

Nipissing University
Minutes of the Academic Senate Meeting

June 6, 2025

10:30 a.m.

Room F210 & Zoom Videoconference

Members Present:

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

A. Hatef, G. McCann, G. Phillips (Deputy Speaker), T. Smith, T.
Stewart, L. Thielen-Wilson, A. Weeks, S. Winters, H. Zhu

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

C. Irwin, O. Pokorny, R. Kasperavicius

R. Hehn

N. Botham, J. Martin, O. Remillard

Absent With Regrets:

J. Abbott, L. Chen, R. Gendron, S. Kariuki, S. Renshaw, K.
Srigley, N. Stevens, H. Texiera, R. Wenghofer, C. Anyinam, S.
Cairns, P. Millar, R. Vanderlee, F. Couchie, R. Veli, M. Suszter

The Senate Speaker offered a Traditional Territory acknowledgement.

Adoption of the Agenda of the Senate Meeting of: June 6, 2025

Motion 1: Moved by S. Winters, seconded by N. Colborne that the agenda of the Senate meeting of June 6, 2025 be adopted.
CARRIED

Adoption of the Minutes of the Senate Meeting of: May 9, 2025

Motion 2: Moved by M. Sullivan, seconded by N. Colborne that the minutes of the Senate meeting of May 9, 2025 be adopted.
CARRIED

Reading and Disposing of Communications

Dr. Marc Pilon was not included on the March 28, 2024 Provost's Annual Tenure and Promotion Report 2023-24. Dr. Pilon was appointed at the Associate Professor level, tenure-track, on April 1, 2024. An updated report was provided.

The Provost's Annual Tenure and Promotion Report 2024-25 was provided.

Reports From Other Bodies

The President's report, appended to the minutes, included updates on the convocation ceremonies and 2025 honorary degree recipients, Janine Lefreniere, Jennifer Jones, and William Prince. Appreciation was expressed to all participants, volunteers, and the convocation committee.

The President was pleased to announce the June 13 second annual, *An Evening at Nipissing: Driving Discovery* dinner, showcasing faculty and student research and related fundraising efforts. Updates were also provided on the Parriaggroup Report, the outdoor classroom project, and provincial funding.

The Provost's report, appended to the minutes, included an update on Spring/Summer enrolment and highlighted proposed one-time funding from the Province of Ontario to support Initial Teacher Education in 2025–26 and 2026–27. She commended the efforts of the Interim Associate Dean of Education, Dr. Kristen Ferguson, who is actively reviewing the implications of recent provincial announcements and exploring potential opportunities to ensure graduating students are prepared and certified to enter the teaching profession.

The Provost provided an update noting that the domestic recruitment team is currently conducting a calling campaign to students with offers of admission. She also reported that New Student Orientation is scheduled to take place on July 3 and 4.

An update on Tenure and Promotion was provided. The Provost extended congratulations to Drs. Chris Greco, Alireza Khorakian, and Tyson Stewart on their respective tenure and promotions, and expressed appreciation to the Tenure and Promotion Committee. The Provost also welcomed several new faculty members and postdoctoral fellows.

The Board of Governors Report to Senate is appended to the minutes.

The NUSU Report to Senate is appended to the minutes.

Question Period

The paused institutional learning outcome related to Anishinaabek "ontologies" was addressed. Concerns were raised that maintaining the pause could impede progress on broader Indigenization efforts, including the honorarium policy, the revision of breadth requirements outlined in the Academic Plan, and a potential future iteration of *Polishing the Chain*. It was emphasized that the Academic Plan is a well-developed and informative document that acknowledges Indigenous sovereignty and the responsibilities inherent to these relationships.

Rather than leaving the learning outcome paused, it was proposed that the learning outcome be changed as follows: "*demonstrating knowledge of Anishinaabek ways of learning, doing, and knowing*" as a suitable alternative to the term *ontology*, which it was noted may not adequately capture Indigenous methodologies many of which include stories, dreams, and ways of knowing beyond philosophical definitions of ontology.

