

Nipissing University
Minutes of the Academic Senate Meeting
September 13, 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

L. Chen, R. Gendron, A. Hatef, G. McCann, G. Phillips (Deputy Speaker), S. Renshaw, K. Srigley, T. Smith, N. Stevens, T. Stewart, D. Tabachnick, L. Thielen-Wilson, A. Weeks, R. Wenghofer, S. Winters, H. Zhu

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

O. Pokorny

F. Couchie

R. Hehn

H. Panchal, M. DeVuono, E. Bonneau

Absent With Regrets:

J. Abbott, H. Texiera, C. Irwin, L. Sinclair, P. Millar, R. Vanderlee, R. Veli, T. Miller, P. English

Amy Schneiderman from BoardEffect provided a brief on-line training session for Senators regarding the implementation of the BoardEffect governance platform. The portal will be implemented following this Senate meeting and will be live for the October 11, 2024, Senate meeting. Accessibility to Senate agendas and minutes on-line will not change, and while the format may look different, the content will remain the same. Senators will be able to access Senate documents by signing into the portal and will be able to access the agenda to make notes and flag items.

The Senate Speaker offered a Traditional Territory acknowledgement.

Approval of the Agenda of the Senate Meeting of: September 13, 2024

Motion 1: Moved by D. Hay, seconded by T. McParland that the agenda of the Senate meeting of September 13, 2024 be adopted with an amendment that the material included in the August 20, 2024 ACC Report regarding the role of Senate, ACC and the importance of syllabi and learning outcomes (pages 2-13) be removed. Rationale: no motion was included with this information and the information is included in the ACC Report. The mover and seconder agreed to the amendment.
CARRIED

Adoption of the Minutes of the Senate Meeting of: June 14, 2024

Motion 2: Moved by R. Wenghofer, seconded by G. Phillips that the minutes of the Senate meeting of June 14, 2024 be adopted.
CARRIED

Business Arising From the Minutes

In follow-up to previous inquiries regarding the Policy on Centres and Institutes, the AVPRIGS advised that the Research Committee will meet next week to discuss a draft of the revised policy.

In response to a request for an update on the status of meal reimbursement amounts outlined in the University's Travel Policy, the VPFA advised that the policy is going through the final stages of regular review, approval and revisions. The results will be communicated at the Community Forum.

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.

The Vice-President Finance and Administration thanked and congratulated all the departments involved in the successful start up of the new academic year. She advised that the financial results of the 2023-2024 fiscal year will be presented to the Audit and Finance Committee and the Senate Budget Advisory Committee.

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

The Alumni Advisory Board provided a report. The report is attached to the minutes.

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

Question Period

In follow up to an inquiry as to why a report had not been received from the Joint Committee of the Board and Senate on Governance, a member of the Joint Committee reported that two meetings had been held to discuss suspension of admission and enrolment, as forwarded to the Committee from Senate. The Joint Committee has met but, as yet, offers no recommendation to Senate. A request was made for Senate's advice on how to proceed.

It was noted that Senate has been awaiting a recommendation from the Joint Committee for a year and that two programs have gone through suspension of enrolment. The programs have two years to retool, with questions about what process, metrics or sense of what must be achieved to successfully come out of the suspension of enrolment.

In follow up regarding the process of retooling programs under suspension, it was advised that the office of the Dean of Arts and Science has been involved in assessing the retooling and relaunching of programs and that supports have been offered and will continue to be offered.

Motion 3: Moved by R. Gendron, seconded by D. Hay, unless Senate receives a proposal for a new policy on the suspension of enrollment from the Joint Committee of the Board and Senate on Governance in time for the next Senate meeting on October 11, 2024, Senate withdraws its authorization for the Joint Committee to consider this issue.
CARRIED

The President noted that two meetings of the Joint Committee were held with considerable debate about the role of Senate regarding the suspension of admission and enrolment. The Provost has outlined the process for the pausing enrollment. He thanked Senators for their patience and expressed his optimism that we can come to an understanding soon. He asked that the Provost meet with Senator Tabachnick on this issue to try and find a resolution that can be taken back to the Joint Committee.

In response to NUSU's oral remarks regarding the Equity Centre (TEC) executive's decision to close the student-led TEC, Sarah Taylor, Assistant, VP Students, was recognized by the Speaker, and advised that the TEC was not mandated to close; instead, the students chose to close the TEC. She highlighted that no one is denying the incredible work of the TEC, but acknowledged that harm was done in the violation of the University's Respectful Workplace and Learning Environments Policy as determined by an independent third-party investigation.

