

MINUTES OF SENATE
ALGOMA UNIVERSITY
Sixth Regular Meeting of 2021-2022
February 4, 2022

Humanities Faculty

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

Social Science Faculty

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

Science Faculty

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

Other Members

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

Guests

M. Turco, M. Wabano-McKay, M. Ditoro, D. Trudelle

The Speaker called the meeting of the Senate to order at 1:06pm.

22.02.01 APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Moved [Lajoie/Khan]: that the agenda for the February 4, 2022 meeting of the Senate be approved.

A request was made to move, under Information Items 22.02.05.05 Institutional Lead Decolonizing Institutional Processes to after the approval of the minutes of Senate of January 14, 2022.

Another request came forward under Business Arising, in response to the Faculty of Cross-Cultural Studies [FCCS]

Motion carried.

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22.02.02 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES from the previous meeting

Moved [Lajoie/Jimenez-Estrada]: that the Algoma University Senate approve the minutes from the Senate meeting of January 14, 2022.

Motion carried.

The President introduced Shannon Brooks, the new Vice-President, Finance and Operations to the Senate.

22.02.05.05 Institutional Lead Decolonizing Institutional Processes

Mary Wabano-McKay spoke about the proposed position. As part of the language of the collective agreement, it is required that the University consult the bargaining unit as well as the Senate regarding secondments.

The position will focus on decolonizing processes while working closely with the VPAR and the deans. The decolonization effort is linked with the strategic plan and the University's special mission. The multi-year commitment to the secondment will provide flexibility in the decision-making to advance indigenization and I-EDI perspectives. The request is coming to the Senate for consultation and not for approval.

A question was raised about backfilling the secondment and it was answered affirmatively. Another question was asked about whether our partners, including but not limited to SKG, APC have been consulted. It was also brought forward that if the position is not filled internally, whether there would be an external search.

22.02.03 BUSINESS ARISING (for action or information)

22.02.03.01 Decanal Hiring Committee

- ***Moved [Keough/R. Cameron]: that the Algoma University Senate approve the establishment of three Decanal Search Committees representing each of the three new Faculties [Faculty of Humanities and Social Science, Faculty of Science, Faculty of Business]:***

Composition:

1. Four academic teaching staff representatives from the hiring Faculty, at least three of which must be FT faculty. [Four]
2. One academic teaching staff representative from the ranks of the Faculty Chair or Department Chair from outside of the hiring Faculty [One]
3. One student representative from the hiring Faculty [One]
4. The University Registrar [One]

5. The Vice President, Academic and Research [One] [non-voting]

Committee total = Eight

A number of questions arose regarding the composition of the committee including student representatives, why the VPAR was non-voting, and the request to add an Elder to the committee list. It was brought forward that it is common for faculty hiring committees to have chairs that are non-voting. Also, since the Deans report to the VPAR, it could be considered a conflict of interest.

Furthermore, these committees should be faculty-specific supporting the Faculties they represent.

A friendly amendment was made to include an Elder to each of the Decanal hiring committees.

- ***Moved [R. Cameron/Jimenez-Estrada]: that the Algoma University Senate includes an Elder on all three Decanal Search Committees representing each of the three new Faculties [Faculty of Humanities and Social Science, Faculty of Science, Faculty of Business].***

Motion carried.

In light of the many questions and concerns during the discussion, a motion was made to refer the original motion back to the Senate Executive.

- ***Moved [Dew/Molina]: that the composition of the Decanal Hiring Committees be referred back to the Senate Executive for consideration.***

Motion carried.

The group that forward the request to create a Faculty of Cross-Cultural Studies [FCCS] thanked the Senate for reviewing the proposal. The informed Senators that they have not lost the vision of the initiative and more will come to future meetings of the Senate.

22.02.03.02 Senate Executive Committee - call for nominations for Deputy Speaker

The Speaker called for nominations from the floor to fill the vacancy for Deputy Speaker. As no member volunteered, the Senate was reminded that those who may consider the position later should forward their intentions to the Speaker of Senate and the Secretary of Senate.

22.02.04 DECISION ITEMS (for action or information)

22.02.04.01 Curriculum Committee - motion GEOG. MUSC roster

- ***Moved [N. Cameron/R. Cameron]: that the Algoma University Senate approve the proposed course rosters for the 2022-2023 academic year as submitted by the Department of Geography, Geology & Land Stewardship and the Department of Music and Visual Art.***

Motion carried.

The Speaker asked for a motion to extend the meeting of the Senate

- ***Moved [Shaw/Rogers]: that the Senate meeting be extended until 3:15pm.***

Motion carried.