While it was acknowledged that the original reasons for pausing the learning outcome were valid and that future pauses may also be warranted, the importance of including references to Indigenous learning at this stage was emphasized. The following language was proposed:

Motion 3: Moved by T. Stewart, seconded by A. Graff that Senate approve that “Anishinaabek ontologies” be revised to: “Demonstrate knowledge of Anishinaabek ways of learning, doing, and knowing”. And unpause the learning outcome.
CARRIED

The Provost noted that for purposes of clarify, once the institutional learning outcome is changed to reflect the concerns raised, it will be unpaused.

Questions were raised regarding the Efficiency and Accountability Recommendation Implementation Plan (EARIP) framework and the related recommendations outlined in the Plan. There was interest in understanding the process and timing for Senate discussion of recommendations impacting academic planning, specifically Recommendation 2, which includes language around streamlining programming and course offerings. It was noted that several elements would require consultation through Faculty Councils and Senate. Clarification was sought on the timeline, given that the report and recommendations are scheduled to go to the Board of Governors for approval at the end of June.

In response, the Provost advised that any academic streamlining initiative will proceed through established governance channels, including Faculties, the Academic Quality Assurance and Planning Committee (AQAPC), and Senate.

With respect to the EARIP framework, the Provost emphasized that no specific programs have been identified for review. Rather, the focus is on faculty-level conversations aligned with existing processes such as annual program review and ongoing Quality Assurance activities led by Deans. The NOUS recommendations invite reflection on the effectiveness of current processes and metrics. It was reiterated that there is no intention to bypass Senate governance processes or procedures.

Concerns were raised regarding perceived inaccuracies in the NOUS report, particularly within Recommendation 2, which references faculty resistance to change. It was noted that this characterization does not accurately reflect the efforts of faculties and departments, which have been actively engaged in adapting and implementing change. Additional concerns were raised about the recommendation to consolidate courses and reduce course variety, accompanied by the claim that such changes would not impact students. It was argued that students would notice and be affected by reduced offerings.

In response, the Provost clarified that NOUS, as a third-party provider, has its own metrics for assessing institutional change, which may not align with the university’s understanding. She acknowledged the challenges of change but emphasized that she does not perceive widespread resistance among faculty. Rather, the focus should be on demonstrating commitment to change through action. She encouraged a broader conversation about what the institution values and must defend within the framework of efficiency and accountability, particularly in relation to academic quality, APOP, and the values expressed in Pathways. While the report provides one perspective, it does not assess the institution’s mission, vision, or governance processes, conversations that must take place within Senate and faculties.

The President added that, while the government mandated the report, there is no requirement for the Board of Governors to act on the recommendations. The report does not circumvent the authority of the Board or Senate. Any decisions arising from the report will be made collectively. While the Board will approve the implementation plan, changes will be made following normal

practices. The University is required to report on the progress of the approved implementation plan on an annual basis.

A question was raised regarding the additional workload that the implementation of the EARIP recommendations will place on Chairs and departments, specifically whether administrative support will be provided to assist with these demands.

In response, the Vice-President, Finance and Administration (VPFA) noted that there are plans to augment administrative resources to help manage the anticipated workload, though this will be dependent on budget availability.

The Provost added that while some funding has been allocated to support the institutional response to the EARIP and related governance reports, it will not be sufficient to cover the full scope of work anticipated, potentially spanning five years. She noted that the institution may need to reallocate resources, particularly if enrolment and efficiency targets are not met. Dedicated support for Chairs has already been identified, and further support requests are expected from the Centre for Teaching and Learning and the Quality Assurance Office. The University will remain attentive to these emerging needs.

A question was raised regarding the status of the committee responsible for reviewing professor emeritus applications. The President clarified that the Honorary Degrees Committee holds this responsibility. Applications have been received; however, the Provost is currently reviewing the existing policy, which has been identified as restrictive and lacking clarity. This policy review will be incorporated into the governance review, with application files scheduled for review in the fall.

