

Senate Agenda

Friday, September 8, 2023

2:30 p.m. – Room F210

Zoom Conference:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88092461985?pwd=U0lreXJHWEk2NkphTzR6MFdmL1ZZUT09>

Meeting ID: 880 9246 1985

Passcode: 194317

1. Acknowledgement of the Traditional Territory

As we begin this Nipissing University Senate meeting, I would like to acknowledge that we are in the territory of the Robinson-Huron Treaty of 1850 and that the land on which we gather is the Nipissing First Nation Traditional Territory and the traditional territory of the Anishnabek. We respect and are grateful to hold this event on these lands with all our relations.

2. Approval of the Agenda

3. Adoption of the Minutes of the Senate Meeting of: August 11, 2023

4. Business Arising From the Minutes

5. Reading and Disposing of Communications

6. Reports From Other Bodies

- A. (1) President – oral report
- (2) Provost and Vice-President Academic – written report
- (3) Vice-President Finance and Administration – no report
- (4) Board of Governors – no report
- (5) Alumni Advisory Board – written report
- (6) Council of Ontario Universities (Academic Colleague) – links (3) below:
 - [Canadian Study Permit Trends - ApplyBoard - May 5 2023.pdf](#)
 - [Alex Usher on X: "Without comment. https://t.co/lpqt1fiTrg" / X \(twitter.com\)](#)
 - ["Getting it done" Ontario's agenda for college education | The Monitor \(monitormag.ca\)](#)
- (7) Joint Board/Senate Committee on Governance – no report
- (8) NUSU – written report
- (9) Others

B. Reports from Senate members

7. **Question Period**

8. **Reports of Standing Committees and Faculty Councils**

Senate Executive Committee

Motion 1: That the Report of the Senate Executive Committee dated August 31, 2023 be received.

Research Committee

Motion 1: That the Report of the Research Committee dated August 23, 2023, be received.

9. **Other Business**

10. **Amendment of By-Laws**

11. **Elections**

- Elect one (1) faculty Senate representative to serve on the Senate Budget Advisory Committee for a three-year term effective July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2026.

12. **New Business**

13. **Announcements**

14. **Adjournment**

Nipissing University
Minutes of the Academic Senate Meeting
August 11, 2023
10:30 a.m.
Room F210 & Zoom Videoconference

Members Present:

K. Wamsley (Chair), A Graff, C. Mady, D. Walters, D. lafrate, N. Black

L. Chen, R. Davis, R. Gendron, G. McCann, S. O'Hagan, G. Phillips, S. Srigley, N. Stevens, L. Thielen-Wilson, S. Winters, H. Zhu

A. Adler, J. Barker, K. Ferguson, C. Greco, D. Hay (Deputy Speaker), T. McParland, G. Raymer, A. Schinkel-Ivy, T. Sibbald (Speaker), M. Sullivan, J. Thornborrow

O. Pokorny, L. Sinclair

R. Hehn

R. McEntee, E. Cooke, H. Panchal, S. Greco

Absent With Regrets:

C. Sutton, B. Law, H. Earl, A. Hatef, J. Murton, S. Renshaw, T. Smith, R. Vernescu, A. Weeks, R. Wenghofer, C. Irwin, T. Horton, P. Millar, J. Muterera, R. Vanderlee, V. Williams, S. Fiddler, P. English

The Senate Speaker offered a Traditional Territory acknowledgement.

Approval of the Agenda of the Senate Meeting of: August 11, 2023

Motion 1: Moved by N. Black, seconded by S. Winters that the agenda of the Senate meeting of August 11, 2023 be approved.
CARRIED

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

Motion 2: Moved by D. Hay, seconded by R. Gendron that the minutes of the Senate meeting of July 14, 2023 be adopted.
CARRIED

Business Arising From the Minutes

Following a request, the June 26, 2023, Senate minutes were amended to include the four questions regarding the removal of the ACAD 1601 courses requirement.

Reading and Disposing of Communications

On July 26, 2023, Senate received the following communication from Sarah Hadley on behalf of the Arts and Science Faculty Council meeting:

- Motion: The Arts & Science Faculty Council (July 26, 2023) advises Senate to recommend or not recommend the following list of departmental mergers:
- History, Anthropology, and Ancient Studies
 - Philosophy, Political Science and Economics and Social Welfare
 - Psychology, Sociology, and Child and Family Studies
 - Gender Equality and Social Justice, Religions and Cultures, and Indigenous Studies
 - Fine Arts and English Studies
 - Biology and Chemistry and Geography

Dan Walters, as chair of Faculty Council, followed up with the following summary of the conversation at Faculty Council as Rationale for the motion:

The Senate By-laws Article 10.1 (b) outlines the terms of reference for Faculty Councils; subsection iii states that faculty councils can *make recommendations to Senate, or to an appropriate Senate standing committee on any matter deemed to be of relevant academic concern to the University*. First, the A&S Faculty council deem the restructuring of departments to be a relevant academic concern to the University. Second, A&S Faculty council argues that the process for changing the departmental structure was not followed. Under the Nipissing University Act, Article 22.2(a) the powers of Senate include making *recommendations to the Board respecting the establishment, maintenance, modification or termination of organizational structures such as faculties, schools, institutes, departments, or chairs within the University*. A&S Faculty council argues that without a recommendation from Senate to the Board, the modification of departments did not follow the correct procedures. As such, the A&S Faculty Council put forth a motion for Senate to consider, and recommend or not recommend, the departmental modifications listed above. Third, the A&S Faculty council suggest that the process did not follow the spirit of collegial governance as set out in the Report of the Special Governance Commissions by ignoring the departmental votes against the restructuring.

Members of the Senate Executive Committee voted unanimously that the motion be referred to the Joint Committee to be considered along with the original motion of July 14, 2023. Members were satisfied that the procedural questions raised in the original motion pertain to the motion(s) presented here.

Senate will address this motion when information is communicated from the Joint Committee. Once direction has been provided, Senate can receive it and give the question due consideration, providing everyone with the information required to make an informed decision.

In recognition of their appreciation and general agreement with the action of Senate Executive, a motion was offered from the floor (Motion 3).

