

Nipissing University
Minutes of the Academic Senate Meeting
May 12, 2023
10:30 a.m.
Room F210 & Zoom Videoconference

Members Present:

K. Wamsley (Chair), C. Sutton, N. Colborne, B. Law, C. Mady, D. Iafrate

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

J. Allison, A. Armenakyan, J. Barker, G. Brown, D. Hay (Deputy Speaker), T. Horton, T. McParland, J. Muterera, L. Peachey, G. Raymer, T. Sibbald (Speaker)

C. Irwin, O. Pokorny

R. Hehn

H. Panchal, E. Cooke, S. Greco

Absent With Regrets:

C. Richardson, P. Maher, D. Walters, N. Black, J. Dech, K. Lucas, L. Sinclair, S. Fiddler, C. Anyinam, C. Greco, R. Hoffman, P. Ravi, R. Vanderlee, R. McEntee, P. English

The Senate Speaker offered a Traditional Territory acknowledgement.

Approval of the Agenda of the Senate Meeting of: May 12, 2023

Motion 1: Moved by S. Winters, seconded by T. McParland that the agenda of the Senate meeting of May 12, 2023 be approved.
CARRIED

Adoption of the Minutes of the Senate Meeting of: April 14, 2023

Motion 2: Moved by S. Winters, seconded by C. McFarlane that the minutes of the Senate meeting of April 14, 2023 be adopted.
CARRIED

Business Arising From the Minutes

The Speaker thanked Senator Tuncali for his constructive suggestion to consult Ted Chase about the procedural issue that arose regarding receipt of a report at the last Senate meeting. Ted Chase noted a portion of By-law 8.4(c), "A motion to receive should normally not be

defeated; rather, it should be carried if Senate is generally satisfied with the report and prepared to consider the recommendations therein or referred back to the committee (with specific instructions) if there are significant concerns." It was also concluded that, if a report is not received then the motions arising from the report cannot be considered by Senate.

The Director of Institutional Planning and Analysis provided a follow-up presentation in response to questions raised regarding the data analysis information provided at the last Senate meeting. The presentation along with detailed written responses is attached to the minutes.

Following the presentation, a lengthy discussion took place around the collection and interpretation of data. The Vice-President, Finance & Administration provided clarity on a number of questions and comments, including if analysis on revenues and expenses is being completed in all departments University-wide. She confirmed that the Finance and Institutional Planning and Analysis team continues to collect benchmark data across all departments and noted that comparative figures from other universities are also being reviewed to ensure services are provided efficiently across the institution. Additional information will be made available as the budget tool and structure are refined.

Following a question as to whether this data was taken into consideration prior to the decision by the administration to merge departments, the VPFA advised that pros and cons of all departmental changes are discussed at length and noted that changes made to the structure of the university are made on an ongoing basis.

A request was made that a detailed report of the risk management analysis of current departmental changes, as well as the administrative response be provided to Senate. The VPFA reported that the incoming Provost, Vice-President Academic (PVPA) would be advised that this request had been made.

In response to a request to receive a detailed breakdown of the 2023/24 Budget, the VPFA advised that a Senate Budget Advisory Committee meeting will be scheduled, and that the committee will determine how best to provide the information to Senate.

Reports From Other Bodies

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

In follow up to the President's announcements regarding Laura Killam, Nipissing's first 3M National Teaching Fellow, and Sarah Pecoskie-Schweir, Nipissing's second 3M National Student Fellow, as well as previous faculty and student award recognition, the leadership and work of the Teaching Hub (particularly, Heather Carroll, Senior Instructional Designer, and Pat Maher, Dean of Teaching), was acknowledged.

A written report from the Provost and Vice-President Academic and Research (Interim) is attached to the minutes.

The Alumni Advisory Board representative 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.

As an amendment to the NUSU report, the VP Advocacy and Awareness requested that all oral reports to Senate also be included as written reports so that information is available for

continuous and effective communication and can be referenced back to. He also acknowledged Nursing Week by recognizing the efforts of the nursing community and the importance of the profession. He also congratulated Sarah Pecoskie-Schweir, as Nipissing's second 3M National Student Fellow, recognizing how very proud the university community is of her accomplishments and her dedication to students.

