

**MINUTES OF SENATE
ALGOMA UNIVERSITY
Third Regular Meeting of 2020-21
November 6, 2020**

Humanities Faculty

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

Social Science Faculty

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

Science Faculty

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

Other Members

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

Guests

M. Turco

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

20.11.01 APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

- ***Moved [Marasco/Keough]: that the agenda for the November 6, 2020 meeting of the Senate be approved.***

Motion carried.

20.11.02 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES from the meeting of October 2, 2020

- ***Moved [Turgeon/Keough]: that the Algoma University Senate approve the minutes from the Senate meeting of October 2, 2020.***

Motion carried.

20.11.03 BUSINESS ARISING (for action or information)

None.

20.11.04 DECISION ITEMS (for action or information)

20.11.04.01 Academic Regulations and Petitions - Duolingo English Test

- ***Moved [Imre/Rogers]: that the Algoma University Senate approve the Duolingo English Language test (DET), delivered online, as an acceptable English Language test for all international applications. For the DET, a minimum overall score of 110 will be required, in addition to a minimum score of 90 in each band.***

Rationale

Due to the progressive nature of COVID-19, English language testing centres around the world are closing to address local public health concerns. As these tests are a requirement for most International applicants, we have anticipated that this will significantly impact the ability for international students to apply to our institution in the ongoing terms. Duolingo will allow students to test from home using a webcam and microphone. The test will take one-hour, and at \$49 is 75% cheaper than IELTS making it equally, if not more accessible. Students can securely send their results through the test's platform which will allow us to ensure that they are legitimate, and has been compared in academia to the standard of IELTS and TOEFL. Originally offered as a temporary solution during 20SP and 20F, we believe that this test can continue to provide students with the opportunity to study at Algoma University despite testing challenges.

Motion carried.

20.11.04.02 Office of the Registrar - revision to the 21W dates/deadlines

- ***Moved [Meades/Imre]: that the Algoma University Senate approve the following revision to the winter 2021 [21W] term registrarial dates and deadlines:***

From:

April 20	Study Day and Staff/Faculty Professional Development Day
April 21-May 4	Official final examination period for 21W and 20FW courses

To:

April 20 - 30 Official final examination period for 21W and 20FW courses

Rationale:

Immigration Refugees and Citizenship Canada [IRCC] shared the following in regards to PGWP eligibility indicating that students in 8-12 month programs must be complete by April 30th if they are completing their program outside of Canada online.

LANGUAGE from IRCC:

- Students may now study online from abroad until April 30, 2021, with no time deducted from the length of a future post-graduation work permit, provided 50% of their program of study is eventually completed in Canada.
- Students who have enrolled in a program with a start date from May to September 2020 and study online up to April 30, 2021, and who graduate from more than one eligible program of study, may be able to combine the length of their programs of study when they apply for a post-graduation work permit in the future, as long as 50% of their total studies are completed in Canada.

Here are the students who could be impacted as a result of our winter semester end date (May 4, 2021):

- Students who begin their studies in September and plan to complete a one year certificate online outside of Canada, and then complete a second certificate in Canada, may not meet PGWP eligibility requirements for the first program.
- Students who started in the fall in a 2-year certificate program may not meet PGWP eligibility requirements under these current measures.

Motion carried.

20.11.04.03 Senate Executive - ADHOC Committee on Interdisciplinary Planning

- ***Moved [Marasco/Molina]: that the Algoma University Senate approve the establishment of an Ad Hoc Committee for Interdisciplinary Planning. The committee will operate as an Ad hoc committee until December 2021 at which time the Senate Executive will determine whether it should be considered a standing committee of the Senate.***

The Ad Hoc Committee for Interdisciplinary Planning serves in the role of an academic department for administering University approved courses in interdisciplinary planning. The committee is responsible for making recommendations for development and review of interdisciplinary curricula, working with the Office of the Registrar to approve the scheduling of Interdisciplinary courses, formulating academic guidelines for implementation of the Interdisciplinary courses programming. The Committee will report

its actions and recommendations to the Curriculum Committee and the Quality Assurance Committee (which will in turn report to the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee).