- Motion 3: Moved by D. Tabachnick, seconded by R. Gendron that Senate refer the question of the departmental mergers in the Arts & Science Faculty to the Joint Committee of the Board and Senate on Governance.
CARRIED

Reports From Other Bodies

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

The Provost and Vice-President Academic provided a brief oral report advising that the academic planning process is being developed and will be launched in September, and that she is looking forward to the opportunity to consult broadly with all stakeholder groups. Invitations will be forthcoming for formal and informal opportunities to consult on the academic plan.

She reported of the urgent challenge to find housing for our students. A housing task force is being established, but in the meantime if anyone has available space and would like to consider the opportunity of hosting students, please reach out to our recruitment office. She advised that she is looking forward to meeting our budget targets with respect to the enrolment that we are seeing and the students who have identified themselves as attending in September. If students don't have housing that number could potentially be at risk.

The Council of Ontario Universities Academic Colleague shared the following link to COU's public report – *Plan for Prosperity: Ensuring the Financial Sustainability of Ontario's Universities*. [A Plan for Prosperity: Ensuring the Financial Sustainability of Ontario's Universities - Ontario's Universities \(ontariosuniversities.ca\)](https://www.ontariosuniversities.ca)

NUSU provided a written report. The report is attached to the minutes. Senator McEntee also read out a statement on student housing. The corrected statement is attached to the minutes.

Question Period

It was noted that, a few years ago, as an institution, the faculties of teaching and faculties of research and graduate studies were created. As we no longer have Deans in these positions, but the faculties are still in existence, will we see motions brought to Senate to address the issue of the reorganization of these faculties?

In response, the Provost advised that the Dean of Teaching position has been disestablished, while the Teaching Hub continues to operate. We are taking time to reflect on the functions of this administrative unit and how best to re-structure it within the institution. Once that analysis is complete and consultation is broadly conducted, we will bring a report to Senate to discuss our findings. In terms of structure, it is up to the Board to determine which faculties exist. Senate will be engaged respecting its role and authorities within the governance structure. With respect to the Office of Research, Innovation and Graduate Studies, it is not anticipated that there will be an immediate need to restructure unless in our ongoing review we need to address administrative inefficiencies in the distinct demands of graduate studies and research. These would be ongoing dynamic conversations that would be brought forward to Senate should this question become pertinent.

In follow up to the President's report, questions were asked as to whether the staff that are responsible for looking after international students renting and finding housing have a background or education in landlord and tenant rules, particularly in the context of finding a room within a house or connecting with resources such as the North Bay legal clinic. Senator Wamsley acknowledged all the great work that NUSU undertook this past year particularly their social media campaign to make students aware of their rights and responsibilities as tenants in North Bay. He advised that a task force will be established to deal with the education of all students on their rights and responsibilities, and that any staff that deal with the housing situation will also be educated to identify and address concerns.

A suggestion was made that conversations be held with the City of North Bay, Canadore College and the NBRHC to strategize for long-term planning of housing in North Bay.

It was noted that the province has put universities in a difficult situation. With infrastructure lacking, to be financially sustainable we need to attract international students. Such great work has been done to attract students and take care of them, but we don't have the infrastructure to deal with the influx of students, keeping in mind that we must also do right by our domestic students in traditional catchment areas.

Senator Wamsley reported that last year at this time we had a decrease of 200 FTE's, had a cohort of 83 international students and we were able to assist them to find housing. It is his philosophy that a primarily undergraduate university should have an international complement of 12-13% as it is good for academic programs, campus culture and good for North Bay. We are taking the approach to manage the enrollment expectations and move us into a reasonable rate of acceptance to move along in the next 3-4 years until we have the capacity on campus. The province will not assist in paying for residences, so we are looking at other options. We are not on an accelerated trajectory to take on a large number of international students and are planning on modest increases year over year. It is very expensive for international students to attend university. We have the lowest number of international students in the province and we have the second lowest tuition rate in Ontario.

It was noted that there is a need to acknowledge and clarify the responsibility of Senate to make recommendations to the Board on academic structure, and it is incumbent on Senate to deal with these issues substantively rather than just receiving reports.

Reports of Standing Committees and Faculty or University Councils

Senate Executive Committee

Motion 4: Moved by D. Hay, seconded by R. Gendron that the Report of the Senate Executive Committee dated August 3, 2023 be received.
CARRIED

Other Business

Motion 5: Moved by D. Hay, seconded by R. Gendron that, pending the recommendation of the Joint Committee of the Board and Senate on Governance, Senate moves that the entire merger process in the Faculty of Arts and Science be paused and the status quo as of June 30, 2023, remain in effect.

In regard to the above motion, the Provost advised that the motion was out of order. The motion dictates a change to structure and suggests that Senate will be unwilling to accept any result of the Joint Committee. Secondly, according to Robert's Rules, Senate cannot move, change, or pause a process that has already been undertaken. She suggested a friendly amendment speaking to Senate By-law 1.0(a) which stipulates that Senate has the power to make recommendations to the Board with respect to any academic matter of concern to the University. She noted that on questions of structure, it is the Boards purview to make decisions and recognizes that the Joint Committee has already been asked to speak to the procedural questions that have been raised by the amalgamation of units in Arts and Science.

CARRIED

After the vote, some Senators raised concerns about the process followed, questioned the legitimacy of the new structures, noted the responsibilities of the Board and Administration

towards bicameral governance, and how some faculty members have been affected, and a concern about the vulnerability of Indigenous Studies.

Elections

- Elect two (2) faculty Senate representatives to serve on the Joint Committee of the Board and Senate on Governance for three-year terms effective July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2026.
ACCLAIMED: D. Hay & R. Gendron
- Elect one (1) faculty Senate representative to serve on the Senate Budget Advisory Committee for a three-year term effective July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2026.
No nominations were received. The election will be included in the September 8, 2023 Senate agenda.

Announcements

Senator McEntee announced that NUSU has launched a North Bay-themed colouring book. The books are \$10, and all proceeds go to the NUSU Student Food Bank. Copies are available today or can be purchased at the NUSU Student Centre.

Adjournment

Senate was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

.....
K. Wamsley (Chair)

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

**University Senate
11 August 2023
President's Report**

Good morning Senators. A brief report today as the 2023-2024 term is at our doorstep. I hope that you have all had an enjoyable summer and enjoyed some rest.

I do not have an exact date, but I understand from the Council of Ontario Universities that the Blue Ribbon Report will soon be submitted to the Ontario government. I would be pleased to report details to Senate as soon as I am able to.