Reports of Standing Committees and Faculty or University Councils

Senate Executive Committee

Motion 4: Moved by K. Wamsley, seconded by G. Phillips that the Report of the Senate Executive Committee dated May 29, 2025 be received.
CARRIED

Motion 5: Moved by K. Wamsley, seconded by G. Phillips that the Annual Report of the Senate Executive Committee dated May 29, 2025 be received.
CARRIED

Academic Appeals and Petitions Committee

Motion 6: Moved by K. Wamsley, seconded by T. Stewart that the Annual Report of the Academic Appeals and Petitions Committee dated May 21, 2025 be received.
CARRIED

Academic Awards Committee

Motion 7: Moved by K. Wamsley, seconded by G. Phillips that the Annual Report of the Academic Awards Committee dated May 21, 2025 be received.
CARRIED

Academic Curriculum Committee

- Motion 8: Moved by A. Graff, seconded by T. McParland that the Annual Report of the Academic Curriculum Committee dated May 21, 2025 be received.
CARRIED

Academic Quality Assurance and Planning Committee (AQAPC)

- Motion 9: Moved by A. Graff, seconded by V. Williams that the Report of the Academic Quality Assurance and Planning Committee dated May 23, 2025 be received.
CARRIED

Graduate Studies Committee

- Motion 10: Moved by B. Law, seconded by M. Sullivan that the Report of the Graduate Studies Committee dated May 21, 2025 be received.
CARRIED
- Motion 11: Moved by B. Law, seconded by N. Colborne that the Annual Report of the Graduate Studies Committee dated May 23, 2025 be received.
CARRIED

Honorary Degrees Committee

- Motion 12: Moved by K. Wamsley, seconded by J. Martin that the Annual Report of the Honorary Degrees Committee dated May 21, 2025 be received.
CARRIED

Joint Committee of the Board and Senate on Governance

- Motion 13: Moved by K. Wamsley, seconded by S. Winters that the Annual Report of the Joint Committee of the Board and Senate on Governance Committee dated May 21, 2025 be received.
CARRIED

Research Committee

- Motion 14: Moved by B. Law, seconded by N. Botham that the Report of the Research Committee dated May 12, 2025 be received.
CARRIED
- Motion 15: Moved by B. Law, seconded by M. Sullivan that the Annual Report of the Research Committee dated May 23, 2025 be received.
CARRIED

Senate Budget Advisory Committee

- Motion 16: Moved by S. Winters, seconded by C. Greco that the Annual Report of the Senate Budget Advisory Committee dated May 22, 2025 be received.
CARRIED

Teaching and Learning Committee

- Motion 17: Moved by G. Raymer, seconded by S. Winters that the Report of the Teaching and Learning Committee dated December 16, 2024 be received.
CARRIED
- Motion 18: Moved by G. Raymer, seconded by N. Botham that the Report of the Teaching and Learning Committee dated January 10, 2025 be received.
CARRIED
- Motion 19: Moved by G. Raymer, seconded by J. Martin that the Report of the Teaching and Learning Committee dated March 25, 2025 be received.
CARRIED

Elections

- Elect one (1) faculty Senate representative to serve as the Council of Ontario Universities (COU) Academic Colleague (Alternate) for a three (3) year term effective July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2028.
ACCLAIMED: Senator Carlo Ricci
- Elect one (1) faculty Senate representative to serve as Deputy Speaker of Senate for a three-year (3) term effective July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2028.
ACCLAIMED: Senator Katrina Srigley
- Elect one (1) faculty Senate representative to serve on the Board of Governors for a three-year term effective July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2028.
ACCLAIMED: Senator Tyson Stewart

Announcements

The Deans and the Associate VP Research, Innovation and Graduate Studies read out the 2025 graduands by faculty and degree and congratulated the students and faculty on their achievements.

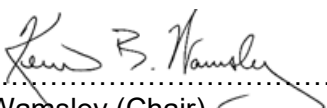
The President wished Senators a productive summer, whether it is spent on research, writing, preparing for the new academic year, teaching, or taking a well-earned break.

