

Nipissing University
Minutes of the Academic Senate Meeting
October 11, 2024
2:30 p.m.
Room F210 & Zoom Videoconference

Members Present:

K. Wamsley (Chair), A. Graff, R. Hacquard, B. Law, N. Colborne, G. Raymer, D. Iafrate, N. Black

J. Abbott, R. Gendron, A. Hatef, S. Kariuki, S. Renshaw, K. Srigley, N. Stevens, T. Stewart, H. Texiera, L. Thielen-Wilson, A. Weeks, R. Wenghofer, S. Winters, H. Zhu

A. Adler, J. Allison, C. Anyinam, S. Cairns, K. Ferguson, C. Greco, D. Hay, T. Horton, T. McParland, P. Millar, C. Ricci, A. Schinkel-Ivy, T. Sibbald (Speaker), M. Sullivan, J. Thornborrow, R. Vanderlee, V. Williams

C. Irwin, O. Pokorny

R. Veli

R. Hehn

H. Panchal, T. Miller, B. Brown, D. Cassanto

Absent With Regrets:

L. Chen, G. McCann, G. Phillips, T. Smith, D. Tabachnick, L. Sinclair, F. Couchie, M. DeVuono, P. English, E. Bonneau

The Senate Speaker offered a Traditional Territory acknowledgement.

Approval of the Agenda of the Senate Meeting of: October 11, 2024

Motion 1: Moved by N. Black, seconded by H. Panchal that the agenda of the Senate meeting of October 11, 2024 be approved with an amendment that Senator Wamsley will provide an oral report from the Joint Committee of the Board and Senate on Governance.

CARRIED

Adoption of the Minutes of the Senate Meeting of: September 13, 2024

Motion 2: Moved by K. Srigley, seconded by R. Wenghofer that the minutes of the Senate meeting of September 13, 2024 be adopted.

CARRIED

Reports From Other Bodies

The President's report, appended to the minutes, highlighted a recent meeting with the new Minister of Colleges and Universities, Nolan Quinn, and upcoming discussions with Deputy Minister Wai about Canadore College's three-year degree programs, including Bachelor of Commerce and Computer Science. He will also meet with the Minister's office to discuss the SMA4.

The President also thanked the students, staff, faculty, and administrators who represented the University so well at the Ontario Universities Fair.

The Provost and Vice-President Academic provided an oral report. She was pleased to share that our colleague, Anna Przednowek, Assistant Professor in the School of Social Work, was awarded the Nipissing Violence Against Woman Coordinating Committee Dedication Award.

The Provost also expressed her appreciation to the students, staff, faculty, and administrators that attended the Ontario Universities Fair, highlighting it as a great opportunity to showcase our programs and connect with students and their families.

Following President's mention of the SMA4, the Provost reported that negotiations are underway. A key priority is to highlight the University's STEM contributions. Faculty may have already been contacted by their Deans regarding this, and she looks forward to further discussions on positioning the University's STEM programs for successful negotiations, emphasizing the need to maximize our competitive advantage in these areas.

The Provost thanked Senators who participated in the Joint Board and Senate Retreat. Cheryl Foy, President, Strategic Governance Consulting Services, provided a presentation, "A Sustainable Future for Nipissing – How Good Governance Will Make a Difference" that spoke to the interesting and theoretically compelling challenges of academic governance and Senate's role in maintaining accountability in its system of bicameral shared governance. She looks forward to working with Ms. Foy on the academic governance review to ensure our Senate is one of the most efficient and effective Senate's in the province.

The Alumni Advisory Board 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, updating Senate on events since the last meeting regarding the motion passed compelling Senate to withdraw from the process if no new policy was established. A meeting was held with the Provost and Senator Tabachnick, where they agreed on the need for a Board policy to provide clarity on program pause and retooling, as well as the importance defining the role of Senate for long term stability in the decision-making process.

The Speaker advised that the motion regarding the Joint Committee reference passed at the September 13, 2024 Senate would be discussed further under Other Business.

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

Question Period

In follow up to questions as to whether a process had been put in place to reopen the Equity Centre and if faculty will be involved, the Provost advised that Lindsay Sullivan, Student Experience Coordinator, Access and Inclusion Support, is working on a formalized process to

rebuild trust and is developing an agenda of activities to ensure that we are meeting the goals set with respect to access and inclusion of the Equity Centre.

