

NIPISSING UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING

OPEN SESSION

June 27, 2023

The Open Session of the regular Board of Governors meeting was held on Tuesday, June 27, 2023, at 3:30 p.m. in the President's Boardroom and via Zoom Remote Conferencing.

Members Present: Marianne Berube, Board Chair

Veronica Afonso
Wenda Caswell
Paul Cook
Em Cooke
Fran Couchie
John D'Agostino
Stacie Fiddler
Alisher Mansurov
Riley McEntee
Jamie Murton
Jeff Scott
Joe Sinicrope
Judy Smith
Dave Smits
Maurice Switzer
Kevin Wamsley
Kathy Wilcox

Regrets:

Cindy Karugia
Judy Koziol
Jamie Lowery
Jonathan Muterera
Bobby Ray

Invited Guests:

Ann-Barbara Graff (PVPA, incoming)
Cheryl Sutton (VPFA)
Carole Richardson (Interim PVPAR)
Renee Hacquard
Abby Blaszczyk
Patti Carr
Sema Chaudry
Heather Hersemeyer
Cristin Talentino
Graydon Raymer
Terra Nevrencan
Steven Smits
Romeo Fournier
Michelann Parr
Barbara Popkie
Chris Hachkowski

Official Observers: Preston English
Harikesh Panchal

of Zoom Attendees: 7 Observers

Recording Secretary: Maggie Horsfield (EA,
President's Office)

1. Call to Order/Land Acknowledgment

The meeting was called to order at 3:33 p.m. The Board Chair offered a traditional land acknowledgement.

2. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

The Board Chair called for conflicts of interest concerning any of the agenda items; no such declarations were made.

3. Use of Recording and/or Broadcasting Devices

The Board Chair reminded everyone that only pre-approved methods of recording and/or broadcasting devices may be used during the meeting. Disseminating any information during the meeting is prohibited.

4. Consent Agenda

The following items were included on the consent agenda:

- i. For Adoption
 - (a) Minutes of the April 27, 2023, Board of Governors Meeting (Open Session);
- ii. For Information Only
 - a) Minutes from Meetings of the Board's Standing Committees
 1. University Governance Committee – Minutes from May 29, 2023;
 2. Audit & Finance Committee – Minutes from May 29, 2023;
 3. Community Relations Committee – Minutes from May 29, 2023;
 4. Fundraising Committee – Minutes from May 29, 2023; and
 5. Plant & Property Committee – Minutes from May 29, 2023.
 - b) Annual Reports from Committee Chairs
 - c) Reports from Other Committees/Bodies
 1. Nipissing University Alumni Advisory Board (NUAAB)
 2. Nipissing University Indigenous Council on Education (NUICE)
 3. Nipissing University Student Union (NUSU)
 4. Academic Senate

Resolution 2023-06.2-01: *That the items included "for adoption" on the June 27, 2023, consent agenda for the Open Session of the Board of Governors meeting be approved as circulated, while the items included on the consent agenda "for information only" be received.*

*Moved by Judy Smith; seconded by Veronica Afonso.
Carried.*

5. Adoption of the Regular Agenda

Resolution 2023-06.2-02: ***That the Board of Governors adopt the June 27, 2023, Open Session regular agenda as circulated.***

*Moved by Dave Smits; seconded by John D'Agostino.
Carried.*

6. Chair's Remarks

The Chair spoke to the success of the recent Convocation celebrations, thanking staff, volunteers, and fellow Board members for their continued participation. She provided updates on the annual Canadian University Board Association (CUBA) conference, which held sessions focusing on the importance of strategic planning, collegiality and how to effectively support your President.

The Chair concluded her remarks by thanking those Board members whose terms are coming to an end: Lisa Snider, Wenda Caswell, Jeff Scott and Bobby Ray, and she spoke to their dedication to Nipissing University throughout their years of service. She also welcomed, as of July 1, 2023, incoming Board members Janet Stockton, Jessica McMillan, Dr. Blaine Hatt and Laurel Muldoon.

7. Chancellor's Remarks

The Chancellor reiterated the Chair's remarks, thanking staff, volunteers, and faculty for their involvement in the success of Convocation.

8. President's Remarks

The President provided a report on recent and upcoming activities on campus. The report, which is appended to these minutes, highlighted the progress of the Equity Audit Action Planning Task Force, and spoke to ongoing deliberations with the OPSEU bargaining team following a rejected contract offer.

Dr. Wamsley concluded his remarks by thanking the Board Chair, Marianne Berube, for her many years of service and leadership, including multiple terms as Chair.

9. Pathways: Our Commitments to Water, Land and People

The draft Strategic Plan was circulated prior to the meeting and President Wamsley spoke to the extensive planning process, which included the formation of a steering committee and broad consultation, both internally and externally, with over 600 individual voices. The Steering Committee dedicated over 300 hours of their time, culminating in *Pathways: Our Commitments to Water, Land and People*.

The President expressed his gratitude to Maurice Switzer, Chair of the Nipissing University Indigenous Council on Education (NUICE), the external communities who provided feedback and input, particularly Nipissing and Dokis First Nations, Elder Mike Couchie, Cristin Talentino and

Romeo Fournier, facilitators, and Melinda Debenedet and Barbara Popkie, committee support. He also recognized members of the Steering Committee: Tyrell Chambers, Graydon Raymer, Sema Chaudhry, Steven Smits, Chris Hachkowski, Lindsey Voisin, Heather Hersemeyer, Michelann Parr, Kristin Lucas, Tanya Matthews and Terra Neverncan.

Questions and comments were welcomed. A request was made to revisit and improve language pertaining to equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) and the President noted that feedback from the Board will be received and considered up to July 15, 2023. Additionally, it is anticipated that the Equity Audit Action Plan Task Force will include a deep consultation process and Nipissing University will refer to the outcomes and recommendations of the audit for direction. In response to a question about the plan's actionable items, the President reiterated that the phases of the Strategic Plan will carry out through the operational plan, which will be created in the coming year.

Following a question regarding financial sustainability and why it was not a more fundamental focus of the plan, the President clarified that 'Building Sustainable Futures,' is listed as a main commitment within the plan. A Board member expressed their excitement on the emphasis on reconciliation and Anishinabek values, as well as the emphasis on the environment. They also questioned why the plan spanned for only five years, and the President noted that it is not best practice to charge an incoming President with promises made. He recognized that this plan, only approved for a five-year term, is meant for seven generations, and the University has committed to treating people as they should be treated when they arrive to campus, including students, staff and faculty, and the structure of the plan is flexible to extend as these changes are meant to be long-term.

Following a hearty discussion, a resolution was brought forward:

Resolution 2023-06.2-03: ***That the Board of Governors approve the 2024-2029 Nipissing University Strategic Plan.***

*Moved by Fran Couchie; seconded by Dave Smits.
Carried.
Unanimous.*

10. Vice-Presidents' Remarks

The Provost and Vice-President, Academic & Research (PVPAR) (Interim)

The Nipissing University Research Ethics Board (NUREB) is responsible for assessing and monitoring ethical aspects of all Nipissing University research that involves human participants. Members of the REB are appointed by the Board of Governors on the recommendation of the PVPAR. As such, the following resolution was brought forward:

Resolution 2023-06.2.04: ***That the Board of Governors accepts the recommendation of the Provost and Vice-President, Academic & Research (Interim), to appoint the following individuals, with the terms as outlined, to the Research Ethics Board:***

- **Dr. Anahita Baregheh**, Associate Professor, Faculty of Education and Professional Studies (3-year term – July 2023, renewable);
- **Dr. Christine Lalonde**, Instructor, Graduate Studies and Research (3-year term – July 2023, renewable);
- **Dr. Adam Davis**, Canadore College (3-year term, renewable); and
- **Dr. Anna-Liisa Mottonen**, Canadore College (3-year term, renewable).

*Moved by Kathy Wilcox; seconded by Dave Smits.
Carried.*

- **Annual Report on Sexual Violence**

The Annual Report was circulated with the Board agenda.

The Vice-President, Finance & Administration (VPFA)

No Report.

