

**MINUTES OF SENATE  
ALGOMA UNIVERSITY  
First Regular Meeting of 2020-21  
September 11, 2020**

**Humanities Faculty**

M. Graydon, V. Jimenez-Estrada, A. Pinheiro, A. Ridout, M. Ross [PTF], R. Rutherford, P. Steeves, E. Turgeon, D. Woodman  
[regrets: T. O'Flanagan]

**Social Science Faculty**

N. Aziz, J-M. Belanger, R. Cameron, K. DeLuca, A. Gordon, S. Meades, M. McLellan [PTF], T. Tchir, L. Wyper  
[regrets: J. Rebek]

**Science Faculty**

L. Bloomfield [Speaker], N. Cameron, W. Dew, P. Dupuis, J. Foote, D. Keough, M. Lajoie [PTF], I. Molina, S. Xu, C. Zhang

**Other Members**

Y. Alphonse, D. Anaquod, A. Day, S. Hansen, I. Imre, J. John, M. Jones, D. Marasco [Secretary], E. Riauka, D. Rogers, H. Stevenson, A. Day, A. Vezina  
[absent: C. Walcott]

**Guests**

J. Azevedo, H. Luitel, L. Schoner-Saunders, M. Turco

The meeting was conducted by Zoom and called to order at 1:03pm.

**20.09.01      APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

- ***Moved [Aziz/Rogers]: that the agenda for the September 11, 2020 meeting of the Senate be approved.***

Motion carried.

## **20.09.02 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES from the meeting of June 5, 2020**

- ***Moved [Vezina/Foote]: that the Algoma University Senate approve the minutes from the Senate meeting of June 5, 2020.***

It was noted that Dr. J-M Belanger should be listed as a guest during the June 5, 2020 meeting of the Senate.

Motion carried.

## **20.09.03 BUSINESS ARISING (for action or information)** **20.09.03.01 Introduction of Chancellor Mario Turco**

Vezina introduced Chancellor Mario Turco to the Senate. The President reminded the Senate of the vast experience he has in education and his exceptional leadership qualities.

Chancellor Turco thanked Senators for his opportunity to address the Senate and was honoured and overwhelmed with his selection as Chancellor.

### **20.09.03.02 Senate Executive - Senate Membership 2020-21**

- ***Moved [Meades/Jimenez-Estrada]: that the Senate approve Dr. Edward Turgeon [Humanities] and Dr. Nusrate Aziz [Social Science] to serve on the Algoma University Senate during the 2020-21 Senate year.***

Motion carried.

- ***Moved [Wyper/Foote]: that the Senate approve the following part-time teaching staff [PTS] to serve on the Algoma University Senate during the 2020-21 Senate year including: Professor Marissa Ross [Humanities], Dr. Myles Mclellan [Social Science] and Professor Michael Lajoie [Science].***

Motion carried.

- ***Moved [Meades/Rogers]: that the Senate approve Professor Andrea Pinheiro to serve as Chair of the Department of Modern Languages during the 2020-21 Senate year.***

Motion carried.

### 20.09.03.03 Senate Executive - Senate By-law Revisions

- *Moved [Marasco/Xu]: that the Senate approve the following changes/additions to the Algoma University Senate By-laws:*

#### 1. page 6, Faculties, Departments, Schools recognized by the Senate

##### **Change from [3b]**

Computer Science and Mathematics

##### **Change to [3b]**

School of Computer Science and Technology

##### **Change from [3c]**

Geography and Geology

##### **Change to [3c]**

Geography, Geology, and Land Stewardship

#### 2. page 14, Committees of Senate

##### **Change from [8.3]**

The President and the Academic Dean shall be ex-officio members of every committee of the Senate, unless otherwise stated in the By-laws.

##### **Change to [8.3]**

The President and the Academic Dean shall be ex-officio voting members of every committee of the Senate, unless otherwise stated in the By-laws.

#### 3. Page 11, Meetings

##### **Add [6.6]**

At the discretion of the Senate Executive Committee, a regular meeting of Senate may be cancelled if:

- i) The volume of business submitted for inclusion in the agenda is insufficient to warrant holding the meeting; and
- ii) There is no urgent or time-sensitive business requiring the disposition prior to the next regular meeting of the Senate.

