

Nipissing University
Minutes of the Academic Senate Meeting
October 13, 2023
2:30 p.m.
Room F210 & Zoom Videoconference

Members Present:

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

L. Chen, R. Davis, G. McCann, J. Murton, G. Phillips, S. Renshaw, S. Srigley, N. Stevens, D. Tabachnick, L. Thielen-Wilson, R. Vernescu, R. Wenghofer, S. Winters, H. Zhu

A. Adler, J. Barker, K. Ferguson, D. Hay (Deputy Speaker), T. McParland, P. Millar, J. Muterera, A. Schinkel-Ivy, M. Sullivan, J. Thornborrow, R. Vanderlee, V. Williams

O. Pokorny, L. Sinclair

S. Fiddler

R. Hehn

E. Cooke, H. Panchal, B. Brown

Absent With Regrets:

B. Law, G. Raymer, H. Earl, R. Gendron, A. Hatef, S. O'Hagan, T. Smith, A. Weeks, C. Irwin, S. Cairns, C. Greco, T. Horton, T. Sibbald, F. Couchie, R. McEntee, P. English, S. Greco

The Senate Deputy Speaker offered a Traditional Territory acknowledgement.

Approval of the Agenda of the Senate Meeting of: October 13, 2023

Motion 1: Moved by R. Wenghofer, seconded by S. Winter that the agenda of the Senate meeting of October 13, 2023 be approved with an amendment that the Provost's report is included in the agenda.

CARRIED

Adoption of the Minutes of the Senate Meeting of: September 8, 2023

Motion 2: Moved by N. Black, seconded by G. Phillips that the minutes of the Senate meeting of September 8, 2023 be adopted with an amendment that G. McCann was present at the meeting.

CARRIED

Business Arising From the Minutes

The PVPA's response to the question from the COU Academic Colleague regarding the collection of data and its use to build accountability:

The SDS office provides an annual report to MCU which substantiates our claim for the AFSD grant (G143). Other grants for mental health and supports for students are similarly reported on to the funder. OII completes an annual report for the ISSF grant (G141).

At the provincial table, there have been no sector wide data tables that are provided with respect to SDS services. With respect to OSAP data, this information is available in MCU's OPENSIMS platform.

As a university who receives funding we have an obligation to complete the AFSD and ISSF reports in order to maintain funding for the individuals these funds are established to support. We are not "collecting" data, we are tracking usage.

With respect to the OSAP default rates or any other OSAP participatory metrics, these values are computed by MCU and shared across the sector in OPEN SIMS.

There was a time that all these items (First Gen/Indigenous/Disabilities/OSAP default) were tied to an "accountability framework" with SMA 1 however none of these data points are part of the performance-based funding components in our current SMA metrics.

Reports From Other Bodies

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

The Provost and Vice-President Academic provided a report. The report is attached to the minutes. She also highlighted a conversation held earlier in the week with the Council on Quality Assurance advising that Nipissing University is scheduled for its full audit in 2024. A focused audit was held in 2019 with respect to QA processes and we are now back on the regular and full audit schedule every 8 years. The last full audit was held in 2014.

She also advised that we are now in a position to pilot test and soft launch the Student Course Experience Surveys that were the product of the Joint Committee on the Assessment of Teaching and Learning's recommendation and consultation. The NUFA President has been consulted and a test of the new survey software, Blue, is being proposed. The Experience Surveys will not be used for official use, but faculty members can choose to use the results for tenure & promotion applications. A formal announcement providing all the details will be sent out next week.

The Board of Governors provided a report. The report is attached to the minutes.

The President provided an oral report from the Joint Committee of the Board and Senate on Governance advising that the Joint Committee, Chaired by NUSU Senator McEntee, met on September 27, 2023. As requested by Senate, the Joint Committee met and addressed the departmental mergers in the Faculty of Arts and Science. The Joint Committee was focused on finding an amicable solution. A motion regarding the proposed program mergers is included under the Report of the Senate Executive Committee.

NUSU provided a written report. The report is attached to the minutes.

Question Period

In response to concerns that suspension of enrolment in academic programs is at the sole prerogative and discretion of the Provost's office, and questions as to whether faculty and student Senate representatives will play a material role in crafting the guidelines, processes and language of the policies relating to the suspension of enrolment as well as the metrics and assessment of determining program viability, the Provost informed that the Quality Assurance Council of Ontario also has the power to suspend enrolment in programs. She advised that it is essential that Senate in its governance role understands the metrics and the trends and how they operate within the institution. Faculty, students, and Senate as a body will have a role with respect to recommendations. Processes and responsibilities will be assigned to Senate committees that will ultimately be responsible to shape recommendations.