22.02.04.02 Senate Executive - I-EDI Ad Hoc Committee proposal

- ***Moved [Wyper/Trudeau-Day]: that the Algoma University Senate approve the establishment of an Ad Hoc Committee for Indigenization - Equity, Diversity and Inclusion. The committee will operate as an Ad hoc committee until May 2023 at which time the Senate Executive will determine whether it should be considered a standing committee of the Senate.***

The I-EDI Ad Hoc Committee will be an interdisciplinary committee that will operate from February 2022 to May 2023. It will serve in the role of an academic advisory committee to advance Algoma University's alignment with its Academic Plan 2021-2026, and Strategic Objectives 4 and 6 of the [Updated Strategic Plan Extension 2021-23 Priorities](#) (Anishinaabe Inendamowin and EDI, respectively) and [Honouring our Commitment](#). In addition, it will provide a mechanism to align with external I-EDI accountabilities such as [Universities Canada 13 principles on Indigenous Education](#), [Tri-Council's EDI Action Plan](#) and the [Scarborough Charter on Anti-Black Racism](#).

The I-EDI Ad Hoc Committee will report to the Senate Executive with two broad objectives:

1. In the short term, the committee will develop an I-EDI framework and decolonizing principles based on the updated Strategic Plan Extension 2021-23 and Academic Plan 2021-2026, as well as initial findings from the HESA EDI Climate Study to review Senate composition and make recommendations to Senate to increase the diversity of the AU internal community, as well as to address AU's Special Mission and commitments to Truth and Reconciliation, in addition to EDI accountabilities. (Report containing the completed I-EDI framework and decolonizing principles

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to be provided at the September 2022 Senate Meeting)

2. In the long term, it will use the I-EDI framework and decolonization principles to review Senate by-laws and ensure that the Senate is in compliance with I-EDI accountabilities such as [Universities Canada 13 principles on Indigenous Education](#), [Honouring our Commitment](#), [Tri-Council's EDI Action Plan](#) and the [Scarborough Charter on Anti-Black Racism](#), in addition to Strategic Objectives 4 and 6 of the Updated Strategic Plan Extension 2021-23 Priorities (Anishinaabe Inendamowin and EDI, respectively). (Report to SENEX by May 2023)

Recommended Membership from across all three campuses:

Chair (Non-Voting) I-EDI Academic Lead

Two students [one as recommended by AUSU, one as recommended by SASA)

Four Faculty, including all campuses [three teaching staff from the FT faculty and one teaching staff from the PT faculty)

One SKG representative or designate

One of the Faculty Deans/Academic Dean or VPAR

Nyaagaaniid or designate

One staff representative

Motion carried.

The Speaker asked for a motion to extend the meeting of the Senate

➤ ***Moved [Meades/R. Cameron]: that the Senate meeting be extended until 3:30pm.***

Motion carried.

22.02.04.03 Senate Executive Committee - Distinguished Faculty Award

The Speaker requested a motion to move in camera to discuss 22.02.04.03 Distinguished Faculty Award.

➤ ***Moved [Khan/Lajoie]: that Senate move in camera***

Motion carried.

➤ ***Moved [Lajoie/Meades]: that Senate move out of camera.***

Motion carried.

- ***Moved [Lajoie/Foote]: that the motions approved by the Algoma University Senate in closed session be approved in open session.***

Motion carried.

- ***Moved [Meades/Jimenez-Estrada]: that the Senate meeting be extended until 3:30pm.***

Motion carried.

The Speaker reminded the Senate that the discussion that occurred in camera should remain confidential until the University releases the information for public consumption.

22.02.05 INFORMATION ITEMS (for action or information)
22.02.05.01 Innovation in Teaching and Research

The Speaker made a call for examples of innovation in teaching and research.

22.02.05.02 Nominations for Honorary Degree [investiture June 11, 2022]

The Speaker reminded Senators the deadline for nominations for Honorary Degree has been extended until February 18, 2022. Nominations should be submitted to the Speaker of Senate and the Secretary of the Senate.

22.02.05.03 Food Security Presentation

The Food Security Committee presented their findings to the Senate.

22.02.05.04 School of Computer Science and Technology presentation

A request was made to defer the SCST's presentation of their Strategic Plan until the next meeting of the Senate.

- ***Moved [Marasco/Lajoie: that the presentation of the SCST Strategic Plan be deferred until the next meeting of the Senate.***

Motion carried.

22.02.06 STANDING REPORTS

22.02.06.01 Board of Governors Representative

Dupuis provided the Senate with a written report.

22.02.06.02 Academic Dean

The Dean provided the Senate with a written report.

Questions were asked regarding the decision to discontinue the two-year Project Management certificate. The concern was raised given that courses were rostered to support students in the PM certificate and some faculty have been hired to resource the program.

22.02.06.03 Vice-President Academic and Research

The VPAR provided the Senate with a written report.

21.02.06.04 President and Vice-Chancellor

The President provided the Senate with a written report.

- *Moved [Meades/Keough]: that the Senate meeting be extended until 3:45pm.*

Motion carried.

22.02.07 DISCUSSION AND QUESTION PERIOD

22.02.08 OTHER BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS

22.02.09 ANNOUNCEMENTS

22.02.10 ADJOURNMENT

- *Moved [Foote/Khan]: that Senate adjourn.*

Motion carried. [Senate adjourned at 3:37pm]