Question Period

In response to an inquiry around delayed offers of admission, the Registrar advised that the priority of Admissions is to ensure a prompt response rate and noted that offer letters have been issued at a faster rate than in previous years. She noted that students should contact the Registrar's office and speak directly to staff should they have concerns.

It was noted that a report from the Board of Governors was not included in the Senate agenda, and a request was made that a report be provided. As the meeting was held April 27, a report was not yet available and will be submitted and circulated with the June Senate meeting materials. A Senate representative on the Board reported that consideration of the budget was presented and discussed at the last meeting of the Board, and the VPFA reiterated that the projected financial results for 2022-23 and the budget for 2023-24 will be presented in detail, following a meeting with the Senate Budget Advisory Committee.

In response to a request for a report on the status of the New Student Orientation, the Speaker acknowledged Veronica Afonso, Student Learning Coordinator in Student Development and Services - Student Learning and Transition. Ms. Afonso spoke to the unfortunate vacancies within the Student Learning and Transition (SLT) department, which directly impact the success of the New Student Orientation sessions and Lakers Orientation Week. Following the presentation, Senators expressed concerns and acknowledged the importance of recruitment and retention for both students and staff.

The President thanked the members that brought this issue forward and noted that two positions had been posted and that hiring was in process. He noted that staffing levels have been affected by budget cuts over the last ten years which were further exacerbated by the pandemic. Nipissing continues to experience staffing shortages in all units across campus, including senior leadership. He spoke to the importance of student-facing services and noted that Nipissing University allocates a larger percentage towards student services when compared to many universities in Ontario. He reiterated that student retention is a high priority, and the Institution has a moral responsibility to support all students. Work continues to fill vacant positions and have a full and functional staff compliment.

Following a comment about reduced budgets, the President clarified that the 2023/24 budget was not achieved through not hiring positions and reiterated that the common goal is to fill all posted positions with staff that can provide students with the best possible service and a healthy learning and working environment. It was noted that the Provost continues to work on a staffing plan for Student Services, and that staff shortages are not isolated to a sole department but felt university wide. The Provost is aware of the issues within the department and New Student Orientation is being planned for.

Reports of Standing Committees and Faculty or University Councils

Senate Executive Committee

Motion 3: Moved by K. Wamsley, seconded by R. Gendron that the Report of the Senate Executive Committee dated May 4, 2023 be received.
CARRIED

In response to a request for clarification of the statement within the Senate Executive Report concerning guest speakers, the Chair advised that a discussion had been held at the Senate Executive Committee meeting regarding guests and process. As Chair of Senate and the Senate Executive Committee, it had been brought to his attention that there were guests at the last Senate meeting that did not have an opportunity to speak as the meeting ran for 3 hours. Concerns were expressed that this was an overreach by the Senate Executive Committee and could stifle the work of Senate, as well as infringe on the Speaker's right to manage how Senate conducts its business. The Chair reiterated that the spirit of the conversation was to follow processes so that guests who wish to present at Senate can be recognized in due time. The Speaker advised that this matter had been forwarded to the By-laws and Elections Committee for further discussion.

Graduate Studies Committee

Motion 4: Moved by B. Law, seconded by H. Earl that the Report of the Graduate Studies Committee dated March 29, 2023 be received.
CARRIED

Research Committee

Motion 5: Moved by B. Law, seconded by R. Hehn that the Report of the Research Committee dated April 20, 2023 be received.
CARRIED

Teaching and Learning Committee

Motion 6: Moved by G. Raymer, seconded by J. Allison that the Report of the Teaching and Learning Committee dated February 10, 2023 be received.
CARRIED

Motion 7: Moved by G. Raymer, seconded by C. McFarlane that the Report of the Teaching and Learning Committee dated March 24, 2023 be received.
CARRIED