#### 4. Page 14, Committees of Senate

##### **Add [8.10]**

During the absence of a regular meeting of Senate, including the summer recess of Senate, the members of the Senate Executive committee shall possess and may exercise all or any of the powers, authorities and discretion vested in or exercised by the Senate.

A request came from the floor to split the motions so that each revision can be considered by the Senate separately.

- ***Moved [Ridout/Woodman]: that the Senate consider the proposed Senate By-law revisions separately.***

Motion carried.

- ***Moved [Xu/Lajoie]: that the Senate approve the following changes/additions to the Algoma University Senate By-laws:***

### **1. page 6, Faculties, Departments, Schools recognized by the Senate**

#### **Change from [3b]**

Computer Science and Mathematics

#### **Change to [3b]**

School of Computer Science and Technology

#### **Change from [3c]**

Geography and Geology

#### **Change to [3c]**

Geography, Geology, and Land Stewardship

Motion carried.

- ***Moved [Marasco/Jimenez-Estrada]: that the Senate approve the following changes/additions to the Algoma University Senate By-laws:***

### **2. page 14, Committees of Senate**

#### **Change from [8.3]**

The President and the Academic Dean shall be ex-officio members of every committee of the Senate, unless otherwise stated in the By-laws.

#### **Change to [8.3]**

The President and the Academic Dean shall be ex-officio voting members of every committee of the Senate, unless otherwise stated in the By-laws.

There was extensive discussion from Senators supporting the motion and those against the motion. It was brought forward to the attention of the Senate that if the motion fails, it maintains the status-quo. Those against the motion wanted a clarification of the voting or non-voting privileges of these ex-officio members.

Motion defeated.

- ***Moved [Marasco/Rogers]: that the Senate approve the following changes/additions to the Algoma University Senate By-laws:***

### **3. Page 11, Meetings**

#### **Add [6.6]**

At the discretion of the Senate Executive Committee, a regular meeting of Senate may be cancelled if:

[Algoma University, Senate minutes, September 11, 2020](#)

- i) The volume of business submitted for inclusion in the agenda is insufficient to warrant holding the meeting; and
- ii) There is no urgent or time-sensitive business requiring the disposition prior to the next regular meeting of the Senate.

Motion carried.

- ***Moved [Jimenez-Estrada/Gordon]: that the Senate approve the following changes/additions to the Algoma University Senate By-laws:***

#### **4. Page 14, Committees of Senate Add [8.10]**

During the absence of a regular meeting of Senate, including the summer recess of Senate, the members of the Senate Executive committee shall possess and may exercise all or any of the powers, authorities and discretion vested in or exercised by the Senate.

The Senate was informed that the change in the by-laws was important to maintain academic continuity of the University in the absence of a Senate meeting and when it was necessary for an academic decision to be made expeditiously. Some Senators were concerned with the number of administrative positions part of the Senate Executive Committee as compared to the number of faculty members.

Motion defeated.

#### **20.09.04 DECISION ITEMS (for action or information)**

##### **20.09.04.01 Academic Planning - Final Assessment Report - Business**

- ***Moved [Marasco/Gordon]: that the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee recommends to the Algoma University Senate, the Final Assessment Report [cyclical Review of the Bachelor of Business Administration degree program] as submitted.***

Motion carried.

##### **20.09.04.02 Academic Planning - Final Assessment Report - Law and Justice**

- ***Moved [Gordon/Marasco]: that the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee recommends to the Algoma University Senate, the Final Assessment Report [cyclical Review of the Law and Justice degree programs] as submitted.***

Motion carried.