A question was asked about how NUSU reconciles its public position - namely, that the closure of the TEC constitutes an act of "oppression" and "silencing" - with the fact that the TEC violated a university policy and was not mandated to close and caused harm?

In response to a question regarding the cancellation, "until further notice", of a screening of the documentary, "Where Olive Trees Weep" (2022) by the TEC, the AVP Students responded that the request was received with too short of notice to provide the necessary supports. When faculty show challenging content in their courses, they are equipped to debrief with the students. In order for mental health supports to be arranged, four weeks notice is normally required. Professors in the Centre for War Atrocity and Genocide offered to have a discussion about the film with the TEC and the TEC members did not follow up.

Following a question regarding what definition of antisemitism the university uses, the AVP Students replied that we use the Ontario Human Rights Code. A question was posed about whether the university would permit films criticizing the government of Israel. The answer was yes that would be permitted.

The President advised that the university must provide opportunities for these important discussions to take place. Safety and the prevention of harm is of the utmost importance. All members of the campus community must abide by our Respectful Workplace and Learning Environments Policy and the Human Rights Code.

He reiterated that the Equity Centre served students very well for many years providing a space and a series of important events annually. We must consider as a university what spaces need to be created in the long term for all students to feel safe, and what slate of events shall be created for students. Students who frequented the Equity Centre were very good sources of information for faculty members who were dealing with these issues in their classrooms.

The following question was raised:

Given that Microsoft includes the AI Copilot and the new version of Grammarly includes AI and both will rewrite your words for you, and given that the university's Generative AI Guide for Instructors states that 1) "A student who uses AI technology to complete coursework for

evaluation, without acknowledging its use, will have committed academic misconduct as defined under the Academic Integrity Policy” and 2) that “instructors are advised to use general phrases such as that ‘Submitting or presenting course work . . . modified by Artificial Intelligence as your own is a form of plagiarism and constitutes academic misconduct,’” what university-wide initiatives can we undertake to make sure all faculty and students know that using an AI to rewrite those words and therefore modify one’s work is academic misconduct?

Senator Raymer, as Chair of the Teaching and Learning Committee (TLC), advised that the TLC wrote the guidelines on AI for instructors and students. The field of generated AI continues to evolve. Generative AI is increasingly found embedded within web browsers and software, making it more difficult to know for certain if AI was used by a student. It also can’t be said that everything done with the assistance of AI is considered academic misconduct, as the use of AI could be appropriate for some work. The TLC in developing the guidelines concluded that it was best left to instructors to determine and communicate the use of AI to their students. Discussion will continue as to whether AI is a tool or cheating. He encouraged faculty to learn more about AI and suggested that PD sessions from the Teaching Hub would be beneficial.

The Provost noted that the APOP, page 8, Action 10, requires that the university review its academic integrity policies and protocols, and that an ad hoc committee on the use of artificial intelligence technologies in instructional settings be convened by the Director of Teaching and Learning. She invited Senator Winters to serve on the ad hoc committee. Senator Winters agreed to serve.

Reports of Standing Committees and Faculty or University Councils

Senate Executive Committee

Motion 4: Moved by A. Graff, seconded by G. Phillips that the Report of the Senate Executive Committee dated September 5, 2024 be received.
CARRIED

Academic Curriculum Committee

Motion 5: Moved by A. Graff, seconded by N. Black that the Report of the Academic Curriculum Committee dated August 20, 2024 be received.
CARRIED

Academic Quality Assurance and Planning Committee (AQAPC)

Motion 6: Moved by A. Graff, seconded by N. Stevens that the Report of the Academic Quality Assurance and Planning Committee dated August 23, 2024 be received.
CARRIED

Motion 7: Moved by A. Graff, seconded by N. Black that Senate (the mover and seconder accepted an amendment to replace endorse with approve) approve the Academic and Operational Plan (APOP) as recommended by the AQAPC.
CARRIED

Elections

- Elect one (1) faculty Senate representative to serve on the Joint Committee of the Board and Senate on Governance for a three-year term effective July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2027.
ACCLAIMED: M. Sullivan

- Elect one (1) faculty Senate representative to serve on the Board of Governors for a three-year term effective July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2027. *No nominations were received. The election will be included in the October 11, 2024 Senate agenda.*

Announcements

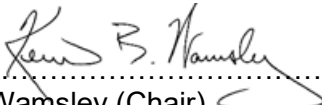
Senator Tabachnick advised of the successful State of Political Philosophy in Canada conference that took place in August. The University was well represented with current and former students as well as a Dean.