The Equity Action Planning Task Force has continued to meet and is working on the request for proposals.

Look for an announcement of the launch of our Strategic Plan in late September and also for the beginning of operational planning in September as well, as we take steps to put our Plan into action, while at the same time working on our Academic Plan, both to be completed by the end of June 2024.

We continue to monitor the housing issue for both domestic and international students. We have formed a task force committee to deal directly with student housing, as we sift through our numbers to gather information on how many students will be arriving in the coming weeks and how many still do not have housing. We will be assigning a staff member to work directly with the students and deal directly with landlords, potential landlords, and North Bay citizens who wish to open a room to a student. At the same time, we will prepare for emergency housing and transition housing at local hotels.

I am very pleased to announce that we have a signed contract with Sodexo to be our food services provider. They will be making alterations to the main cafeteria and will also be the service provider for Canadore's operations. Our thanks to Associate Vice President Renee Hacquard for her work on this file.

We have two administrative hiring processes underway, one for Director of Nipissing International and for the role of Assistant Vice President Students, both of which we hope to fill as soon as possible.

Academic Senate Report August 11th, 2023

Communities In Bloom

NUSU was one of the stops for the Communities In Bloom judges. We were able to tour them around our building, host a luncheon, show off our bee hives and welcome them to “The Secret Garden: A Community Tapestry” art exhibit.

Within this art exhibit are four features:

1. Astorville’s École élémentaire catholique Saint-Thomas d’Aquin students’ intricate paper flowers around the border
2. Empire Living Centre residents’ delicate pressed flower art
3. Poetic brilliance and captivating short stories from talented Nipissing University students: Riley Piche, Emma Nason, Jillian-Rae Picco, and Natasha Castilloux
4. Heartwarming glimpses of community projects, including The Gathering Place, North Bay & District Chamber of Commerce, Clean, Green, Beautiful North Bay, and TP North Bay, with NUSU playing a key role.

The exhibit harmoniously blends generations, uniting diverse backgrounds and preserving cultural traditions and values. Its interdisciplinary approach intertwines visual art with literary masterpieces, creating an immersive and enchanting experience for all visitors.

Thank you to everyone who participated, especially to Sav Searle and Emi Pines who curated the exhibit.

The exhibit is open at the NUSU Student Centre until August 9th. All are welcome!

Orientation Week: OWLS Week

Orientation Week (formerly known as Frosh Week) has been renamed to OWLS Week for four main reasons:

- It stands for Orientation Welcome Learning & Social. We want students to realize there is a balance between social events and educational components.
- Since removing the word “Frosh” from our t-shirts and adding the word “Owl” (example: High School MusicOWLS”), we are signally the university’s insignia.
- It will be clear to faculty, staff and students what we mean by OWLS week so they’re not confused with other orientations (such as New Student Orientation (NSO), International Orientation, Residence Orientation Weekend, and B.Ed Orientation).

- It is cyclical and connects everyone. By having students start off their university experience during OWLS Week, they will graduate with an owl on their degree.

The week will take place from Tuesday, August 29th to Saturday, September 2nd. Thank you to Sarah McGowan for bringing this forward to have united messaging for our students.

Colouring Book

NUSU launched a North Bay-themed colouring book featuring iconic scenes and landscapes, this book is perfect for all ages. The books are only \$10 (incl. tax) and all proceeds go to the NUSU Student Food Bank.

Copies can be purchased at the NUSU Student Centre (Monday-Friday, 8:30am to 4:30pm).

Thank you to Sarah McGowan, who came up with this idea, and to our graphic designer, Madison Turner, who did a great job. The printing is done within Print Plus so we would like to also thank them for working with us on this venture.

Welcome BBQ

NUSU will be hosting a Welcome BBQ on September 20th at the Athletics Centre from 11am to 2pm. Details will be sent out ahead of time.

Thank You, Pat!

NUSU would like to extend a thank you to Pat in his time as Dean of Teaching. Under his leadership the Teaching Hub received accolades including:

- 2020 D2L Innovation Award in Teaching and Learning (Denyse Lafrance-Horning)
- 2021 Blackboard Catalyst Award for Student Success
- 2022 MCU Award of Excellence (Gemma Victor)
- 2022 OE Global Award for Best OER - *Liberated Learners* team
- 2022 3M National Student Fellowship (Shandon Ashitei)
- 2023 3M National Student Fellowship (Sarah Pecoskie-Schweir)
- 2023 3M National Teaching Fellowship (Laura Killam)
- 2023 Anthology Catalyst Award for Teaching and Learning.

Pat and his team were also able to secure either direct funds, or funding for partnered projects, of over \$1 million. They also partnered on the ESDC grant led by Outward Bound Canada to create an *Outdoor Training Academy* (total grant \$7.5 million; 2022-2025).

We wish Pat all the best in his future endeavours as a professor.

**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**On The Rocks**

The Nipissing University Student Union (NUSU), Nipissing University and Sodexo are pleased to announce the upcoming grand opening of the highly anticipated On The Rocks nightclub located within the NUSU Student Centre (221 College Drive).

The official opening will take place on Friday, September 15 at 10 p.m. In general, the nightclub will be open on Fridays to Nipissing University students only ("Lakers Night") at a cost of \$5 per person, and Saturdays ("Escape Saturdays") to the general public at a cost of \$10 per person. It will also be open to all on Homecoming Weekend, September 22-24, 2023 for \$10 per person.

Bus transportation will be provided to patrons on both nights and will have pick-up and drop-off sites at Nipissing and Canadore residences, as well as stops along McKeown Avenue and Gormanville Road. With the safety and well-being of patrons being the top priority, Campus Security will be working with GardaWorld to ensure a secure and enjoyable environment.

A calendar of bar nights and events will be released prior to September on social media.

Employment opportunities and other information can be viewed at https://linktr.ee/ontherocks_nb.

For information on booking the space for events, visit <https://booking.nipissingu.ca>.

To all recipients of this letter,

North Bay is facing yet another year of a student housing crisis. On Tuesday, August 8th, Residence confirmed that there were 190 students on the Residence waitlist. On Thursday, August 10th, International Student Support confirmed that of the 136 international students who have completed their Arrival Forms, 101 are yet to find accommodations. While we acknowledge that the residence waitlist might decrease over time, we are apprehensive about the prospect of potentially having close to 300 students without housing on their first day of orientation or classes. This number significantly surpasses last year's projected number of unhoused students, and the circumstances have remained largely unchanged since then. This is also not including Canadore students.