Motion 8: Moved by G. Raymer, seconded by R. Hehn that the Report of the Teaching and Learning Committee dated April 14, 2023 be received.
CARRIED

In response to questions regarding the Student Course Experience Survey and why the name was changed from Student Opinion Survey to Student Course Experience Survey, how the questionnaire was developed, and where it will go next, Senator Raymer, Chair of the TLC, advised that a Joint Committee for the Assessment of Teaching and Learning (JCATL), comprised of representatives from faculty and administration, had been struck. The name change was thought to better represent a survey of the student course experience and was one of several recommendations that came from the final report of the JCATL. The TLC discussed the recommendations and decided that the TLC's job was to develop the tool and the list of questions based on the recommendations. How the SCES is implemented is not the purview of the TLC. Senate can choose to approve the tool and the two sides can work together. The VPFA

advised that following discussion with the Provost, it is her understanding that the next step will be that the SCES will go to the Joint Committee on the Administration of the Agreement (JCAA).

Motion 9: Moved by G. Raymer, seconded by M. Tuncali that Senate approve the Student Course Experience Survey, consisting of the question items outlined in the attached document.
CARRIED

Elections

The Speaker reminded that elections are currently being held for Senate and Senate Standing Committee vacancies and requested that Senators encourage their colleagues to serve.

New Business

Motion 10: Moved by D. Iafrate, seconded by M. Tuncali that Senate grant approval to graduate the students who have completed their degree requirements prior to the 13th of June, 2023.
CARRIED

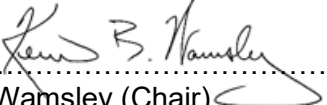
As a member of the Senate Budget Advisory Committee, Senator Wenghofer raised concerns and advised that a motion would be raised stemming from these concerns. He reported that the committee had only met once, in January, and that this was the first meeting held since 2018. There was a general sense that the committees' terms of reference were too vague and unclear as to the committees' role in the budget process. The following motion was introduced:


Moved by R. Wenghofer, seconded by R. Gendron that Senate appoint an Ad Hoc Committee to redraft more detailed terms of reference governing the business of the Senate Budget Advisory Committee, including a specific and regular schedule for when the Committee is to meet, to be submitted to Senate for discussion and ratification at the earliest reasonable date.
CARRIED

Senators supported the motion, advising that the terms of reference for the Senate Budget Advisory Committee have been discussed for years and that there needs to be something more formal and well defined. It was noted that the Senate Budget Advisory Committee along with the Joint Board/Senate Committee on Governance were established as a result of the strike and then from recommendations from the Report of the Special Governance Commission. The VPFA stated that she is in full support of this motion, given that she reports to this committee, and welcomes defining the terms of reference and the creation of a detailed meeting schedule. The Speaker invited Senators interested in sitting on the Ad Hoc Senate Budget Advisory Committee to put their names forward. The following Senators expressed an interest: R. Gendron, R. Wenghofer, J. Muterera, R. Vernescu, C. Sutton, E. Cooke (NUSU VP Finance and Administration). It was noted that the Ad Hoc Committee will vote on a Chair.

Adjournment

Senate was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.


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K. Wamsley (Chair)