Following a request for clarification of suspension of enrolment and program redundancy, the Provost advised that they are not synonymous. Suspension of enrolment can be used as a method to retool and resource a program, whereas program redundancy requires a motion and recommendation from Senate to the Board of Governors where the Board would have to convene, share, and support the motion. Her hope is that we don't get to this. Efforts in the interim need to be concerted and coordinated to reinforce the programs that are in jeopardy and get to an evidence driven more enlightened understanding through an annual review as to where the investment needs to happen, what that investment is and how it is measured. We need to ensure that over time there is a return on the investment as other programs are also seeking investment. The goal with the process of program review is to ensure that everyone understands where investment has happened, the expectations of the investment and when over time we need to find other sources of investment or creativity so we can shore up our programs.

In response to a question regarding whether there is a plan for the suspended Scholar Practitioner Program, the Provost advised that conversations have been held on how the SPP might be retooled with the goal of ensuring registration in a strong Nursing program. The program may not have to exist solely in Toronto as the program in itself wasn't dependent on its location. The Interim Associate Dean in the School of Nursing and the Interim Dean of EPS have been asked to reflect on how to improve programs as they currently exist to find opportunities to reignite interest in order to ensure successful graduates.

Following a question as to why an annual report is needed when we have IQAP, the Provost informed that IQAP reviews are conducted every 7-8 years and it is a snapshot analysis from the perspective of the degree program with an analysis of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and potential threats. As there are eight years between reports, a monitoring report should come to Senate every 3-4 years from AQAPC to ensure that programs are on track with the recommendations and implementation plan that is articulated in the IQAP. The IQAP is for public consumption and is a high-level analysis for experts in programs in external reviews to assist and comment on design and improvements. The program review process is exclusively internal to the institution and it measures and tracks trends, the impact of program investment results, and measures viability. It is conducted annually and will be attached to the IQAP review documents as they are submitted and will demonstrate to the IQAP reviewers how we are analyzing our programs.

It was noted that an Academic Planning process with a convening group has been created by the Provost. A request was made for clarification as to how the convening group relates to Senate, the Nipissing Act, and the Academic Quality Assurance and Planning Committee. The Provost advised that the drafting of an Academic Plan requires broad consultation. Given

Senate's role is over-sight and governance, once the Plan is presented and adopted, Senate will administer over time a document that anticipates the demands of the institution and it will become the work of Senate to consider and manage the process.

Reports of Standing Committees and Faculty or University Councils

Senate Executive Committee

Motion 3: Moved by K. Wamsley, seconded by M. Sullivan that the Report of the Senate Executive Committee dated October 5, 2023 be received.
CARRIED

Several Senators expressed concerns noting they did not support the mergers, but as there were no alternatives, they would abstain from the vote. It was noted that the motions were forwarded by Senate to the Joint Committee of the Board and Senate on Governance and that the proper process had been followed.

Motion 4: Moved by D. Walters, seconded by N. Black that Senate recommends to the Board of Governors the creation of the following academic units:

- History, Ancient Studies, and Anthropology
- Sociology, Psychology, and Child and Family Studies
- Gender Equality and Social Justice, Indigenous Studies, and Religions and Cultures
- Philosophy, Political Science and Economics, and Social Welfare and Social Development
- Computer Science, Mathematics and Physics
- English and Fine Arts

And that the following academic units shall amalgamate with a preferred unit by no later than 1 January 2024:

- Biology and Chemistry
- Geography and Geology

FOR:	13
AGAINST:	13
ABSTENTIONS:	13

Following a tie vote, the Chair voted in favour.

CARRIED

Academic Quality Assurance and Planning Committee (AQAPC)

Motion 5: Moved by A. Graff, seconded by D. Walters that the Report of the Academic Quality Assurance and Planning Committee dated September 22, 2023 be received.
CARRIED

Motion 6: Moved by D. Walters, seconded by V. Williams that Senate approve the attached Biology and Chemistry IQAP Final Assessment Report and Implementation Plan.
CARRIED

Elections

- Elect four (4) tenured or tenure-track faculty members with at least one (1) from each faculty to sit on the Chancellor's Selection Committee.

ACCLAIMED: G. McCann, D. Tabachnick & R. Vanderlee

New Business

Motion 7: Moved by D. Iafrate, seconded by A. Graff that Senate consider receipt of the Graduation Applicants dated October 9, 2023.
CARRIED

Motion 8: Moved by D. Iafrate, seconded by R. Hehn that Senate receive the Report of Graduation Applicants dated October 9, 2023.
CARRIED

Motion 9: Moved by D. Iafrate, seconded by R. Wenghofer that Senate grant approval to graduate the students listed in the Report on Graduation Applicants dated October 9, 2023.
CARRIED

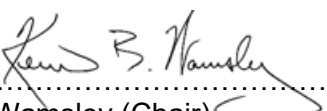
The Provost read out the October 9, 2023 graduands by faculty and degree and congratulated the students and faculty on their achievements.