##### **20.09.04.03 Academic Planning - Master of Biology [MSC.BIOL]**

- ***Moved [Dew/Foote]: that the Algoma University Senate approve the Master of Science in Biology [M.Sc.BIOL].***

### Summary

The proposed M.Sc. in Biology is a research-thesis based program designed for graduates of four-year B.Sc. programs. The program learning outcomes broadly encompass developing critical thinking, analytical, and communication skill sets while expanding and advancing knowledge in the field of biological sciences. The proposed program has a special focus on effective science communication, which addresses the growing need for scientists that are capable of translating what is often technical work, to the general population. Students will develop the required expertise to effectively communicate scientific research to a variety of academic and non-academic audiences. Students will complete: 1) two courses (6 credits), including a required course in Science Communication and an elective course; and 2) an independent research thesis including a general literature review, at least one publishable manuscript and a general discussion. Students will be guided in course selection and research development by a supervisor and a thesis committee of at least three members.

A number of questions were asked about the new masters program including the anticipated number of students the program will attract and what additional library resources will be required to support the program.

Motion carried.

### **20.09.04.04 Academic Planning - Project Management [GC.PMGT]**

- ***Moved [Gordon/Day]: that the Algoma University Senate approve the Graduate Certificate in Project Management: Resilience and Innovation***

### Summary

The proposed Graduate Certificate in Project Management Resilience and Innovation is a 60 credit Certificate available to students with an undergraduate degree in any discipline. The Certificate is designed for students whose main interest is in acquiring a broad skill-set and comprehensive knowledge in project management in a wide variety of contexts and sectors; including information technology, cultural/social enterprises, science and business, to enter or re-enter the workforce quickly. The unique nature of this certificate is that it exposes students to the application of project management techniques in social, cultural, and innovative contexts. There will be a particular emphasis on organizational and community recovery, resilience and crisis management (i.e., VUCA). Graduates of the proposed program will be well-positioned to be strong contributors to various sectors and economic conditions through enterprise creation or as highly skilled workers. Being that this is not a comprehensive undergraduate program in PM, the development of this certificate focused on the guidance of the Project Management Institute's (PMI) [Curriculum and Resources](#) that states "Colleges and universities that host just a few PM courses should attempt to prepare students for diverse industry careers...in a broad variety of industry domains...".

Teaching methods will be highly experiential and community-based. Students will participate in project-based learning with other students and members of the community. The program is structured so students can present ideas and solutions, gain support, and ladder into community programs providing [Algoma University, Senate minutes, September 11, 2020](#)

resources, support, and investment upon graduation. The program deliberately breaks down disciplinary barriers to challenge students to collaborate and innovate across disciplinary silos.

A question was asked about additional resources to support the academic success of the students given that the target market of the group [international students].

It was also made clear that the requirements of the two-year certificate program will change and evolve over the next few months.

Motion carried.

#### **20.09.04.05 Senate Executive - Adjunct Professor**

- ***Moved [Marasco/Meades]: that the Algoma University Senate approve the appointment of Dr. Paula Cypas Antunes as Senate Adjunct Professor [School of Life Sciences and the Environment] for a three-year term effective July 1, 2020.***

Motion carried.

#### **20.09.04.06 Curriculum Committee - motions**

- ***Moved [Gordon/Meades]: that the Senate approve the following new courses:***

##### PMGT 2006 Fundamentals of Project Management

This course offers a comprehensive approach to project management. It covers the important project elements related to planning, scheduling, organizing and controlling projects. In addition, the course focuses on managing projects that align with organizational strategy, estimation of costs and schedules, risk, evaluation, and agile techniques. Primary class emphasis is on the project management process and tools. [lec 3] 3 cr

##### Rationale

This course is part of the curriculum for a new interdisciplinary Graduate Certificate in Project Management: Resilience and Innovation. The proposed graduate certificate program is a 60 credit certificate available to students with an undergraduate degree in any discipline. The certificate is designed for students whose main interest is in acquiring a broad skill-set and comprehensive knowledge in project management in a variety of contexts and sections; including information technology, cultural and social enterprises, science and business, to enter or reenter the workforce quickly. The unique nature of this certificate is that it exposes students to the application of project management techniques in social, cultural and innovative contexts -- with particular emphasis on organizational and community recovery, resilience and crisis management. Graduates of the program will be well-positioned to be strong contributors to various sectors and economic conditions through enterprise creation or as highly skilled workers.