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

Facts & Related Proportions used to allocate expenses

	A	B	E	Y
1	2017/18		Faculty of Arts & Science	Totals
2	Measure	Definition	DCLAS	
3	ELIGIBLE WGU	See PFIS-USER Reporting Guide for definition of WGU		
4	Undergraduate WGUs*		9.56	7345.394
5	Graduate WGUs			579.14
6	Total WGUs		9.56	7924.534
7	% of Faculty	% of Total WGUs within a Department's Faculty	0.40%	
8	% of Nipissing	% of Total WGUs across the institution	0.12%	
9	ENROLMENT (MAJORS)			
10	Headcount	Fall headcount: double majors are counted in each of their departments while the total headcount is a distinct count of all students	6	4937
11	COURSE REGISTRATIONS			
12	Course FTE from Majors	Each 3 credit course registration is worth 0.1 FTE	2.8	3028.364
13	Course FTE from Non-Majors	Each 3 credit course registration is worth 0.1 FTE	58.1	1258.229
14	Total Course FTE		60.9	4286.593
15	% of Course FTE within Faculty	% of Total Course FTE taught within a Department's Faculty	4%	
16	% of Course FTE within institution	% of Total Course FTE taught within the institution	1.40%	
17	FACULTY FTE			
18	Full-Time Faculty		1	158
19	LTAs		1	10.5
20	Lab/Seminar Instructors			17
21	Total Faculty FTE		2	185.5
22	FACULTY WORKLOAD			
23	Total Credits Offered	Sum of credits for all course sections identified as a lead delivery (independent study courses removed)	123	5398.5
24	Credits Taught by Tenure/Tenure Track		24	2507
25	Workload Release Coverage	Sum of course load release in credits	0	108
26	Remaining Credits Taught by LTA/Part-Time Instructors	Credits remaining after subtracting credits taught by Tenure/Tenure Track faculty (row 24) and workload release coverage (row 25) from total credits offered (row 23)	99	2783.5
27	% Credits Taught by LTA/Part-Time Instructors	Remaining credits taught by LTA/Part-Time Instructors (row 26) divided by the total credits offered (row 23)	80.50%	52%

1. % of Nipissing Eligible WGUs: captures how much enrolment funding we get from the Ministry based on the number of student enrolled in that department Major. **This will be used in Row 29.**

2. % of Course FTE within Faculty: captures the total FTE taught by the department as a proportion of all FTE in the Faculty. **This will be used in row 38 or 39 to apportion Faculty expenses.**

3. % of Course FTE within institution: captures the total FTE taught by the department as a proportion of all FTE in the institution. **This will be used in row 40 through 52 to apportion Administrative expenses.**

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28	REVENUE			
29	Grant Revenue	Department share of the combined Basic Formula Grant and Performance Grant based on institutional share of WGU*s (row 8)	\$32,935	\$27,300,421.00
30	Tuition Revenue	Tuition Revenue from AR.INVOICE.ITEMS distributed to the department in which the course was taken.	\$395,613	\$26,879,271.00
31	Nursing Tuition Transfer	Subtract half of tuition from Collaborative and Bridging On-Campus Nursing students	-\$5,265	-\$1,207,215.00
32	Miscellaneous Revenue	GL Object Codes beginning with 4**** but not 42****		\$727,576
33	Total Revenue		\$423,283	\$53,700,053.00
34	EXPENSES			
35	Direct Expenses	GL Object Codes beginning with 6,7,8,9	-\$4,362	-\$2,500,982.00
36	Salaries & Benefits	GL Object Codes beginning with 5	-\$245,691	-\$34,012,692.00

Instruction based Revenue and Expenses

- Grant Revenue:** is a product of Y29 and the departments % of enrolment at the institution (row 8)
- Tuition Revenue:** is the actual billed tuition for every enrolment taught in the disciplines associated with the department
- Nursing Tuition Transfer:** is Canadore College's share of the billed tuition for collaborative nursing students enrolled in courses within the department