11. Board Committee Reports

- **Audit & Finance Committee**

To meet a recommendation from the Auditor General's report, the existing Capital Debt Policy was brought forward to become a Board-approved policy, to ensure the Board monitor and adhere to the debt limits within the policy. The Committee Chair noted that the policy is intended to define the responsibilities for the approval of new external debt, maximum limits of external debt and the reporting on capital debt and updates to the existing policy include language around the requirement for a submitted business case for any major project and semi-annual reports to the Audit & Finance Committee.

Comments and questions were welcomed and the following resolution was made:

Resolution 2023-06.2-05: ***That the Board of Governors accept the recommendation of the Audit & Finance Committee to approve the revisions to the Capital Debt Policy as presented.***

*Moved by Dave Smits; seconded by Wenda Caswell.
Carried.*

12. Board Representatives on Other Committees/Bodies

Nipissing University Student Union

The Student Union thanked Board members for their time and commitment. They also extended their gratitude to Dr. Carole Richardson and welcomed both Dr. Ann-Barbara Graff, incoming PVPA, and Dave Smits, incoming Board Chair.

13. Question Period

A request was made for additional training, particularly with respect to the financial ratios as determined by the Auditor General of Ontario's recent Audit. The Assistant Vice-President, Finance and Infrastructure indicated that she will be working on educational offerings throughout the summer months.

An additional request was made to have an update on retention and attrition rates at an upcoming meeting of the Board of Governors.

14. Other Business

There was no other business.

15. Next Meeting/Adjournment

The next Committee Day is scheduled for Monday, September 11, 2023.

The next Board meeting and Annual Retreat is scheduled for Friday, September 15, 2023, and Saturday, September 16, 2023.

Resolution 2023-06.2-06: ***That the Open Session of the Board of Governors' regular meeting now adjourn.***

*Moved by Dave Smits; seconded by Veronica Afonso.
Carried.*

Open session adjourned at 4:37 p.m.

President & Vice-Chancellor/Secretary of the Board

Board Chair



President's Report to the Board - Board Report: June 27, 2023

President's Report

Good afternoon, Board members. It is hard to believe that I have almost completed my second year as President. I will keep my remarks brief so that we may provide a chance to discuss our strategic planning document.

I am very pleased to report that our Equity Audit Action Planning Task Force is moving closer to the stage where we will post our RFP and hopefully begin the audit process in the Fall and initiate an action plan as soon as possible.

In bargaining news, OPSEU has voted to reject the contract offer and we will be back at the table on June 29. We will begin FASBU bargaining in August.

I wish to thank all of our Convocation volunteers for a very well-organized and successful week – we had many thankful students and many grateful parents and families. We will soon be posting my interviews with our honorary doctorates. During these convocation ceremonies, we had the pleasure of celebrating some of our award winners. Today, I would like to recognize the Chancellor's award winners for teaching, research, and service: for excellence in Research, Dr. Rob Breton and Dr. Mary Pat Sullivan; for excellence in Teaching, full time faculty Dr. Wendy Peters and Dr. John Vitale and part time faculty Dr. Jonathan Pitt; for excellence in Service, Dr. Blaine Hatt. Congratulations to all.

Today, I would to extend my gratitude to our colleague Dr. Carole Richardson for serving as our Interim Provost and Vice President, Academic – not an easy job to say the least - I am very grateful that Carole served us so well for 18 months. Thank you Carole and I wish you all the best for a well-deserved leave.

(If she is here) – I would also like to welcome Dr. Ann Barbara Graff who will begin her new job as Provost and Vice President Academic

On behalf of Nipissing University, I extend my thanks to the following Board members whose terms are coming to an end: Bobby Ray, Wenda Caswell, Jeff Scott, Lisa Snider, and Cindy Karugia. Thank you for your service to the university and please know that you are always welcome back. I would like to take a moment to thank our current Board Chair, Marianne Berube, for her many, many years of service to this university and for serving as Board Chair for multiple terms. Marianne's term as Chair of the Board of Governors ends at the end of this week. Marianne, you have seen challenging days in this role and you have seen good days – you have been an excellent leader and we thank you for your countless hours of service and your dedication to Nipissing University. And, also, a welcome to Dave Smits, our incoming Chair as of July 1.

Fellow Board members, I was charged just two years and two months ago by a hiring committee and our Board Chair with leading this university in a strategic planning process. Last Fall, we called for



President's Report to the Board - Board Report: June 27, 2023

nominations for a group of people to help to engage our internal and external communities in a comprehensive process, a very broad consultation and to listen, very carefully to what all of you and 600 others had to say about our past, present, and future. We began to meet in early November, to plan out the process, and we began consulting in early December. In fact, the first group consultation happened with our Board of Governors. I promised to have a plan to the Board for our last meeting in June – the Steering Committee worked backward from the last week of June to November and they thought I was out of my mind. But to see what they have accomplished over this time period; I think they were right. What I would like to say is that this group has taken the most selfless route possible – to put aside their differences but to challenge one another but, most importantly, they listened and listened and recorded and analyzed and gave it their utmost to accurately represent what our community said about where we need to go in the future – what we need to do to be the university that we want to be. This Steering Committee has put more than 300 hours of their time into this process – and given everything that they have given to get us to the place where we are now – this document, *Pathways*, a plan that is in process and will be in process and will be accompanied by an operational plan that we will complete over the next year. There may be some changes to the document – it will be taken by our Communications group and organized with an array of photographs and visuals – and there will be a treaty and there will be a wampum belt that we will all have the opportunity to contribute to over the course of the next year, signifying our commitments to be that university that we want to be. We are grateful to everyone who participated and provided so much input; we are grateful to NUICE and Chair Maurice Switzer for providing so much guidance along the way; we are grateful to the external communities who came out in numbers to provide input and feedback all along the way, particularly Nipissing and Dokis First Nations. Elder Mike Couchie started and ended our meetings in a good way. I want to thank Cristin Telentino and Romeo Fournier for serving as Facilitators – no easy task – all throughout these months. I want to thank Barbara Popkie and Melinda DeBenedet for supporting the Steering Committee and I want to thank the members and I ask those who are here today to stand and be recognized: Tyrell Chambers, Graydon Raymer, Sema Chaudhry, Steven Smits, Chris Hachkowski, Lindsey Voisin, Heather Hersemeyer, Michelann Parr, Kristin Lucas, Tanya Matthews, Terra Nevrencan. And there are others who will be continuing work through the summer, that we will have the opportunity to thank at a later date.

Pathways: Our Commitments to Water, Land, and People is submitted today to the Board of Governors for approval, with the understanding that it is a document in process, that changes can and will be made and that the second phase will begin in earnest in September. But before that motion, we would be pleased to answer questions that our Board members may have today and we extend that period until July 15, when I will consider those changes with the Board Chair and our Vice Presidents

NIPISSING UNIVERSITY BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING

OPEN SESSION

June 27, 2023

3:30 p.m. – President’s Boardroom (F303)

Zoom Remote Conferencing: Please contact governors@nipissingu.ca

AGENDA

1. Call to Order/Land Acknowledgement

“As we begin this 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 Nipissing First Nation Traditional Territory and the traditional territory of the Anishinabek. We respect and are grateful to be on these lands with all our relations.”

2. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

3. Use of Recording and/or Broadcasting Devices

“Only pre-approved methods of recording and/or broadcasting may be used. Disseminating any information during the meeting is prohibited.”

