



**Algoma University Senate  
Third Regular Meeting of 2023-24  
November 3, 2023 at 1:00 pm via Zoom video conference**

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**MINUTES**

**ATTENDANCE:**

**Faculty of Humanities and Social Science:** J.P. Chalykoff, K. DeLuca, B. Douville, D. Nyaga, K. Shannon, T. Tchir [Deputy Speaker], R. Torres,  
[absent/regrets: E. Turgeon]

**Faculty of the School of Business and Economics:** N. Aziz, G. Mahar, P. Matthews, K. Roberts  
[PTF], J. Ryan  
[absent/regrets: None]

**Faculty of Cross-Cultural Studies:** N. Cameron, B. Gordon [PTF], S. Gruner, S. Meades, P. Steeves  
[absent/regrets: None]

**Faculty of Science:** L. Bloomfield [Speaker], W. Dew, P. Dupuis, E. Ho-Tassone [PTF], D. Keough, C. Lemieux, Z. Rahman, B. Schamp, S. Xu, C. Zhang  
[absent/regrets: None]

**Other Members:** S. Khan, S. Kosuta, K. Scullion, A. Vezina, I. Withers  
[absent/regrets: A. Al-Krenawi, M. Piercey-Normore, T. Spurway, M. Twiss, W. Wei]

**Guests:** P. Quesnele (Acting Secretary)

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Speaker called the meeting of the Senate to order at 1:04pm.

**23.11.01 APPROVAL OF AGENDA [\[link\]](#)**

*Moved [D. Nyaga / S. Khan]: that the agenda for the November 3, 2023 meeting of the Senate be approved.*

Motion carried.

**Discussion:**

- None

**23.11.02 APPROVAL OF MINUTES, from the meeting October 6, 2023 [\[link\]](#)**

*Moved [K. Scullion / D. Nyaga]: that the Algoma University Senate approve the minutes from the Senate meeting of October 6, 2023.*

Motion carried. 2 Abstentions.

**Discussion:**

- Addition of full name for S. Kosuta for the initial introduction of the member.
- N. Cameron requested an adjustment to show the first initial followed by last name for future minutes instead of "Cameron."

**23.11.03 BUSINESS ARISING (for action or information)**

**23.11.03.01 Update on Request for Presentation AU Housing Strategy / International Agents Relations [LINK](#)**

**Discussion:**

- None.

**23.11.04 DECISION ITEMS (for action)**

**23.11.04.01 Updated Senate Membership [\[link\]](#)**

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

Motion carried.

**Discussion:**

- None.

**23.11.04.02 Updated Senate Committee Membership [\[link\]](#)**

*Moved [D. Nyaga / N. Cameron]: that the Algoma University Senate approve the revised Senate committee membership beginning July 1, 2023 as presented.*

Motion carried.

**Discussion:**

- The Senators discussed the composition of the Teaching and Learning and Technical Support Committee in terms of the membership having a

higher proportion of non-faculty members. The Chair of this committee, P. Matthews, advised that this would be brought forward to the committee for discussion.

**23.11.04.03 Academic Planning and Priorities Committee [\[link\]](#)**

**[23.11.04.03a - Implementation of BSW at Brampton Campus](#)**

*Moved [S. Khan / S. Meades]: that the Algoma University Senate approve the major modification to establish the complete Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) degree in Brampton as recommended by the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee.*

Motion carried.

**Discussion:**

- A. Vezina spoke in support of the motion given the confidence in recruitment demand for the BSW program in Brampton and given the focus on mental health and additions that will be for the future campus space at 145 Queen Street East in Brampton.
- Senators discussed the potential available to the university for truth telling and reconciliation through this program in the highly developing City of Brampton.

*Moved [D. Nyaga / R. Torres]: that the Algoma University Senate recommend to the President a tenure-track hire in the School of Social Work in Brampton, as recommended by the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee.*

Motion carried.

**Discussion:**

- Senators discussed the importance of the tenure-track position for helping to build the research base for teaching and learning in this program.
- A. Vezina asked if this position would be an equity targeted hire in Brampton, to which it was confirmed given the mission and vision of the program. The Senators also discussed the potential for future cluster hiring, with an Indigenous hiring component.

**23.11.04.04 Curriculum Committee [\[link\]](#)**

**[23.11.04.04a - BIOL Program Modifications](#)**

*Moved [W. Dew / B. Schamp]: that the Algoma University Senate approve the revisions to courses as submitted by the Department of Biology and Environmental Science.*

Motion carried.

**Discussion:**

- None.

*Moved [D. Nyaga / S. Gruner]: that the Algoma University Senate approve the revised course as submitted by the Department of Visual Arts and Music.*

Motion carried.

**Discussion:**

- The Senators discussed a change to agenda formatting to include the headings of motions in the agenda for each faculty area for ease of access to information.

**23.11.04.05 Quality Assurance Committee [\[link\]](#)**

*Moved [S. Khan / D. Nyaga]: that the Algoma University Senate approve the major modification revisions to the BA General Single Major English degree as recommended by the Quality Assurance Committee.*

Motion carried.

**Discussion:**

- None.

*Moved [A. Ridout / R. Torres]: that the Algoma University Senate approve the major modification revisions to the BA Honours Single Major English degree as recommended by the Quality Assurance Committee.*

Motion carried.

**Discussion:**

- None.

*Moved [D. Nyaga / K. Scullion]: that the Algoma University Senate approve the major modification revisions to the BA Honours Combined Major English degree as recommended by the Quality Assurance Committee.*

Motion carried.