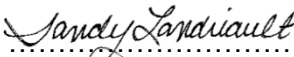
The Speaker reminded of the following upcoming events:

- Dr. Scott Russell will be formally installed as the 5th Chancellor of Nipissing University on September 20, at 2:00 p.m. at the NUSU Student Centre. Faculty may wear their regalia but are not expected to.
- The reception for the newly opened exhibition, *An Educator's Passion: Exploring the Changing Environment of the Near North (1915 – 1942)* will be held on September 20, at the NUSU Reflection Gallery, between 4:00-7:00 p.m.
- The first Community Forum of the academic year is scheduled to take place on October 1, at 10:00 a.m. in the Nipissing Theatre (F213).
- The Joint Board and Senate Retreat will be held on October 4 from 1:00- 4:00 p.m. in the Fedeli Business Centre (F210).

Adjournment

Senate was adjourned at 4:05 p.m.


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K. Wamsley (Chair)


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

President's Senate Report

13 September 2024

Fellow Senators welcome to the 2024-25 academic year. I want to begin the academic year thanking all of our hard-working faculty and staff members for all the work that you do and congratulations on a very successful 2023-24 for Nipissing University. For any and all work done, sacrifices made to achieve our very positive financial results – every change has counted. Together we have made plans, carried them out, and we have realized some benefits and together we will work on our action plans of all sorts to continue to improve Nipissing University.

Considering the large in-year deficits being posted by Ontario universities, I'm sure that you continue to wonder about the state of our financial sustainability. We will be reporting our year end results to the Board of Governors shortly and the Senate Budget Committee will receive this report and I will be pleased to provide an overview during our first community forum to be hosted on October 1. Suffice it to say that I confirm that we will post a surplus in 2023-24.

Thanks to our University Secretary Abby Blaszczyk for bringing Senate Board Effect. While you may not notice too many differences in how you receive information, it will save a lot of work for Sandy and others behind the scene. We will have more consistency, better communications, and information will be more digitally secure.

As part of the government's requirements for supporting universities, we are mandated to adopt an Efficiencies Framework to maximize cost savings in our operations in order to receive general funding. This process is mandatory and the government is providing us with \$500,000 to recommend efficiencies and to identify the many cost efficiencies that we have established over the past decade. The Vice-Presidents are in the process of interviewing and selecting firms to carry this work out.

I encourage all Senators to attend the joint retreat with the Board of Governors on October 4. You have already received your invitations.

An update on our outdoor classroom. We will be conducting a small ceremony for the land shortly and will begin the task of putting out a request for proposals. I am hoping for a summer or fall at latest opening in 2025.

I am very pleased to report that 27 firms are bidding on the Equity Audit. The task force members are diligently analyzing and scoring these massive proposals. Our thanks for the incredible efforts of the task force members to date. Shortlisting and interviewing will occur in October.

Our Advancement and Alumni groups have organized an exciting Homecoming for next weekend. All are welcome to attend events and please join together at the Installation next Friday at 2:00 pm on the back patio at NUSU to welcome our new Chancellor Scott Russell.

Provost's Report to Senate

September 9, 2024

It is wonderful to be able to acknowledge the commencement of a new academic year. I look forward of 2024-25 with great optimism. First and foremost, let me welcome to campus, both physical and virtual, students new and returning. Nipissing University endeavours to support one student at a time, and through our ongoing efforts we aim to make your decision to study at Nipissing a great one.