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34	EXPENSES			
35	Direct Expenses	GL Object Codes beginning with 6,7,8,9	-\$4,362	-\$2,500,982.00
36	Salaries & Benefits	GL Object Codes beginning with 5	-\$245,691	-\$34,012,692.00
37	ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES	<i>Row 37 through 51 are distributed based on proportion of Course FTE (row 16)</i>		
38	Dean's Office - Arts & Science	GL Object Codes beginning with 4,5,6,7,8,9 for Cost Centres 101**,22000, 22010 and 13220	-\$29,266	-\$819,745.00
39	Dean's Office - Education & Professional Studies	GL Object Codes beginning with 4,5,6,7,8,9 for Cost Centres 111** and 121**		-\$1,250,102.00
40	Graduate Studies	GL Object Codes beginning with 4,5,6,7,8,9 for Cost Centres 131**	-\$20,878	-\$1,469,565.00
41	Academic Support	GL Object Codes beginning with 4,5,6,7,8,9 for Cost Centres 2**** (includes FASS, Print Plus, Registrar, Teaching and Learning)	-\$40,299	-\$2,836,558.00
42	Library	GL Object Codes beginning with 4,5,6,7,8,9 for Cost Centres 3****	-\$26,859	-\$1,890,553.00
43	Student Services	GL Object Codes beginning with 4,5,6,7,8,9 for Cost Centres 4**** (includes Athletics, Finance, Indigenous Initiatives, International Office, Registrar, Student Development and Services)	-\$128,897	-\$9,072,718.00
44	Computing	GL Object Codes beginning with 4,5,6,7,8,9 for Cost Centres 5****	-\$56,022	-\$3,943,214.00
45	Physical Plant	GL Object Codes beginning with 4,5,6,7,8,9 for Cost Centres 7****	-\$93,584	-\$6,587,119.00
46	External Relations	GL Object Codes beginning with 4,5,6,7,8,9 for Cost Centres 8****	-\$21,500	-\$1,513,352.00
47	Ancillary	GL Object Codes beginning with 4,5,6,7,8,9 for Cost Centres 9****	\$426	\$30,018.00
48	Internal Research and Other	GL Object Codes beginning with 4,5,6,7,8,9 for Cost Centres 14****, 15****, 18****	\$1,142	\$80,359.00
49	Administration - Grants	GL Object Codes beginning with 41**** for Cost Centres 6**** (Object Code 41100 and 41125 removed)	\$236,972	\$16,679,851.00
50	Administration - Incidentals (Ancillary Fees)	GL Object Codes beginning with 43**** for Cost Centres 6****	\$27,346	\$1,924,814.00
51	Administration - Other Revenues	GL Object Codes beginning with 45****, 46****, 47****, 48**** for Cost Centres 6****	\$13,400	\$943,204.00
52	Administration - Expenses	GL Object Codes beginning with 5,6,7,8,9 for Cost Centres 6****	-\$52,632	-\$3,704,664.00
53	Net Administrative Expenses	Sum of Administrative Expenses	-\$190,651	-\$13,429,344.00
54	Total Net Expenses	Sum of Expenses and Administrative Expenses	-\$440,704	-\$49,943,018.00
55	NET RESULT	Total Revenue (row 32) + Total Net Expenses (row 52)	-\$17,421	\$3,757,035.00