### PMGT 2007 Project Scope and Change Management

This course explores the concept of project scope and processes for defining scope while navigating dynamic circumstances and the necessity to adapt to changing realities. Rooted in embracing change, uncertainty and diversity, students will learn how to identify, analyze, and assess progress on project requirements drawing on a diverse sample of contexts and experience-based assignments. This course provides a critical approach to understanding “success” in dynamic environments and the importance of managing scope in projects. Prerequisite: PMGT 2006 or permission of the University. Registrar. [lec 3] 3 cr

#### Rationale

This course addresses a core competency of project management practice as defined by the Project Management Institute, namely *project scope management*. It also addresses competencies with close affinity, including stakeholder management, cost management, and schedule management.

### **School of Life Sciences and the Environment**

- ***Moved [Marasco/Molina]: that the Senate approve the following new courses as submitted by the School of Life Sciences and the Environment:***

#### BIOL 5106 Science Communication

This course is designed to help prepare all incoming MSc students for successful research at the graduate level. Communication is a vital part of a scientific career but is rarely examined from the first principles of what constitute effective or good communication strategies. For modern researchers, knowledge transfer is also crucial, however, writing for non-academic audiences is distinctly different from academic writing. Through studying communication for the art that it is, you will improve your own reading, writing, and speaking skills. We will explore different ways in which science can be communicated both to the scientific community and to the public at large. You will be introduced to a variety of written formats including a research grant application, a research seminar, an academic curriculum vita, social media posts, and press releases. Oral communication will be developed through reviewing and discussing published research papers and preparing and delivering professional oral and poster presentations. [SEM]

#### Rationale

This course is the core course in the MSc in Biology program. One of the components that makes our program distinct from others is the focus on science communication to a variety of audiences. This course is designed to set new students up for success in other courses and in their thesis research.

#### BIOL 5406 Teaching In the Sciences

Science education has principally focused on developing students into good scientists, which of course is the primary goal. However, the continued growth of the sciences requires that scientists also learn to pass on their knowledge to future scientists. This course sets out to highlight a number of the decisions that teachers in the sciences must make, exploring the impact of those decisions, and exploring good practices in the teaching of science. [SEM]

[Algoma University, Senate minutes, September 11, 2020](#)



### Rationale

This course is an elective course for the MSc in Biology. The central theme of our MSc is communication to diverse audiences, setting students up to be both researchers and efficient scientific communicators. This course focuses on teaching skills for passing knowledge onto others through effective teaching. Graduate students often teach laboratory sections both as MSc and PhD students and this course will help students improve their teaching skills and add to their professional development.

### BIOL 5906 Advanced Topics in Biology

This special topics course allows the flexibility to offer courses in topics of special interest or that are timely. This flexible course options allows the department to capitalize on visiting professors or local experts who become available to teach a specialized course. This course also allows members of the department to offer an in-depth course in an area related to their own research experience. [SEM]

### Rationale

This course is an elective course for the MSc in Biology. The goal of this course is to reduce the number of courses created for this program by adding flexibility to teach a specialized course in any area of Biology based on interest of students and potential instructors.

### BIOL 5907 Advanced Topics in Statistical Techniques

Biologists often measure multiple characteristics of biological systems and so the analysis of biological data requires multivariate statistical techniques. This course is designed to expose students to a variety of advanced statistical techniques in Biology. We will use R in this course and students should have a basic working knowledge of R and introductory statistics/experimental design. We will explore a variety of techniques in this course that will depend on student and faculty interests. Topics may include MANOVA, fitting linear and nonlinear models (including linear models, generalized linear models, generalized additive models, mixed models), phylogenetic analysis, time series analysis and path analysis. Topics will vary according to student interest and faculty expertise. {SEM]

### Rationale

This course is an elective course for the MSc in Biology. The goal of this course is to provide students with skills in advanced statistical analyses that they will need to complete their research project or for future projects. There are too many possible analyses to cover within a single course so the course will be flexible covering different areas of statistics according to student needs and faculty expertise.