4. Consent Agenda

- i. For Adoption
 - (a) Minutes of the April 27, 2023, Board of Governors Meeting (Open Session);
- ii. For Information Only
 - (a) Minutes from Meetings of the Board’s Standing Committees
 1. University Governance Committee – Minutes from May 29, 2023;
 2. Audit & Finance Committee – Minutes from May 29, 2023;
 3. Community Relations Committee – Minutes from May 29, 2023;
 4. Fundraising Committee – Minutes from May 29, 2023; and
 5. Plant & Property Committee – Minutes from May 29, 2023.
 - (b) Annual Reports from Committee Chairs
 - (c) Reports from Other Committees/Bodies
 1. Nipissing University Alumni Advisory Board (NUAAB)
 2. Nipissing University Indigenous Council on Education (NUICE)
 3. Nipissing University Student Union (NUSU)
 4. Academic Senate

Resolution: *That the items included “for adoption” on the June 27, 2023, consent agenda for the Open Session of the Board of Governors meeting be approved as circulated, while the items included on the consent agenda “for information only” be received.*

5. Adoption of Regular Agenda

Resolution: *That the Board of Governors adopt the June 27, 2023, Open Session regular agenda as circulated.*

6. Chair's Remarks

7. Chancellor's Remarks

8. President's Remarks

9. Pathways: Our Commitments to Water, Land and People

Resolution: *That the Board of Governors approve the 2024-2029 Nipissing University Strategic Plan.*

10. Vice-President's Remarks

- Provost and Vice President, Academic & Research (Interim)

- **Appointment of Research Ethics Board Members**

Resolution: *That the Board of Governors accepts the recommendation of the Provost and Vice-President, Academic & Research (Interim), to appoint the following individuals, with the terms as outlined, to the Research Ethics Board:*

- **Dr. Anahita Baregheh**, Associate Professor, Faculty of Education and Professional Studies (3-year term – July 2023, renewable);
- **Dr. Christine Lalonde**, Instructor, Graduate Studies and Research (3-year term – July 2023, renewable);
- **Dr. Adam Davis**, Canadore College (3-year term, renewable); and
- **Dr. Anna-Liisa Mottonen**, Canadore College (3-year term, renewable).

- **Annual Report on Sexual Violence**

- Vice-President, Finance & Administration – no report

11. Board Committee Reports

Audit & Finance Committee – *David Smits, Committee Chair*

Resolution: *That the Board of Governors accept the recommendation of the Audit & Finance Committee to approve the revisions to the Capital Debt Policy as presented.*

12. Board Representatives on Other Committees/Bodies

- Nipissing University Student Union

13. Question Period

14. Other Business

15. Next Meeting Dates/Adjournment

Resolution: *That the Open Session of the Board of Governors' regular meeting now adjourn.*

Time: _____

NIPISSING UNIVERSITY BOARD OF GOVERNORS

UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

OPEN SESSION

May 29, 2023

The Governance Committee met on Monday, May 29, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. in the President's Boardroom (F303) and via Zoom remote video conferencing.

Members present: John D'Agostino, Committee Chair
Veronica Afonso
Marianne Berube
Judy Koziol
Kathy Wilcox
Jamie Murton
Riley McEntee
Kevin Wamsley
Harikesh Panchal (Student Observer – non-voting)
Carole Richardson (Provost (Interim) – non-voting)
Cheryl Sutton (VPFA – non-voting)
Abby Blaszczyk (University Secretary – non-voting)

Regrets: Paul Cook
Cindy Karugia
Lisa Snider

Recording Secretary: Maggie Horsfield (Executive Assistant, Office of the President)

1. Call to Order/Traditional Land Acknowledgement

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m. and the Committee Chair offered a traditional land acknowledgement.

2. Call for Conflicts of Interest

The Committee Chair called for any conflicts of interest; no such declarations were made.

3. Annual Board Evaluation: Discussion/Review Draft Document

The University Governance Committee is responsible for ensuring an annual evaluation of the Board is conducted. A draft survey was presented for consideration and committee members were invited to provide feedback. Several suggestions were brought forward, including utilizing a more fulsome

Likert scale system and removing any potential redundancies to shorten the overall length. Committee members were invited to submit suggestions to the Committee Chair by way of the University Secretary and a final version will be circulated widely prior to the year-end Board meeting.

4. Other Business

A discussion occurred on how to assist new and returning Board members in understanding their roles on both the Board and at the Committee level. In addition to the Board orientation session, a suggestion was made to provide Committee orientations at the first meeting of the year and the Committee was amenable to this.

The open meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

Recording Secretary

Chair of University Governance Committee

NIPISSING UNIVERSITY BOARD OF GOVERNORS

AUDIT & FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

OPEN SESSION

May 29, 2023

The Audit and Finance Committee met on Monday, May 29, 2023, at 10:30 a.m. in the President's Boardroom (F303) and via Zoom remote conferencing.

Members Present: Dave Smits (Committee Chair)
Marianne Berube
Patti Carr
John D'Agostino
Stacie Fiddler
Alisher Mansurov
Em Cooke
Wenda Caswell
Kevin Wamsley
Riley McEntee (Student Observer – non-voting)
Carole Richardson (Provost – non-voting)
Cheryl Sutton (VP, Finance & Administration – non-voting)
Abby Blaszczyk (University Secretary – non-voting)

Regrets: Paul Cook

Guests: Renée Hacquard, AVP, Finance & Infrastructure

Recording Secretary: Maggie Horsfield (Executive Assistant, Office of the President)

1. Call to Order/Land Acknowledgment/Calls for Conflicts of Interest

The meeting was called to order at 10:31 a.m. The Committee Chair called for any conflicts of interest; no such declarations were made. A traditional land acknowledgement was offered.

2. Year End Projections/Results

The Assistant Vice-President, Finance & Infrastructure was pleased to report year end results are projected to be better than previously reported at the April 17, 2023, meeting of the Audit & Finance Committee. Results are due in part to higher-than-projected market returns, better-than-projected salary and benefits and a cheque for reimbursement through the Canadian Microsoft Software Class Action suit.

The Finance team continues to work through year-end reconciliations in preparation for the audit scheduled at the end of June.

3. Capital Debt Policy

To meet a recommendation from the Auditor General’s report, the existing Capital Debt Policy was brought forward to become a Board-approved policy, to ensure the Board monitor and adhere to the debt limits within the policy. The policy is intended to define the responsibilities for the approval of new external debt, maximum limits of external debt and the reporting on capital debt and updates to the existing policy include language around semi-annual reports to the Audit & Finance Committee.

Discussion ensued, and the Committee requested specific language be included within the policy to require a submitted business case for any major project. Following this inclusion and minor editing changes, the following motion was made:

Motion: ***That the Audit & Finance Committee recommend the Board of Governors accept the Capital Debt Policy as amended.***

*Moved by Marianne Berube; seconded by John D’Agostino.
Carried.*

4. Investment Performance Review

The AVP provided a summary of the PH&N Investment presentation included in the Committee package. She highlighted a number of points of interest, including the rising interest rates and significant decline in bonds, due to the rise in inflation. Due to Nipissing University’s low volatility investment strategy, we are slightly behind in benchmark and PH&N have requested to provide the committee with an updated long-term strategy, given the new landscape.

A Sub-Committee will be formed to meet with PH&N and bring a recommendation back to the Audit & Finance Committee to consider. It is expected that this committee will meet in the fall/winter months, given the market’s current volatility.

5. Other Business

There was no further business.

The meeting adjourned at 10:58 a.m.

Recording Secretary

Committee Chair

NIPISSING UNIVERSITY BOARD OF GOVERNORS

COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

OPEN SESSION

May 29, 2023

The Community Relations Committee met on May 29, 2023, at 1:30 p.m. in the President's Boardroom (F303) and via Zoom remote conferencing.

Members Present: Marianne Berube (Board Chair)
Em Cooke
Veronica Alfonso
Stacie Fiddler
Preston English
Jonathan Muterera
Kevin Wamsley
Judy Smith
Cheryl Sutton (VPFA – non-voting)
Carole Richardson (Provost & VPAR (Interim) – non-voting)
Abby Blaszcyk (University Secretary – non-voting)

Regrets: Fran Couchie (Committee Chair)
Paul Cook
Bobby Ray
Maurice Switzer
Lisa Snider
Jamie Lowery

Guests: Cristin Talentino, Director, Advancement & External Relations

Recording Secretary: Maggie Horsfield, Executive Assistant, Office of the President

1. Call to Order/Traditional Land Acknowledgement/Call for Conflicts of Interest

The meeting was called to order at 1:34 pm. The Board Chair filled the role of Committee Chair and called for any conflicts of interest; no such conflicts were declared. A traditional land acknowledgement was offered.

2. Year End Community Relations Update

- Community Relations Draft Report

The President's draft Community Relations Report was circulated to both the Committee and to all Board members for comment. Committee members were welcomed to send comments and suggestions on the report directly to the President through the Committee Chair and University Secretary.