As a community, it's imperative that we break away from the status quo. We must take a series of proactive measures, combining new strategies with ongoing efforts, to effectively tackle the pressing student housing crisis. While we acknowledge the nationwide scope of this housing challenge, it has been exacerbated by the expansion of academic programs catering to international students. Notably, programs like the Post-Baccalaureate Diploma in Health & Social Impact, which received Senate approval in September 2022, have added to the complexity of the housing situation. It is worth highlighting that this approval came even after the university was already aware of the existing housing crisis.

In NUSU's September 2022 Senate Report we stated, "As a student union, we do not understand how the university has recently accepted 60 applicants for the Post-Bacc Environmental program in January. With the housing crisis looming over not just North Bay, but Ontario, we are concerned that there is a lack of foresight, support and care."

As a community, it is imperative that we no longer persist in our current trajectory. A comprehensive set of actions, both novel and continuous, must be undertaken to effectively confront the prevalent student housing crisis.

These actions encompass a range of strategies, including but not confined to:

- Community engagement and education
- Advocacy for government assistance
- Rent subsidies for eligible students
- Investments in affordable housing
- Commitment to new Nipissing residence buildings
- Flexible payment alternatives
- Textbook and material support
- Enhanced scholarships and grants
- Support for NUSU Student Food Bank
- Effective Good Neighbour Committee and partnerships

These challenges have persisted over the course of several years. It is crucial to note that one of the proposed "solutions" cannot involve advising international students to postpone their

education for a year or refrain from coming to Canada altogether. The rationale behind this lies in the significant financial investments these students and their families have made in terms of paperwork, visas, flight arrangements, and other related expenses. Moreover, these students encounter substantial pressure from their families to ensure their academic success and make the most of their time studying in Canada.

We recognize that this student housing crisis is not unique to North Bay; however, this does not absolve Nipissing University of their moral implications in increasing international student enrolment while knowing that North Bay is entering another consecutive year of a housing crisis.

Sincerely,
The Executive Committee

Riley McEntee
Em Cooke
Harikesh Panchal
Preston English

- - -

Below is a list of articles highlighting all the same concerns NUSU has raised in the past:

- [Hundreds of post-secondary students in Calgary hunting for housing as campus residences full](#)
- [Broken promises from Ontario colleges take a toll on mental health, international students say](#)
- [International student living under a bridge in Toronto helped by strangers](#)
- [Indebted: The growing weight of Canada's education system is crushing international students](#)
- [As record numbers of foreign students come to Canada, experts urge to rethink of the program](#)
- [Ontario needs to better protect international students](#)
- [International students face exploitation in Canada and abroad](#)
- [Dozens of International Students are Dying in Canada. The Federal Government Isn't Doing Anything](#)
- [OUSA Habitats: Students in their Municipalities](#)
- [Would you share a single room with 3 other people? Why student housing is in a crisis](#)

**Senate Report
Provost and Vice-President, Academic
September 8, 2023**

Academic Plan – Email Message 1 of 3 – Sent August 28, 2023

Following the broad consultation that informed Nipissing University's Strategic Plan: *Pathways: Our Commitments to Water, Land, and People*, we enter the next phase of planning. The purpose of the new Academic Plan is to respond to the direction set out in the Strategic Plan and define and guide the university's academic priorities and decision-making.

In my role as Provost, I have been charged to lead the development of the University's next Academic Plan. The Academic Plan will serve as the roadmap for continuous improvement in the university. Aligned with Nipissing University's Strategic Plan, as well as federal, provincial and municipal priorities, including the [94 Calls to Action](#) of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, the [Dimensions Charter](#) on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, the [UN's Sustainable Development Goals](#), SSHRC's [Future Challenge Areas](#), the [Scarborough Charter](#), and the Nipissing University Act, the Academic Plan is a critical strategic document.

Designed to support the university's statement of value and principles, the Academic Plan provides a concrete set of directions and metrics by which the community can evaluate our progress as we advance common goals and priorities. Key to this Academic Plan will be defining the unique academic value proposition for the university. Nipissing must define its impact in community (local, regional, national and global) and celebrate it at each opportunity. Moreover, Nipissing must be prepared to adapt, as we listen to community. We are entering a period of urgent sectoral reform and reinvention; we must embrace humility as an integral part of co-creative, reciprocal relations if we are to advance with our partners and communities.

The plan's constitutive elements will be defined by the university's priorities, values, principles, and objectives, not by administrative function or structure. This choice distributes ownership, agency and responsibility for Nipissing success across the university community, internal and external. This recognizes that Nipissing's brightest future is not dependent on any individual or office, but on our collaborative efforts to ensure that the shared vision is delivered.

I will call together a Working Group from all stakeholder groups to assist me in convening the voices of the University. Over the course of the year, we will meet with students, faculty and staff, with Senate, community stakeholders, alumni, and University governors to identify what needs to happen over the short-, medium- and long-term, to determine what we need to do and in what order so that we achieve our ambitions. I have defined 6 areas of focus (to be shared in message #3); some overlap, some must inform all priority areas, but they all must function in harmony, if we are to succeed with the larger objectives.

Having said this, there are four "must-haves" that exist as the bedrock upon which the plan rests. They are areas of engagement and action that are urgent to get right and upon which we must maintain vigilant focus:

- (1) Recruitment, Enrollment, Retention and Persistence;
- (2) Indigenous Knowledge and Reconciliation;
- (3) Equity, Diversity and Inclusion; and,
- (4) Structural and Procedural Clarity (*integritas*).

I will be sending a follow up email on the “must-haves” (to be shared in message #2). For purposes of this email today, I want to apprise you of the ongoing preparation work for the academic plan and invite you to participate.

The next decade must be Nipissing’s. It is clear to those contributing to discussions of both “the future of work” and “the future of the university” that resilience, adaptability, collaboration, humility, and compassion are necessary. Nipissing must be ready to take a leadership role in articulating the values and principles of the emerging reality (first among these values is sustainability—environmental, fiscal, creative, and social).

