

MINUTES OF SENATE
ALGOMA UNIVERSITY
Third Regular Meeting of 2021-2022
November 5, 2021

Humanities Faculty

L. Burnett, V. Jimenez-Estrada, R. Isard, A. Pinheiro, S. Redmond [PTF], A. Ridout, N. Shaw, P. Steeves, D. Woodman
[absent: A. Judge]

Social Science Faculty

N. Aziz, R. Cameron, K. DeLuca, S. Gruner, H. Hornstein, P. Matthews, S. Meades, T. Tchir, L. Wyper
[absent: P. Finlayson [PTF]]

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

A. Trudeau Day, L. Doxtater, I. Imre, S. Khan, D. Marasco [Secretary], D. Rogers
[regrets: A. Vezina; absent: H. Stevenson, R. Gwynn]

Guests

M. Turco, H. Luitel, C. Denomme, G. Mahar, A. Pagnotta, B. Schuler-Chin, T. Fabiano, M. Wabano-McKay

The meeting was conducted by Zoom and called to order at 1:10pm. The Speaker called for a moment of silence for the passing of Dr. Susan Sanders, Professor Emeritus and a long standing faculty member from the Department of Biology.

21.11.01 APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

- ***Moved [Meades/Keough]: that the agenda for the November 5, 2021 meeting of the Senate be approved.***

Woodman requested a number of items added to the agenda under other business/new business including an update on the progress of the academic restructuring, the creation of an ad hoc committee of Senate [academic restructuring], and a notice of motion for the creation of a Faculty of Cross-cultural Studies.

Motion carried.

21.11.02 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES from the previous meeting

- ***Moved [Meades/Rogers]: that the Algoma University Senate approve the minutes from the Senate meeting of October 1, 2021.***

Motion carried.

21.11.03 BUSINESS ARISING (for action or information)

None.

21.11.04 DECISION ITEMS (for action or information)

21.11.04.01 Academic Planning and Priorities - Hiring Priorities 2022-23

- ***Moved [Rogers/Shaw]: that the Algoma University Senate approve the second round of recommendations as submitted by the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee of Senate for the academic hiring priorities 2022-23:***

Listed alphabetically [not ranked]

Department of Biology T-T Environmental Science [SSM]

Department of Community Economic and Social Development T-T CESD [SSM]

Department of Community Economic and Social Development three-year CESD CLTA [Brampton]

Department of Music and Visual Art three-year MUSC CLTA [SSM]

School of Business and Economics T-T Accounting [SSM]

School of Business and Economics T-T Human Resources Management [Brampton]

School of Computer Science and Technology T-T Computer Graphics/General [SSM]

Motion carried. [one abstention, S. Meades]

21.11.04.02 Research Advisory Committee - revised terms of reference

- ***Moved [Wyper/Steeves]: that Senate approve the revised terms of reference for the Research Advisory Committee as follows:***

Purpose

The Research Advisory Committee (RAC) serves as a standing committee of the Senate, reporting to the Senate and advisory to the President.

Equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) Mandate

Algoma University (AU) commits to embedding equity, diversity, and inclusion to foster a welcoming environment on our campuses. EDI values must be transversal in the entire organization to fulfill Algoma University's commitment to undoing systemic and institutional

[Algoma University, Senate minutes, November 5, 2021](#)

discrimination and to be publicly transparent and accountable. AU acknowledges that racism and discrimination exist and affect underrepresented groups (women, Indigenous, Black and other racialized persons, persons with disabilities, and LGBTQIP2SA+ persons) in disproportionate, distinct and complex ways.

The Research Advisory Committee commits to make informed decisions based on EDI best practices including [Tri-Agency efforts](#) to increase equity, diversity and inclusion as well as the Canada Research Chairs program (CRC). [NSERC](#) is also advancing EDI as one of its selection criteria for the Discovery grants and other programs ([see here for more information](#)). The EDI goals present a number of strategies to close EDI gaps and to address systemic barriers that hinder full participation in the research enterprise by members of underrepresented equity deserving groups.

Duties:

- a) Mandatory Training
 - a. [Unconscious Bias Training Module](#)
- b) To support and actively participate in the formulation, implementation and interpretation of the Algoma University Strategic Research Plan.
- c) To develop research priorities, processes and policies and examine existing policies for the purpose of making recommendations to improve research support services available to researchers.
- d) To make recommendations on the distribution of any funds available to the Senate Research Committee.
- e) To make recommendations on other research funding opportunities where there is the requirement for an internal competition, for example in those instances where the number of proposals that may be submitted to granting agencies is limited.
- f) To adjudicate Tri-Agency studentships, fellowships, awards and grants and other requests for research supports.
- g) To adjudicate, review, and monitor the Algoma University Research Fund (AURF).

