



**Algoma University Senate
Fifth Regular Meeting of 2023-24**

February 2, 2024 at 1:00 pm via Zoom video conference

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE:

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

Faculty of the School of Business and Economics: N. Aziz, P. Matthews, J. Ryan
[absent/regrets: G. Mahar, K. Roberts]

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

Faculty of Science: L. Bloomfield [Speaker], W. Dew, D. Keough, C. Lemieux, C. Madliger, Z. Rahman, A. Sultana, B. Schamp, S. Xu, C. Zhang
[absent/regrets: P. Dupuis, E. Ho-Tassone]

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

Guests: T. Bruni, M. Turco
[absent/regrets: I. Imre]

Secretariat: S. Giuliani, S. Kelly, N. Ladouceur, P. Quesnele (Acting Secretary)

CALL TO ORDER

The Speaker called the meeting of the Senate to order at 1:05 pm.

24.02.01 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved [E. Nahwegezhic / L. Burnett]: that the agenda for the February 2, 2024 meeting of the Senate be approved.

Motion Carried.

Discussion:

- P. Matthews requested to add an item under New Business.

24.02.02 APPROVAL OF MINUTES, from the meeting, January 12, 2024 [\[LINK\]](#)

Moved: [D. Keough / D. Nyaga]: that the Algoma University Senate approve the minutes from the Senate meeting of January 12, 2024.

Motion Carried

Discussion: None.

24.02.03 PRESENTATIONS - N/A

Discussion: None.

24.02.04 BUSINESS ARISING (for action or information) - N/A

Discussion: None.

24.02.05 DECISION ITEMS (for action)

24.02.05.01 Senate Bylaw Revisions: February 2024 [\[LINK\]](#)

Moved [K. Scullion / S. Meades]: that the Algoma University Senate approve the modifications to the Senate By-Laws as presented.

Discussion:

- A Senator requested that the motion be tabled to give them additional time to discuss the By-Law revisions at the Faculty level.

Moved [P. Matthews / L. Burnett]: that the motion regarding Senate Bylaw revisions be tabled. [non-debatable]

Motion carried. 1 opposed.

24.02.05.02 Updated Senate Membership - N/A

Discussion: None.

24.02.05.03 Updated Senate Committee Membership [\[LINK\]](#)

Moved: [L. Burnett / D. Nyaga] that the Algoma University Senate approve the membership changes to the Appeals and Academic Standards Committee from January 19, 2024 to June 30, 2024 to include the addition of:

- Dr. Aaron Gordon (Faculty of Business and Economics)
- Dr. Michael Graydon (Faculty of Cross-Cultural Studies)
- Dr. Bruce Douville (Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences)
- Yug Modi (Student Member)

- *Minion Paul (Student Member)*
- *Andrea Ryall (Student Member)*

Motion carried. 2 abstentions.

Discussion:

- The Speaker reminded Senators that the expansion of the composition of the committee was approved at the last Senate meeting to address the volume of appeals.
- Senators sought clarification on the process followed to add members to the committee and remuneration provided. The Speaker clarified that Faculty Chairs reached out to their faculties for nominations to appoint members. Remuneration was offered to members who agreed to take on the high level of commitment outside of typical duties.
- Senators inquired about the structure and functioning of the committee. The Committee Chair advised that the committee has divided into groups to assess cases and that complex cases will be reviewed by the whole committee. Senators expressed the importance of fairness and encouraged the committee to prioritize older cases as well as look for options to fast track grade miscalculations. It was noted that the recommendations for changes to the appeals process would be brought forward at a later time.
- Senators inquired about the increased number of appeals and sought feedback to help mitigate the problem. The Chair of the committee stressed the importance of providing clear, detailed information in course syllabi, as well as timely feedback to avoid any confusion for students.

24.02.05.04 Academic Planning and Priorities Committee Recommendations

A. Revised Program: Environmental Sciences Graduate Certificate

[\[LINK\]](#)

Moved: [B. Schamp / W. Dew] that the Algoma University Senate approve the minor modifications to the Environmental Sciences Graduate Certificate as recommended by the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee.

Motion carried.

Discussion:

- A Senator inquired about the immediate implementation noted within the proposal and the feasibility of such. It was clarified that the faculty intended to implement the revisions as soon as possible without impacting students who have already been accepted into the program.

- B. **Revised Program: Health Sciences Graduate Certificate** [\[LINK\]](#)
Moved: [B. Schamp / W. Dew] that the Algoma University Senate approve the suspension of the Health Sciences Graduate Certificate as recommended by the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee.

Motion carried.

Discussion: None.

24.02.05.05 Curriculum Committee Recommendations - N/A

24.02.05.06 Quality Assurance Committee Recommendations - N/A

Discussion: None.

24.02.05.07 Research Advisory Committee Recommendations

- A. **Research Data Management Institutional Strategy** [\[LINK\]](#)
Moved: [T. Spurway / M. Twiss] That the Algoma University Senate approve the Research Data Management Institutional Strategy as recommended by the Research Advisory Committee (RAC).

