

Nipissing University
Minutes of the Academic Senate Meeting
September 9, 2022
2:30 p.m.
Room F210 & Zoom Videoconference

Members Present:

K. Wamsley (Chair), C. Richardson, B. Law, C. Mady, P. Maher, P. Radia, D. Iafrate, N. Black

L. Chen, N. Colborne, S. Connor, J. Dech, H. Earl, R. Gendron, A. Hatef, C. McFarlane, J. Murton, G. Phillips, S. Renshaw, S. Srigley, N. Stevens, L. Thielen-Wilson, R. Vernescu, R. Wenghofer, S. Winters

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

C. Irwin, O. Pokorny, L. Sinclair

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

Absent With Regrets:

C. Sutton

K. Lucas, M. Saari, M. Tuncali

T. McParland, J. Muterera

S. Smits

The Senate Speaker offered a Traditional Territory acknowledgement.

Approval of the Agenda of the Senate Meeting of: September 9, 2022

Motion 1: Moved by S. Winter, seconded by A. Armenakyan that the agenda of the Senate meeting of September 9, 2022 be approved.
CARRIED

Senator Panchal provided notification that a motion will be spoken to under Other Business regarding a proposed Town Hall meeting.

Adoption of the Minutes of the Senate Meeting of: July 8, 2022

Motion 2: Moved by C. Greco, seconded by R. Gendron that the minutes of the Senate meeting of July 8, 2022 be adopted.
CARRIED

Business Arising From the Minutes

In follow up to a request made at the May 27, 2022 Senate meeting that an update on the long-term total debt of the university be included in the fall Senate meeting, the Senate Secretary will forward a request to the Vice-President Finance and Administration that an update be provided under Business Arising at the next Senate meeting.

Reports From Other Bodies

The President provided a report. The report is attached to the minutes.

Appreciation was expressed to President Wamsley and the Board of Governors for amending the policy of the composition of the Committee for the Search/Appointment/Reappointment of the Associate Vice-President Research, Innovation, and Graduate Studies to include a non-tenured faculty member.

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

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

Question Period

Appreciation was expressed to President Wamsley for providing information to Senators, as well as for his positivity.

In response to questions regarding students that have already reported Covid illness and whether there is a contingency plan if faculty members get sick, it was advised that faculty members would not be expected to teach if they are ill. Further discussion would take place with the Registrar's Office and faculty members to find a solution.

In response to concerns expressed in NUSU's report regarding issues faced by current international students, the Provost advised that conversations have been held with NUSU and requests were made for specific concerns so that problems could be addressed. She reported that the NU Works program has specific eligibility requirements, including; demonstrated financial need, Canadian citizenship or a permanent resident of Canada, and enrollment in at least 18 credits in the fall/winter term. The requirement that individuals must be a Canadian citizen, or a permanent resident of Canada, is a requirement of the Ministry of Colleges and Universities. Nipissing University has an International Work Study Program that provides part-time employment on campus and is only open to international students that demonstrate financial need. As this was the first time that the university has had a January intake, a gap was identified in the entrance scholarship program and scholarships were not available. This gap has since been addressed.

Senator Panchal advised that a Town Hall meeting is being requested so that the issues identified by NUSU and faculty will bring open and clear dialogue as to where we can go and what the next steps are.

It was noted that the university has a strong duty of care for our international students and that it is important that everyone is on board to ensure that students have a positive experience, an opportunity to learn, and that students' concerns are followed up on, solved, and not passed along. Responses should be more proactive, and problems anticipated. There may also be culture issues. It was noted that many students are not able to access healthy food or food inherent to their cultures. Students need to feel that they are in an environment that they can express themselves without being labelled or fear retaliation. We need to encourage the creation of a space of academic and cultural safety, and a sense of belonging regardless of where students are from.

Following a request for the current international student enrollment, the President advised that the numbers will be made available at the next Senate meeting.

Senator Connor acknowledged the Assistant VP, Students, Dr. Casey Phillips, as well as the university community, regarding his appeal to assist in providing emergency housing for Ukrainian misplaced persons. He advised that his appeal was enthusiastically taken up by Dr. Phillips and his team and thanked those who offered their generous support. While ultimately, the spaces were unable to be filled due to challenges with visas, he noted that Nipissing University is on the right side of history.

In response to whether there are statistics or if data is available on the experiences of all students at the university beyond student course evaluations, it was advised that no such data currently exists. A request was made that the university start to collect data on the experiences of all students. Students could be asked to self-identify however they wish. This will start the process of collecting data and identifying the issues to the university and NUSU.