- **President’s Community Relations Priority**

Through numerous engagements, the President has continued to hear that Nipissing University needs to be more visible within the community. While we are involved through faculty research, volunteerism, presentations, etc., we do not successfully broadcast the community impact Nipissing University has in our region. Efforts will continue to work towards continued information gathering and sharing of Nipissing University’s community relations.

The President tasked the Community Relations Committee with evaluating the University’s activities and how to improve this information to be more accessible to community members.

- **Goal Setting for 2023/24**

The President welcomed input and suggestions for his goals and priorities as they pertain to community relations for the 2023/24 academic year.

3. Other Business

There was no other business.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:55 p.m.

Recording Secretary

Committee Chair

NIPISSING UNIVERSITY BOARD OF GOVERNORS

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE MEETING

OPEN SESSION

May 29, 2023

The Fundraising Committee met on May 29, 2023, at 2:30 p.m. in the President's Boardroom (F303) and via Zoom remote conferencing.

Members present: Kathy Wilcox, Committee Chair
Marianne Berube
Wenda Caswell
Joe Sinicrope
Kevin Wamsley
Riley McEntee
Harikesh Panchal (non-voting)
Cheryl Sutton (VPFA – non-voting)
Carole Richardson (Provost & VPAR (Interim) – non-voting)
Abby Blaszczyk (University Secretary – non-voting)

Regrets: Paul Cook
Fran Couchie
Bobby Ray
Lisa Snider

Guests: Cristin Talentino, Director, Advancement & External Relations
Steven Smits, Manager, Advancement & Alumni

Recording Secretary: Maggie Horsfield, Executive Assistant, Office of the President

1. Call to Order/Land Acknowledgement/Conflict of Interest – Kathy Wilcox, Committee Chair

The meeting was called to order at 2:31 p.m. The Committee Chair called for any conflicts of interests; no such conflicts were declared. A traditional land acknowledgement was offered.

2. Advancement Report

- Fundraising Financial Summary

Steven Smits, Manager, Alumni & Advancement, presented a high-level overview of the fundraising financial summary, which is appended to these minutes. Overall, Nipissing University has seen a 3% increase in donations, excluding the \$1 million Vari Donation. The greatest growth was seen in the annual fund, with a 45% increase. The Advancement Office continues to focus on growth and ensuring formalized systems are in place to focus on cultivating relationships and improving stewardship processes.

The Manager also provided a comparison of donations over the previous ten years, noting donations are slowly increasing and numbers continue to grow with focused stewardship and acquisition strategies. He spoke to specific impacts this year, highlighting Giving Tuesday in November, where almost \$16,000 was raised to support the establishment of the Mino-Bimaadiziwin Cultural Development Bursary and the Nipissing First Nation Scholarship. The team also established a number of new donor-funded awards and bursaries, including eight (8) annually funded and three (3) endowed.

- Alumni Strategic Priorities Update

The Nipissing University Alumni Advisory Board (NUAAB) established the workplan for 2023/24, which includes a renewed focus on acquiring and retaining alumni donors. The Canadian Council for the Advancement of Education (CCAEE) provided benchmark data from the sector in comparison to where Nipissing is with alumni engagement, and work will continue over the summer months to ensure services provided are meeting the needs of our alumni. The team will continue to focus on engagement strategies that are proactive rather than reactive.

He also spoke to the 2023 Homecoming events, which will see free entry this year in an effort to increase accessibility, participation and engagement.

3. Other Business

There was no other business.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Recording Secretary

Committee Chair

NIPISSING UNIVERSITY BOARD OF GOVERNORS

PLANT & PROPERTY COMMITTEE MEETING

OPEN SESSION

May 29, 2023

The Plant & Property Committee met on Monday, May 29, 2023, at 3:30 p.m. in the Nursing Simulation Lab (A127) and via Zoom Remote Conferencing.

Members present: Patti Carr, Chair
Veronica Afonso
Marianne Berube
Judy Koziol
Riley McEntee
Dave Smits
Joe Sinicrope
Kevin Wamsley
Preston English (non-voting)
Cheryl Sutton (non-voting)
Carole Richardson (non-voting)
Abby Blaszczyk, University Secretary (non-voting)

Regrets: Paul Cook
Maurice Switzer

Guests: David Drenth, Director, Facilities
Renee Hacquard, AVP, Finance & Infrastructure

Recording Secretary: Maggie Horsfield, Executive Assistant, Office of the President

1. Welcome/Call for Conflicts of Interest/Traditional Land Acknowledgement

The Committee Chair called the meeting to order at 3:33 p.m. She called for conflicts of interest regarding any of the agenda items; no such declarations were made. A traditional land acknowledgment was offered.

2. Capital & Construction Update

The Director of Facilities provided a capital and construction update. The presentation, which is appended to the PDF version of these minutes, included the following topics:

- **Infrastructure and Construction Project Update**

David Drenth reviewed the list of ongoing projects funded through multiple programs and budgets, including the renovation of existing spaces for the Nursing Simulation Lab and the Centre for War Atrocities and Genocide. Both projects are expected to complete near the end of May and the

beginning of June 2023.

3. Land Asset Review

The Director also provided a review of the current properties under Nipissing University ownership. The full list is included in the appended presentation.

Several questions were raised, including whether the Ministry ever inquires as to the use of the land. David Drenth indicated that, on occasion, Infrastructure Ontario has requested specifics pertaining to land assets.

4. Other Business

Committee members enjoyed a tour of the nearly completed Nursing Simulation Lab.

The meeting adjourned at 4:21 p.m.

Recording Secretary

Committee Chair

NIPISSING UNIVERSITY BOARD OF GOVERNORS

UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE 2022-2023 - ANNUAL REPORT

The University Governance Committee of the Nipissing University Board of Governors is responsible governance issues which include such things as the creation, analysis, and summarizing of the annual Board evaluation. Governance Committee members also review and analyze ways upon which the Board's rules of order can be streamlined for efficiency and impact. The UGC also is responsible for recruiting and recommending new Board members and preparing and circulating the annual Board evaluation,

The Board met a total of five times during the past academic year. The following is a summary of the business conducted in those meetings.

October 24, 2022

- The Committee Chair and the Board Chair discussed the impact and concerns of the issues raised by the Auditor General's report.
- Judy Koziol was appointed vice chair of the committee.
- Committee terms of reference were reviewed without amendment.
- Annual work plan was reviewed.
- Last year's Board evaluation survey results were reviewed. Common observations included improvements to the procedural aspects of meetings as well as a focus on collegiality within meetings. Further review and enhancements to the Evaluation Survey were discussed.
- The Academic Bullying Policy was discussed, and it was agreed that the UGC not refer this matter to the Joint Committee of the Board and Senate on Governance.
- An update was received from the University Governance Selection Subcommittee. Several responses were received to the University's call for applications to the Board of Governors.

January 23, 2023

- Discussion in greater detail following the Auditor General's report entitled the "Value-for-Money Audit: Financial Management of Ontario Universities".
- The past practice of having in-camera meetings without the President were discussed as per the Annual Review of the President's Achievement of Goals and Priorities Policy. It was agreed that a channel to provide feedback be included on the Closed Session Agenda.
- Suggested updates to the "Appointment of Chancellor Policy" that were submitted to the UGC were discussed and motion was passed to recommend that the Board of Governors approves the revisions to the Appointment of Chancellor policy as presented.
- Discussion regarding "roll call votes" resulted in a request that roll call voting be added to Board of Governors rules of order if they were not already in place via the University Bylaws and/or Roberts Rules of Order.

March 6, 2023 – Open

- Discussions regarding one current LGIC appointed vacancy to the Board and two upcoming LGIC vacancies were had. Recommendations for the appointments / re-appointments were forwarded to the Ministry of Colleges and Universities for their consideration.

- A preliminary discussion concerning the annual Board Survey took place. It was agreed that while the annual board evaluation survey was simplified, it still needed to be condensed and simplified.

March 6, 2023 – Closed

- The UGC discussed the recruitment of a candidate who had applied for a Board Member’s position.
- A motion was passed by the UGC that the University Governance Selection Sub-committee be authorized to proceed to make an offer of Board Membership to the candidate as soon as a vacancy for a non-constituent Member position was available.