The term interdisciplinary refers to those academic programs and majors that are composed of different units within the same discipline. Interdisciplinarity draws knowledge from several disciplines while creating programming across the curriculum.

Scope

The committee will examine the current practices of interdisciplinary programming at Algoma University and evaluate both barriers and opportunities moving forward. The committee will provide examples of best practices of current programs at AU and other institutions, and also will provide recommended strategies with the goal of helping to advance interdisciplinary academic planning as it relates to the special mission of Algoma University.

Responsibilities

- Identify and summarize the design and operations of existing interdisciplinary academic programs at Algoma University;
- Identify examples of best practices and interdisciplinary planning at both AU and other institutions;
- Identify future areas of growth related to interdisciplinary programming at AU.
- Develop best practices and strategies for promoting improved communication between departments whose curriculum shares common areas of study;
- Identify ways AU might approach the hiring of faculty cross-appointments for the purpose of interdisciplinary instruction;
- Work closely with and support academic units interested in interdisciplinary planning, including the provision of resources and feedback to those developing proposals;
- Develop best practices for promoting improved communication between academic units proposing an interdisciplinary program;
- Support interdisciplinary research between and amongst faculty at AU;
- Recommend admission and graduation requirements for proposed interdisciplinary programming;
- Develop best practices from multiple fields encouraging pedagogical innovation and online delivery;

Composition

- Two full-time faculty members representing each of the three Faculties. Committee members are not required to be members of the Academic Senate;
- Academic Dean;
- University Registrar;
- One student

*****In all cases, the committee chair will be a member of the faculty.***

Rationale:

The committee will provide for a structured approach to better promote interdisciplinary academic studies that cross disciplinary boundaries. The committee will be critical in establishing best practices and processes to enhance interdisciplinary collaboration.

Motion carried.

20.11.04.04 Senate Executive - ADHOC Committee on Online Examinations

- ***Moved [Marasco/Lajoie]: that the Algoma University Senate approve the establishment of an Ad Hoc Committee on Online Examinations.***

In light of the remote delivery of our academic programming, Algoma University needs to consider how final examinations should be conducted and administered. Responding to the social distancing measures and associated challenges related to delivering final examinations, the university must ensure that we protect the academic integrity of our programming and that the final assessment is a valid, accurate and reliable reflection of the students' capacity.

Reporting to the Senate Committee on Academic Regulations and Petitions [ARP], the Ad-hoc Committee on Online Examinations will be responsible for considering the the following when presenting its final report to ARP:

1. Recommendations for best practices for online examinations;
2. Remote proctoring tools;
3. Asynchronous final examinations;
4. Open book final examinations;
5. Academic integrity of online examinations;
6. Other assessments in lieu of a final examination;
7. Professional accreditation expectations;
8. Students with academic accommodations

Composition:

1. Two faculty with experience delivering online courses representing each of the three academic Faculties;
2. University Registrar;
3. Member of the Algoma University Support Staff with experience in eLearning technologies [AUSS];
4. Two students

A friendly amendment to the motion was made to have two students participate on the committee. The mover and seconder were amenable to the request.

Motion carried.

20.11.04.05 Appeals/Academic Standards - Academic Grade Appeals Policy

- ***Moved [Marasco/Rogers]: that the Algoma University Senate approve the revised Academic Grade Appeals Policy as submitted by the Senate Committee on Appeals and Academic Standards.***

Rationale:

The suggested revisions to the policy are necessary for the following reasons:

- 1) general housekeeping, like uniform terms for the name of the Academic Standards and Appeals Committee and replacing Divisional Chair with Faculty Chair etc.
- 2) there were changes that needed to be effected to distinguish this policy and its associated appeals process from the Disciplinary Regulations on Academic Dishonesty Policy
- 3) to clarify the type of support persons who may act in support of the students submitting appeals

A request was made regarding an equity perspective in that the committee should consider students who are appealing a final grade appeal when indigenous knowledge is concerned.