Senator Pecoskie-Schweir advised that she received a survey upon graduation asking how she became interested in and why she chose Nipissing University, and if it was due to the Ontario University Fair. She advised that many students wanted to provide further feedback, but there was no platform.

The President advised that the President's Advisory Council requested that a short survey be sent to students asking why they selected Nipissing University. He noted that comprehensive surveys would be beneficial to receive student feedback, and that to make the university a better place we need to listen to our students.

The President stated that the housing shortage came upon us as a surprise as we were unaware of Canadore's incoming class and the specific changes in the North Bay housing market and that some students were not organizing housing arrangements in the spring as they normally do. The pandemic changed this and caught us off guard. The situation is being managed on a case-by-case basis and we have requested that students contact us to put themselves on the residence wait list, even if they don't plan to live in residence, so we know who they are. This is the short-term strategy. The longer-term strategy for January is to go on a bed-by-bed basis on campus and off campus and to deal directly with the landlords in a more systematic and organized way. We will not bring in new students in January if we are unable to find housing. The direction we are moving towards, as well as the direction Canadore is moving towards, will be determined for the next five years. If we need to build another residence, we will.

A request was made for information as to where the administration wants the university to be in two years in terms of programming and courses offered and what kind of an institution it will be, as this information would be helpful to plan and provide a sense of the direction towards which we are moving.

The President noted that discussions have been held at Town Hall meetings as well as departmental meetings and participation has been requested. Decisions will have to be made as we need to have financial sustainability. Where we are going with our five-year plan will come out in the academic planning process within the strategic plan. We need to determine where we are putting our resources. We can advise how much it costs to offer a program, and with the input of faculty members we can determine how many students it takes to make a program viable. We are asking our professional faculties to help to shore up the liberal arts institution and we must be able to show the Board that we have an institution that is responsive to enrollment challenges. This needs to be embedded within the broader strategic planning process. It was suggested that a Senate committee be struck to assist in finding a solution for these difficult issues. The academic plan that the Provost is leading will also provide a plan with a direction.

In response to a question regarding the course waiting list policy in the academic calendar, Senator Radia responded advising that there was a misunderstanding about the consultation process. She advised that she is happy to discuss further, but was not sure that this is the purview of Senate.

Reports of Standing Committees and Faculty or University Councils

Senate Executive Committee

Motion 3: Moved by K. Wamsley, seconded by H. Panchal that the Report of the Senate Executive Committee dated August 4, 2022 be received.
CARRIED

Motion 4: Moved by K. Wamsley, seconded by L. Chen that the Report of the Senate Executive Committee dated September 1, 2022 be received.
CARRIED

Academic Quality Assurance and Planning Committee (AQAPC)

Motion 5: Moved by C. Richardson seconded by R. Gendron that the Report of the Academic Quality Assurance and Planning Committee dated July 22, 2022 be received.
CARRIED

Motion 6: Moved by C. Richardson seconded by J. Allison that the Annual Report of the Academic Quality Assurance and Planning Committee dated August 29, 2022 be received.
CARRIED

By-laws and Elections Committee

Motion 7: Moved by R. Gendron, seconded by L. Chen that the Annual Report of the By-Laws and Elections Committee dated June 24, 2022 be received.
CARRIED

Other Business

Further to the concerns expressed in the NUSU Report dated September 2, 2022, the following motion was spoken to:

Motion 8: Moved by H. Panchal, seconded by M. Taylor that it be resolved that Nipissing University and the Nipissing University Student Union will hold a town hall

meeting in regard to issues and concerns regarding international students within the next three (3) weeks.

CARRIED

A discussion took place regarding whether a Town Hall meeting would be as effective as one on one meetings with the President. The President proposed an alternative to a Town Hall meeting and offered to meet with the international students individually to hear their concerns.

It was noted that students may not feel safe meeting one on one with faculty or administration that are in positions of power, and that a Town Hall meeting would enable students, faculty, staff, and administration to come together and allow for greater communication. It will also allow NUSU to voice concerns on the students' behalf should they wish to remain anonymous.

NUSU declined the President's offer to meet with the international students one on one or in small groups.

Amendment of By-Laws

Motion 9: That Senate approve that the membership of Article 5.2 Conduct of Elections be amended as outlined below:

5. Election of Student Senators

5.2 Conduct of Elections

- (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.
- (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.

CARRIED

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.

Elections

- Elect one (1) faculty Senator to serve as Deputy Speaker of Senate for a three-year (3) term effective July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2025.
As no nominations were received, the election will be included in the October 14, 2022 Senate Agenda.
- Elect three (3) tenured faculty members and one (1) tenured or non-tenured faculty member, 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, Innovation, and Graduate Studies.

