

**MINUTES OF SENATE  
ALGOMA UNIVERSITY  
Fourth Regular Meeting of 2020-21  
December 4, 2020**

**Humanities Faculty**

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

**Social Science Faculty**

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

**Science Faculty**

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

**Other Members**

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

**Guests**

M. Turco

The meeting was conducted by Zoom and called to order at 1:04pm.

The Speaker called for a moment of silence to honour the victims at Ecole Polytechnique in Montreal [December 6, 1989].

**20.12.01      APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

- ***Moved [Steeves/R. Cameron]: that the agenda for the December 4, 2020 meeting of the Senate be approved.***

Motion carried.

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

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- ***Moved [Marasco/Ross]: that the Algoma University Senate approve the minutes from the Senate meeting of November 6, 2020.***

Motion carried.

**20.12.03 BUSINESS ARISING (for action or information)**  
**20.12.03.01 Senate Membership**

- ***Moved [Steeves/Marasco]: that the Algoma University Senate approve Dianne Roach [Interim Administrator SKG] as a member of the Senate for the 2020-21 Senate year.***

Rationale:

As per section 3.2 Senators by Virtue of Office of the Algoma University Senate Bylaws, the following persons are members by virtue of their office:

viii. The President of Shingwauk Kinooamaage Gamig, or his or her designate.

Motion carried.

**20.12.03.02 Honorary Degree Nomination**

The Speaker called for a motion to move in camera to discuss the nomination for Honorary Doctorate [investiture June 12, 2021].

- ***Moved [Rogers/Steeves]: that Senate move in camera.***

Motion carried.

- ***Moved [Meades/Graydon]: that Senate move out of camera***

Motion carried.

- ***Moved [Meades/Lajoie]: that the motion approved in camera be approved by the Algoma University Senate in open session.***

Motion carried.

The Registrar reminded the Senate that the name of the Honorary Degree recipient [investiture June 12, 2021] should be considered confidential and will not be published until it is deemed appropriate by the Office of the President.

He also reminded Senators that the motions were made in camera and the name of the nomination should not be made public by any member for any reason.

**20.12.04            DECISION ITEMS (for action or information)**  
**20.12.04.01    Curriculum Committee - motions**

- ***Moved [Xu/R. Cameron]: that the Algoma University Senate approve the following program revision as submitted by the School of Computer Science and Technology [minor modification as per the IQAP]:***

**Bachelor of Science [three/four-year programs]**

From:

Students in B.Sc. programs [Computer Science] must include at least 12 credits from Humanities and/or Social Sciences and 6 credits from ***at least 2 different Science subject areas other than Computer Science and Mathematics.***

To:

Students in B.Sc. programs [Computer Science] must include at least 12 credits from Humanities and/or Social Sciences and 6 credits from ***a different Science subject area(s) other than Computer Science and Mathematics.***

Rationale:

Since the topics covered in PHYS1006 differ so much compared to PHYS1007 and since the rationale for the purpose of the rule was to broaden the student's exposure to science, this change does not compromise that. Furthermore, students wanting to take PHYS1007 in order to have the prerequisite knowledge to study Quantum Computing and Quantum Key Distribution need to first take the prerequisite 1006 which disadvantages them since to add yet a third science course would reduce their cosc electives. Finally, the B.Sc. degree in other disciplines does not have this requirement of two "different" science subjects making this a unique requirement for the Bachelor of Science in Computer Science.

Motion carried.

- ***Moved [Ridout/Rogers]: that the Algoma University Senate approve the following new course as submitted by the Department of English and History:***

ENGL 2196 Introduction to Songwriting

In this course students will study the craft of songwriting. Through analysis of successful songs from a variety of genres, students will explore key elements of popular song. Students will develop an

understanding of various musical and lyrical devices, and will apply this knowledge to the composition of new works, both individually and collaboratively. Production of a songwriting portfolio and demo recordings of original works will be a key component of this class. Students may not retain credit for both ENGL 2196 and MUSC 2196. (LEC 3) 3 cr

Rationale:

Understanding the form, structure and content of popular songs is a key ingredient for success in various possible careers in the music industry. This includes potential work as songwriters, arrangers, producers, performers, and creative writers in various disciplines. The popular song is also an excellent vehicle for exploration of musical and literary devices which can be transferred to other areas of study within the disciplines of Music and English. The marriage of musical and lyrical devices in a concise and succinct form such as contemporary song requires a specific skill set utilizing key elements from both disciplines. Refinement of these skills can be a valuable component of a liberal arts degree for students with wide-ranging backgrounds and aspirations.