Indirect Revenue and Expenses

2017/18 vs. 2021/22

	A	B	C	D	E	I	AC
1	2017/18		Totals		2021/22	Faculty of Arts & Science	Totals
2	Measure	DCLAS			Measure	DCLAS	
3	ELIGIBLE WGUS				ELIGIBLE WGUS		
4	Undergraduate WGUs*	9.56	7345.394		Undergraduate WGUs*	10.585	8247.597
5	Graduate WGUs		579.14		Graduate WGUs		717.4
6	Total WGUs	9.56	7924.534		Total WGUs	10.585	8964.997
7	% of Faculty	0.40%			% of Faculty	0.46%	
8	% of Nipissing	0.12%			% of Nipissing	0.12%	
9	ENROLMENT (MAJORS)				ENROLMENT (MAJORS)		
10	Headcount	6	4937		Headcount	7	5293
11	COURSE REGISTRATIONS				COURSE REGISTRATIONS		
12	Course FTE from Majors	2.8	3028.364		Course FTE from Majors	3.1	3512.836
13	Course FTE from Non-Majors	58.1	1258.229		Course FTE from Non-Majors	49.1	1153.322
14	Total Course FTE	60.9	4286.593		Total Course FTE	52.2	4666.158
15	% of Course FTE within Faculty	4%			% of Course FTE within Faculty	3%	
16	% of Course FTE within institution	1.40%			% of Course FTE within institution	1.10%	
17	FACULTY FTE				FACULTY FTE		
18	Full-Time Faculty	1	158		Full-Time Faculty	1	150
19	LTA's	1	10.5		LTA's	1	7
20	Lab/Seminar Instructors		17		Lab/Seminar Instructors		13
21	Total Faculty FTE	2	185.5		Total Faculty FTE	2	170
22	FACULTY WORKLOAD				FACULTY WORKLOAD		
23	Total Credits Offered	123	5398.5		Total Credits Offered	69	4733.5
24	Credits Taught by Tenure/Tenure Track	24	2507		Credits Taught by Tenure/Tenure Track	12	1808
25	Workload Release Coverage	0	108		Workload Release Coverage	0	360
26	Remaining Credits Taught by LTA/Part-Time Instructors	99	2783.5		Remaining Credits Taught by LTA/Part-Time Instructors	57	2565.5
27	% Credits Taught by LTA/Part-Time Instructors	80.50%	52%		% Credits Taught by LTA/Part-Time Instructors	82.60%	54%
28	REVENUE				REVENUE		
29	Grant Revenue	\$32,935	\$27,300,421.00		Grant Revenue	\$33,108	\$28,040,940
30	Tuition Revenue	\$395,613	\$26,879,271.00		Tuition Revenue	\$326,237	\$28,835,124
31	Nursing Tuition Transfer	-\$5,265	-\$1,207,215.00		Nursing Tuition Transfer	-\$2,312	-\$1,023,618
32	Miscellaneous Revenue		\$727,576		Miscellaneous Revenue		\$329,237
33	Total Revenue	\$423,283	\$53,700,053.00		Total Revenue	\$357,033	\$56,181,683
34	EXPENSES				EXPENSES		
35	Direct Expenses	-\$4,362	-\$2,500,982.00		Direct Expenses	-\$4,800	-\$2,354,109
36	Salaries & Benefits	-\$245,691	-\$34,012,692.00		Salaries & Benefits	-\$411,564	-\$35,673,312
37	ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES				ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES		
38	Dean's Office - Arts & Science	-\$29,266	-\$819,745.00		Dean's Office - Arts & Science	-\$10,840	-\$333,679
39	Dean's Office - Education & Professional Studies		-\$1,250,102.00		Dean's Office - Education & Professional Studies		-\$800,057
40	Graduate Studies	-\$20,878	-\$1,469,565.00		Graduate Studies	-\$13,197	-\$1,179,698
41	Academic Support	-\$40,299	-\$2,836,558.00		Academic Support	-\$35,696	-\$3,190,860
42	Library	-\$26,859	-\$1,890,553.00		Library	-\$21,796	-\$1,948,320
43	Student Services	-\$128,897	-\$9,072,718.00		Student Services	-\$83,942	-\$7,503,558
44	Computing	-\$56,022	-\$3,943,214.00		Computing	-\$47,222	-\$4,221,164
45	Physical Plant	-\$93,584	-\$6,587,119.00		Physical Plant	-\$56,153	-\$5,019,522
46	External Relations	-\$21,500	-\$1,513,352.00		External Relations	-\$13,924	-\$1,244,630
47	Ancillary	\$426	\$30,018.00		Ancillary	\$453	\$40,468
48	Internal Research and Other	\$1,142	\$80,359.00		Internal Research and Other	\$1,526	\$136,393
49	Administration - Grants	\$236,972	\$16,679,851.00		Administration - Grants	\$50,052	\$4,474,142
50	Administration - Incidentals (Ancillary Fees)	\$27,346	\$1,924,814.00		Administration - Incidentals (Ancillary Fees)	\$25,267	\$2,258,637
51	Administration - Other Revenues	\$13,400	\$943,204.00		Administration - Other Revenues	\$4,354	\$389,228
52	Administration - Expenses	-\$52,632	-\$3,704,664.00		Administration - Expenses	-\$52,513	-\$4,694,157
53	Net Administrative Expenses	-\$190,651	-\$13,429,344.00		Net Administrative Expenses	-\$253,631	-\$22,836,777
54	Total Net Expenses	-\$440,704	-\$49,943,018.00		Total Net Expenses	-\$669,995	-\$60,864,198
55	NET RESULT	-\$17,421	\$3,757,035.00		NET RESULT	-\$312,962	-\$4,682,515

This model uses **our current hierarchy** to distribute tuition revenue.