ACCLAIMED: J. Dech
G. Hartley
A. James
N. Stevens

- Elect two (2) faculty Senators to serve on the Board of Governors for three-year (3) terms effective July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2025.
ACCLAIMED: J. Murton
As only one nomination was received, the election for one (1) faculty Senator will be included in the October 14, 2022 Senate Agenda.
- Elect one (1) faculty Senator to serve as the Council of Ontario Universities (COU) Academic Colleague for a three (3) year term effective July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2025.
ACCLAIMED: L. Chen
- Elect one (1) faculty Senator to serve as the Council of Ontario Universities (COU) Academic Colleague (Alternate) for a three (3) year term effective July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2025.
As no nominations were received, the election will be included in the October 14, 2022 Senate Agenda.
- Elect one (1) A&S faculty Senator to serve on the Senate Executive Committee for a three-year (3) term effective July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2025.
As no nominations were received, the election will be included in the October 14, 2022 Senate Agenda.

New Business

Motion 10: Moved by C. Richardson, seconded by J. Murton that the Report of the Academic Curriculum Committee dated September 2, 2022 be received.
CARRIED

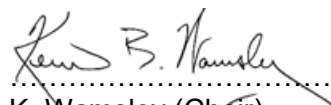
Motion 11: Moved by C. Richardson, seconded by L. Chen that Senate approve the creation of the Post-Baccalaureate Diploma in Health and Social Impact as outlined in the attached document.
ABSTENTIONS: 4
CARRIED

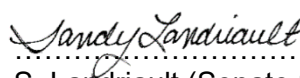
Announcements

Senator Panchal reminded that the public opening of the Lake Nipissing Beading Project starts this afternoon at the NUSU Student Centre. All Senators were invited to attend to support Dr. Kirsten Greer and Dr. Katrina Srigley in collaboration with the Nipissing First Nation.

Adjournment

Senate was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.


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K. Wamsley (Chair)


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S. Lardriault (Senate Secretary)

President's Senate Report – September 9, 2022

The President provided an oral report. The President welcomed Senators back for the 2022-23 academic year, remarking upon the joy of having students in the classroom and tremendous energy on campus. He thanked faculty, staff, and our student leaders for volunteering in what was a very successful orientation week.

The President reported that recent meetings with Nipissing First Nations and NUICE had been very rewarding and provided a very good foundation for the launch of strategic planning to be announced in the coming days. Of note were the lessons learned in talking circles about good governance, respect, and the place for all voices. The President is hopeful that such lessons will be transferred to Senate as we all work as partners towards the success of the institution.

The President commented at length on the news article in the Bay Today, which misrepresented some of the data on enrollment for this term. He reported that enrollment is down somewhat across the board, with the exception of Nursing, but that several universities in Ontario experienced drops in 101's and 105's this term. The primary reason, he believes, is the limitation on recruiting to virtual spaces during the pandemic. Our strength, he noted, is in establishing strong relationships with students. As part of a strategic shift for the University, we will be engaging students in our primary areas of strength, Toronto and Ottawa, and small-town Ontario with expectations drawn from a more quantitative approach to recruitment, securing the appropriate number of leads, applications, and confirmations to meet enrollment targets for next year. Additionally, we will all assume roles in both recruitment and retention for the betterment of the University and for the experience of students for whom we bear some responsibility to assist them through to graduation.