The goal of this Academic Plan is to set a course for sustainable leadership in post-secondary education. This plan will see Nipissing transform its practices of teaching and learning, research, and community engagement mindful of the demands of the future. The goal of this work is to be a demonstrably inclusive community with robust enrolment and measurable impact: everyone will understand what is possible and relevant as a function of being in community.



Nipissing University Alumni Advisory Board report to Academic Senate September 2023

Homecoming Weekend – September 22nd – 24th

Dust off your blue and green and join us for Homecoming 2023! Homecoming is a time for alumni to relive their campus experience and for students, staff, faculty and friends to celebrate their Nipissing pride. We've got an action-packed weekend full of free events in store, so you won't want to miss it. For a full schedule of events, please visit:

<https://events.nipissingu.ca/homecoming2023>

We hope to see you there!

Toronto Blue Jays – University & College Night

In collaboration with NUSU, Nipissing University will be sending 200 Alumni and Students to the Toronto Blue Jays University & College Night on September 14th. NUAAB is looking forward to reengaging with GTA based alumni during our visit, and we look forward to cheering on the Jays as they take on the Texas Rangers!

NUAAB Membership for 23/24

As we head into the new academic year, we wanted to provide the University community with a NUAAB Membership update. The members representing the interest of the Laker Alumni this year are: Laurel Muldoon (President) BA Hons '15, MEd '19; Melissa MacNabb (Vice-President) BA '99; Dawn Lamothe BA Hons '13; Robyn Jones MEd '20; Eric Yung BBA '07, BEd '09; Jason Bramburger BA Hons '11; Ryan Hehn BA '12; Joe Burt BEd '14; Guy Degagné MEd '15; and Riley McEntee from the Nipissing University Student Union

Start to the academic year!

On behalf of the entire NUAAB membership, we want to wish everyone a fantastic start to the 2023/2024 Academic Year! We look forward to celebrating everyone's accomplishments throughout the year, and continuing to engage with Nipissing Alumni on the fantastic work that is happening at the University.

Academic Senate Report

September 8th, 2023

OWLS Week (Orientation Welcome Learning & Social)

Although we are writing this report before OWLS Week has taken place, we are excited to see a return to pre-COVID numbers of students with almost 500 students being part of the week. The week includes community engagement, team building, reflective activities, and academic programming. We look forward to giving a report in October regarding the success of this week.

We will be looking to work with the university to streamline communication regarding orientation in the future, especially with international students as many were not aware of it until they arrived. We hope to lessen their stress in the future and continue working closely with Student Learning & Transitions and the Orientation Committee.

Shine Day

Shine Day is happening on Saturday, September 2nd with students going out into the community to raise money and awareness for cystic fibrosis. Everyone is welcome to come out and support this event. Information can be found at nusu.com/shine.

NUSU Building

- *Booking space at the Student Centre*
All bookings must go through this [form](#) for internal events. If you have any questions about bookings, please email bookings@nusu.com.
- *Building Hours*
The NUSU Student Centre will be open from 8:30am to 8:30pm, Monday through Friday. At this time the building will be closed on weekends, other than for the nightclub events or booked events.
- *NUSU Office Hours*
The NUSU Office will be open from 8:30am to 4:30pm, Monday through Friday.

- *Reflection Gallery*

Students will again showcase their work at the art gallery this year. There will be a reception for Sarah Ederer on September 8th from 6pm to 8pm. Thank you to Andrew Ackerman who will be supporting this throughout the year.

- *Bay Bistro restaurant*

Starting September 5th, the Bay Bistro will be open from 11:30am to 8:30pm, Monday to Friday. The restaurant is also currently on SkipTheDishes.

- *On The Rocks nightclub*

It was announced that the nightclub will open the weekend of September 15th (19+ Nipissing University students only) and September 16th (open to all 19+).

Housing

An oral report shall be delivered to Academic Senate.

REES/Haven

For the 2023/2024 Academic Year, NUSU is introducing Haven to Nipissing students. This started during Orientation Week for first-year students, and will be advertised to all students during the first week of the fall semester. Haven is a comprehensive safety platform app that you can download on your mobile device. It is a singular and user-centric tool that integrates safety, education, and community. Some of their safety features include: Emergency SOS, location sharing (both on and off campus), geo-tagging, and customized push notifications. It also houses an Education Centre filled with on-campus, local, provincial, and Canada-wide supports.

Nipissing University and NUSU have also partnered together and introduced REES to Nipissing students for a three-year term. REES will be launched the first week of fall semester. As taken from their website, *“REES is a simple, secure online platform for reporting sexual violence, tailored to the unique setting of post-secondary institutions. Trauma-informed and centred on the needs of survivors, REES gather critical data for institutions while bridging anonymous incident reporting with access to information about reporting options, resources, and supports.”*

Please note, both Haven and REES will be accessible for only Nipissing University students.

**CFS**

From Thursday, August 17 to Sunday, August 20, VPAA Harikesh Panchal and I attended the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) Ontario General Meeting (OGM) in Toronto, ON. Our days were filled with workshops, caucus and constituency meetings, plenary sessions, and socials. We connected with several other student unions and associations, primarily on advocacy, campaigns, and initiatives on our respective campuses.

CFS and their provincial subgroups are organizing their national Day of Action for Wednesday, November 8, 2023! The last one was held on November 2, 2016, with the one before that being November 5 - 6, 2008. There will be more information coming soon!

Academic Amnesty

With OPSEU bargaining still ongoing, and a resolution having not been reached as of when this report is being submitted, NUSU encourages Academic Senate to consider accepting a motion (should it arise) giving academic amnesty to students who may wish to freely participate in strike-related activities. Academic amnesty could include re-scheduling examinations and deadlines for submission of assignments and providing reasonable access to materials covered during lectures for students who are absent from classes. We want to ensure that our students are not penalized academically or otherwise.

NIPISSING UNIVERSITY
REPORT OF THE SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

August 31, 2023

A meeting of the Senate Executive Committee took place in person and by Zoom conference on August 31, 2023.

The following members participated:

K. Wamsley (Chair), B. Law, D. Walters, D. Iafrate, T. Sibbald (Speaker), A. Adler, D. Hay, S. Renshaw, S. Landriault (Recording Secretary, n-v)

Regrets: A. Graff, C. Mady, H. Panchal

The purpose of the meeting was to set the agenda for the September 8, 2023 Senate meeting.