April 17, 2023 – Open

- A discussion took place regarding the need to update the “Search / Appointment / Renewal of Non-Academic Vice-Presidents” policy. Significant updates to the policy were introduced and a motion was passed that the UGC recommend that the Board of Governors accept the revisions to the Search / Appointment / Renewal of Non-Academic Vice-Presidents” policy.

April 17, 2023 -- Closed

- A discussion took place regarding the nominations for the 2023-2024 Board Officer positions.
- As required in the Election of Board Officers policy, Board members were invited to submit nominations for the three Board Officer positions for next year. The University Governance Committee is responsible for considering those nominations in a closed meeting and for making recommendations to the Board of Governors.
- Recommendations for each of the Board Officer positions were agreed upon for presentation to the full Board at the annual meeting in May.

May 29, 2023 -Open

- A discussion took place regarding the Annual Board Evaluation. UGC members were invited to submit feedback for an improved and more fulsome evaluation process.
- A discussion took place on how to better engage and assist new and returning Board members so that they are more comfortable and confident in carrying out their duties as members of the Board of Governors and any sub-committees they are a part of.

Respectfully submitted,

John D’Agostino
Chair, University Governance Committee

NIPISSING UNIVERSITY BOARD OF GOVERNORS

AUDIT AND FINANCE COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT / 2022-2023

The Audit and Finance Committee of the Nipissing University Board of Governors is responsible to the Board for developing and presenting general policies and recommendations on all financial matters.

The Audit and Finance Committee met six times during the 2022-2023 year. The work of the committee was heavily influenced by the financial challenges facing Nipissing University and the outcome and recommendations of the Auditor General of Ontario's Value-for-Money Audit on Financial Management of Ontario Universities. In April 2023, the Committee was pleased to recommend to the Board of Governors the first balanced budget at Nipissing University in ten years.

The following is a summary of the Committee's discussions:

September 19, 2022

- An overview of the results of the 2021/22 year was provided.
- Tiffany Cecchetto from KPMG discussed the audit process and reviewed the financial statements for the year ending April 30, 2022.
- A breakdown of internally restricted and unrestricted net assets, including changes in the University's financial health indicators when compared to last year, was provided.
- Administrators and non-voting members were excused from the meeting to allow committee members an opportunity to have a frank conversation with the auditor.
- An update on the University's financial sustainability plan was provided.
- An update on the Audit of Financial Management and Governance at Ontario Universities was provided.

October 24, 2022

- Patti Carr agreed to assume the role of Committee Vice-Chair.
- The annual work plan was reviewed.
- A semester close financial review was completed as of August 31, 2022.
- Year-to-date results and projections as compared to budget were reviewed, showing a total consolidated budget deficit of approximately \$3.3 million.
- The Director, Institutional Planning and Analysis provided a high-level presentation of the ongoing collection and use of data within the institution.
- An update on the Audit of Financial Management and Governance at Ontario Universities was provided.
- An update on the General Security Agreement was provided.
- An update on the University's financial sustainability plan was provided.

January 23, 2023

- A budget update was provided and the 2023-24 budget timeline was presented.
- Year-to-date financial results as at November 30, 2022, were reviewed.
- Leila Fiouzi, Vice-President and Investment Counsellor with PH&N, provided a presentation on the status of the University's investments.

- Revisions to the Signing Authority Policy were presented and the Committee recommended approval by the Board of Governors.
- The programs in place to ensure effective risk management as it pertains to cyber security were highlighted.
- A report on the University's DBRS Morning Star Public Credit Rating was shared.
- The Director, Institutional Planning and Analysis, provided an in-depth presentation on the Strategic Mandate Agreement (SMA) metrics.

March 6, 2023

- The Assistant Vice-President, Finance & Infrastructure provided a review of the year-to-date financial results as at December 31, 2022, highlighting an updated consolidated deficit budget of approximately \$2.7 million.
- An update on the budget process was provided.
- A fulsome enrolment update was completed, with the VPFA highlighting an 86.5% overall increase in international recruitment.
- Completion dates for implementation of the recommendations set out in the Auditor General's report were discussed.
- A Financial Sustainability Plan update was provided

April 17, 2023

- The draft budget for 2023-2024 was presented. It included a total consolidated budget and a consolidated surplus of \$7,345, and the first balanced budget at Nipissing University in ten years. The budget was approved for recommendation to the Board.
- The VPFA presented balanced projected consolidated results for 2022-23.
- Updated tuition rates were presented and the 2023/24 Domestic tuition rates and 2023/24 Out-of-Province tuition rates, as presented and pending approval from the Ministry of Colleges and Universities, were recommended for approval by the Board.
- The 2023/24 Nipissing University Ancillary Fees and the 2023/24 Nipissing University Student Union Ancillary Fees were recommended for approval by the Board.
- Tiffany Cecchetto, KPMG, provided a high-level summary on the audit planning process.

May 30, 2022

- The Assistant Vice-President, Finance and Infrastructure, stated that year-end projections, as presented in April, were better than reported.
- In an effort to meet a recommendation from the Auditor General's report, an existing Capital Debt Policy was brought forward to become a Board-approved policy. Minor changes were made and the policy was approved for recommendation to the Board.
- PH&N, provided a detailed update on the University's investment portfolio as an inclusion to the Committee package. It was determined that an investment sub-committee will be formed to meet with PH&N and bring a recommendation back to the Audit and Finance Committee for consideration.

Audit & Finance Committee
Annual Report: 2022-2023

Submitted by David Smits
Chair, Audit & Finance Committee

NIPISSING UNVIERSITY BOARD OF GOVERNORS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT | 2022-2023

The Executive Committee has the power and authority to act for the Board, between the meetings of the Board, in the management of the affairs of the University for the interests of the University. Except at the expressed invitation of the Chair of the Board or the President & Vice-Chancellor, meetings of the Executive Committee are held in-camera.

The following is a highlight of the 10 Executive Committee meetings which took place over the past year. In addition to these highlights, the President provided regular updates and the Committee approved the agenda for upcoming Board meetings.

August 31, 2022

The first Executive Committee meeting was held for the upcoming year. The Chair reviewed the Executive Committee's roll for the upcoming year. Highlights of the meeting included:

- Enrolment update
- Student housing update.
- Update on hiring process for the Assistant Vice-President, Research and a motion was approved to allow for a non-tenured faculty representative on the hiring committee.

September 13, 2022

The Executive Committee was briefed by the Chair on the recent Board Orientation for new Board members. Other items covered:

- The President's Goals and Priorities were reviewed and endorsed.
- The draft Emergency Presidential Succession Plan policy was presented to the Executive Committee for review and a motion was approved that the Executive Committee recommend the Board of Governors approve the Emergency Presidential Succession Policy.

November 21, 2022

- Updates on the Sustainability plan and ongoing action items.
- Updates on the Auditor General's Report.

December 19, 2022 (Special Meeting)

- Collective Bargaining update for CASBU and an updated mandate presented.

January 4 ,2023 (Special Meeting)

- Update and approval of the collective agreement for CASBU.

January 23, 2023

- Updates from the President on the Strategic Planning
- Updates on the searches for both the Provost and Associate Vice-President, Research, Innovation and Graduate Studies positions.
- Discussion on issues identified with respect to Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI), space for equity-deserving groups, and racism on campus and in the broader community.
- Endorsed motions to recommend to the Board of Governors to submit a recommendation to the Public Appointment Secretariat to reappoint Patti Carr and Judy Koziol for another 3 year term.

March 6, 2023

- The Board Officer appointment process was reviewed, and members were encouraged to come forward if they are interested in future leadership positions on the Board.
- Two Term Renewals of Non-Constituent Members were recommended in motions to the Board for Cindy Karugia and Dave Smits. As Dave Smits has indicated an interest in a Board Officer position, and due to the timing of the election period, the Executive Committee, acting on behalf of the Board of Governors, opted to expedite his term renewal and approved a motion to renew his 3-year term.
- The Annual Review of the President's Achievement of Goals and Priorities was reviewed.
- An update on the OPSEU Bargaining process was provided and a mandate was approved.