Another concern was raised regarding the addition that 'no Algoma University employee, except student employees may act in a supportive or advisory capacity during a grade appeal. It was brought to the attention of the Senate that there was no restriction on students consulting others including a parent, elder, legal counsel; the language simply states 'not an AU employee'.

Motion carried.

20.11.04.06 Appeals/Academic Standards - Disciplinary Regulations on Academic Dishonesty

- ***Moved [Imre/Ross]: that the Algoma University Senate approve the revised Disciplinary Regulations on Academic Dishonesty as submitted by the Senate Committee on Appeals and Academic Standards.***

Rationale:

The changes suggested in this policy are aligned with:

- 1) the separation and explicit description of this policy's appeals process, so that students have a clear, well-described and transparent process to follow (previously article 15 was very short and less explicit that the comparable process in the Academic Grade Appeals policy)
- 2) general updates related to terms and names used in the policy
- 3) removal of the Secretary function and appropriate redistribution of tasks as there are no secretaries assigned to Senate Committees in general and the Academic Standards and Appeals Committee in particular

- 4) there were changes that needed to be effected to distinguish this policy and its associated appeals process from the Academic Grade Appeals Policy
- 5) to clarify the type of support persons who may act in support of the students submitting appeals under this policy

Motion carried.

20.11.05 INFORMATION ITEMS (for action or information)

20.11.05.01 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.

20.11.05.02 eLearning Elective Course Proposal

The Senate Committee on Academic Planning and Priorities is accepting proposals from interested departments and schools to identify elective courses for eLearning (online) development.

APPCOM encourages interested departments and schools to consider proposing electives (existing courses) that could be developed as eLearning courses, with the potential to enhance teaching and learning for Algoma University's diverse student population. As part of the University's strategy to launch at least three eLearning degree programs, elective courses must be available to students as part of their programs, as elective credits and/or as breadth curricular requirements. Elective eLearning courses will promote access to the curriculum, enhancing student course selection and flexibility in completing their program requirements.

Approved eLearning courses will be developed for the Brightspace Online Learning Platform to be delivered asynchronously or by blended learning.

Interested parties must complete the [form](#) so that AppCom can make an evidence-based decision. Please note that department and faculty chairs must sign off on all proposals (signoff = awareness, not necessarily approval).

As part of the criteria, proposals must demonstrate alignment with Algoma University's Special Mission, how the eLearning version of the course[s] will support enrolment, how the course[s] will appeal to our diverse student population, providing innovative pedagogical development and enhancing student engagement and learning. All elective proposals will be evaluated in the context of the overall number and type of elective courses (Social Sciences, Sciences, Humanities and Professional) each degree program requires. Elective course development proposals that can serve more than one degree program under development are encouraged.

20.11.06 STANDING REPORTS
20.11.06.01 Board of Governors Representative

Dupuis submitted a written report.

20.11.06.02 Academic Dean

The Dean submitted a written report.

20.11.06.03 Vice-President Academic and Research

The VPAR submitted a written report.

20.11.06.04 President and Vice-Chancellor

The President submitted a written report.

20.11.07 DISCUSSION AND QUESTION PERIOD

None

20.11.08 OTHER BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS

There was a discussion regarding the delivery of select face-to-face classes during the winter 2021 term. The Senate was informed that fourteen classes/laboratories are scheduled on campus during the winter 2021 term [BIOL/CHMI/ENVS]. The Department of Biology has worked with a variety of administrative units to ensure the government protocols will be followed to mitigate any potential risk to students or Algoma University employees.

Additionally, there are a number of other courses that will be vetted to see whether they can be scheduled on campus next term.

A question was raised as to whether a standing committee of the Senate would be considered to deal with equity, diversity and inclusion matters. The Speaker indicated that such a proposal should be forwarded to the Senate Executive Committee through the Secretary of Senate.

20.11.09 ANNOUNCEMENTS

Treaties Recognition Week was acknowledged by the Senate [November 2 - 6, 2020].

20.11.10 ADJOURNMENT

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

Motion carried. (Senate adjourned at 2:44pm)