With respect to a welcome to new staff and faculty, I am able to announce the following new appointments:

Academic Leadership and Administration

Associate Vice-President, Research, Innovation and Graduate Studies, Dr. Barbi Law
Associate Dean, Graduate Studies, Dr. Dan Walters
Dean, Faculty of Arts and Science, Dr. Nathan Colborne
Director of Teaching and Learning, Dr. Kari Rasmussen
Manager of Quality Assurance and Program Innovation, Robin Gibson
Associate Dean, Education, search in process
Associate Dean, Business, search in process

10-month Limited Term Appointments

Daniel Atkinson – Faculty of Education and Professional Studies, School of Criminal Justice -- Law
Dr. William Bedford - Faculty of Arts and Science, Geography -- Global Urbanization, Urban and Regional Planning, Environmental Studies
Dr. Ekta Chaudhary - Faculty of Education and Professional Studies, School of Business -- Administration
Dr. Chris Hachkowski - Faculty of Education and Professional Studies, Schulich School of Education -- Science Education
Dr. Viktoriia Kovalchuk - Faculty of Education and Professional Studies, School of Business -- Finance
Dr. Katie Maxwell - Faculty of Education and Professional Studies, Schulich School of Education -- Curriculum and Assessment
Dr. Anupriya Singh - Faculty of Education and Professional Studies, School of Business -- Organizational Studies
Dr. Sasa Stankovic - Faculty of Arts and Science, Philosophy -- Ethics, History of Philosophy, Continental Philosophy

Academic and Operational Plan (“APOP”)

At today's Senate, the Academic and Operational Plan (“APOP”) is being presented for endorsement, having received the endorsement of AQAPC. APOP is the culmination of 14 broad ranging conversations and consultations on the areas of priority that were identified in the Strategic Plan, *Pathways*. The commitments made in the Strategic Plan are making their way into actions. The goal of APOP is to ensure that the University community continues to have conversations across academic and administrative silos in order to ensure the shared responsibility for Nipissing's evolving and dynamic future. To all members of the University community who participated in the consultations, I extend thanks from myself and Renee Hacquard (VPFA). To those members of the

University community who have agreed to chair or co-chair a working group, I extend gratitude for your energy and commitment to co-creating the future. To the committee members of AQAPC, thank you for the support of the Plan and also for your commitment to develop a reporting mechanism to monitor the Plan and report to Senate.

Enrollment Projections 2024-25

In advance of the introduction of new requirements by the Federal government pertaining to the recruitment of international students, Nipissing University through the Office of the Registrar had been reviewing our recruitment processes and procedures for all students (domestic, international, undergraduate, graduate, Indigenous, high school [101] and mature [105]). Significant work is being undertaken through *Project Integrate* which will ensure the efficiency and efficacy of recruitment and admissions. It will also require the close support of the development and articulation of the distinctive mission, vision and value proposition for each program area in support of efforts to be effective in marketing programs to wider audiences.

Recruitment and admissions staff have worked assiduously in the Spring and Summer to support international students who were adjusting to new processes and protocols for travel to Canada. At this time, we do not expect to meet the targets set for international students in the incoming Fall class, but are working to address any shortfall in the Winter term.

Strategic Enrollment Management (SEM)

Nipissing University concluded the first phase of its SEM plan in 2024. As part of APOP, the SEM process has moved to the Provost's Office. I extend thanks to the co-chairs, Debra Iafrate and Stephen Tedesco, of Phase 1 and look forward to meeting the goals of Phase 2:

GOAL 1 (Phase 1): Establish an Integrated Academic Plan & Resource Management Framework

GOAL 1 (Phase 2): Maintain and Improve an Integrated Academic Plan & Resource Management Framework

GOAL 2 (Phase 1): By 2024/25, the University will increase sustainable and diversified recruitment of highly qualified undergraduate students. (Domestic UG Admissions: 1375; International UG Admissions: 190).

GOAL 2 (Phase 2): By 2024/25, the University will increase sustainable and diversified recruitment of highly qualified undergraduate students. (Domestic UG Admissions: 1375; International UG Admissions: 160) with plan for domestic year-over-year growth of 6%.

GOAL 3 (Phase 1/2): Shift the mindset/institutional culture with respect to staff perceptions of their role in student retention

GOAL 4 (Phase 1/2): Engage more actively with our students (i.e., move from a passive/reactive approach to retention to a more supportive and proactive approach)

GOAL 5 (Phase 1): Establish University SEM Committee to mobilize the SEM plan.

GOAL 5 (Phase 2): Establish University SEM Faculty Committees to mobilize and monitor the SEM plan.

The Office of Indigenous Initiatives

OII has led a review of the Honoraria Policy for Elders and Indigenous Knowledge Holders (2.10.2019U) with the objective of making the policy clearer for stakeholders. I would like to acknowledge everyone who participated in the review of the policy, with the goal of making it better. The revised policy will be proliferated by the Office of the Vice-President, Finance and Administration shortly.