Motion carried.

- ***Moved [Ridout/Meades]: that the Algoma University Senate approve the following revised courses as submitted by the Humanities Faculty:***

From:

ENGL 2097 English Literature of the Eighteenth Century II

This course explores British literature and culture from 1740 to the French Revolution in 1789. It will examine the literature, philosophy, art, and music of the age. The course will follow the great shifts in sensibility from the Augustans to birth of the Romantics and explore gothic and oriental tales, comedies of manners, feminist tracts, travel literature and the many forms that developed in this explosive age of print. Authors may include Boswell, Burney, Fielding, Johnson, Grey, and Richardson. Students may not receive credit for both ENGL 2095 and ENGL 2097. Prerequisite: ENGL 2096. (LEC 2, SEM 1) (3 cr)

To:

ENGL 2097 Sense and Satire

This course examines literature and thought of the 18th century by focusing on the significance of ideas, arguments, and movements that are prominent in the period. The course will follow the great shifts in thinking and writing through the era and explore the many artistic, literary, and philosophic forms that developed in this explosive age of print. Students may not retain credit for both ENGL 2097 and ENGL 2096. [LEC 2, SEM 1] 3 cr

Rationale:

As one of Michael DiSanto's subject areas as a scholar, this course will be brought back into the regular 2 year course rotation. It will fill a gap in the program offerings since ENGL 2096 and ENGL 2097 were previously banked a few years ago. The course introduces important writers (e.g. Austen, Burney, Johnson, Sterne, Swift) and an age of monumental change that students should have

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contact with during a well-formed English degree.

From:

MUSC 2196 Introduction to Songwriting

In this course students will study the craft of songwriting. Through analysis of successful songs from a variety of genres, students will explore key elements of popular song. Students will develop an understanding of various musical and lyrical devices, and will apply this knowledge to the composition of new works, both individually and collaboratively. Production of a songwriting portfolio and demo recordings of original works will be a key component of this class. Prerequisite: MUSC 1101, equivalent music theory background or permission of the department. (LEC 3) 3 cr

To:

MUSC 2196 Introduction to Songwriting

In this course students will study the craft of songwriting. Through analysis of successful songs from a variety of genres, students will explore key elements of popular song. Students will develop an understanding of various musical and lyrical devices, and will apply this knowledge to the composition of new works, both individually and collaboratively. Production of a songwriting portfolio and demo recordings of original works will be a key component of this class. Students may not retain credit for both MUSC 2196 and ENGL 2196. Prerequisite: MUSC 1101, equivalent music theory background or permission of the department. (LEC 3) 3 cr

Rationale

With ENGL having approved cross listing with MUSC 2196 – “Introduction to Songwriting”, this Revised Course Template establishes the anti-requisite.

From:

SOCI 2127 Introduction to Social Research Methods and Statistics

Examines research methods including observational techniques, survey research, and advanced sampling methodology. Students will study a variety of descriptive and inferential statistical procedures. Prerequisite: SOCI 1016/1017 or instructor’s permission. (LEC/EXP 3) (3 cr)

To:

SOCI 2127 Introduction to Social Research Methods

Examines a variety of both qualitative and quantitative research methods including observational techniques, survey research, and advanced sampling methodologies. Ethics in research receives special attention.

Rationale:

Given that students spend dedicated time learning about qualitative and quantitative research methods in SOCI3126 and SOCI 3127 respectively; SOCI2127 is intended to be a more general introduction to research and plays specific attention to research ethics.

