



**Algoma University Senate
First Regular Meeting of 2023-24
September 08, 2023 at 1:00 pm via Zoom video conference**

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE:

Faculty of Humanities and Social Science: Burnett, Chalykoff, DeLuca, Douville, Nyaga, Owl [PTF], Ridout, Tchir [Deputy Speaker], Torres, Turgeon
[absent/regrets: N/A]

Faculty of the School of Business and Economics: Aziz, Matthews, Roberts [PTF], Ryan
[absent/regrets: N/A]

Faculty of Cross-Cultural Studies: Cameron, B. Gordon [PTF], Gruner, Meades, Steeves
[absent/regrets: N/A]

Faculty of Science: Bloomfield [Speaker], Dew, Dupuis, Ho-Tassone [PTF], Keough, Lemieux, Madliger, Rahman, Schamp, Xu, Zhang
[absent/regrets: Sultana]

Other Members: Al-Krenawi, Piercey-Normore, Scullion, Spurway, Twiss, Vezina, Wei, Withers
[absent/regrets: S. Khan]

Guests: Imre, Mahar, Quesnele, Turco, Wyper

CALL TO ORDER

The Speaker called the meeting of the Senate to order at 1:07pm.

Note: Owl [PTF] abstained from voting on all motions.

23.09.01 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved [Nyaga/Meades]: that the agenda for the June 02, 2023 meeting of the Senate be approved.

Motion carried.

Discussion: A Senator requested to add an item under New Business for Academic Leads for Courses.

23.09.02 APPROVAL OF MINUTES, from the meeting June 02, 2023 [\[link\]](#)

Moved [Spurway/Lemieux]: that the Algoma University Senate approve the minutes from the Senate meeting of June 2, 2023.

Motion carried. 8 abstentions.

23.09.03 BUSINESS ARISING (for action or information)

None.

23.09.04 DECISION ITEMS (for action)

23.09.04.01 Senate Committee Composition Revisions [\[link\]](#)

Moved [Schamp / Scullion]: that Senate approve the changes to Academic Standards and Appeals Committee composition.

Motion carried. 2 abstentions.

Discussion: None

Moved [Scullion / Nyaga]: that Senate approve the changes to Academic Planning and Priorities Committee composition.

Motion carried. 1 opposed.

Discussion: None

Moved [Schamp/Scullion]: that Senate approve the changes to Quality Assurance Committee composition.

Motion carried.

Discussion: None

Moved [Spurway / Nyaga]: that Senate approve the changes to Curriculum Committee composition.

Motion carried.

Discussion: None

23.09.04.02 Senate Committee Composition 2023-2024 [\[link\]](#)

Moved [Scullion / Matthews]: that the Algoma University Senate approve the revised Senate standing committee composition beginning July 1, 2023 and effective until June 30, 2024 as presented.

Motion carried.

Discussion: The Senate discussed that potential recommendations from the IEDI Committee for changes could be considered mid-cycle.

23.09.04.03 2023/2024 Senate Committee Membership [\[link\]](#)

Moved [Burnett/Spurway]: that the Algoma University Senate approve the revised Senate committee composition effective July 1, 2023 as presented.

Motion carried.

Discussion:

- A Senator advised that Luitel would be the Faculty of Business and Economics representative for the Academic Standards and Appeals Committee.
- Matthews and Ridout volunteered to sit on the Board-Senate Liaison Committee.
- Burnett advised that she would forward a name of a volunteer to sit on the Research Advisory Committee to be shared with Bloomfield.

23.09.04.04 2023/2024 Senate Membership [\[link\]](#)

Moved [Meades / Nyaga]: that the Algoma University Senate approve the revised Senate membership effective July 1, 2023 as presented.

Motion carried.

Discussion: The Senators discussed the duplication of Matthews under the Faculty of Business and Economics listing and clarified that there would only be one vote given this.

23.09.04.05 Department of Biology: Adjunct Professor [\[link\]](#) [\[CV\]](#)

Moved [Dew / Turgeon]: that the Algoma University Senate approved Dr. Lisa Venier to the rank of Senate Adjunct Professor for a three-year term effective July 1, 2023 as submitted by the Department of Biology/Life Sciences and the Environment.

Motion carried.

Discussion: No discussion aside from a correction of the name “Venier” within the motion.

23.09.04.06 Quality Assurance Committee - Program Revision [\[link\]](#)

[\[Revised Program template\]](#)

Moved [Schamp/Dew]: that the Algoma University Senate approve the revisions to entrance admissions requirements for the B.Sc. Biology 4 year program and B.Sc. Biology 3 year program as presented.