Provincial Updates

Inquest Finding

On August 9, 2024, all publicly funded colleges and universities in Ontario were notified by MCU of the jury verdict from the inquest into the deaths of Gladys Helen Ryan and William Thomas Ryan. Specifically, the inquest jury's Recommendation 9 is directed to MCU and calls for colleges and universities "to develop elder abuse and intimate partner violence education, and include the education as a mandatory component of training for personal support workers (and regulated health professionals who provide support in the community), paramedics, nurses and doctors."

Nipissing University takes the findings of the inquest jury very seriously. Nipissing's programs in Social Work and Nursing already include mandatory education on elder abuse and intimate partner violence. Our program in Physical and Health Education will be reviewing its curriculum to ensure that the necessary educational component occurs in it as well. Senate's Academic Curriculum Committee (ACC) will be reviewing the curricular maps of the programs to ensure that the mandatory requirement of the inquest verdict is met.

Cost of Educational Materials

On August 16, 2024, all publicly funded colleges and universities in Ontario were notified by MCU that a new directive to take effect on January 1, 2025 had been enacted pursuant to subsection 21(2) of the MTCU Act whereby:

"At a minimum, the following information should be provided in the syllabus:

- each textbook or other learning materials should be individually costed. In the event that the cost of the current year is not available at the time the syllabus is prepared, the most recent cost should be included with a note indicating that it may change; and
- where there are any restrictions that would prevent a student from using a second-hand copy of the textbook or other learning material."

This directive includes the requirement that the Board of Governors report to MCU on our compliance.

As this directive relates to the course syllabus, I have asked the Director of Teaching and Learning to work with Senate's Teaching and Learning Committee on a process and communication to support faculty meet the obligations set by MCU.

Strategic Mandate Agreement 4

Nipissing University has been advised by MCU that conversations will begin in Fall 2024 toward the successful negotiation of bilateral agreements.

Institutional Quality Assurance Audit (regular cycle)

AQAPC has been updated on the preparations for Nipissing University's regular cycle quality assurance audit. The external reviewers will be on campus March 26-28, 2025 and they will review the documented quality assurance processes and the effective use of learning outcomes since the focused audit of 2020.

Ministry of Colleges and Universities
Assistant Deputy Minister
Strategic Policy and Planning Division

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Ministère des Collèges et Universités
Sous-ministre adjointe
Division des politiques et de la planification stratégiques

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MEMORANDUM TO: Executive Heads, Publicly Assisted Universities
Presidents, Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology

COPIES TO: Vice-Presidents Academic, Publicly Assisted Universities and Colleges
of Applied Arts and Technology
Steve Orsini, President and CEO, Council of Ontario Universities
Marketa Evans, President and CEO, Colleges Ontario

FROM: Zoë Kroeker
Assistant Deputy Minister, Strategic Policy and Planning Division

DATE: August 9, 2024

SUBJECT: **Ryan Inquest Jury Verdict and Recommendations**

I'm writing to share the Office of the Chief Coroner's inquest jury verdict and recommendations from the inquest into the deaths of Gladys Helen Ryan and William Thomas Ryan.

The inquest jury's Recommendation 9 is directed to MCU and calls for colleges and universities to develop elder abuse and intimate partner violence (IPV) education, and include this education as a mandatory component of training for personal support workers (and regulated health professionals who provide support in the community), paramedics, nurses and doctors.

As colleges and universities are responsible for curriculum content and review, I encourage you to share this recommendation with your staff and faculty to conduct any program reviews or consider any options that you may deem appropriate.

The inquest jury recommendations are available at: [2023 coroner's inquests' verdicts and recommendations | ontario.ca](#)

Sincerely,



Zoë Kroeker
Assistant Deputy Minister

c: Scott Allinson, Chief of Staff, Office of the Minister of Colleges and Universities
Scott Ramsay, Director of Policy and Issues, Office of the Minister of Colleges and Universities

Seetha Kumaresh, Director, Postsecondary Education Programs Branch
Carita Ng, Manager, Universities Unit, Postsecondary Education Programs Branch

Ministry of Colleges and Universities

Office of the Minister

438 University Avenue, 5th floor
Toronto ON M7A 0B8

Ministère des Collèges et Universités

Bureau de la ministre

438, avenue University, 5e étage
Toronto ON M7A 0B8



MEMORANDUM TO: Presidents, Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology
Executive Heads, Publicly Assisted Universities

FROM: The Honourable Jill Dunlop
Minister of Colleges and Universities

DATE: August 16, 2024

SUBJECT: Directive on the Costs of Educational Material under the
Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities Act (MTCU
Act)

Earlier this year, the *Strengthening Accountability and Student Supports Act, 2024* was passed and made amendments to the MTCU Act. The new MTCU Act provisions allow for directives to be issued to publicly assisted colleges and universities that require these institutions to provide students with information about educational costs associated with attending the institution.