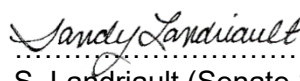
The President also recognized two individuals for their contributions. First, he thanked the Senate Secretary for her role in supporting the Senate's work and ensuring its smooth operation. He also acknowledged that this was the final meeting for Speaker, Tim Sibbald, thanking him for his service over the past three years.

In closing, the Speaker extended his best wishes to Senator Phillips, who will assume the role of Speaker in September.

Adjournment

Senate was adjourned at 11:22 a.m.


.....
K. Wamsley (Chair)


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

President's Senate Report

6 June 2025

Good morning Senators. We are entering into a great week for Nipissing University in the coming days with Convocation ceremonies beginning on Tuesday. Thanks to all of you who will attend, participate, and volunteer to lend a hand. A big shout out and thank you to all of our many volunteers and our convocation committee for its months of work organizing these events. Next week we will welcome our honorary degree class of 2025 which includes three members this year: Janine Lefreniere, our region's foremost advocate against domestic violence against women; world and Olympic champion curler Jennifer Jones; and Juno award winner the musician William Prince. We look forward to honoring these worthy individuals next week.

On Friday evening of next week we will celebrate research at Nipissing University at our second annual dinner – An Evening at Nipissing: Driving Discovery. We will be featuring faculty and student research and the fundraising that will support it into the future.

The Parriaggroup has almost completed its on-campus interviews and will be working on its analysis and the preparation of the final report which we expect by the end of summer. As information becomes available, I will be sure to share it widely.

A firm has been selected to complete the construction of the outdoor classroom, which we anticipate will begin shortly following some further consultations on construction details.

The Province has responded favourably to our several months of advocacy; we have received \$1.4m in additional operating funds, \$1.6m in sustainability funding, \$1.8m in STEM support funding, and Northern Grant funding still to be determined. These funds will ensure that we are on a path towards a balanced budget for 2025-26 in spite of our challenges with frozen tuition and grants, increased inflation, and a significant decrease in international tuition.



Provost & Vice-President, Academic

Report to Senate – June 2025

1. The Province of Ontario is working with Faculties of Education to expand the pipeline of qualified teachers. The Province has proposed one-time funding to support Initial Teacher Education in 2025-26 and 2026-27, but only for FTEs above our recognized funded cap. The Deans are working diligently to propose strategies to meet our shared objective of graduating qualified teachers.
2. At June 2, 2025, we have 625.55 FTE in SS (492 UG, 50 GR, and 83 other [see below]). In 2024-25, we concluded SS with 627.7 FTE, so are anticipating exceeding last year's total final SS enrolment.

	SS 25-FFTE	SS 24-FFTE
UG	492.12	481.46
GR	50	50
Other*	83.43	69.45
Total	625.55	600.91
*Other:		
AQ	53.2	63.6
<i>Indigenous Classroom Assistant Diploma</i>	11.33	1.95
<i>Indigenous Teacher Education Program</i>	18.1	3.6
<i>Teacher of Indigenous Language as a Second Language</i>	0.8	0.3

The domestic recruitment team is undertaking a calling campaign to all students with offers. NSO is scheduled for July 3 and 4.

Domestic Snapshot	Applications	Offers	Acceptances
2025-26	6640	4273	1665 ¹
2024-25	6275	3617	1405
2023-24	5852	3667	1072
2022-23	5824	3195	835

3. Congratulations to Drs. Chris Greco, Alireza Khorakian, and Tyson Stewart on the awarding of their respective tenure and promotions. Special thanks to the Tenure and Promotion Committee.
4. Please join me in welcoming new Faculty commencing July 1, 2025:

New Faculty		Area
Ines Ferreira Dias Tavares	TT	School of Criminal Justice
Alyssa Leblond	TT	School of Criminal Justice
Kristen Beck (August 1)	TT	Environmental Science
Hannah Chestnutt	TT	SSoE Curriculum and Assessment
Emily Sprowls	TT	SSoE Environmental Science
Christine Lalonde	TT	CHFS/Psychology

Postdoctoral fellows:

Fatemeh Ameli - January 1, 2025 - December 31, 2025 - Dr. Zarifa

Meredith Schertzinger - April 1, 2023 - December 31, 2025 – Dr. M. Bruner

¹ At November 1, 2024, Nipissing University realized 1619 headcount, total new enrollment.