March 15, 2023 (Special Meeting)

- Update on the recommendation of the Vice-President Research, Innovation and Graduate studies (AVPRIGS) from the Search Committee.

April 17, 2023

- Update on the draft budget for 2022/23.
- Update on the Assistant Vice-President, Research, Innovation and Graduate Studies search.
- For information, the President provided an update and the recommendation of the Search Committee for the Provost and Vice-President, Academic position.
- Update on the Annual Review of the President's Achievement of Goals and Priorities process.

May 29, 2023

- Discussion on the 'Blue Ribbon Panel.'
- Review of the Appointment/ Reappointment of a Chancellor policy.
- FASBU Bargaining Timeline update.
- A motion was passed to recommend the Board of Governors approve the CASBU tentative bargaining agreement.

I would like to thank all members of the Executive Committee for their dedication and hard work over the past year.

Marianne Berube
Chair Board of Governors & Chair of the Executive Committee

NIPISSING UNIVERSITY BOARD OF GOVERNORS

COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT | 2022-2023

The Community Relations Committee is responsible to the Board for setting policy that will guide the administration in the areas of public relations, community affairs, alumni liaisons, communication strategies, intergovernmental affairs, media relations, and reputational matters.

October 24, 2022

- The terms of reference were reviewed and meeting dates were announced for the year.
- The Annual Work Plan was reviewed.
- Information was shared by the Director of Advancement and External Relations on the number of community events the University has participated in since August 2021 (340 +) and the community partnerships (100+)

March 6, 2023

- Update by the President on current research, athletics and volunteerism activities in the community.
- Information was provided regarding the extensive community outreach that has been occurring both through various social media platforms and face-to-face community engagement sessions during the Strategic Planning process.

May 29, 2023

- A draft Community Relations Report was circulated to this Committee and all Board members for comment.
- The President welcomed input for goals and priorities as they pertain to community relations during the 2023-2024 year.

Respectfully Submitted by Fran Couchie
Chair, Community Relations Committee

NIPISSING UNIVERSITY BOARD OF GOVERNORS

PLANT & PROPERTY COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT – JUNE 2023

The Plant and Property Committee is responsible to the Board for developing/reviewing administrative policies related to the maintenance and upgrading of University properties and for making recommendations related to the overall Master Land Use Plan, for new structures, for the selection of consultants and architects, etc.

The Committee met three times during the 2022-23 academic year. A summary of those meetings is included below.

October 24, 2022

- Patti Carr, Committee Chair welcomed Judy Koziol to serve as vice-chair for this academic year.
- The committee terms of reference were circulated and no questions or concerns were raised.
- The draft Annual Work Plan was reviewed.
- The Director of Facilities, Dave Drenth, provided a capital and construction update. A fulsome presentation was provided regarding the annual list of projects, noting that many of the projects are covered by the Facilities Renewal Program (FRP). Three major projects were highlighted this year: the renovations of the RJ Surtees Athletics Centre renovations, the new Nursing Simulation Lab, and the creation of the Centre for War Atrocities and Genocide academic space; some research funds were used along with the FRP.
- Through the FRP, the University was allocated almost \$2.3 million. Campus infrastructure projects for 2022-23, including mechanical and electrical projects, as well as renovations would be covered under the FRP.

March 6, 2023

- Once again, the Director of Facilities provided a fulsome presentation with updates on the renovations at the R.J. Surtees Athletics Centre, the near completion of the Centre for War Atrocities and Genocide, and spoke in detail of the Nursing Simulation Lab.
- Supply issues for some projects were noted, and some projects deferred. Overall, there were a number of repairs made to the fabric and structure of buildings, repairs to building service equipment and electrical and mechanical system upgrades.
- The Director of Facilities noted that Nipissing holds a low rating due to the relatively young age of our buildings under the Facility Condition Index, determined by a new provider that assessed the FCI. The Facility Condition Index is a cross-industry standard of measure of condition that represents the percent ratio of deferred maintenance backlog cost to the current replacement value and provides a reliable database to plan for immediate and future projects.
- The team also follows a plan to be proactive for regular maintenance of the facilities.

May 29, 2023

- The committee held the meeting in the “new” Nursing Simulation Lab.
- Updates of all Infrastructure and Construction projects were reviewed. Occupancy has been granted for the Centre for War Atrocities and Genocide this week and final clean up is underway.

Occupancy has also been granted for the Nursing Simulation Lab, with some minor adjustments to be made from the construction. The technology installations and testing of equipment are underway and will continue throughout the summer, by Lisa O'Reilly and her team.

- A Land Assets Review was provided to the committee outlining the shared ownership with Canadore College on the main campus, as well as Nipissing University owned properties adjacent to the main campus or in the community. Descriptions and uses of the sole ownership properties include: Larocque Farm, Monastery, Jane Street facility, and ALCAN/Talon Lake.
- A tour of the Nursing Simulation Lab was enjoyed by committee members in person and online. A grand opening of the Nursing Simulation Lab will be held in the Fall 2023.

A special thanks to David Drenth and his team for the informative updates at our meetings. Dave's knowledge and expertise is evident and appreciated during the committee discussions. It is also worth mentioning that the committee members are engaged and respectful contributors to the dialogue that ensures proper maintenance and improvement of the facilities at the University. This year committee members included: Judy Koziol, Joe Sinicrope, Dave Smits, Jeff Scott, Veronica Afonso, Maurice Switzer, Riley McEntee, Marianne Berube, Kevin Wamsley and Paul Cook. Other non-voting members or resources included: Preston English, Carole Robinson, Cheryl Sutton, Abby Blaszczyk, Maggie Horsfield and Renee Hacquard.

Sincerely,

Patti Carr

Chair, Plant & Property Committee

NIPISSING UNIVERSITY BOARD OF GOVERNORS
FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE
ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023

The Fundraising Committee is responsible to the Board for developing plans and policies that will foster and support a philanthropic culture at the Board, across the University, and throughout the community that will help to produce fundraising success. Our thanks to Cristin Christopher and the Advancement team for their focus and efforts in this area.

The Committee met three times during the 202-2023 academic year. The following is a summary of those meetings.

Oct. 24, 2022

- Bobby Ray was appointed Vice-Chair of the Fundraising Committee
- The committee reviewed the Committee terms of Reference and Annual Work Plan
- The Advancement team reported that a new Development Officer has joined the team. The additional resource is welcome and will aid with plans to deepen relationships, increase donor acquisition and improve retention and engagement with existing donors
- Highlights at the time included the 1-million-dollar donation from the George and Helen Vari Foundation, an anonymous donation for the installation of a teepee at the Education Centre, the creation of the Mino-Bimaadiziwin Cultural Development Bursary and the establishment of the Dr. Diana Walton Memorial scholarship.
- Goals for the year included more frequent donations and donor stewardship, and to formalize processes and working relationships with Lakers Athletics, Office of Indigenous Initiatives and the finance office.
- Work this year built a foundation to respond to priorities that emerge from the Strategic Plan

March 6, 2023

- Director, Advancement and External Relations, Cristin Talentino, presented a detailed Fundraising report including a fulsome financial summary to February. Highlights included Giving Tuesday results.
- The success of Giving Tuesday supports the idea of having a specific area of focus for fundraising initiatives.
- Developing KPIs will assist with benchmark goals moving forward.
- There is a focus on Major gifts and Planned Giving
- There was a discussion around will planning and collaborative measures with NBRHC to support financial planners
- The advancement team continues to develop processes to increase retention and reach and is benefitting from added staff in that area.
- New advancement website was introduced
- The committee annual workplan was reviewed to ensure plans were on track

May 29 ,2023

- Steven Smits, Manager, Alumni and Advancement, presented an overview of the fundraising financial summary
- Excluding the one-million-dollar Vari donation, donations are up 3%
- The Annual Fund has increased 45%
- Focus continues to be on growing relationships and retention, and improving stewardship processes
- Increased team size and better data analysis is proving beneficial to fundraising efforts
- Giving Tuesday, Shoot for Change and 10 new Donor funded Scholarships, awards and bursaries count among this year's important successes
- Benchmark data from the Canadian Council for the Advancement of Education regarding alumni engagement will provide the basis for efforts to ensure that services provided are meeting the needs of alumni

The investment in the expansion of the Advancement Department this year will provide much needed support to focus on the opportunities and challenges facing Nipissing. This year, the significant Vari Foundation donation was positive and energizing. Advancement efforts moving forward include prioritizing alumni engagement, building relationships with, and retention of, existing donors, promoting focussed areas of giving and engaging more deeply with NU Champions.