The Deputy Speaker asked if a meeting of the Joint Committee of the Board and Senate on Governance had been scheduled. The President advised that the membership of the Joint Committee had recently been populated and a meeting will be scheduled.

Following a discussion regarding Senate reports, it was noted that as the Senate agenda is a public document, position titles should be used instead of naming individuals. The importance of diplomacy and collegiality in the sharing of information was also noted.

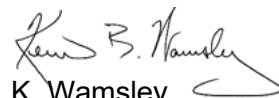
The Report of the Senate Research Committee dated August 23, 2023 was provided to the Senate Executive for inclusion in the Senate agenda.

An election for a faculty Senator to serve a three-year term on the Senate Budget Advisory Committee will be included in the Senate agenda. As this position has been vacant since July 1, 2023, the Senate Speaker requested that members encourage colleagues to put their names forward for nomination to this important committee. The Speaker advised that he is available to provide further information regarding this committee should it be required.

Moved by K. Wamsley, seconded by T. Sibbald that the Senate Executive Committee approves the September 8, 2023 Senate agenda.

CARRIED

Respectfully submitted,



K. Wamsley
Chair, Senate Executive Committee

Motion 1: That Senate receive the Report of the Senate Executive Committee dated August 31, 2023.

Nipissing University
Senate Research Committee Report
August 23rd, 2023

The SRC met on August 23rd for a Special Meeting.

Members in attendance: B. Law (Chair), J. Muterera (Vice-Chair), A. Baregheh, D. Zarifa, E. Cooke, C. Byers, K. Sarginson. Regrets: N. Black. Absent: AB. Graff. Recording Secretary: L. Snoddon

The committee discussed the Institutional Research Data Management (RDM) Strategy, as required by the Tri-Agency Research Data Management Policy. Moved by D. Zarifa, seconded by A. Baregheh, that the Senate Research Committee acknowledge the Institutional Research Data Management Strategy.

Discussion focused on the need to consult broadly and engage in careful consideration of concerns raised throughout the implementation process. Specific concerns discussed include: data repository requirements, autonomy of researchers, negotiation of data management plans, data access, and the development of resulting policies. Senate Research Committee will be engaged in various capacities throughout the RDM Strategy implementation process.

Respectfully submitted,



B. Law
Chair, Senate Research Committee

MOTION 1: That Senate receive the report of the Senate Research Committee, dated August 23, 2023.

BACKGROUND

Mandate

Recognizing the importance of strong research data management (RDM) practices for high-quality research, in 2017 the Tri-Agency issued the [Tri-Agency Research Data Management Policy](#), which required all institutions eligible to administer Tri-Agency funds to prepare and publish an Institutional RDM Strategy by March 2023 (Nipissing University received an extension to September 1, 2023).

Principles

This Strategy recognizes and affirms the principles that guide the Tri-Agency's RDM Policy:

- Foundationally, data are an important research output.
- Strong research data management:
 - is a key element of research excellence;
 - makes data more archivable, discoverable, accessible, reusable, and secure;
 - recognizes that a distinctions-based approach is needed to ensure that the unique rights, interests and circumstances of the First Nations, Métis, and Inuit are acknowledged, affirmed, and implemented and that data created with and by Indigenous communities, collectives, and organizations is managed based on their principles, with their approval, and in partnership with them;
 - requires that institutions support the management of their researchers' data;
 - requires that institutions promote best practices in research data management with their researchers, staff, and students through education and facilitation of the creation and implementation of data management plans;
 - requires that institutions develop policies that are consistent with ethical, legal, and commercial obligations, including Tri-Agency and community requirements and policies;
 - equips researchers for collaboration in international projects; and
 - fosters more data sets cited and more researchers from Canadian universities recognized.

Commitments

In developing this Strategy and the corresponding policies, resources, and processes that will follow, Nipissing University commits to basing its policy and best practices on established standards of research data management, as articulated in the Tri-Agency's RDM Policy, global, national, and regional ethical standards, as well as community engagement and data management principles for data involving Indigenous peoples, communities, and lands. Recognizing that these standards will evolve, Nipissing will review and revise its Strategy as RDM services, infrastructure, and practices evolve.

Scope of Strategy

The Institutional RDM Strategy is relevant to all NU faculty, staff, students, collaborators, and other partners engaged in research linked to Nipissing University. Strong scholarly inquiry involves shared responsibility and care for research data throughout the lifecycle of a research project. Within this context, NU has a responsibility to provide a research environment that supports researchers in this endeavour. This includes providing educational opportunities, resources, and supports that empower researchers to engage in best practices for RDM. Researchers and their trainees have a responsibility to abide by relevant research policies (e.g., [Responsible Conduct of Research](#), [Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans – TCPS 2](#), [institutional research-related policies](#)), to conduct research using best practices and current guidelines, both within their field and for their chosen modes of inquiry, and to continue their learning as practices and guidelines evolve over time. Engagement in appropriate RDM practices is required for research

funded by the Tri-Agency; however, principles and best practices should also be applied to all forms of research, regardless of funder or funding status. Principles and practices supported through this Strategy may be applied for managing data that falls outside the scope of the Strategy.

Oversight & Review

- Accountability for the Strategy and its implementation resides in the Provost & Vice-President, Academic’s (VPA) office. The administration of the Strategy and development of the deliverables that result from the implementation process are a responsibility shared with the Associate Vice-President Research, Innovation, and Graduate Studies’ (AVP RIGS) office, related committees (e.g., Senate Research Committee), and the NU Research Ethics Board. Other departments and committees may take a leadership role in some aspects of Strategy implementation, as appropriate. The Provost & VPA will assign the lead department on specific initiatives.
- The Strategy will be reviewed after year 1, then every three years. Implementation plans will be reviewed annually.

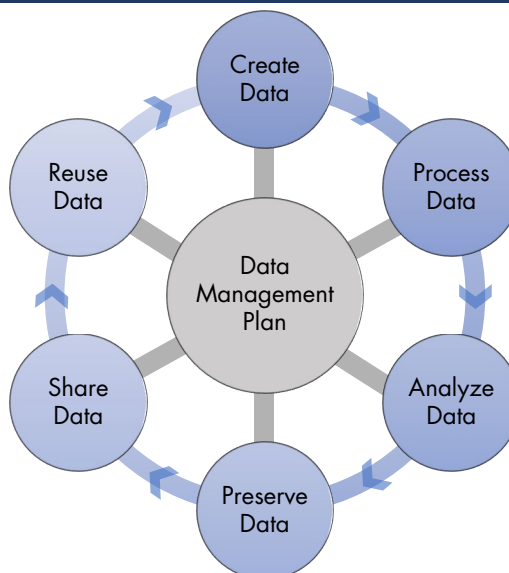
TRI-AGENCY DEFINITIONS

What is research data management?