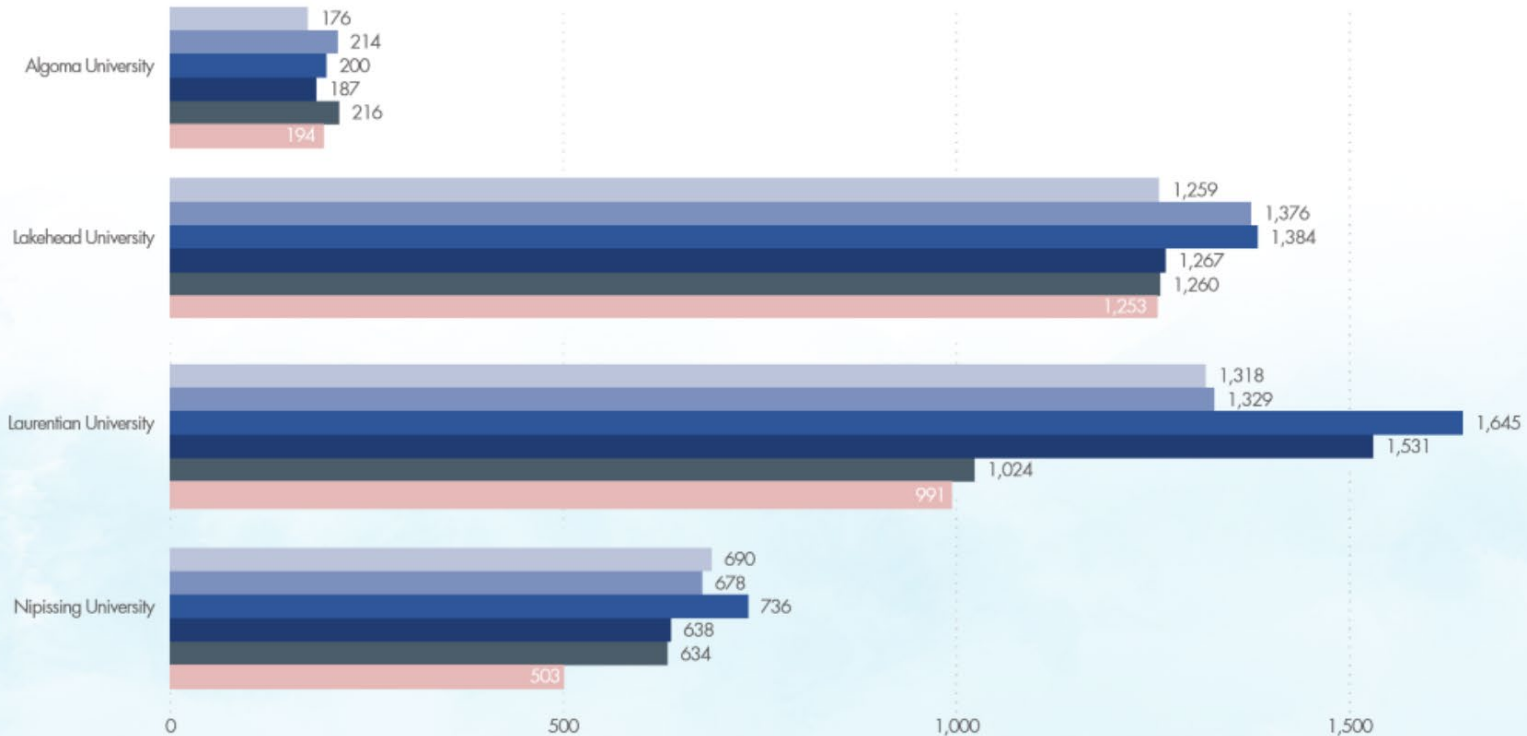
The President noted the arrival of international students, their excitement to be here, and some challenges which face us in the community with respect to a shortage of rental units for all of our students. The approach, he stated, was to assist students to find accommodations on a case-by-case basis and to provide for them in cases of emergency. The University will shortly begin work on ensuring that students arriving in January will have housing.

The President reported that several staff members have been working long hours for the past three months gathering information at the request of the Auditor General's office. Nipissing is one of four Ontario universities undergoing an audit of finances and quality of governance. The process has consumed all of their time which has proven to be a costly exercise for the University. The AG's report should be released in late November and the President will keep Senate apprised when possible.

September OUAC Sector Confirmation Trends (101/105 – First-Year Only)

of Confirmations

● 2017/18 ● 2018/19 ● 2019/20 ● 2020/21 ● 2021/22 ■ 2022/23 (August)



- Applicant Type
 - OUAC 101
 - OUAC 105
- Prior Experience
 - Advanced Standing
 - First Year
- Program Start Year
 - 2017/18
 - 2018/19
 - 2019/20
 - 2020/21
 - 2021/22

Provost's Report for Senate – September 9, 2022

Welcome back to campus. It has been energizing to see students, staff and colleagues in the halls and in classrooms. Thank you for all your efforts in getting this year off to a successful start! As committees begin to meet on campus, it will be great to continue our discussions about all things Nipissing face to face.

Harris Learning Library

Effective Saturday, September 17, the Learning Library is resuming pre-covid operating hours - open weekends to library users and open evenings Monday to Thursday.

There are new Library homepages that are institution specific - one with Nipissing branding, the other with Canadore branding.

To request a tour or library instruction session for your classes - please contact the Library at their new library email account: libraryhelp@nipissingu.ca

Teaching Hub

May 12th – Sept. 7th, 2022 Across the Spring/Summer, the Teaching Hub ran workshops, supported Lakers Athletics Camps, and hosted Leisure Learning sessions for the community.