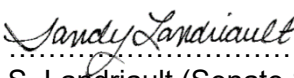
Announcements

Senator Black was pleased to share a good news story announcing that the statistics for the month of September indicated that 20,000 Nipissing University and Canadore College students walked through the Library doors.

Adjournment

Senate was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.


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K. Wamsley (Chair)


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S. Landriault (Senate Secretary)

President's Senate Report 13 October 2023

Good afternoon Senators, my apologies for not attending in person.

First, I would like to comment on the world events occurring presently. The university sent out a statement this week which was based in supporting our students, faculty, and staff. We have not seen tensions emerging on our campus to date; however, given the nature of these horrifying events and the heightened media activity, particularly social media, it is evident that these events are having an impact on our community. First and foremost, the university does not condone any attacks on civilians. There is no place for hate on our campus or in our community. Nipissing University must be a safe place to live and a safe place to learn. That is our commitment to our community members. Our role as scholars and as an academic community is to help students, faculty, and staff to understand what these issues mean for Israel and for Gaza. We must find ways to best support each other.

I have nothing to report on the Blue Ribbon Panel or government decisions on university funding. We will continue on with our academic terms and do our best to return a financial balance at the end of this fiscal year.

I would like to take a moment to thank all of the folks involved with recruiting at the university – whether it's the recruitment team itself, our marketing teams, our video and print material teams, our faculty members, our staff members, and our current students – all of you recruiting students for the next incoming class. In fact, it is the responsibility of all of us to recruit students to the next incoming class in some way and it is our responsibility to make sure that these students remain with us and graduate. We had a very good year in recruiting for the class of 2023. While we still remain significantly lower in our enrolment of students who live in North Bay compared to ten years ago, we have recruited very well in our year over year statistics. I wanted to raise this issue today, because our recruitment teams are on the road and many of us will join them next weekend at the Ontario Universities Fair and then at our Fall Open House on Saturday November 4th. We did see a number of students who attended the Fair, then attended the Open House and joined us in September.

The Provost has updates on planning in her report but we have started the first stages of creating an operational plan. Members of our management group have been charged with identifying activities in the Strategic Plan that we are already doing and some of you may be involved with this already. We are taking stock of the good work that we are already doing as we begin to determine what the gaps are and what we need to do to match our aspirations. More to come on these processes.

**Senate Report
Provost and Vice-President, Academic
October 13, 2023**

Thank you to all faculty, staff and students to a great start to the 2023-24 Academic Year. Congratulations to the victorious Women's Lakers hockey team who played that Chinese National team in an exhibition match at Memorial Gardens, to NUSU for on the successful launch of the On The Rocks social space, and to those faculty who have successfully submitted their SSHRC Insight Grants with the help of the Research Office team.

I would be remiss if I didn't share my support for students, staff and faculty who may be affected by the violence that has recently escalated. I am sure I speak for all of us when I express the wish that a peaceful resolution of conflict can be achieved.

Academic Planning

I am taking the opportunity of this report to ensure that all Senators are up to date on the academic and operational planning processes that we are undertaking in concert with the recently delivered Strategic Plan, **Pathways: Our Commitments to Water, Land, and People**.

First, I want to announce that that Vice-President, Finance and Administration and I have committed to harmonizing our planning processes, so that the hope is that we will be able to deliver one plan that addresses academic and operational ambitions. This means that we are convening an Academic and Operational Planning Convening Group of 40+ people who will be responsible for listening to and attending the conversations that are curated in support of the developing plan. Both Faculties have been asked to select 6 members to participate on the convening group. Staff, Students, Faculty, Alumni and Community Members will be invited to participate in the conversations in order that we can collectively learn from each other about our experiences, and define KPIs (Key Performance Indicators) that will allow us to measure our success against the plan.

I encourage everyone to attend to the schedule of conversations and attend (or submit feedback on the posted questions) as the process unfolds.

Senate's Academic Quality Assurance and Planning Committee will be regularly updated on the progress of the Academic and Operational Plan with the expectation that the final draft will be presented to Senate at its June meeting.

Strategic Research Plan

The University's Strategic Research Plan is up for renewal as of July 1, 2024. The AVP, Research, Innovation and Graduate Studies will be working with students, staff and faculty on a renewed plan. The process will start in January, as we hope to have convened a few conversations about research under the Academic and Operational Planning process to increase the likelihood of alignment between all plans, processes, and consultation. Senate's Research Committee will be kept up to date on the Strategic Research Plan, with the intention of presenting the finalized draft to Senate at its June meeting.