Submitted by Kathy Wilcox, Chair, Fundraising Committee



**Nipissing University Alumni Advisory Board report to Board of Governors
June 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 President

At our annual retreat held at the end of May, NUAAB elected Laurel Muldoon as our new president. Laurel has served as vice-president for the last several years, and we are thrilled she was willing to fulfill the role of President. Laurel will also serve as NUAAB's representative to the Board of Governors commencing in September 2023.

We would like to extend our deepest appreciation to Lisa Snider for her engagement with NUAAB over the years. Her leadership was instrumental in keeping NUAAB engaged during the pandemic, and we wish her continued success on all her journeys ahead!

Save the Date – Homecoming 2023

Get ready, Lakers! Homecoming 2023 will be taking place from September 22nd – 24th, 2023! We look forward to welcoming our Alumni back to campus to celebrate all that Nipissing has to offer, and to reflect on their years on campus as a Laker! This year, we plan to make Homecoming a FREE event, so be sure to rally your friends and join us for a weekend full of exciting events. More details will be available online, soon!

Nipissing University Indigenous Council on Education Update to Nipissing University Board of Governors June 27th, 2023

The following are the latest campus initiatives involving the Nipissing University Indigenous Council on Education since the last Board of Governors report submitted April, 2023:

- **2022-2023 Nipissing University Indigenous student graduates**
Enji giigdoyang, Office of Indigenous Initiatives extends congratulations to all our 2022-2023 Indigenous graduates:
 - Bachelor's Degree - 38
 - Bachelor's Degree (Honours) – 30
 - Certificate – 15
 - Diploma – 15
 - Master's Degree – 2
 - Doctoral Degree – 22022-2023 Total – 110
- **May 3 – Nipissing University/Canadore College sign – Biindigen** – Discussions about the sign started over a year ago. This is the first time an anishinaabemowin word has been visible on that “welcome” sign since the campus opened its doors. This was a collaborative effort which included support and guidance from members of the campus community and beyond, including Maurice Switzer (NUICE Chair), Cristin Talentino (NU Dir. External Relations), Dr. Cindy Peltier, as well as Judy Manitowabi (Canadore College, Dir. First Peoples Centre), Evelyn McLeod (Nipissing First Nations Language speaker) and others.
- **May 8 - Strategic Planning – Talking Circle** – Members of NUICE, the NU Strategic Planning Steering Committee, and members from Nipissing and Dokis First Nations came together to discuss the six strategic themes which emerged from the various community engagements and dialogues. There was some discussion about how those themes might be embodied throughout the university campus.
- **May 23 - Strategic Planning – Visioning Exercise** – Building on the momentum from the Talking Circle, attendees were invited back to further discuss the six theme and share their visual understanding of how they see the various themes intersecting. Carol (NU Graphic Designer) and Tessa (Indigenous Fine Arts student) were on-site to provide live visual recordings. The artists have compiled “what they heard” from the discussions and have crafted a visual draft to be shared with the group on Thurs. June 22nd.
- **June 8 – Enji giigdoyang (OII) Medicine Garden** – Special thanks to Cheriian Pearson (NU student) for her leadership in planting the seeds. Cheriian, along with OII staff began germinating Sema (tobacco) and Mshkwoodewashk (sage) seeds in March. They have recently been planted in the first NU medicine garden in the small courtyard.
- **June 10 – NBIFC Powwow** – Nipissing University was proud to attend and participate in the North Bay Indigenous Friendship Centre's Maamwi Kindaaswin Powwow with Nipissing University President, Dr. Kevin Wamsley joining the grand entry with other delegates. Special thanks to Maurice Switzer (NBIFC Board of Directors, President), and Kathy Fortin (NBIFC, Executive Director) for their guidance and leadership throughout the North Bay community and beyond. Gchi miigwech!

Board of Governors Report

June 27, 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.

Green Initiatives

We are excited to announce thousands of new residents to the property of the NUSU Student Centre. Just a few weeks ago, we introduced two bee hives with a collective population of 20,000 bees. As part of our green initiatives campaign, the bees will help with pollinating our orchard, future garden boxes, and flowers! A massive thank you to our Summer Interns, SCA, and Director of Services for their labour and artistic contributions in bringing this passion project to life.

Communities in Bloom

This is just a reminder that the NUSU Student Centre will be the first stop for the Communities in Bloom Judges on Tuesday, July 25. We are grateful for the Nipissing community's consideration and support in this endeavour!

Pride Month

June is Pride Month in Canada and across the world. It is typically celebrated in September for the City of North Bay, but some local celebrations also take place in June. NUSU celebrated it this year with two events, as well as our social media campaigns. For our social media campaigns, please check out @NUSUtalks on Instagram!

**NUSU Student Centre**

221 College Drive, North Bay, ON P1B 0G1

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

Web: www.nusu.com

For events, on Tuesday, June 20, NUSU hosted a Nipissing Community Pride BBQ at the NUSU Student Centre. We will also be hosting a Drag Show, in collaboration with The Equity Centre, in the NUSU Student Centre in collaboration on Wednesday, June 28. The Drag Show will be open to the public, so please spread the word. We hope to see you there!

National Indigenous History Month

We would also like to recognize that June is National Indigenous History Month in Canada, with National Indigenous Peoples Day being June 21. NUSU is extremely grateful to the Office of Indigenous Initiatives for hosting a variety of events that have been open to the Nipissing Community. We are also grateful for the relations that we share with Nipissing First Nation and Dokis First Nation.

Academic Senate Report to the Board of Governors – May 2023

Academic Senate Meeting May 12, 2023

The Academic Senate Meeting was held on May 12, 2023, in F210 and via Zoom remote conferencing.

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. Following the presentation, a lengthy discussion took place around the collection and interpretation of data. The Vice-President, Finance & Administration provided clarity on several questions and comments. 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.

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.

In response to concerns, the President noted that staffing levels have been affected by budget cuts over the last ten years which were further exacerbated by the pandemic. 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.

Senate approved the Student Course Experience Survey.

Senate granted approval to graduate the students that have completed their degree requirements prior to June 13, 2023. The Deans will announce the numbers of graduands by faculty and degree under Announcements at the June 26, 2023, Senate meeting.

A motion was approved 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. The following Senators volunteered for membership on the committee: R. Gendron, R. Wenghofer, J. Muterera, R. Vernescu, C. Sutton, E. Cooke (NUSU VP Finance and Administration).



Provost and Vice-President Academic & Research - Board Report: June 27, 2023

PVPAR Report

1. International recruitment, admissions and support is now co-located in Rooms F204 and F205. This area also includes a space for international students to gather and will provide access to services that will support them from recruitment through to graduation and beyond.
2. The Equity Centre is also moving to a new location beside A238 and A244A.
3. Course registration for our students begins on June 22.
4. The Spring/summer count date report is June 30th.

Congratulations to all our graduates and to the faculty, staff and supporters who were part of their journey at Nipissing University.





BOARD OF GOVERNORS SEXUAL VIOLENCE REPORT 2022-2023

As per the Ministry requirement (Pursuant to Subsection 17(7.1) Ministry of Training, Colleges, and Universities Act): A Sexual Violence Annual Report be presented to the Board of Governors for each academic year on or before September of each calendar year. The academic year is defined as May 1, 2022, to April 30, 2023.

Background

In 2016, the Ontario Government passed the Sexual Violence and Harassment Action Plan Act. Section 3, specific to the Ministry of Training, Colleges and University Act's intent is to make campuses safer spaces through enforcement of a sexual violence policy, increasing support to survivors of sexual violence, and formalizing how institutions address incidents as they arise.