This memo is a directive issued pursuant to subsection 21(2) of the MTCU Act. The objectives of this directive are to:

- Ensure students and their families can find information on educational costs with ease; and
- Improve consistency across the sector in publishing educational costs and leverage best practices.

Educational costs include ancillary fees, the costs of textbooks and other learning materials.

Ancillary Fees

Ancillary fees are fees charged to support services and activities distinct from academic programming or general overhead for the institution in addition to tuition fees. For the complete definition of ancillary fees please refer to the guidelines and references noted below.

The publication of ancillary fees is currently required through the *Tuition and Ancillary Fees Minister's Binding Policy Directive* for colleges and the *Tuition Fee Framework Implementation Guidelines for Publicly Assisted Universities* or the *Ontario Operating Funds Distribution Manual*.

This directive does not include any changes to the current requirements for the publication of ancillary fees other than annual reporting as noted below.

Costs of Textbooks and Other Learning Materials

Each publicly assisted college and university shall ensure that students are informed of the costs of all textbooks and other learning materials that are mandatory and optional in the course syllabus for each course.

At a minimum, the following information should be provided in the syllabus:

- Each textbook or other learning material should be individually costed. In the event that the cost for the current year is not available at the time the syllabus is prepared, the most recent cost should be included with a note indicating that it may change; and
- Whether there are any restrictions that would prevent a student from using a second-hand copy of the textbook or other learning material.

This requirement is effective for all courses beginning in January 2025 and will remain in effect until this directive is revoked or replaced.

Annual Reporting to Boards

Subsection 21(6) of the MTCU Act requires annual reporting to governing boards on the implementation of this directive.

Publicly assisted colleges and universities should include the following information in their report to the board in respect of the preceding year:

- Ancillary fees as approved by the board of governors or governing body per current requirements in the *Tuition and Ancillary Fees Minister's Binding Policy Directive* for colleges and the *Tuition Fee Framework Implementation Guidelines for Publicly Assisted Universities*, or the *Ontario Operating Funds Distribution Manual*.
- The percentage of courses that included the costs of textbooks and other learning materials in their course syllabuses. If the percentage is less than 100%, the report should include plans on how and when the institution will reach full compliance with the requirements in this directive.
- A summary of current and planned communications to students on where to find information on educational costs.

Annual reports must also be shared with the Ministry of Colleges and Universities (MCU) within 10 working days of being presented to and approved by a governing board. Institutions can provide the annual report to MCU by emailing it to the attention of the Director for Postsecondary Education Policy Branch at psepolicy@ontario.ca.

Best Practices

In the interest of students, I would like to recommend the following best practices:

- Institutions should make students aware of how to find information on ancillary fees and the cost of textbooks and other learning materials.

- No other educational material costs should be added to a course after the distribution of the syllabus in the first week of classes.
- Along with textbook costs, a syllabus should include information about textbook features (e.g., personalized online study tools).
- Faculty should be encouraged to use Open Educational Resources (OERs) to help make postsecondary education more affordable for students. OER resources are available through eCampusOntario: <https://www.ecampusontario.ca/exploring-the-open-library/>

I appreciate the work already done by institutions to help students plan for the costs associated with their education such as the development of educational material cost calculators. We can build on this work by providing even greater consistency and cost transparency for students across the sector through the implementation of this directive.

Sincerely,



The Honourable Jill Dunlop
Minister of Colleges and Universities

- c: Marketa Evans, President and Chief Executive Officer, Colleges Ontario
Steve Orsini, President and Chief Executive Officer, Council of Ontario Universities
Scott Allinson, Chief of Staff, Minister's Office, Ministry of Colleges and Universities
David Wai, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Colleges and Universities
Zoë Kroeker, Assistant Deputy Minister, Strategic Policy and Planning Division, Ministry of Colleges and Universities
Joshua Paul, Assistant Deputy Minister, Financial Sustainability, Performance and Oversight Division, Ministry of Colleges and Universities



Board of Governors Report to Senate – May 2024

Board of Governors Meeting June 24, 2024

The Board of Governors met on Monday, June 24, 2024, in the President's Boardroom (F303) and via Zoom remote conferencing.