For 2017/18 through 2021/22 all FREN/ESPA tuition is attributed to the Department of Classics however the direct instructional expenses (i.e., salaries and benefits) for FREN and ESPA instruction are not captured in row 36 until the year that the department was changed to the Department of Classics and Modern Lang.

University Senate
12 May 2023

President's Report

Good morning fellow Senators, I have a very brief report today.

Our Strategic Planning Steering Committee is pleased to report that a Talking Circle and two focus group sessions were held this week with approximately 100 people participating, bringing our consultations toward the 600 person mark. The Steering Committee is in its writing phase and will have a draft to Senators by the third week of June. Planning towards an operational framework will begin in the Fall as will the Academic planning process.

The Equity Action Planning Task Force met again and is working towards a request for proposals and will soon have a website for updates and information.

The process for hiring a new Provost and Vice-President, Academic continues. I will provide the campus with an update by email I am hoping by the end of next week.

Unfortunately, in spite of the good work of our hiring committee, the search for a new Associate Vice-President Research, Innovation, Graduate Studies was unsuccessful. We will provide an update to the campus on an interim appointment as soon as possible.

We are very close to a slate of candidates for honorary doctorates for convocation in June. I hope to have that information to you fairly soon as well.

We are in negotiations alongside Canadore to have Sodexo as our main campus food provider for September. Full service is available from the Bay Bistro throughout the summer months.

Please join me in congratulating Laura Killam, a faculty member in the School of Nursing at both Nipissing University, who has been chosen as one of only ten people across Canada to receive the 3M National Teaching Fellowship in 2023.

Please join me in congratulating former Senator Sarah Pecoskie-Schweir, who has been chosen as one of 10 students from across Canada to receive a 2023 3M National Student Fellowship, Canada's top award for post-secondary educational leadership and innovation.

Senate Report
Provost, Vice President Academic and Research (Interim)
May 12, 2023

1. Work continues to finalize the academic structure for the upcoming year.
 - The Dean of Arts and Science and the Dean of Education and Professional Studies positions will remain interim.
 - In the absence of Directors for Education and Nursing, we have extended the Interim Associate Dean of Bachelor of Education Concurrent and Consecutive Programs and created the Interim Associate Dean of the School of Nursing position for the 2023-24 academic year.The search for the Associate Vice President of Research, Innovation and Graduate Studies is ongoing.

2. Discussion of the academic planning continues at the Academic Quality Assurance and Planning Committee with a detailed presentation of data on our programs.

3. Research Month

Congratulations to all who were involved in all the events for Research Month. The quality and variety of events was outstanding.

At this time of the year, our recruitment efforts are focusing on converting offers to acceptances. Our campus tours continue to be busy, this year we've seen an increase in local schools coming to campus. The admissions team continues to send offers out to applicants as quickly as possible. We're still accepting applications for September for all programs except our 4 year Bachelor of Nursing program.

UNDERGRADUATE AND BACHELOR OF EDUCATION CONFIRMATIONS

On the domestic undergraduate side of things, our 101 and 105 confirmations are up 65% vs. same time last year (316 vs. 191). Confirmations in our BA programs have seen the most growth so far (up 87 confirmations) followed by our BPHE program which is up 23 confirmations from the same time last year.

On the BEd side of things, our Education numbers look strong and we anticipate an incoming cohort of approximately 520 students. In most years we have 80 or so concurrent education students continue into their BEd years, however this year we have a much stronger continuing cohort - approximately 120.

GRADUATE STUDIES APPLICATIONS

Committees are finalizing their decisions regarding offers into our graduate studies programs. What we can say is that applications are up overall (about 35%). The increased interest for Graduate studies this year can be attributed directly to international applicants. The graduate programs of highest interest amongst our international applicants are our MES and MEd with 15 applicants between both programs.