Micro-credentials are moving forward on many fronts, and we hope to launch two MCs in the Fall.

Together with Enji giigdoyang |Office of Indigenous Initiatives and NUICE, the 8th Professional Learning Community was hosted. The next conversation will be facilitated by Schulich Teaching Chair of EDI, Dr. Charles Anyinam.

On July 4th, 2022, Dr. Michelann Parr was named as the latest Schulich Teaching Chair. Congratulations to Dr. Parr, who will focus on Open Educational Research (OER) Development over the next 2 years (2022-2024).

Congratulations to Dr. Anahita Baregheh, whose VLS 1.0 project on innovation in the workplace has been short-listed as a finalist for the 2022 Innovation and Entrepreneurship Teaching Excellence Award. The team will be presenting virtually in September at the final round in Cyprus.

Education and Professional Studies

This summer the Faculty of Education and Professional Studies saw the return of additional students to the North Bay campus for the PhD program, Indigenous Teacher Education Program, as well as for two business courses, a business field placement, one criminal justice course, and five nursing courses. Further, 30 nursing sections were offered, the nursing Scholar Practitioner Program, 32 business sections and three Master of Education courses online. Many thanks to those faculty who taught during this term.

Arts and Science

The public opening of the Lake Nipissing Beading Project is today at the Student Centre and will remain there until October 28th, when it will then travel across Ontario with the North Bay Museum's "Our Guides Were Really Going Places: Nipissing Guides and the Legacy of Paul Commanda" across northern Ontario.

The new Post Bac in Environment and Sustainability currently has 31 International students who have accepted offers of admission.



NUSU Report

September 2nd, 2022

Orientations

We held Orientation Week from Tuesday, August 30th to Saturday, September 3rd. We created alternative programming for the first time to allow students who did not want to participate in certain activities to feel comfortable. Thank you to Oriana for leading the nature walk and to the faculty who participated in the Mock Lectures.

NUSU hosted a Bachelor of Education Welcome for first-year education students and a luncheon for Graduate Studies students.

Chamber of Commerce After Hours

All Nipissing University staff and faculty are invited to attend the Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours at the NUSU Student Centre on September 22nd from 4:30pm to 7pm. This will be a great opportunity for faculty to network with community members and students.

International Students

As a student union, we do not understand how the university has recently accepted 60 applicants for the Post-Bacc Environmental program in January. With the housing crisis looming over not just North Bay, but Ontario, we are concerned that there is a lack of foresight, support and care.

In regards to the creation of new Post-Bacc programs there has been little to no consideration of program learning outcome concerns that were brought up at committee meetings. The programs are being built as a pathway to work permits and permanent residency and that is not the business of an educational institution. It should be to ensure that programs are built on a foundation of enriching knowledge, experiences, and skills.

We are hearing numerous concerns and complaints from the current international students who are here and are being sent to the wrong offices or provided with incorrect information. This is causing confusion, added stress and is delaying them from getting the appropriate help they need whether it's in academics or mental health.

NUSU has been hearing concerns from international students for years and we feel we are not a step closer to solving some of these issues. This may have been exasperated by COVID; however, these issues were very much alive before that period.

We have raised concerns to the university in different settings: Board of Governors, Academic Senate, one-on-one meetings and with upper administration. Students are coming to NUSU because they fear retribution should they bring these concerns directly to the university. Their concern is any retaliation would impact their housing, place at Nipissing University, job opportunities and immigration status. We are constantly told that there are enough supports for students, that they need to see facts and figures and that it is a small group of people who have these concerns.

International students are being further penalized by the archaic structure that is the NU Works program. Finding a job on campus can be hard at the best of times but international students are unable to apply for these jobs. What is the university doing to create jobs for international students specifically, especially as the university keeps accepting more and more international students?

While we understand that there are supports for international students and we applaud the work those individuals do for them, the university has said countless times that it is operating on a skeleton crew. If the university wants to expand its international student population, would it not be best to figure out the infrastructure that even domestic students have concerns about? We can't expect to increase our student population without providing supports within our offices in order to then support our students.

There seems to be the same conversations happening in different offices across campus and yet everyone is siloed. We propose to have a town hall meeting regarding international students and that the steps on how to help and support international students are communicated clearly. Too often we hear of international (and domestic) students being told to go back and forth to different offices or having their emails forwarded on to numerous departments without receiving the answer or not having their concerns addressed at all.

We ask that we come together as a community to create a learning environment that supports and promotes all students' academic success and well-being.