomination withdrawn)
- Elect four (4) tenured faculty members, with at least one from each faculty, to be elected by Senate to serve on the Committee for the Search/Appointment/Reappointment of the Associate Vice-President Research.

Moved by S. Winters, seconded by S. Srigley that following the discussion of the importance of having a faculty member that understands and has a deep knowledge of Indigenous research, that Senate approve, in principle, the nomination of a faculty member who is pre-tenure or not

yet tenured on the Committee for the Search/Appointment/Reappointment of the Associate Vice-President Research.

The President indicated that he was fully supportive of what the motion is, but Senate is out of order to approve this motion in principle as this is a Board of Governors Hiring Policy and proper procedure would be discussed at the Board.

The Speaker confirmed that this motion is outside the purview of Senate, and it is out of order.

The President stated that Senate has identified that there is a problem with the Board policy, and suggested that the vote be postponed, and he will request that the Board review the policy and render a vote as soon as possible.

Senator Winters requested that the above motion be withdrawn. The seconder of the motion, Senator Srigley, also agreed to withdraw the motion.

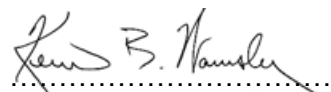
Moved by S. Winters, seconded by L. Chen that Senate postpone the nomination and election process for the Associate Vice-President of Research until the Board of Governors has a chance to review its policy.


CARRIED

Link to the Search/Appointment/Reappointment of Senior Academic Administrative Officers Policy: <https://www.nipissingu.ca/sites/default/files/2021-03/search-appointment-reappointment-of-senior-academic-administrative-officers.pdf>

### **Adjournment**

Senate was adjourned at 12:35 p.m.

  
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K. Wamsley (Chair)

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

## **President's Senate Report – July 8, 2022**

The President noted that orientation activities have been happening on campus for the past few days. Many Faculty members have been engaging in research at this time; if you would like your research findings or achievements promoted on social media, please advise the President's office.

We recently held Convocation for the graduating class of 2022. Our classes of 2020 and 2021 were very appreciative of being able to attend Convocation in person. Many thanks to our staff members, particularly Maggie and Abby and our teams of staff and volunteers and thank you to the Faculty members who attended the ceremonies.

We recently accepted a generous \$1M donation from the George and Helen Vari Foundation. We will be using \$750,000 for our new simulation labs in Nursing and \$250,000 for BIPOC scholarships. We will be looking to match these funds in the near future.

Colleagues will know that we have been engaged in an audit with the Auditor General's office over the past several weeks. Thanks to our staff members for all of their work. Do not be alarmed by the letter contacting you; the AG office insisted that we not alert you to the letter beforehand or coach any responses to questions.

Today we will elect Faculty members to two important hiring committees. The process which led to these changes was one of extensive consultation and receiving advice from the outgoing Dean of Research and Graduate Studies. The Provost's position will only change in title and not in responsibility. The new AVP Research, Innovation, and Graduate Studies emerged from faculty member feedback to enhance the profile and support of research at the university. Following broad consultation, the President made these changes, and the Board received the items for information.

Please ensure that you take the time to rest and recharge in the coming weeks to prepare for the Fall term.

## **Senate Report – July 8, 2022**

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

### **Faculty of Education and Professional Studies**

The hiring committees in Nursing and BPHE have completed their search and we look forward to completing the process and welcoming two new tenure-track and one LTA faculty members.

The Faculty is excited about the donation from the George and Helen Vari Foundation that will go in part to support the Simulation Labs.

### **Office of the Registrar**

- FW registration has started and is going smoothly
- Acceptances for FW are up 5% (+74 students) vs. last year (1,530 vs. 1,456)
- 101 International students have accepted their offers and are awaiting their study permits
- We continue to recruit internationally for Winter intake
- FW23 recruitment season begins in September
- 22 of the 101 international students that have accepted our offer have paid and received their student VISA's

### **Teaching Hub**

Congratulations to Dr. Michelann Parr on being selected as the Schulich Teaching chair of Open Educational Resource (OER) Development.

### **Faculty of Arts and Science**

The A&S search committee for the LTA 1 (10 months) in Biology has completed its search. A&S is looking forward to welcoming a new LTA 1 to join the Department of Biology and Chemistry soon.

The Faculty of A&S is delighted to welcome a new CRC in Climate & Environmental Change, Dr. Colin McCarter. Dr. Carter is cross-appointed between the Department of Geography and the Department of Biology and Chemistry.

A&S Ontario Wetlands Evaluation Systems (OWES) Team, Joe Boivin, Corina Irwin, Oriana Pokorny, and Kevan Cowcill, led by Dr. Dave Hackett (Department of Biology and Chemistry), led another successful certification course in June. This certification course is done in collaboration with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR).

As I do not have permission from specific faculty members to announce their retirement and/ or new positions, I will just thank all those retiring for their years of service to Nipissing University, and wish those pursuing new adventures all the very best.



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## **Academic Senate Report July 8th, 2022**

### **Events (Past and Future)**

Thank you to everyone who attended our Pride BBQ on June 28th. It was also great to meet with our PhD students and Dr. Blaine Hatt on July 4th.

On July 20th, NUSU will be hosting a BBQ for National Hot Dog Day for all Nipissing University faculty, staff and students. There will be free food and freezies and we will try our best to accommodate dietary restrictions. This will be held at the NUSU Student Centre Courtyard from 12pm-2pm or in our restaurant area should it rain.

### **Outdoor Classes**

We have had great conversations with some faculty members who will be using our space for outdoor classes. This is a wonderful opportunity for our students and we look forward to seeing our space used for academic purposes.

### **Living Fit**

NUSU and Women10 Living Fit Inside-Out had an intergenerational event in which we brainstormed ideas about future collaborations and how to bridge the gap between generations. We are really excited about some of the events that will be taking place in the Fall.

### **NSO**

This week is New Student Orientation. We, at NUSU, always love meeting the new additions to the Lakers family. Thank you to all the volunteers and especially to Sara, Emily and Hunter in the SLT office.