From:

SOCI 3127 Quantitative Research Methods and Analysis

Students will learn research design and application of techniques in quantitative research methodology for the field of sociology. This course introduces basic descriptive and inferential techniques used in quantitative social research. Students will acquire the skills needed to perform basic analyses and read the research literature. They will also acquire skills in using a standard computer package to perform data analyses (SPSS). Topics include: research design and problem formulation, sample description, sampling methods, measurement and scaling, research ethics, data organization, data analysis such as hypothesis testing and measures of association. Prerequisite: SOCI 1016/1017, 2127 and SOCI 2016. [LEC 3] 3 cr

To:

SOCI 3127 Quantitative Research Methods and Analysis

Students will learn research design and application of techniques in quantitative research methodology for the field of sociology. This course introduces basic descriptive and inferential techniques used in quantitative social research. Students will acquire the skills needed to perform basic analyses and read the research literature. They will also acquire skills in using a standard computer package to perform data analyses. Topics include: research design and problem formulation, sample description, sampling methods, measurement and scaling, research ethics, data organization, data analysis such as hypothesis testing and measures of association. Prerequisite: SOCI 1016/1017, 2127 and SOCI 2016. [LEC/SEM 3] 3 cr

Rationale

Given technology assisted teaching it is more effective and easier for the students to use alternate statistics packages rather than just SPSS. Consequently, we have removed the name of the specific stats application.

From:

VISA 2026 Indigenous Art of Canada

This course explores the rich variety of Canadian Indigenous art from the early pre-contact period to the mid-twentieth century Modernism. Traditional practices will be examined in their historic and geographic contexts. Indigenous artists working within a modernist framework will be studied as well. Theoretical and critical approaches will be used to address key issues for Indigenous art, including symbolism and spirituality, the role of museum practices and the politics of art criticism. An experiential component will allow students an opportunity to work with a guest artist learning a traditional skill. (LEC/SEM/EXP) 3 cr  
To:

VISA 2026 Indigenous Futurism, Art + Material Culture of Turtle Island

Looking through the lens of Indigenous Futurism, this course introduces the art, stories and material cultures of First Nation, Métis and Inuit makers; emphasizing the resilience of 500+ nations that live today, in the land that is now known as Canada. Contemporary works, by FNMI makers from across Turtle Island, taking a range of forms including, images, objects, environments, performances, clothing, films and videos, websites and texts, will be used as entry points into the work of Indigenous makers, their communities and cultures, from the past centuries. Through active reading, observation, analysis and critical thinking, students will be asked to make connections between works and reflect

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on the ways in which Indigenous knowledge continues to pass from generation to generation, into a collective future. (LEC/SEM/EXP) 3 cr

### Rationale

The current title and description of the course, Indigenous Art of Canada, is problematic for a few reasons; many Indigenous nations traverse the boundaries of contemporary colonizing nations, categorizing/naming this history/study as within the boundaries of Canada is impossible. There are challenges in correctly applying the term art, as well as the idea of "pre-contact" with regards to both history and historical works as these are colonialist determined and dictated by telling history from the point of view of colonialism. Using the term Indigenous is also hard to avoid, but it is used as a catch all that does not accurately point to the diversity and complexity of the 500 plus nations and their many languages that are recognized in Canada alone.

Motion carried.

### **20.12.04.02 Curriculum Committee - proposed course roster 2021-22**

- ***Moved [Graydon/R. Cameron]: that the Algoma University Senate approve the proposed course roster as recommended by the Curriculum Committee of the Senate for the 2021-22 academic year.***

Motion carried.

### **20.12.04.03 Senate Executive - Curriculum Development Policy**

- ***Moved [Rogers/Jones]: that the Algoma University Senate approve the revisions to the Curriculum Development Policy as submitted:***

#### **Purpose:**

To outline Algoma University's curriculum development process and to define the role(s) of academic staff and students in the development of academic policies and standards.

#### **Scope:**

This policy applies to all curriculum development at Algoma University.