In March 2019, the Ontario Government announced additional action-based and reporting requirements for each publicly assisted post-secondary institution. This includes the requirement that each post-secondary institution report annually to its Board of Governors on sexual violence and that this report would be publicly available. The government announcement also included a requirement that every publicly-assisted college and university in Ontario have a task force devoted to tackling sexual violence on campus and be required to report its findings to both their respective Board of Governors as well as to the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities. On our campus the Action Against Gender Based Violence (AAGBV) serves as the sexual violence task force.

Action Against Gender-Based Violence Committee

The Action Against Gender-Based Violence (AAGBV) Committee is comprised stakeholders, faculty, staff, students, and university departments and groups who work together to establish best practices for sexual and gender-based violence education and prevention:

- To reduce occurrences of sexual and gender-based violence on campus; and
- Improve responses to incidents of sexual and gender-based violence within our community.

The AAGBV does this by:

- Providing a space to discuss emerging issues and initiatives related to sexual and gender-based violence.
- Providing educational awareness about sexual and gender-based violence.
- Suggesting improvements to policies, services, and resources.
- Creating a campus culture where sexual and gender-based violence is understood and well responded to; and
- Developing and implement campus-wide initiatives to support the prevention of and response to sexual and gender-based violence.

The AAGBV committee met three times during the academic year on April 22, 2022, November 22, 2022, and March 2023. The AAGBV investigated virtual online reporting options to add as an additional pathway for student survivors to access support and reporting options. A subcommittee of the AAGBV met additionally to research and review available software options and provided a recommendation to the AAGBV.

The AAGBV explored Restorative Justice as a practice that could be incorporated into sexual violence support and prevention policies and other areas across the institution. Dr. Leslie Thielen-Wilson led the AAGBV through discussions around why Restorative Justice practices are important, what approaches to Restorative Justice practices could be used, and how Restorative Justice practices could be implemented in a proactive (educational) and reactive (post-incident) approach for our community.

Nipissing University's Commitment

Nipissing University's SVPSR Policy outlines the University's commitment to addressing sexual violence through (Nipissing University, 2019):

- Awareness, education, and prevention training.
- Support and response for students who have experienced sexual violence.
- Responsive, coordinated, and fair procedures in response to disclosures and formal reports of sexual violence.

Awareness & Outreach

Consent Belongs Here is Nipissing University's campaign to end sexual violence through education, prevention, and outreach. Consent Belongs Here organizes events and initiatives focused on sexual violence prevention and education throughout the year. This academic year Consent Belongs Here partnered with departments, faculties, and community members to host 23 sexual violence prevention events and outreach initiatives through 9 awareness campaigns. These campaigns included, Take Back the Night, Consent Awareness Week, 16 Days of Activism, Campus Safety Week, Consent Action Week, Sexual and Reproductive Health Week, International Women's Week and Social Work Week, Sexual Assault Awareness Month, and Sexual Assault Prevention Month.

Education & Training

Sexual violence prevention education was offered to groups of student leaders (14 trainings) as well as the general student population (23 trainings). In total, 269 students received training on the topics of consent, bystander intervention, gender, allyship, and sexual violence disclosure response. New partnerships with faculty to bring these workshops within the classroom setting were an extremely successful avenue to reach students with the material. Most of the training was offered in online format and some dates were hybrid/in-person.

Response & Support

Between May 1, 2022 - April 26, 2023, several student survivors of sexual violence were supported by Student Counselling services (22) and/or the Sexual Violence Prevention & Education Coordinator (7). These numbers are not presented as a cumulative total as some students may have engaged with both services. Additionally, three student respondents, persons who caused harm, were supported by Student Counselling Services.

The Sexual Violence Prevention & Education Coordinator provided support for 1 university formal report, support through 3 criminal investigations, and academic accommodations for 3 students. Of situations reported to the SVPEC, 5 incidents of sexual violence occurred on campus/while participating in university programming.

Future Directions

Bill 26

In October 2022, Bill 26, Strengthening Post-secondary Institutions and Students Act, was passed. Bill 26 requires all publicly funded institutions to have a policy on sexual misconduct toward students by employees by July 1, 2023. The policy should cover rules about sexual behaviour involving employees and students and should include examples of disciplinary measures that may be taken against employees who break the policy. Nipissing University Human Resources, along with the Action Against Gender-Based Violence Committee and other stakeholders, are working together to ensure that the Sexual Violence Prevention, Support and Response Policy for Students is updated to meet the requirements of Bill 26.

Reporting Software

The AAGBV plans to proceed with implementing the committee's recommendation of REES sexual violence reporting software. This software is intended to serve as an extra means of communication for survivors, enabling them to record their experiences, seek assistance, and report incidents. However, it will not replace any existing support and reporting pathways available to students.

Restorative justice

The AAGBV is committed to further exploring Restorative justice approaches and their potential implementation within the Sexual Violence Prevention, Support and Response Policy for Students.

Faculty partnerships

Collaboration with faculty is vital in providing effective sexual violence prevention programs and education. This approach helps us reach students where they are most receptive to learning and willing to make a change. Our goal is to promote social and cultural transformation by providing continuous learning opportunities both in and outside the classroom.

NIPISSING UNIVERSITY

Policy Category:	Financial
Policy Number:	2.12.2021.U <u>To be determined</u>
Policy Name:	Capital Debt Policy
Responsible Department:	Vice-President, Finance and Administration
Approval Date:	November 2021 <u>June 2023</u>
Approval Authority:	Vice-President, Finance and Administration <u>Board of Governors</u>
Last Updated:	First Version <u>June 2023</u>
Review Date:	November 2024 <u>June 2026</u>

Purpose

The purpose of the Capital Debt Policy and Capital Debt Guidelines is to define:

- Responsibilities for the approval of new University external capital debt (borrowing);
 - Maximum limits on the amount of total external capital debt incurred by the University;
- and
- Reporting on external capital debt.

A. General Information

The intent of this policy is to align the strategic use of debt with the University's investment policies to manage the overall cost of capital, minimize long-term costs for debt service and ensure the overall level of risk does not exceed acceptable levels. This policy provides a discipline and framework that will be used by management to evaluate the appropriate use of debt in capital financing plans.

B. Policy

1.0 Capital borrowing will only be undertaken by administration after the Board of Governors has approved the business case for a capital project. Such approval shall include the

Capital Debt Policy

total cost of the project, source(s) of funds for debt repayment, and the period of time over which the debt is planned to be repaid.

- 2.0 The University will seek to borrow funds from external financial organizations in an effective and competitive manner taking into consideration factors such as term, cost of funds, security required and repayment options. Where external financing is reasonably attainable, internal funds generated from overall University cash flow not immediately required to meet their targeted purpose may be advanced to finance projects until external financing is obtained. In these cases, any advanced funds will be charged to the project at an internal rate of interest.
- 3.0 The University will manage its overall debt to maintain an acceptable credit rating to ensure that the University can continue to issue debt and finance capital investments at favorable interest rates.

C. Guidelines

- 4.0 Whenever possible, loans shall be made on an unsecured basis. Mortgages may be given for residence-related debt.
- 5.0 The University has selected the following key ratios as benchmarks for the maximum level of debt. Debt shall be measured as total external debt.

Compliance with these ratios should ensure that Nipissing maintains a strong credit rating and continuing access to new debt that may be required.

- a) **Interest Burden Ratio:** This ratio measures the percentage of total expenses used to cover the University's cost of servicing its debt. The ratio must be lower than 2.0%.
- b) **Debt per Student FTE:** This ratio measures the amount of total capital debt on a per FTE basis. The amount of total debt shall remain less than \$8,500 per student FTE.
- c) **Ratio of Debt to Total Revenues:** This ratio measures the amount of total debt as a percentage of revenues. The ratio shall remain less than 48%.

D. Reporting

- 67.0 Administration shall report semi-annually, or as needed, to the Board of Governors' Audit & Finance Committee on:

Capital Debt Policy

- current and projected debt levels; and
- compliance with the debt ratios listed above.

The Vice President, Finance and Administration shall review this policy every three years to determine whether amendments are necessary. Any substantial amendments shall be reported to the Audit & Finance Committee for information purposes.