Motion carried. 1 abstention.

Discussion: None

23.09.04.07 Curriculum Committee - New Courses [MOTIONS](#)

Moved [Meades / Spurway]: that the Algoma University Senate approve the following new courses as submitted by the Department of Community Economic and Social Development:

- CESD 1XXX Indigenous Clean Energy I: Community Energy Landscapes, Engagement, Education, and Visioning
- CESD 2XXX Indigenous Clean Energy II: Clean Energy Project Development
- CESD 2XXX Indigenous Clean Energy III: Clean Energy Business Development and Project Implementation

Motion carried.

Discussion:

- It was advised that a course was missing from the new History course listings (Canada: Past and Present); however, given that this course was not on the current semester's roster, the approval could wait until the October Senate meeting.
- Senators discussed that the Curriculum Committee is working to diversify course outlines and that learning objectives and descriptions need to be clearly articulated and easy to understand.
- Senators discussed situations wherein special topics courses may not have specific topics identified at the time of submission; as such, reading lists may be difficult to develop.

23.09.04.08 Academic Planning and Priorities Committee [HIRING REQUEST](#)

Moved [Nyaga / Meades]: that Senate recommend to the President that the previously approved CLTA hire request for Anishinaabemowin be changed to CLTA hire request for Anishinaabe Studies.

Motion carried.

Discussion:

- Senators confirmed that this decision was the will of the department and requested further details. It was advised that the original CLTA position had resulted in failed searches, and that a current faculty member had stepped in for the time being which requires backfilling of other courses. Senators also advised that the highly specialized nature of the Anishinaabemowin program can lead to difficulty in hiring.
- Senators also discussed a recently signed agreement with Shingwauk Kinoomaage Gamig (SKG) wherein the Anishinaabemowin and Anishinaabe Studies programs would eventually be transferred from Algoma University to SKG.

23.09.04.09 Faculty of Business and Economics: Department Chairs [\[link\]](#)

Moved [Ridout / Nyaga]: that Senate approve Dr. Nusrate Aziz as Chair for the Department of Finance, Economics and Decision Sciences [FEDS].

Motion carried.

Discussion: None

Moved [Nyaga / Meades]: that Senate approve Prof. Pelham Matthews as Chair for the Department of Business Administration [BADM].

Motion carried.

Discussion: None

Moved [Matthews / Nyaga]: that Senate approve Dr. Jo-Anne Ryan as Chair for the Department of Professional Studies and Executive Education [PSEE].

Motion carried.

Discussion: Senators confirmed that these new Chairs would become Senate members as per the proportional representation that the Faculty of Business and Economics was approved for. Recognition for the Department Chair's work over the summer was mentioned.

23.09.04.10 Department of Community Economic and Social Development: Adjunct Professor [\[link\]](#)

Moved [Meades / Ho-Tassone]: that the Algoma University Senate approved Dr. Tamanna Rimi to the rank of Senate Adjunct Professor for a three-year term effective July 1, 2023 as submitted by the Department of Community Economic and Social Development.

Motion carried.

Discussion: Senators recognized the talent of Dr. Rimi.

23.09.05 INFORMATION ITEMS (reports of committees)

23.09.05.01 Consultation with Senate regarding Director, Unity Centre of Excellence position

Piercey-Normore provided a presentation on the position and clarified that this position would be considered as a fully administrative role, and that if there was a secondment from the union, the function of the position in the unit would be replaced. It was confirmed that this role would directly report to the Dean of Science but would work closely with other units within the University. Further, it was confirmed that the academic unit was consulted in the development of the job description.

23.09.06 STANDING REPORTS

23.09.06.01 Board of Governors Representative's Report[verbal]

Dupuis advised that the Board of Governors met in June and received a presentation from Xu on the partnership with Unity Technologies, as well as approved the new Strategic Plan.

23.09.06.02 Decanal Reports [\[link\]](#)

The three deans provided an overview of their reports.

Discussion:

- Senators asked about whether students would be paid for community service hours, it was advised that these are unpaid opportunities with pre-vetted organizations.
- Senators discussed the Faculty of Sciences masters programs in experimental and clinical psychology.
- Senators discussed the organizational structure of committees for the Faculties of Humanities, Social Sciences; and Cross-Cultural Studies and requested these be brought back to Senate for discussion on governance and student representation.
- Senators requested a full organizational chart for the university, including the academic and non-academic units.