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATIONS

To date, we have received applications from approximately 675 International students. While we have interest in our full breadth of program offerings, our Post-Bacs are the major area of interest, capturing nearly 75% of our International applicants. At this time, things appear to be on track for us to meet our International admissions target of 160FTE for 2023/24.

3M ANNOUNCEMENT

Congratulations to Nipissing University's first 3M National Teaching Fellow – Laura Killam from the School of Nursing. This nomination was created in collaboration with Cambrian College, where Laura is also an instructor. Full details can be found at: <https://macleans.ca/education/teaching-fellowship-awards/>

Please join me in congratulating Laura on her national recognition for excellence and leadership.



**Nipissing University Alumni Advisory Board report to Academic Senate
May 2023**

Congratulations, Graduates!

The Nipissing University Alumni Advisory Board sends our congratulations to all students who are graduating this year, and we welcome them to the Laker Alumni Family. Thanks to all Nipissing Faculty and Staff who supported our new alumni through their educational journeys and for all the work that you put into making Nipissing's 2022-2023 academic year a fantastic success.

NUAAB Representative to Senate

During our March 2023 meeting, NUAAB elected Ryan Hehn to be our formal senate representative. We thank Ryan for his willingness to engage and we NUAAB looks forward to having a more active voice at the Senate table.

NUAAB Annual Retreat

Members of NUAAB are looking forward to gathering on May 27th for our 2023/2024 retreat. During this meeting, we will have the chance to discuss our strategic priorities for the upcoming year, discuss our engagement with the university, and brainstorm ways to bring Alumni closer to the university community.

Academic Senate Report May 12th, 2023

Graduation

Congratulations to all the students that are graduating from Nipissing University in June. We would like to acknowledge and applaud all the countless hours our graduates have dedicated to studying, writing papers, reading textbooks, and preparing for midterms and exams during the course of their degrees. We are extremely proud of all of our students for showing their Lakers Pride throughout the years and continuing to do so as alumni. We hope our graduates remember fondly their time here at Nipissing University and wish everyone well in their future endeavours.

Thank you to the staff and faculty of Nipissing for their dedication and support to our students, especially in the past couple of years. We appreciate how difficult it has been for everyone in this unique situation and how everyone has worked together to ensure student success.

This means so much to these graduates and we appreciate all of the hard work and dedication to making this a success.

Indigenous Treaty Course Cancellations

At the April Academic Senate, there were statements made by both the History department and NUSU regarding the cancellation of HIST-3306 Canada's Forgotten War. The rationale for course cancellations was that the course did not meet the threshold of 15 students for spring summer. During the Academic Senate, the NUSU Executive team announced that they would all register for the course bringing the student count to 16 students, more than the required 15, and this was prior to the SP/SU course registration deadline. After the Academic Senate, the NUSU executive team reached out to the Registrar, Dr. Dan Walters, and Dr. Carole Richardson regarding registering in the course. We received no response. Administration has said the rationale has been the fear of the course registration dropping below the threshold after running. Nipissing University prides itself on small class sizes and uses this as a strong selling point. To cancel this course is going against the TRC calls to action and is a big injustice to the entire Indigenous community. The cancellation of this course also goes against the feedback received from the community engagement summaries for the Strategic Planning Process.

"Indigenization" has been described to NUSU as Indigenous peoples working to make the institution more Indigenous, whereas "decolonization" has been described as non-Indigenous peoples working to do the same work. NUSU's concern lies in the fact that Nipissing University's focus on indigenization puts the work on the backs on Indigenous faculty and community members to change the colonial institution. In addition, it is unclear how far the University is willing to go to seriously decolonize; when asked to upper administration, no clear response was given.

NUSU Building Spring/Summer Hours

The NUSU Office/Food Bank is open Monday to Friday, 8:30am to 4:30pm.

The Bay Bistro Restaurant is open Monday to Friday, 11:30am to 8:30pm.

The NUSU Building is open Monday to Friday, 8:30am to 8:30pm.