## **Department of Music and Visual Art**

- ***Moved [Ridout/Meades]: that the Senate approve the following course revisions as submitted by the Department of Music and Visual Art:***

From:  
MUSC 2056 Music in Popular Culture I

To:  
MUSC 2056 Music in Popular Culture: The History of Jazz, Blues and the Musical

Rationale

The course title is too generic. It does not adequately describe the thrust of the course content. Also, the 'I' leads students to believe that 'Music in Popular Culture I' must be completed before taking 'Music in Popular Culture II - The History of Rock 'n' Roll, which is not the case. By eliminating 'I' and 'II', incorrect assumptions will be less likely in the future.

From:  
MUSC 2057 Music in Popular Culture II: The History of Rock 'n' Roll

To:  
MUSC 2057 Music in Popular Culture: The History of Rock 'n' Roll

Rationale

The course title is too generic. It does not adequately describe the thrust of the course content. Also, the 'I' leads students to believe that 'Music in Popular Culture I' must be completed before taking 'Music in Popular Culture II - The History of Rock 'n' Roll, which is not the case. By eliminating 'I' and 'II', incorrect assumptions will be less likely in the future.

From:  
MUSC 2066 Music as Culture I: World Music

To:  
MUSC 2066 Music as Culture: World Music

Rationale

Use of 'I' and 'II' in the course titles was leading to confusion, as it led students to believe that 'I' had to be taken before enrolling in 'II' which is not the case. Elimination of 'I' and 'II' will lead to greater clarity for all Algoma University students.

From:  
MUSC 2067 Music as Culture II: Native Music

To:  
MUSC 2067 Music as Culture: Native Music

Rationale

The 'II' was creating confusion, as some students assumed that 'Music as Culture I: World Music' must be completed before enrolling in 'Music as Culture II: Native Music', which is not the case. Removal of the 'II' will lead to greater clarity for all Algoma University students.

From:  
ANIS 2067 Music as Culture II: Native Music

To:  
ANIS 2067 Music as Culture: Native Music

Rationale

The 'II' was creating confusion, as some students assumed that 'Music as Culture I: World Music' must be completed before enrolling in 'Music as Culture II: Native Music', which is not the case. Removal of the 'II' will lead to greater clarity for all Algoma University students.

A question was asked whether 'native' was appropriate in the title of ANIS/MUSC 2067. It was suggested that some consultation would be required to identify the correct nomenclature.

Motion carried.

**20.09.04.07 Office of the Registrar - Registrarial Dates/Deadlines [Jan-Aug 21W]**

- ***Moved [Marasco/Gordon]: that the Senate approve the revised Registrarial Dates and Deadlines from January 2020 - August 2020 as submitted.***

Motion carried.

**20.09.04.08 Academic Freedom Policy**

- ***Moved [Rogers/Ross]: that the Senate approve the revisions/additions to the Academic Freedom Policy.***

Purpose:

To define academic freedom and the rights and responsibilities of faculty members and researchers with respect to academic freedom.

Scope:

This policy is applicable to all persons engaged in teaching and research activities at Algoma University.

Policy:

Algoma University is dedicated to the pursuit of truth, knowledge and wisdom. Algoma University believes the common good of society depends upon the search for truth and its free exposition. The fundamental purpose of a university and its unique contribution are the search for new knowledge and

the free dissemination of what is known. Academic freedom is essential to these endeavours, both in teaching and research, and in scholarly and creative work.

In accordance with the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT) definition, “Academic freedom includes the right, without restriction by prescribed doctrine, to freedom to teach and discuss; freedom to carry out research and disseminate and publish the results thereof; freedom to produce and perform creative works; freedom to engage in service to the institution and the community; freedom to express one’s opinion about the institution, its administration, and the system in which one works; freedom from institutional censorship; freedom to acquire, preserve, and provide access to documentary material in all formats; and freedom to participate in professional and representative academic bodies.” Algoma University accepts this definition and, in addition, considers academic freedom to include freedom in publicizing, presenting, publishing, producing and displaying to creative works.