Following a request for an update on the levey students paid to support the Equity Centre and for an itemized list of how student fees are used, the VP, Finance and Administration confirmed that ancillary fees are collected to fund ongoing activities, with details available on the website. She also noted that these fees are approved by the Compulsory Ancillary Fees Committee, which includes NUSU members and University representatives.

Concerns were raised about the IQAP for Indigenous Studies, specifically how Anishinaabek ontologies align with the new university-level student outcomes. There are many Anishinaabek nations with varying cultures and languages. A request was made for further discussion, and the following motion was proposed:

Motion 3: Moved by N. Stevens, seconded by S. Winters that the new curriculum mapping process, including the University level student outcomes, **for Anishinaabek ontologies only**, be suspended until Senate has an opportunity to discuss and amend, if necessary, and approve new learning outcomes.
CARRIED

The Provost expressed concern over Senate's previous approval of the APOP document, suggesting it would be highly disruptive to change decisions from one meeting to the next. She proposed suspending discussions on Anishinaabek ontologies until the ad hoc Indigenous Working Group can meet and recommended amending the motion to apply only to Anishinaabek ontologies.

Following a request for further information regarding the Governance Review, the Provost advised that Cheryl Foy was contracted to review our governance practices to ensure that we are meeting our obligation with a focus on shared governance, the Act, and the By-laws of Senate, so we can respond to the Ministry regarding our activities.

The VP Finance and Administration also added that the Ministry has allocated up to \$500K from an Efficiency and Accountability Fund for a number of Ontario universities to hire a third party to review various areas and provide recommendations that would assist with financial sustainability. We are in the process of finalizing our third-party review plan, and further information will be provided.

It was noted that Cheryl Foy's presentation mentioned the role of paid faculty association members as Senators and their ability to separate fiduciary responsibilities from institutional interests. A brief discussion ensued on the overlap between the bicameral system and faculty associations, as well as whether program members can detach themselves from their program when making academic decisions, including Senators and Board members.

In follow up to a question regarding the level of research done prior to Cheryl Foy's participation in the Governance Review, the Provost advised that Ms. Foy's book, *An Introduction to University Governance in Canada* is the premier resource and thought leader with respect to governance and procedural integrity. She has worked in governance for 20 years, has been counsel for both union and management, and holds an Honours Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Studies and a Bachelor of Laws (though she no longer practices law).

In response to a question regarding the implementation of the principles and what they will look like on our campus, the Provost advised that the governance review is a high-level review of

process and policy; we will have a better idea on the implications of that review on actions once the report is received. It is anticipated that the report will be disseminated to Senate and the Board.

Reports of Standing Committees and Faculty or University Councils

Senate Executive Committee

Motion 4: Moved by K. Wamsley, seconded by M. Sullivan that the Report of the Senate Executive Committee dated October 3, 2024 be received.
CARRIED

Academic Quality Assurance and Planning Committee (AQAPC)

Motion 5: Moved by A. Graff, seconded by N. Black that the Report of the Academic Quality Assurance and Planning Committee dated September 27, 2024 be received.
CARRIED

Motion 6: Moved by A. Graff, seconded by A. Weeks that Senate receive the attached Psychology IQAP Final Assessment Report and Implementation Plan (FAR/IP) for information.
CARRIED

Motion 7: Moved by A. Graff, seconded by N. Black that Senate receive the AQAPC Work Plan for information.
CARRIED

Other Business

In follow up to the President's oral report regarding the motion from the September 13, 2024 Senate meeting compelling Senate to withdraw its reference to the Joint Committee if a new policy was not provided, the question was raised as to whether a proposal for a new policy on the suspension of enrolments would be presented at today's Senate meeting. The President stated that the Board could not meet and prepare a policy in such a short timeline, but a proposal clarifying the jurisdictions of both the Board and Senate will be presented to the Joint Committee. He encouraged Senate to continue participating in the process.

On behalf of the Board of Governors, Marianne Berube, member of the Board, past Board Chair, and member of the Joint Committee, expressed disappointment that Senate is considering withdrawing their participation in this process. She advised that the Board has been very satisfied with the relationship of the Board and Senate and recognizes the importance of the bicameral model and working together in response to the requirements of the Treasury Board and the Auditor General to be more accountable.

In response to a question as to whether enrolment suspension will continue until the suspension policy is finalized, the Provost stated that the Senate's suspension protocol is already in place and the aim is to formalize a Board policy that aligns with the existing Board financial sustainability policy.