Decisions by the Senate pertaining to curricula, academic policies, and academic standards are informed by recommendations from its various committees and in consultation with the Librarian, the University Registrar ~~and~~, Academic Dean ~~and~~ the Vice-President Academic and Research. Committees include but are not exclusive to:

- a) ~~Academic and Technical Support Committee;~~ [Teaching & Learning and Technical Support Committee](#)
- b) Academic Planning and Priorities Committee;
- c) Academic Regulations and Petitions;
- d) ~~Academic Standards and Teaching and Learning Committee;~~ [Appeals and Academic Standards](#)
- e) Curriculum Committee;
- f) ~~Student Support Services Committee;~~ [Quality Assurance Committee](#)

For detailed terms of reference for the Senate and its committees, refer to the current by-laws of the Senate.

**Policy:**

Algoma University promotes interdisciplinary collaboration, creativity, and innovation to develop programs that are responsive to regional needs and contribute to provincial capacity.

Algoma’s curriculum development process starts with current faculty and with administrative support where necessary, and moves through various stages of Senate consultation and approval. Efforts are made to actively involve students and the community throughout the process. Student representatives are full members on all Senate committees relating to curriculum development, academic policies, and academic standards.

**Curriculum Development within Existing Programs:** Course development (new and revised) and minor program modifications proceed from the related academic departments and are then approved by the relevant academic divisions [Faculties](#), to the Curriculum Committee, and finally Senate.

**Curriculum Development of New Programs and Major Modifications:** The process for new program development and major modifications of existing programs ~~proceeds through the same approval bodies, includes support from the Department/School and Faculty before proceeding through the approval process.~~ [but requires approval of the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee, prior to approval from the Senate.](#) During the process, all new program development will be informed by Program Advisory Committees made up of external constituents to confirm the currency of the curriculum and, as appropriate, its relevance to the field(s) of practice. [Steps in New Program Approval Processes are detailed in S. 1.5 \[Guidelines Steps for in New Program Approvals-Process\] of the Institutional Quality Assurance Process \(IQAP\).](#) The IQAP lists the steps during the conceptual stage, preparation of a new program concept summary, and the development of a full new program proposal. During the process, all new program development will be informed by Program Advisory Committees made up of external constituents to confirm the currency of the curriculum and, as appropriate, its relevance to the field(s) of practice. Prior to final Senate approval, the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee will be required to approve.

In the case, of new and revised courses, as well as new and revised programs, where Anishinaabe course content is a core component, ~~the Indigenous Learning Sub-Committee of the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee and Curriculum Committee (of Senate)~~ [it is recommended that departments/schools consult with our Anishinaabe partners](#) who will provide counsel and advice to course/program developers.

Decisions pertaining to curricula, academic policies, and academic standards shall be approved by the Algoma University Senate. The Senate consists of representation from full- time and part- time teaching faculty, students, administration, staff, and the Board of Governors. The Algoma University Senate determines and regulates the educational policy of the university, subject to the approval of the

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Board of Governors with respect to the expenditure of funds. This includes determining program and course curricula, making recommendations to the Board on the establishment, change or termination of programs and courses of study, and appointing ~~faculty deans~~ departmental and faculty chairs.

Rationale:

The Curriculum Development Policy was last revised/approved by the Algoma University Senate in April 2014. The revisions are necessary to ensure our current processes and procedures are aligned with the policy.

There was discussion regarding the language of 'Anishinaabe partners' and whether the language should be more specific by identifying the specific partners.

It was decided that not listing the partners would provide academic units flexibility in liaising with the Anishinaabe groups. A friendly amendment was made to remove 'our' before Anishinaabe partners.

Motion carried.

**20.12.04.04 Academic Regulations and Petitions - Academic Conduct  
Complaints Policy**

- ***Moved [Marasco/Imre]: that the Algoma University Senate approve the Academic Conduct Complaints Policy as recommended by the Senate Committee on Academic Regulations and Petitions and as submitted.***

Senators raised concerns specific to procedure in Section 4 since there was reference to faculty sanctions with discipline. Another concern included approving a policy where other policies may cover the extent of the complaint, for example, a grade appeal.