All members of the university are able, within the law, to pursue all avenues of inquiry; to teach and to learn unhindered by external or non-academic constraints; and to engage in full and unrestricted consideration of any opinion without fear of reprisal by Algoma University or any third party. This freedom extends not only to members of the university but to all who are invited to participate in its forum.

As members of a learned profession and as employees of Algoma University, faculty members may choose or be called upon to speak publicly in an area of expertise. In these cases, Algoma University shall not impose supervision or other restraints; nor will it assume responsibility for what is said or written by a faculty member acting as a private citizen. However, as a person of learning, each faculty member shall exercise good judgment and shall make it clear that he/she is not acting as a spokesperson for the university.

Academic freedom is a basic tenet of University life. It includes the right to examine, questions, teach and learn freely. It is supported by the provisions of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, which guarantees everyone freedom of thought, belief, opinion and expression. Algoma University acknowledges that situations arise in which there is a perceived conflict between academic freedom and human rights. It is the position of Algoma University that, notwithstanding the value of both academic freedom and the protection of human rights, academic freedom does not include the right to deny equality to or harass individuals on grounds protected by the Human Rights Code and this policy, and the University’s Sexual Misconduct, Workplace Violence and Harassment Prevention Program, Workplace Violence Policy and the Healthy Workplace Policy.

The Algoma University collective agreements between the Algoma University Board of Governors and OPSEU Local 685 outline the procedures to follow should a member of the university community believe that his/her academic freedom has been violated.

Rogers reminded the Senate the last time the policy was revised was in 2009.

Motion carried.

**20.09.05            INFORMATION ITEMS (for action or information)**  
**20.09.05.01 Guidelines/Criteria for Honorary Degree Recipients**

The Speaker informed the Senate that nominations are being accepted for Honorary Degree, Distinguished Faculty Award and Honorary Member of Algoma University [investiture June 12, 2021]. Nominations should be submitted to the Speaker of Senate, Dr. Laurie Bloomfield and David Marasco, Secretary of Senate no later than November 20, 2020.

#### **20.09.05.02 Winter 2021 - scenario/delivery planning**

The Senate engaged in a lengthy discussion regarding the delivery method for the winter 2021 term - this discussion was facilitated by Dr. Rogers and Asima Vezina.

- ***Moved [Imre/Steeves]: that the meeting of the Senate be extended for 15 minutes.***

Motion carried.

The discussion involved what mode of delivery would be best for our students whether face-to-face, online or a hybrid model. Risk factors were also discussed if another COVID breakout was to be reported. There was also a conversation of the importance of equity access to instruction for the students.

- ***Moved [Day/Imre]: that the meeting of the Senate be extended for 15 minutes.***

Motion carried.

#### **20.09.06 STANDING REPORTS** **20.09.06.01 Board of Governors Representative**

Dupuis gave an oral report. He informed the Senate that the Board of Governors has met on two occasions since the last meeting of the Senate. One of the meetings was to discuss the appointment of the Chancellor.

#### **20.09.06.02 Academic Dean**

The Dean submitted a written report. He welcomed new faculty to Algoma University including Dr. Andrew Judge, Dr. Nicolas Rouleau, and Dr. Saneeha Ahmed. He also congratulated Dr. Cheryl Reed-Elder on her retirement effective August 31, 2020 for her 32 years of service to the University.

#### **20.09.06.03 Vice President Academic and Research**

The VPAR submitted a written report.

- ***Moved [Rogers/Day]: that the meeting of the Senate be extended for 15 minutes.***

Motion carried.

#### **20.09.06.04 President and Vice-Chancellor**

The President submitted a written report.

#### **20.09.07 DISCUSSION AND QUESTION PERIOD**

A question was asked as to whether the University would be investing in an online proctoring tool to assist in the invigilation of final examinations.

The Dean reported that he has asked the Senate Committee on Academic Regulations and Petitions to consider working on an online examination policy. The intent is to recommend a policy to the Senate for approval.

#### **20.09.08 OTHER BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS**

None.

#### **20.09.09 ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None.

#### **20.09.10 ADJOURNMENT**

➤ ***Moved [Rogers/Keough]: that Senate adjourn.***

Motion carried. (Senate adjourned at 3:44pm)