It was noted that the Nipissing University Act outlines that governance of the academic affairs of the University are the matter of the Academic Senate which includes program structure. The dispute is to where the authority for suspension of enrolment lies. The Joint Committee has

heard some Senators argue that a suspension of enrolment is an example of academic decision making. The contrary view is that suspension of enrolment is an example of administrative and business decision and is a Board responsibility not a Senate responsibility. If there is an insufficient number of students for a program, under the current procedures, enrolment can be suspended for two years, after which the decision can be reviewed, potentially involving academic changes to the program that must go through Senate. Senate's role in academic decision-making is not being diminished. The process includes all affected faculty members and the Dean responsible for the decision. While she understands Senate's concerns, her priority is to ensure we have the resources to deliver programs without students needing waivers or LOA's due to staffing issues. It is a matter of jurisdiction, responsibility, and accountability with Senate holding significant accountability in our bicameral system.

The President emphasized that Senate oversees the academic mission and that AQAPC is tasked with addressing academic quality on Senate's behalf. AQAPC ensures program quality and alerts us if a program is at risk. We must prioritize academic quality, efficiency, and sustainability. He urged Senators to keep engaging with the Joint Committee on this issue.

In response to a request for clarification of the timeline that the policy of enrolment and suspension will be created, the President advised that the Board would endeavour to create the policy and bring the proposal to the Joint Committee before the November or December Senate meetings.

Motion 8: Moved by A. Graff, seconded by R. Hehn that the standing Motion from the September 13, 2024 Senate meeting regarding the withdrawal of the referral to the Joint Committee of the Board and Senate on Governance be withdrawn in order that the Joint Committee can continue to meet to work to resolution.
CARRIED

A question was asked as to why new program proposals, which have already been approved by Senate, External Reviewers and the Ontario Ministry of Education, now have to receive final approval from the Nipissing University Board of Governors. The Provost replied that final approval by the Board of Governors has always been a requirement under *The Nipissing Act*, because any new program has fiscal implications.

Elections

- Elect one (1) faculty Senate representative to serve on the Board of Governors for a three-year (3) term effective July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2027. *No nominations were received. The election will be included in the November 8, 2024 Senate agenda.*

New Business

Motion 9: Moved by D. Iafrate, seconded by A. Graff that Senate consider receipt of the Graduation Applicants dated September 27, 2024.
CARRIED

Motion 10: Moved by D. Iafrate, seconded by A. Graff that Senate receive the Report of Graduation Applicants dated September 27, 2024.
CARRIED

Motion 11: Moved by D. Iafrate, seconded by H. Panchal that Senate grant approval to graduate the students listed in the Report on Graduation Applicants dated September 27, 2024.
CARRIED

The Deans read out the graduands by faculty and degree and congratulated the students and faculty on their achievements.

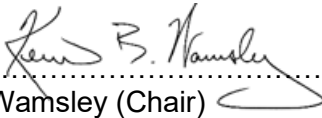
Announcements

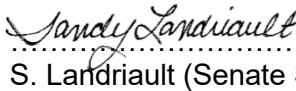
NUSU VP Advocacy and Awareness, Senator Miller, introduced and welcomed new NUSU student Senate representatives, Emma Bonneau (A&S), Daniel Cassanto (EPS), and Brendan Brown (Graduate Studies).

Senator Iafrate reminded of the Fall Open House on Saturday, November 2, and thanked all those that participated in the Ontario Universities Fair.

Adjournment

Senate was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.


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K. Wamsley (Chair)


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S. Landriault (Senate Secretary)

President's Senate Report

11 October 2024

Good afternoon fellow Senators. I have a brief report today with a couple of items. Yesterday I met in person with the new Minister of Colleges and Universities, Nolan Quinn. I had the pleasure of providing Minister Quinn with a brief history of Nipissing's challenges and successes. We talked about the unintended consequences of government funding models, our trajectory for some years, our recovery plans and successes, and of course the various audits that we have experienced. In the end, I believe the Minister Quinn understands our position and the necessity of continuing to improve our financial position and the role of government in supporting us. Next week, I will be meeting with Deputy Minister Wai to discuss Canadore College's three-year degree programs, the Bachelor of Commerce and Computer Science degrees. And we will also be meeting with the Minister's office to discuss SMA4.

I want to extend my gratitude to the large contingent of students, staff, faculty, and administrators who attended the Ontario Universities Fair in Toronto. Nipissing University was very well represented by this team of roughly 50 people, including our new Chancellor who spent more than three hours recruiting students to consider our university and to attend our Open House on November 2. As you can imagine, our Chancellor's presence created quite a stir and many photo opportunities. My thanks to our Recruitment team for organizing us and providing support.