Processes applied through the lifecycle of a research project to guide the collection, documentation, storage, sharing and preservation of research data.

Data management plan (DMP)

A living document typically associated with an individual research project or program that consists of the practices, processes, and strategies that pertain to a set of specified topics related to data management and curation. DMPs can and should be modified throughout the course of a research project to reflect changes in project design, methods, or other considerations.



Data	facts, measurements, recordings, records, or observations collected by researchers and others, with a minimum of contextual interpretation. Data may be in any format or medium taking the form of text, numbers, symbols, images, films, video, sound recordings, pictorial reproductions, drawings, designs or other graphical representations, procedural manuals, forms, diagrams, workflows, equipment descriptions, data files, data processing algorithms, software, programming languages, code, or statistical records.
Research data	data used as primary sources to support technical or scientific enquiry, research, scholarship, or creative practice, and that are used as evidence in the research process and/or are commonly accepted in the research community as necessary to validate research findings and results. Research data may be experimental data, observational data, operational data, third party data, public sector data, monitoring data, processed data, or repurposed data. What is considered relevant research data is often highly contextual and determining what counts as such should be guided by disciplinary norms.
Data deposit	when the research data collected as part of a research project are transferred to a research data repository to preserve the data, and where applicable, provide access to the data.

<p>Metadata</p>	<p>Data deposit ideally includes information about the context in which data was collected and used.</p>
<p>FAIR principles for scientific data management and stewardship</p>	<p>data that define and describe the characteristics of other data. Accurate and relevant metadata are essential for making research data findable. A principle to help determine what information should be included in metadata is the open archival information system model criterion that the information be “independently understandable.”</p> <p>Findable: Metadata and data should be easy to find for both humans and computers. Machine-readable metadata are essential for automatic discovery of data sets and services.</p> <p>Accessible: Once the user finds the required data, the user needs to know how data can be accessed, possibly including authentication and authorization.</p> <p>Interoperable: The data usually need to be integrated with other data. In addition, the data need to be interoperable and able to function with applications (including computer software and hardware) or workflows for analysis, storage and processing.</p> <p>Reusable: The ultimate goal of FAIR is to optimize the reuse of data. To achieve this, metadata and data should be well-described so that they can be replicated and/or combined in different settings.</p> <p>FAIR principles are complemented by the CARE principles for Indigenous Data Governance. FAIR principles do not supersede Indigenous data sovereignty or other cultural, ethical, legal, or commercial considerations.</p>

STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

An RDM Working Group was formed at Nipissing in 2018, composed of members from groups within the NU community, including the Learning Library, Faculty Researchers, Institutional Planning & Analysis, the Research Data Centre, University Technology Services (UTS), and the Nipissing University Research Ethics Board.

In 2019, this group distributed a survey to all faculty, postdoctoral fellows, and graduate students with the purpose of identifying the current state of RDM awareness and practices at Nipissing. The results of the survey helped to inform the institutional action steps identified in the following Objectives section. Broadly speaking, the results established a baseline for

- how NU researchers manage and share research data throughout and beyond the duration of their projects; and
- differences in research data management practices and needs across disciplines.

The Working Group used this snapshot of the ‘current state’ of RDM, as well as feedback from the consultation process, to identify gaps and establish a plan for moving RDM forward at Nipissing, throughout the entire data lifecycle.

The consultation process involved discussions with the Indigenous Community Engagement Plan committee and senior administration. The Strategy was shared with the Faculty Council Executive teams, heads of departments identified within the Strategy, and the broader NU campus community, which includes faculty, postdoctoral fellows, students, and staff, with an opportunity for individuals and departments to provide feedback via an online form.

The final Strategy was reviewed by the Senate Research Committee and executive team prior to publication and submission to the Tri-Agency.

CURRENT STATE

Descriptive information gathered through the 2019 RDM campus survey identified several areas of initial focus for RDM supports:

- Guidance on developing Data Management Plans (DMPs)
- Resources to support learning about use and availability of repositories
- Opportunities to explore concerns about data sharing and open access
- Continuing education opportunities related to best practices for RDM among faculty and graduate students

OBJECTIVES

Having assessed the current state of RDM at NU, this section identifies the mandated Tri-Agency standards and the steps required by NU to meet these standards. The overarching goal is to foster a culture of strong RDM awareness and practice at Nipissing. To achieve this objective, NU's Institutional RDM Strategy addresses 3 specific areas: data management plans, data deposit and access, and research with Indigenous peoples, communities, and lands. The Strategy also identifies the departments who may play a leadership role in completing specific steps. The list of collaborators is not meant to be exhaustive; rather, it will evolve as implementation plans are developed. Participation in working groups and input from faculty, staff, and other members of the NU community is important for achievement of the steps.

1 DATA MANAGEMENT PLANS

Tri-Agency Requirements: All grant proposals submitted to the agencies should include methodologies that reflect best practices in RDM. For certain funding opportunities, the agencies will require DMPs as part of the application; in these cases, the DMPs will be considered in the adjudication process.

DMPs should cover:

- how data will be collected, documented, formatted, protected and preserved;
- how existing datasets will be used and what new data will be created over the course of the research project;
- whether and how data will be shared;
- where data will be deposited;
- who is responsible for managing the data, including a succession plan; data-related roles of other team members;
- ethical, legal and commercial constraints the data are subject to and methodological considerations that support or preclude data sharing; and
- for Indigenous research, recognition of Indigenous data sovereignty and options for DMP renegotiation.