Membership

- The President and Vice-Chancellor
- Chief Academic Officer (CAO - Chair of the Committee)
- University Librarian
- One Representative from each of the three academic Faculties who have active research programs
- One Representative from any of the three academic Faculties with a good understanding of Indigenous cultures and education
- One Representative from any of the three academic Faculties with a good understanding of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

Operational Protocol

Meetings will occur monthly and/or as required at the call of the Chair.

Members are expected to exercise experienced, knowledgeable and unbiased judgment to make equitable decisions and or recommendations with an eye toward supporting university growth within the context of quality programming and enhanced research opportunities and infrastructure. The committee will function impartially in an open and transparent manner.

All members are expected to attend meetings. Quorum follows that of the Senate, ½ the voting members, which is four (4). For the purposes of internal competitions applicants must declare a conflict of interest in accordance with the university's [Conflict of Interest Policy](#) and abstain from the evaluation process during the meeting.

In accordance with the FTCA (Article 20:03), the Research Advisory Committee will determine the award criteria and will select the AU Research Fund (AURF) recipients. Decisions of the Research Advisory Committee will be binding. An application form and decision criteria are maintained by the Research Advisory Committee. The RAC will follow the same process for all internal competitions.

Documentation Protocol Minutes will be circulated to all Committee members following each meeting, no later than with the agenda for the subsequent meeting. Minutes and all other Committee business documentation are to be considered confidential by members unless expressly indicated otherwise by the Chair.

Evaluation Protocol The Committee will submit an annual report on its activities to the University President and Senate for information. As part of its annual report, the Committee will review its goals and objectives and Terms of Reference and include any resulting recommendations for changes.

Rationale:

As part of the annual exercise for Senate committees to review their terms of reference, members of the Research Advisory Committee of the Senate were in agreement to include that the work of the committee will be informed and guided by Algoma University's Special Mission and its Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Charter.

Motion carried.

21.11.04.03 Curriculum Committee

- ***Moved [Khan/Steeves]; that the Curriculum Committee of the Algoma University Senate recommends to the Senate the adoption of the Indigenous Learning Outcomes as developed by the Negahneewin Research Centre at Confederation College to serve as a guide for Indigenous curriculum development.***



Indigenous Learning Outcomes

Rationale:

The Negahneewin Vision is that every student, Indigenous and non-Indigenous, will graduate with the knowledge and understanding of these seven learning outcomes:

1. Relate principles of Indigenous knowledge to career field
2. Analyze the impact of colonialism on Indigenous communities
3. Explain the relationship between land and identity within Indigenous societies
4. Compare Indigenous and Canadian perceptions of inclusion and diversity
5. Analyze racism in relation to Indigenous peoples
6. Generate strategies for reconciling Indigenous and Canadian relations
7. Formulate approaches for engaging Indigenous community partners

The Indigenous Learning Outcomes recognize that the infusion of Indigenous knowledge into curriculum will “strengthen colleges’ and institutes’ contribution to improving the lives of learners and communities” Special thanks to the Negahneewin Research Centre in allowing Algoma University to use the ILOs.

Motion carried.

- ***Moved [Khan/Meades]: that the Algoma University Senate approve the following mode of delivery changes as approved by the Curriculum Committee for Winter 2022:***

ANTR1007 - change to in-person, hybrid, remote synchronous / asynchronous

ANTR3036 - change to in-person, hybrid, remote synchronous / asynchronous

SOCI1017 - change to in-person, hybrid, remote synchronous / asynchronous

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SOCI1807 - change to in-person, hybrid, remote synchronous / asynchronous
SOCI2087 - change to in-person, hybrid, remote synchronous / asynchronous
SOCI3636 - change to in-person, hybrid, remote synchronous / asynchronous
SOCI3907 - change to in-person, hybrid, remote synchronous / asynchronous
SOCI4907 - change to in-person, hybrid, remote synchronous / asynchronous
SOCI3016 - change to in-person, hybrid, remote synchronous / asynchronous
SOCI3536 - change to in-person, hybrid, remote synchronous / asynchronous
SOCI3127 - change to in-person, hybrid, remote synchronous / asynchronous
SOCI3817 - change to in-person, hybrid, remote synchronous / asynchronous