The Chair thanked outgoing Board members and welcomed incoming members as of July 1, 2024, and recognized Dr. Paul Cook (D.Litt) and Cheryl Sutton, VPFA, for their years of service and dedication to Nipissing University.

The President announced a total of \$606,000, in funds raised through the Chancellor's Cabinet, chaired by Dr. Paul Cook, including funds raised through the inaugural 'Evening at Nipissing' event.

The approximate calculation for the 2023-24 year-end is \$3.2 million in surplus funds, to be confirmed through the year-end audit process.

The Board of Governors resolved to endorse the process of the Academic and Operational Plan to date.

The Board of Governors accepted the recommendation of the University Governance Committee to adopt the revised General Bylaws of the Board of Governors document. The up-to-date version of the Bylaws can be found on the University website.

The Board accepted the recommendation of the Audit & Finance Committee to approve the revisions to the Investment Policy and Guidelines for Trust and Endowment Funds as presented. The most recent version of the policy can be found on the University website.

The Board accepted the recommendations of the Academic Senate to remove the Specialization and Honours Specialization Degree options from the Religions and Cultures Program and to create a new academic unit that includes Social Welfare and Social Development, Psychology, Child and Family Studies, and Sociology, effective July 1, 2024.

The Board of Governors next meets on September 26, 2024, at 5:30 p.m.



Nipissing University Alumni Advisory Board report to Academic Senate September 2024

Welcome Back

The Nipissing University Alumni Advisory Board welcomes new and returning Lakers to the 2024/2025 academic year! Best of luck on your educational journeys. We look forward to engaging with you during your time as a Laker and when you join the Alumni family.

New Members

NUAAB welcomed three new members to our board over the summer. Please join us in welcoming Roxanne Martin-Pitchenese, BEd '15; Riley McEntee, BA (Honours) '24; and Sean Menzie, BComm '19!

Blue Jays University & College Night

For the third year in a row, NUAAB is sending GTA-based alumni to the Toronto Blue Jays University & College Night. This event is an exciting opportunity for former Lakers to connect as we cheer on the Jays! Forty alumni and their guests will be in attendance. NUAAB would like to thank NUSU for partnering with us on this event.

Homecoming Weekend

Homecoming Weekend is right around the corner! Join us from September 20th – 22nd as we welcome students, alumni, staff, faculty, and community members to take part in a riveting weekend of events. Whether you're looking for a gallery hop, a sports game, or a chance to connect, there's something for everyone. Please visit <https://events.nipissingu.ca/homecoming> for more information and register today!



NUSU Academic Senate Report: September 2024

Congratulations on the New 2024/2025 Academic Year

The NUSU Executives and all of NUSU would like to extend a warm welcome to new faculty, and staff members, and students, as well as returning faculty, staff members and students to the 2024/2025 Academic Year!

COCA

The NUSU Executive team went to Windsor in June of 2024 for the Canadian Organization of Campus Activities (COCA) National Conference. There we met with many other Executives from other student unions and learnt about their policies, processes, and activities that they do throughout the year. It was an amazing week that led the NUSU Executives to have many opportunities to learn.

OWLs Week

From August 27th-August 31st, NUSU had their OWLs (Orientation Welcome Learning Social) Week for first-year students. We wanted to say a big thank you to all the departments, faculty, and staff that helped out with this week. The students have been given positive feedback and enjoyed everything that was offered by the departments and NUSU!

Academic Week

The first Academic Week will occur between September 23rd - September 27th. There will be info booths near the bookstore on September 24th, so students can learn about different departments in the school, as well as an Amazing Academic Race on September 27th, in which students can go to different departments, complete a challenge, and be given their next clue, all while talking and learning about the department they are in. If any of these are of interest to any faculty or staff, please contact vpadvocacy@nusu.com.

Director/Senator Elections

NUSU will be holding their bi-annual Director-at-Large and Senator elections from September 24th to September 27th. Packages are released on September 4th and are due on September 18th. NUSU is looking for 5 Director-at-Large, one Graduate Studies Student Senator, and one Educational & Professional Studies Student Senator. For more information, please contact elections@nusu.com.