Decision Making Processes

In my role as Provost, I have spent the last 3 months listening closely to the concerns of staff, faculty and students. At Senate, I have heard members express concerns about the transparency of decision making processes, especially in light of the possibility of the most serious declarations an Institution can make concerning program redundancy.

In order to address legitimate concerns about transparency and decision making, I am introducing a Program Review Process which is designed to be holistic, the results of which will be annually presented at Senate's Academic Quality Assurance and Planning Committee. The intention of the PRP is to help the University to identify satisfactory, satisfactory with conditions, and unsatisfactory programs with plans to ensure continuous improvement in every program and to measure the impact of investment.

While at Nipissing University, Suspension of Enrolment remains the purview of the Provost, and it is an instrument that may be necessary to support the retooling of a program, the goal of the Program Review Process is to find generative alternatives to even more dire realities.

Program Redundancy requires that Senate move that recommendation to the Board. My commitment is that, were we to come to a question of program redundancy, the rationale for such a recommendation would be objectively clear.

In summary, I am very much looking forward to working with everyone on the generative process of academic planning and to finding pathways forward to support and sustain dynamic academic programs and compelling research agenda.



Board of Governors Report to Senate - October 2023

Board of Governors Meeting September 15, 2023

The Board of Governors met on Friday, September 15, 2023, in the President's Boardroom (F303) and via Zoom remote conferencing.

The Board accepted the recommendation of the Audit & Finance Committee to approve the Consolidated Audited Financial Statements for the year ended April 30, 2023, as presented. The approved statements are posted on the website here:

[Finance | Nipissing University](#)

The President presented his Goals and Priorities for the 2023/24 academic year, which included a continued focus on the development of a long-term financial strategy, the development of the operational and academic plans, and the creation of a foundation for a Major Fundraising Campaign for the University. The Board of Governors moved to accept the Goals and Priorities as recommended by the Executive Committee.

As per the Appointment/Reappointment of Chancellor Policy, the Chancellor's selection process requires four (4) non-constituent members of the Board to be elected to the Selection Committee. Following a call for interest, Marianne Berube, Kathy Wilcox, Judy Smith and Judy Koziol were appointed to the Committee.



NUSU Food Bank

The NUSU Student Food Bank has seen a tremendous increase in student usage with the start of the Academic Year. Due to this, we've had to make changes to the Food Bank. To focus on the sustainability of the food bank, students are now only able to take up to 1 bag of food from the food bank per week. The Food Bank continues to be available for emergency use for students. Food insecurity is at an all-time high for our community and we must come together to be there for those who need the support. NUSU is grateful for any and all monetary or physical donations. We need all the help we can get right now so we can support our student body.

Academic Trips

NUSU is facilitating academic trips this fall to both Ottawa and Toronto. On November 11th, students have the opportunity to travel to Ottawa to attend the Remembrance Day ceremony and also visit the Canadian War Museum. On November 12th, students have the opportunity to travel to Toronto to visit the Toronto Holocaust Museum. These academic trips are a great opportunity for students to step out of the classroom setting to experience learning in a different way! Stay tuned for more information.

Academic Week

Academic Week took place from September 25th-28th. We had a full slate of academic programming for all students. We appreciate the great work of the Nipissing University departments and services coming together to put on great events for the students. The entire week comprised of the following programming:

- Information Booths on NU services
- We Got Game! (E-sports event)
- The Amazing Academic Race (Students got to do a scavenger hunt of different NU services and learn where they are located)
- Are you smarter than a NUSU Exec?
- Plant n' Picasso (Paint your own plant pot, plant your own seed, and take it home to add to your home!)
- Paint & Sip Night (Thank you to Marriane for putting on a great event for our students)
- Anxie-Teas and Act Like A Kid (Drop by the student centre, enjoy a relaxing tea while you study, and take a break with some fun passive activities)
- Academic Societies Information Booths
- Wheel of Random Trivia



Feel free to reach out to NUSU if you have event ideas for Winter Semester Academic Week. We look forward to seeing all the students again for the Winter Semester Academic Week!

B.Ed Student Practicums

Nipissing University Bachelor of Education Students will be going on their practicums starting next week. Students are placed around the province at different levels of schools to fulfill their degree requirements and to gain hands-on experience with teaching others. We wish the students all the best and hope they have a great experience. Good Luck Lakers!

Trivia

OnTheRocks hosts Trivia nights every Thursday night at 6:30 pm and it is open to the community! Feel free to extend the invitation to all your friends, family, and peers. Come attend and showcase your competitive spirits! It's a great opportunity for staff, admin, and faculty to connect with the students!

Volunteer Week

NUSU's Volunteer Week starts on October 16th! We have a full slate of volunteer opportunities set up for students. We look forward to connecting students with campus volunteering and community volunteer opportunities. Stay tuned for more information on Instagram @nusutalks.