- ***Moved [/]: that the Algoma University Senate approve the following mode of delivery changes as approved by the Curriculum Committee for Winter 2022 and as long term revisions:***

ANII1007 - change to in-person, hybrid, remote synchronous / asynchronous, online
ANII1206 - change to in-person, hybrid, remote synchronous / asynchronous, online
ANII3007 - change to in-person, hybrid
GEOG2027 - change to in-person, hybrid, remote synchronous / asynchronous, online
GEOG3037 - change to in-person, hybrid, remote synchronous / asynchronous, online
OJIB1017 - change to in-person, hybrid, remote synchronous / asynchronous
OJIB2017 - change to in-person, hybrid, remote synchronous / asynchronous
OJIB3017 - change to in-person, hybrid, remote synchronous / asynchronous

Motion carried.

21.11.05 INFORMATION ITEMS (for action or information)

21.11.05.01 Innovation in Teaching and Research

The Dean informed the Senate on innovation in teaching and learning regarding Dr. Rebek's course [University of Colima] which combines the COIL approach with City Studio and elements of solving city problems/issues.

21.11.05.02 Nominations for Honorary Degree, Distinguished Faculty Award and Senate Award

The Deadline to submit nominations for Honorary Degree, Distinguished Faculty Award and Senate Award [investiture June 11, 2022] is December 17, 2021.

Nominations should be submitted to the Speaker of the Senate, Dr. Laurie Bloomfield and the Secretary of the Senate, David Marasco.

21.11.05.03 Honouring Our Commitment

Mary Wabano-McKay provided the Senate the 'Honouring Our Commitment' presentation which was earlier shared with the Board of Governors.

21.11.06 STANDING REPORTS

21.11.06.01 Board of Governors Representative

The next meeting of the Board of Governors is scheduled for late November.

21.11.06.02 Academic Dean

The Dean submitted a written report. He reminded faculty members to complete the HESA survey on diversity.

21.11.06.03 Vice-President Academic and Research

The VPAR provided an oral report informing the Senate on receiving a grant from the federal government that promotes student and faculty mobility.

21.11.06.04 President and Vice-Chancellor

The President submitted a written report.

21.11.07 DISCUSSION AND QUESTION PERIOD

None

21.11.08 OTHER BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS

Lajoie brought forward the issue of extensive cheating during one of his course midterms, notably the sophistication and access/sharing of the examination by students - students are using 'what's app' to share answers with other classmates. He added that this is becoming a real problem that needs to be addressed.

Woodman asked for an update on the deliberations of the academic restructuring from the working group since there has been little consultation on the matter. The Speaker provided the Senate with an update adding that the faculty members on Senate Executive are working with an external advisor to prepare a recommendation to the Senate on academic restructuring. She added that meetings have taken place with the union and there have been consultations with the faculty. Some faculty members expressed concern that their department/schools were not well-represented during this exercise.

- ***Moved [Meades/Woodman]: that the Senate be extended for fifteen minutes.***

Motion carried.

Woodman asked that the Senate create an ad hoc committee of Senate to deal with the academic restructuring so that the mandate is clear and that a recommendation can be made. Furthermore, an ad hoc committee can address the academic needs both short-term and long-term.

- ***Moved [Meades/Woodman]: that a Senate ad hoc committee be struck to identify core issues, processes and recommendations for academic restructuring.***

It was argued that the creation of an ad hoc committee should be requested in advance of a Senate meeting together with the terms of reference, composition and expiry date. The mover and seconder agreed to withdraw the motion.

- ***Moved [Woodman/Meades]: that the Senate be extended for fifteen minutes.***

Motion carried.

The final issue was that a notice of motion be introduced to inform the Senate of the creation of a Faculty of Cross-Cultural Studies.

- ***Moved [Woodman/Steeves]: that a Faculty of Cross-Cultural Studies be established by the self-selecting of departments/programs of Algoma University.***

Rationale:

There is significant support to create a new Faculty of Cross-Cultural Studies. This new faculty unit will create dedicated academic space focused on the special mission and indigenizing the academy. While we are taking the opportunity to restructure, it is the appropriate time to move forward with the establishment of a new faculty unit.

21.11.09 ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

21.11.10 ADJOURNMENT

- ***Moved [N. Cameron/Woodman]: that Senate adjourn.***

Motion carried. (Senate adjourned at 3:15pm)