**Discussion:**

- None.

**23.11.04.06 I-EDI Ad-Hoc Committee [\[link\]](#)**

**[23.11.04.06a - I-EDI Ad-Hoc Committee Final Report 2023](#)**

*Moved [S. Gruner / I. Withers]: that the Algoma University Senate approve the creation of an I-EDI Senate Committee to lead and oversee all academic I-EDI policy and bylaw revision work at the university while liaising with non-academic I-EDI units to ensure there is transparency, accountability, alignment with*

*institutional strategie/commitments and increase synergies to avoid fragmentation of EDI work.*

Motion deferred.

**Discussion:**

- The Senators determined that the motion as written would require a change to the bylaws, which would require notice of motion.
- The Senators sought clarity on the proposed composition with respect to the student Senator positions. The Speaker advised that this would require further discussion with the existing Chair of the I-EDI Ad Hoc Committee.
- The Speaker advised that this item can be considered as a notice of motion for bylaw changes to include the creation of an I-EDI Committee of Senate as a standing committee. While the ad hoc committee was set to expire in November 2023, the speaker encouraged the current I-EDI Ad-Hoc Committee to continue with their work in the meantime until the standing committee was formalized.
- The Speaker also requested that the existing I-EDI Ad Hoc Committee had several vacant seats and that these should be addressed.

## **23.11.05 INFORMATION ITEMS (reports of committees)**

### **23.11.05.01 Fall 2023 Graduands [[link](#)]**

**Discussion:**

- The Speaker outlined the need for the Senate Executive Committee to approve the graduands lists for Fall 2023 given the time-sensitive nature of the situation for this term. It was confirmed that all future convocation dates would be made in consultation with the Office of the Registrar to ensure there is sufficient time to complete the audits in order to meet the timing of regularly scheduled Senate meetings.

## **23.11.06 STANDING REPORTS**

### **23.11.06.01 Board of Governors Representative Report [verbal]**

- P. Dupuis advised that the Board members engaged in a Fall Retreat at the Brampton based campus locations at the request of the Board. He highlighted that Board members were able to engage with community partners on the impact of Algoma University in Brampton, and were also able to tour the fiscal resources and layout of the campus locations as well as potential locations for future development. He advised that it was very insightful for board members to gain in-person perspective of the progress on resource and capital development given the significant investments made in this area.

- The Senators discussed the current limitations of individual office space for faculty members to which A. Vezina advised that a wider strategy for office space is underway, and that many open-air workspaces are available for drop-in situations, and that faculty can reach out to their Deans for situations wherein private spaces are required.

#### **23.11.06.02 Decanal Reports [\[link\]](#)**

The three deans sent their regrets for the meeting as they were all attending external professional development sessions at the time.

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

Piercey-Normore (VPAR) sent regrets for the meeting as she was attending external professional development sessions at the time.

#### **23.11.06.04 President and Vice-Chancellor's Report [\[link\]](#)**

- A. Vezina provided an overview of the report.

##### **Discussion:**

- The Senators inquired about the university's strategy for securing Designated Learning Institution (DLI) status to which A. Vezina advised that the teams are monitoring the situation that is ever-evolving and expressed her confidence in Algoma University's ability to maintain DLI status. She advised that the Recognized Institution Framework is still unknown and will require more understanding once released.
- The Senators discussed the student demand for access to the Food Pantry and the potential strategies for collaboration with the community as well as opportunities for faculty to provide support in developing a framework for a sustainable model in the future.
- The Senators discussed the onboarding and faculty training practices and the importance of the Deans taking the lead in these aspects with their faculties.
- The Senators requested institutional organizational charts be shared with faculty members.

#### **23.09.07 DISCUSSION AND QUESTION PERIOD**

- A Senator inquired about whether the University had purchased vehicles for use in Brampton in response to a post on social media featuring a car wrapped in

Algoma University branding. A. Vezina advised that she was not aware of the purchase of vehicles but would seek clarification on such.

- Senators discussed the escalating costs of field trips which may limit the ability for departments to conduct such. A. Vezina advised that there are funds in the Deans' budgets that can be requested for things like field trips so that students do not miss out on opportunities. She also advised that for future budgets, field trips expenses should be forecasted in such budgeting exercises.

### **23.11.08 OTHER BUSINESS / NEW BUSINESS**

- The Senators discussed previously recommended course caps and whether a review of such may be necessary for potential updates. The Senators discussed that suggested course caps are recommended by Senate, not approved by Senate. Additionally, it was clarified that the former Academic Standards and Teaching and Learning put forward recommendations for such. The Speaker advised that she would reach out to the Teaching and Learning and Technical Support Committee for review.
- The Senators requested a budget presentation so that Faculty Chairs and Department Chairs could be apprised of such matters. A. Vezina advised that there have been presentations to Senate following the Board of Governors' approval of the budget. She suggested that the Senate Executive consider the optimal format for future budget related presentations to Senate in keeping with a governance lens, and that more operational aspects of the budget could be presented to the Dean and Faculty/Department Chairs.

### **23.11.09 ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- D. Nyaga invited all faculties and members of AU to submit abstracts for the upcoming second annual international conference on mental health and addictions planned to be hosted at the Creekbank site.

### **23.11.10 ADJOURNMENT**

*Moved [N. Cameron / A. Ridout]: to adjourn the Senate meeting at 2:25 pm.*  
Motion carried.