	Institutional steps to support this requirement	Collaborators
1.1	Identify resources and existing gaps to support RDM	Research Services Learning Library NU Research Ethics Board (NUREB)

1.2	Increase RDM resources available to researchers on the library website (e.g., LibGuides)	Learning Library
1.3	Develop NU guidelines for RDM, including guidance for researchers on DMPs and using the DMP Assistant	Research Services Learning Library
1.4	Review current processes for vetting DMPs through NUREB's ethical review and augment these as needed; map administrative processes for ensuring compliance with the RDM policy	NUREB & Indigenous Community Engagement Plan (ICEP) Committee Research Services Learning Library University Technology Services (UTS)
1.5	Develop training strategies for researchers and staff (online modules, handbooks, etc.) to communicate the RDM policy and best practices to researchers through various media (e.g., email, Research newsletter, website content)	Research Services Learning Library NUREB Teaching Hub

2 DATA DEPOSIT & ACCESS

Tri-Agency Requirements:

Tri-Agency grant recipients are required to deposit into a digital repository all digital research data, metadata and code that directly support the research conclusions in journal publications and pre-prints that arise from agency-supported research.

Other guidelines:

- Deposit must be made by time of publication.
- The repository must ensure safe storage, preservation and curation of the data.
- Researchers are not required to share their data, but are expected to provide appropriate access to the data where ethical, cultural, legal and commercial requirements allow.
- Data, metadata, and code should be linked to the publication with a persistent digital identifier, whenever possible.
- Disciplinary norms should guide what information is considered relevant research data and which data should be preserved.
- For Indigenous research, recognition of Indigenous data sovereignty could result in exceptions to data deposit requirements.

Institutional steps to support this requirement

Collaborators

2.1	Document data repositories currently available to researchers (e.g., institutional repository, Borealis, FRDR)	Learning Library
2.2	Identify any additional data repositories needed to support data deposit adequately and securely for research at NU and acquire access	Learning Library UTS Research Services

2.3	Establish administrative processes for supporting research data deposit, including ensuring the security of the data	Learning Library Research Services UTS NUREB
2.4	Develop a workflow for determining appropriate access to data based on ethical, cultural, legal, and commercial requirements	Research Services NUREB Learning Library
2.5	Develop training resources for researchers, including a LibGuide on RDM	Learning Library Research Services

3 RESEARCH WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLES & COMMUNITIES

Tri-Agency Requirements:

For research conducted by and with First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities, collectives and organizations, DMPs must be co-developed with these communities, collectives and organizations, in accordance with RDM principles or DMP formats that they accept.

- Other Guidelines:**
- DMPs should recognize Indigenous data sovereignty and include options for renegotiation of the DMP
 - The communities, collectives or organizations will guide and ultimately determine how the data are collected, used and preserved, and have the right to repatriate the data
 - This process could result in exceptions to the data deposit requirement
 - DMP formats should be flexible to reflect the differences across Indigenous communities
 - Discussion of DMPs should be included within researchers' Indigenous Community Engagement Plans (ICEP)

Institutional steps to support this requirement

Collaborators

3.1	Engage with regional Indigenous communities and organizations, as well as guidelines established by Indigenous groups globally (e.g., CARE), nationally (e.g., OCAP) and regionally (e.g., USAI, GEAR), to identify existing resources as well as gaps Identify the institutional contact to liaise between NU and Indigenous communities, organizations, and collectives with respect to research processes and practices	Research Services NUREB Office of Indigenous Initiatives (OII) Learning Library
3.2	Co-develop processes and resources to guide RDM with Indigenous communities to ensure that guidelines for DMPs are consistent with existing RDM guidelines	Research Services NUREB OII Learning Library

3.3	Support educational opportunities for researchers to learn about protocols for engaging with Indigenous communities in a good way	Research Services NUREB Learning Library Teaching Hub
3.4	Review current forms and assessment processes for DMPs and Indigenous Community Engagement Plans (ICEPs), to ensure that strong RDM plans are integrated into both Develop forms that are accessible to Indigenous communities to support RDM discussions throughout the research process	NUREB OII (ICEP Committee) Research Services
3.5	Review current processes for ensuring compliance with DMPs and update or develop them as needed	Research Services NUREB OII (ICEP Committee)
3.6	Identify processes for data deposit to provide pathways for recognition of research and IP agreements, as well as renegotiation of agreements	Learning Library Research Services
3.7	Incorporate guidance on approaching RDM with Indigenous data into RDM and DMP training and documentation	Research Services Learning Library OII (ICEP Committee) Teaching Hub

IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE

Implementation of the Strategy will be an iterative process, occurring over multiple years.

- The Provost & VPA and the AVP RIGS will identify specific policies and resources required for Strategy implementation and will work collaboratively with the executive team and key collaborators to create timelines for implementation of the institutional steps. The goal is for a detailed timeline to be established in 2023-2024.
- As part of a collaborative implementation process, an RDM implementation working group will be formed under the purview of the Senate Research Committee. This working group will be tasked with development of the processes related to implementation of the Institutional RDM Strategy. For transparency and to support ongoing professional development and consultation processes, implementation of the Strategy will include a forum for sharing the work towards implementation and a process for establishing annual RDM priorities and engaging in discussions and continuing education related to RDM practices (e.g., annual summit).
- The RDM sub-committee should aim to include members from, and engage in consultation with, diverse groups within the larger NU community. This includes individuals from departments listed as collaborators in the Strategy objectives, as well as faculty, students, and community and research partners.

STANDARDS & RESOURCES

Policies & Best Practices

[Tri-Agency Research Data Management Policy](#)

[Tri-Agency Research Data Management Policy - Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[Tri-Agency Statement of Principles on Digital Data Management](#)

[Tri-Agency Framework: Responsible Conduct of Research](#)

[Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans](#)

[CIHR's Health Research and Health-Related Data Framework](#)

[Tri-Agency Open Access Policy on Publications](#)

Indigenous Data Governance

[First Nations Principles of Ownership, Control, Access, and Possession \(OCAP\)](#)

[CARE Principles for Indigenous Data Governance](#)

[Utility, Self-Voicing, Access, and Inter-Relationality \(USAI\): Research Framework](#)

[Guidelines for Ethical Aboriginal Research \(GEAR\)](#)

[Nipissing First Nation Research Policy](#)

Resources & Repositories

[Digital Research Alliance of Canada – RDM Resources](#)

[Borealis \(The Canadian Dataverse Repository\)](#)

[Federated Research Data Repository](#)

Tools for Researchers

[DMP Assistant](#)

[Digital Research Alliance's Training Resources & DMP Templates](#)

[Carleton's RDM Webinar Series](#)