I wish all of you a restful Thanksgiving weekend and to our students a restful Reading Week.



Nipissing University Alumni Advisory Board report to Academic Senate October 2024

Welcome, Chancellor Russell

Laurel Muldoon, President of the Nipissing University Alumni Advisory Board (NUAAB), was honoured to bring greetings on behalf of Nipissing University's alumni at the installation of Dr. Scott Russell as the University's 5th Chancellor. We wish him every success in his tenure and look forward to working with him to amplify and celebrate Nipissing University's impact nationwide.

2024 Alumni Award Winners

Please join us in congratulating the Alumni Award winners for 2024! The alumni award winners include Dr. Joyce Helmer (Dr. James Jamieson Influential Alumni Award), Mabel Plourde-Doran (Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award), Nakissa (Keesa) Koomalsingh (Rising Star Alumni Award), Colin Vezina (Philanthropy Alumni Award), and Dr. Paul Cook (Honorary Alumni Award).

We are deeply proud that these 5 incredible individuals are Nipissing Alumni, and we are inspired by their dedication to their professions, communities, and the University.

Homecoming Weekend

A big thank you to everyone who participated in Homecoming Weekend from September 20th – 22nd, 2024! We had 550 registered attendees, with many more choosing to attend free events of their choice. Additionally, we reached 60,515 people through digital advertisements and had 4,111 visitors to the Homecoming webpage leading up to the event.

This Homecoming weekend, we were able to engage in community activities to further enhance Nipissing University's presence. We were thrilled to participate in the Farmer's Market Fall Fair and a Downtown Gallery Hop! We also had banners installed along Main Street and new advertisements placed in Memorial Gardens in partnership with Nipissing University.

We look forward to welcoming alumni, students, staff, faculty, and community members to campus from September 19th – 21st, 2025!

Upcoming Alumni Survey

Plans are underway to release an Alumni Survey to all of our contactable alumni. This will help us gather feedback on our events, affinity programs, and engagement offerings. We look forward to using this information to guide our future initiatives and develop strategies to strengthen alumni affinity with the University.

NUSU Academic Senate Report: October 2024

Academic Week

The first Academic Week occurred between September 23rd - September 27th. We would like to give a big thank you to the departments that were a part of our info booths and Amazing Academic Race. We appreciate the great work of the Nipissing University departments and services for coming together to put on some great events for students. The week included the following:

- Academic Week goodie bags
- Are You Smarter Than a NUSU Exec
- We Got Game (thank you to Dave and the WeGotGame corporation for hosting)
- Info Booths
- Bridge to Balance (Thank you Peer Support and the Library for the collaboration)
- Paint & Sip Night (Thank you to Marriane for putting on a great event for our students)
- Nature walk with our Director of Services Warren
- Tune Trivia
- Amazing Academic Race
- Academic Week Trivia (online scavenger hunt)

The next Academic Week will be in the Winter term, so stay tuned for that. If you have any questions, please contact vpadvocacy@nusu.com

Director/Senator Elections

NUSU held their bi-annual Director-at-Large and Senator elections from September 24th to September 27th. Congratulations to our new Directors and Student Senators. To check out the results, head to <https://www.nusu.com/getinvolved/elections/>

Block Party

On September 28th, NUSU held their second Block Party in Lot 1 on campus. There were different games, blow up games, rides, vendors, food, drinks and much more. NUSU enjoyed planning it, and the students enjoyed it. We look forward to planning another one next year!

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. We had a wonderful exhibition provided by Kurt Clausen, and their opening reception was on September 20th, from 4:00pm-7:00pm. Our next reception will be for Olivia Fetterly, on October 25th, from 6:00pm-8:00pm. Thank you to Andrew Ackerman who will be supporting this throughout the year.

- **Bay Bistro restaurant**

The Bay Bistro has reopened! The hours of operation are from 11:00am to 8:30pm, Monday to Friday, and 11:00am-10:00pm on Friday for pub night.

- **On The Rocks nightclub**

The nightclub is open to everyone ages 19+. This is in collaboration with HouseParty, and is open every Saturday from 10:00pm-2:00am

Trivia

NUSU hosts Trivia nights every Thursday night at 6:30 pm, in the OnTheRocks space 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!

Blue Jays

On September 13th, 2024, NUSU went to Toronto for the annual University Night game, to watch the Blue Jays. This is an event for alumni and distance students at a discounted price. As well, NUSU was able to bring some undergrad students to the game. It was great to connect with distance and alumni students. Thank you to all the faculty that came out as well!