The Senate was informed that the policy pertains to student expectations for academic matters where there is no policy in place, for example, a violation of the Early Feedback Policy. The Senate was reassured that the policy is to be used by students where a specific AU policy or procedure is not currently in place to address their immediate concern -- the policy is not intended to be disciplinary in nature but to provide a prompt and fair resolution for all student complaints.

Motion carried.

**20.12.04.05 Academic Planning and Priorities - Faculty Hiring Priorities 2021-22**

- ***Moved [Marasco/Rogers]: that the Algoma University Senate approve the hiring recommendations [unranked] as submitted by the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee of the Senate as the most urgent to meet Algoma University's academic resourcing needs for 2021-22:***

- ANIS T-T SSM
- CESD T-T SSM
- COSC 3-year CLTA Brampton
- Library T-T SSM
- MUSC CLTA SSM [sabbatical replacement]
- POLI T-T SSM
- SWRK T-T SSM

Motion carried.

**20.12.05 INFORMATION ITEMS (for action or information)**  
**20.12.05.01 Innovation and Success**

The Speaker made a call out to the Senate to share information regarding academic innovation or success.

- ***Moved [Riauka/Turgeon]: that Senate be extended for 15 minutes until 3:15pm.***

Motion carried.

**20.11.05.02 Distinguished Faculty Award, Senate Award**

The Speaker informed the Senate that the deadline for nominations for the Distinguished Faculty Award and Honorary Member of Algoma University [investiture June 12, 2021] will be extended until February 19, 2021. Nominations should be submitted to the Speaker of the Senate, Dr. Laurie Bloomfield and David Marasco, Secretary of the Senate.

- ***Moved [Meades/Day]: that Senate be extended for 15 minutes until 3:30pm.***

Motion carried.

**20.12.05.03 Discussion regarding innovative programming**

The Senate engaged in a dialogue regarding innovative programming and some of the barriers to development having to adhere to current structural requirements. An example was the request from the Department of Sociology requesting a specialization within a three-year degree program.

The Senate was reminded that we are bound by the Institutional Quality Assurance Program which is not only approved by the AU Senate but also by the Quality Council [Ontario]. It was also brought forward that the Quality Council was approached with respect to requests of specializations within three-year degree programs. To their knowledge, these are uncommon across the system -- asking

students to fulfill the requirements for a specialization within a three-year degree program may be a challenge.

Another concern involved the timeline of approvals adding that the approval process at the University is rather lengthy -- an example was provided as to how quickly the colleges can approve programs and initiatives..

#### **20.12.05.04 Discussion regarding specializations [three-year degree programs]**

➤ ***Moved [Day/Tchir]: that Senate be extended for 15 minutes until 3:45pm.***

Motion carried.

#### **20.12.06 STANDING REPORTS**

##### **20.12.06.01 Board of Governors Representative**

No report was submitted.

##### **20.12.06.02 Academic Dean**

The Dean submitted a written report.

##### **20.12.06.03 Vice-President Academic and Research**

The VPAR submitted a written report.

##### **20.12.06.04 President and Vice-Chancellor**

The President submitted a written report highlighting successful funding from MCU for facility renewal, elearning opportunities from Northern Ontario Heritage Fund and the CityStudio concept from the City of Sault Ste. Marie.

#### **20.12.07 DISCUSSION AND QUESTION PERIOD**

None.

#### **20.12.08 OTHER BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS**

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A request was made that at the next meeting of the Senate communications be discussed -- this is in reference to the media release about AU becoming a virtual campus. This has never been approved at the Senate and in some cases the first time Senators have become privy to this information.

#### **20.12.09          ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There will be a dedication of the Dr. Robert Ewing Geography Lab and Akii Stewardship Centre [digital lab] on December 10 from 3:00 - 3:30pm -- a zoom link will be circulated.

#### **20.12.10          ADJOURNMENT**

➤ ***Moved [Meades/Lajoie]: that Senate adjourn.***

Motion carried. (Senate adjourned at 3:42pm)