Motion carried.

Discussion:

- The University Librarian indicated that if approved, the working draft strategy would be submitted to the Tri-Agency. The Strategy would come back to the Senate for discussion again in the fall and be reviewed annually.
- Senators discussed the continuing work and upcoming consultation surrounding the handling and storing of Indigenous research data.
- D. Keough advised that changes on the repository of the Tri-Council may affect the proposal and offered assistance related to such.
- A Senator advocated for a student membership on the Research Advisory Committee to provide a student perspective.

24.02.06 INFORMATION ITEMS (reports of committees)

24.02.06.01 Housing/Food Security Presentation (March)

Discussion: None.

24.02.06.02 Draft Budget and Responsibility Centered Management Budget Model Update Presentation (March)

Discussion: None.

24.02.07 STANDING REPORTS

24.02.07.01 Board of Governors Representative Report [BOG REPORT](#)

P. Dupuis sent regrets in advance of the meeting.

Discussion: None.

24.02.07.02 Decanal Reports [DECANAL REPORTS](#)

The Deans provided overviews of their reports.

24.02.07.03 Vice-President Academic and Research Report [VPAR'S REPORT](#)

M. Piercey Normore sent regrets in advance of the meeting.

Discussion:

- None.

24.02.07.04 President and Vice-Chancellor Report [\[PRESIDENT'S REPORT\]](#)

Discussion:

- A Senator inquired about the necessity of a tuition increase noting ongoing student struggles with affordability. The President provided an overview of the impact of freezes on tuition, government funding, and enrollment corridors combined with inflation and rising costs.
- A Senator asked about the status of Yorkville University and its relationship with Algoma University given the government's limitation on public private career colleges. It was clarified that Yorkville University is a private university.
- A Senator shared their concerns about their departments' ability to balance small class sizes with budgeting, the effective use of FTEs along with the implementation of the RCM model. The President asked that these concerns be brought directly to them during the meetings with Faculty and Department Chairs.
- Senators inquired about library services and related physical infrastructure on the Brampton campus noting the need for an academic library and the specialized services they provide. The President advised conversations are underway with the City of Brampton surrounding the use of the existing library close to campus as well as potential collaboration on additional library space.

23.09.08 DISCUSSION AND QUESTION PERIOD

- A Senator asked for confirmation of the upcoming Special Senate Meeting. The Speaker confirmed that the date had been recently confirmed for February 16, 2024 and advised that an official notice would be sent out in advance.
- Senators inquired about Reading Week dates and the possibility of aligning the winter Reading Week with the Family Day weekend. The Registrar clarified reading week dates and noted that this request would be taken into consideration.
- Senators inquired about students added to their classes after the add/drop date and if there was a reason they were being added. The Registrar indicated that all approvals were made by the office on time and

that they received a high number of requests from students which created a delay.

- A Senator put forward a discussion on the winter term start date with a suggestion to start the winter term one week later to allow faculty to take time off after wrapping up fall courses. The Registrar advised that it would be important for the winter term to end in April to ensure students don't have to pay an extra month of rent and indicated that there are other avenues the university could pursue to ease the burden of marking for faculty members while ensuring students are ready to graduate on time.

Moved [I. Withers/ E. Turgeon]: that the Senate meeting be extended to 3:15 pm.

Motion: Carried with 13 opposed.

Discussion:

- Senators expressed that the extension of the meeting beyond the scheduled time for the addition of new business prevented certain Senators from being able to participate due to previous obligations in their calendars.

24.02.09 OTHER BUSINESS / NEW BUSINESS

Moved [P. Matthews / L. Burnett]: That the Algoma University Senate approve the creation of an ad-hoc committee to review Senate committee composition and that the committee report back to the Senate by May 2024. Composition of the committee includes two Senators from each faculty, two student Senators, and two administrators currently serving on the Senate.

Motion carried with 4 opposed and 3 abstentions.

Discussion:

- Senators indicated the need to review the Senate by-laws and the composition of the Senate committees in light of potential changes to faculty structures.
- Senators reviewed the composition for this ad hoc committee deciding that the membership should be aligned with the Senate with two thirds of the membership composed of faculty and that all members should be Senators given that they have a stronger understanding of the Senate and impacts of composition changes.
- Senators decided that the committee should report back on membership changes by May 2024 in order to establish committee composition prior to the June Senate meeting in order to bring a membership slate forward.

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

Motion: Carried with 7 opposed.

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

Motion: Carried.

24.02.10 ANNOUNCEMENTS

- D. Nyaga invited everyone to attend the social brown bag seminar on Black issues and social work during Black History Month.
- D. Nyaga invited everyone to attend the international conference on mental health on April 25-26 in Brampton. Abstract can be sent via their website. Everyone can attend the conference, including leap students.

24.02.11 ADJOURNMENT

Moved [N. Cameron / P. Steeves]: to adjourn the Senate meeting at 3:30 pm.