23.09.06.03 Vice-President Academic and Research's Report [\[link\]](#)

Piercey-Normore (VPAR) provided an overview of the report.

Discussion:

- Senators inquired as to whether there was a separate campus in Mississauga, to which the VPAR responded that this is not a separate campus, rather, it is an offsite portion of the Brampton campus given the large number of students in the PACE Project Management program.
- Senators discussed the development of PACE programming, with Project Management first, followed by Unity Technologies programming, and plans for future additions.

Moved [Meades / Twiss]: that the Senate meeting be extended to 3:15pm.

Motion carried.

- Senators discussed class sizes and space issues along with challenges in communications for related queries. It was advised that a third party call centre for students to aid in backlogs was being explored. Senators also requested that faculty queries be prioritized by the Registrar's Office.
- Senators discussed situations wherein students register for courses without the prerequisites. It was advised that the student information system should be implemented by February to alleviate this, and that faculty could request that students verify their prerequisites, and/or such be included in the course syllabi. Faculty were encouraged to email the Registrar with specific course sections, and student names to determine if requisites are not met so that appropriate action could be taken.

Moved [Cameron / Meades]: that the Senate meeting be extended to 3:30pm.

Motion carried.

- Senators requested viewing access to the room booking system.
- Senators requested that Faculty Chairs and Directors have access to student academic summaries to inform academic advising.
- The President and VPAR will meet with faculty and department chairs to address semester start-up challenges.

Moved [Meades / Cameron]: that the Senate meeting be extended to 3:45pm.

Motion carried.

23.09.06.04 President and Vice-Chancellor's Report [[link](#)]

Vezina provided an overview of the report.

Discussion:

- Senators discussed issues related to student housing and inquired about capital development in the works related to such. Vezina advised that a Brampton housing unit is being explored, and that a housing strategy for Sault Ste. Marie that may include other partners is being developed.
- Senators requested a presentation on the university's housing strategy for a future meeting.

Moved [Meades / Cameron]: that the Senate meeting be extended to 4:00pm.
Motion carried.

23.09.07 DISCUSSION AND QUESTION PERIOD

- Senators inquired about the launch date of the academic calendar (likely November), and it was advised that the current calendar is available for the fall term.
- Senators discussed whether Deans would have authority over enrolment caps, to which the President requested that such topic be discussed at the upcoming Faculty and Department Chairs meeting with Administration.
- Senators discussed that the current student FTE enrolments are not within the Senate recommended caps from 2020. It was advised that the January 2024 international enrolments have been capped, and suggested that this topic be discussed at the upcoming Faculty and Department Chairs meeting with Administration.
- Senators discussed the removal of the Shingwauk Auditorium from available booking spaces for events and concerts. It was determined that alternative venues for such will need to be explored.
- Senators requested the use of the gymnasium for final exams to aid with academic dishonesty monitoring.

Moved [Meades / Cameron]: that the Senate meeting be extended to 4:15pm.
Motion carried.

23.09.08 OTHER BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS

23.09.08.01 Academic Leads for Courses

Matthews requested that academic course lead roles be resurfaced to aid in the quality and integrity of course delivery, and to allow for professor mentorship processes.

Discussion:

- The President and VPAR commented on the merits of this idea and suggested a review of past practice with respect to such roles.
- Senators discussed the importance of ensuring the proper infrastructure to handle large classes of students (i.e. teaching assistants, multiple sections, tutorials, etc).
- Senators discussed how a coordinator role could increase the quality of education by ensuring standardization for all sections of courses.

Moved [Scullion / Meades]: that the Senate meeting be extended to 4:30pm.
Motion carried.

23.09.08.02 Special Topics Courses

Nyaga advised he would be available for any Senators who have issues or questions about how to proceed with developing special topics course descriptions.

Discussion:

- Senators went on to discuss potential challenges in developing reading lists in advance for special topics courses.
- Nyaga advised that the course descriptions should outline accurately what students can expect from the course and the direction it will take.
- Senators advised that reading lists for special topics courses would be available on the first day of class (or prior to such), but that it may not be feasible to have a reading list for a special topics course given the course topics will likely change with each semester. Nyaga advised that a tentative list of readings in this situation would be acceptable.

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23.09.08.03 Writing Lab Hours

Senators discussed the recent reduction in the hours of the Writing Lab. It was advised that this issue would be reviewed under the AVP Academic portfolio.

23.09.09 ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

23.09.10 ADJOURNMENT

Moved [Dew / Schamp]: to adjourn the Senate meeting 4:12pm.
Motion carried.