Board of Governors Report to Senate – June 2025

Board of Governors Meeting April 24, 2025

The Board of Governors met on Thursday, April 24, 2025, In the Centre for Teaching and Learning and via Zoom remote conferencing.

The Chair welcomed incoming NUSU Executive members Matthew Suszter, Nicholas Botham, Jaden Martin, and Owen Remillard, and his expressed to the outgoing leadership. He also noted that John D'Agostino, Vice-Chair, has been reappointed to a second three-year term, effective July 1, 2025.

Elections for Board Officers took place with David Smits elected as Board Chair, John D'Agostino elected as Vice-Chair, and Ravil Veli elected as Vice-Chair Pro Tem.

The Board reviewed the 2024-25 projections and the 2025-26 Budget. The projected consolidated result for 2024-25 is approximately \$6 million. The total consolidated budget for 2025-26 projects a consolidated surplus of \$272.00. The Board approved the Budget, including Domestic, Out-of-Province, and International tuition rates, and Nipissing University Ancillary Fees.

The Board of Governors also approved the creation of the Data Science Program and the Environmental Science Program, subject to final approval by the Ministry.

The Board of Governors next meets on June 25, 2025, at 3:30 p.m.





NUSU Academic Senate Report: June 2025

Transition to Campus Trust – Effective September 1, 2025

Our current contract with WeSpeak will conclude at the end of August. Beginning September 1st, NUSU will transition to Campus Trust as the new provider for the student health and dental plan.

This move comes with several important benefits for students:

- Lower cost: Students will save \$10 on their health plan.
- Improved service: Campus Trust offers 24/7 communication access with guaranteed response times of under 24 hours.
- Expanded coverage: The new plan will provide more comprehensive coverage for students, enhancing access to essential health services.

COCA Conference (June 8–13)

Several members of the NUSU staff team will be attending the annual COCA (Canadian Organization of Campus Activities) conference from June 8th to 13th. This event provides workshops and sessions related to student engagement, events planning, media, and leadership. It is an excellent opportunity to learn from student unions and universities across Canada and bring new ideas back to Nipissing.

Ontario Skills Development Symposium (June 14–15)

The President and VPFA will be attending a conference from June 14th to 15th. This gathering will focus on student governance and effective union operations, allowing our executives to build connections and develop strategic insights to better support students at Nipissing.

Convocation (June 10 - 12)

Convocation is always a proud moment for our university community. This year, our President and Vice-President Finance & Administration, will be delivering speeches on behalf of NUSU. We'd like to offer a heartfelt congratulations to all graduates as they walk across the stage and step into the next chapter of their lives.

Community Cleanup – June 17

We're organizing a campus and community cleanup on June 17th. This initiative invites students and community members to help beautify our local environment and give back through action.

**Brain Tumour Walk – June 19**

NUSU is proud to support the Brain Tumour Walk on June 19th. This event helps raise awareness and funds for critical research and support services for those affected by brain tumours.

North Bay Indigenous Friendship Centre PowWow

We are honoured to participate in and support the upcoming PowWow hosted by the North Bay Indigenous Friendship Centre. This is a time of celebration, connection, and culture, and we encourage all students to attend and engage respectfully.

Pride BBQ & Drag Show – June 25 (3:00–6:30PM)

In celebration of Pride Month, NUSU will be hosting a Pride BBQ and Drag Show on June 25th from 3:00PM to 6:30PM. This event is an opportunity to celebrate the 2SLGBTQIA+ community on campus and foster a welcoming and inclusive space for all students. We hope to see you there!