



Algoma University Senate

Eighth Regular Meeting of 2023-24

April 5, 2024 at 1:00 pm via Zoom video conference

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE:

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

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

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

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

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

Guests: C. Fowler, Brent Krmpotich, K. Rousseau, M. Turco

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

CALL TO ORDER

The Deputy Speaker called the meeting of the Senate to order at 1:00 pm.

The Deputy Speaker provided a verbal update regarding the Special Senate meeting request submitted by Senators noting that a Senate Executive meeting was being held to discuss the request and the Senators would be updated accordingly.

24.04.01 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved [D. Nyaga / D. Keough]: that the agenda for the April 5, 2024 meeting of the Senate be approved.

Motion carried.

Discussion:

- The Deputy Speaker indicated he had authorized that an in camera session be added to the meeting agenda to receive and discuss a President's Report which contained confidential and sensitive information and to approve a motion related to an Honorary Degree nomination.

24.04.02 APPROVAL OF MINUTES, from the meeting, March 1, 2024 [\[LINK\]](#)

Moved [D. Nyaga /A. Al-Krenawi]: that the Algoma University Senate approve the minutes from the Senate meeting on March 1, 2024.

Motion carried. One abstention.

Discussion:

- None.

24.04.03 PRESENTATIONS

24.04.03.01 2024-25 Budget Update

K. Rousseau noted that approval of the budget would be delayed until the May Board of Governors meeting due to new regulations put in place by the province and that a budget update would be presented at an upcoming Senate meeting post budget approval.

Discussion:

- Senators inquired about the reasoning for the delay to which it was noted that this topic would be further elaborated on during the in camera session.

24.04.03.02 University Strategy on Academic Integrity Matters [\[LINK\]](#)

M. Piercey-Normore provided an overview of the University's short-term and long-term strategies to address academic integrity challenges.

Discussion:

- Senators inquired about use of online proctoring for remote synchronous courses to which it was clarified that this was part of the strategy.
- Senators expressed concern surrounding the proposed use of incomplete or in progress final grade designations when an Academic Integrity Violation (AIV) is suspected, feeling that this

may lead to student confusion and delays in course registration, graduation and visa processing issues for international students. It was clarified that students issued an incomplete/in progress could still plan for their courses until a final decision is made and that work was being done to establish a separate final grade designation and would be brought to the Senate for a future approval.

- Senators asked for clarification about the grade submission process given the proposed use of the incomplete designation, it was noted that the proposed is meant to provide time for instructors to process the AIV.
- Senators shared concerns regarding academic freedom given the additional level of oversight being recommended in the case that a final grade was not being appealed, it was noted that the changes could be addressed later in the agenda with the policy amendment, however it was noted that the proposed changes were intended to ensure all proper information was provided in the issuance of a Notice of Offense.
- Senators were pleased to see the development of workshops to help students better understand academic integrity and inquired about other measures that could be implemented such as providing additional time at the end of the fall and winter terms, providing hands-on support for students, and reviewing pre-requisite requirements to which it was indicated that work was being done in these areas including the exploration of extending the time period between the fall and winter terms by a week.
- Senators further discussed the need for Academic Integrity intervention and prevention measures such as retention programs to prepare students for university, while providing holistic student services beyond academic support.

24.04.04 BUSINESS ARISING (for action or information)

24.04.04.01 Speaker of Senate Position

The Secretary of Senate indicated that the vacancy of the Speaker role was brought to the Senate Executive committee, where it was discussed and agreed upon that the vacancy would remain in compliance with the By-Laws, as they specify that the Speaker is elected in June and that the Deputy Speaker is meant to fulfill the responsibilities of the Speaker in the case that they are unable to. Further it was noted that the Deputy Speaker would fulfill the responsibilities for the remainder of the cycle to allow for continuity. It was further discussed and suggested that a role description and a process be developed for electing a new Speaker which will be brought to the Senate in May.

Discussion:

- None.

24.04.05 DECISION ITEMS (for action)

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

Moved [D. Nyaga / S. Meades]: that the Algoma University Senate approve the revised Senate Committees membership roster effective February 26, 2024 as presented, to appoint Dr. L Bloomfield to the Appeals and Academic Standards Committee

Motion carried. One abstention.

Discussion:

- Senators inquired about any precedent for approving membership retroactively, to which it was noted that this has been done in the past, and that the current change reflects the addition of the Dean of Science who is a member ex officio.
- Senators inquired about the Faculty Chair role for the Faculty of Science and clarified that the Acting Dean of Science made numerous calls, however received no expression of interest for this from the Faculty, and that faculty members do not feel this is necessary given the transition to having a faculty Dean.

24.04.05.02 Academic Planning and Priorities Committee Recommendations

A. Final Assessment Report - Economics [\[LINK\]](#)

Moved [S. Meades / N. Aziz]: That the Algoma University Senate approve the Final Assessment Report of the Finance and Economics program as approved by the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee.

Motion carried.

Discussion:

- None.

B. Substantial Major Modification: Bachelor of Computer Science Honours - Co-op [\[LINK\]](#)

Moved [L. Bloomfield / S. Xu]: That the Algoma University Senate approve the School of Computer Science and Technology's Substantial Major Modification Modification - Bachelor of Computer Science Honours - Co-op-Brampton as recommended by the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee.

Motion carried.

Discussion:

- None.

24.04.05.04 Curriculum Committee Recommendations

24.04.05.04.01 Master of Social Work (MSW) 2024-25 Roster [\[LINK\]](#)

Moved [D. Nyaga/ I. Withers]: that the Algoma University Senate approve the course rosters for the Master of Social Work program as prepared by

the School of Social Work and as recommended by the Curriculum Committee.

Motion carried.

Discussion:

- Editorial typos were identified, and it was noted that these would be updated accordingly following the Senate meeting.

24.04.05.04.02 2024-25 Faculty of Business and Economics Roster [\[LINK\]](#)

Moved [D. Nyaga/ S. Meades]: that the Algoma University Senate approve the Faculty of Business and Economics Roster as presented.

Motion carried.

Discussion:

- A Senator inquired if the Faculty of Business and Economics roster being presented late is related to the provincial government announcement, to which it was clarified that the previous roster approved by the Senate did not include the full academic year which is why this item was being brought forward again.
- Editorial typos were identified and would be forwarded to the Registrar.

24.04.05.05 Quality Assurance Committee Recommendations - N/A

24.04.05.06 Research Advisory Committee Recommendations - N/A

24.04.05.07 Appeals and Academic Standards Committee Recommendations

24.04.05.07.01 Policy Revisions: Disciplinary Regulations on Academic Dishonesty [\[LINK\]](#)

Moved [L. Bloomfield / D. Nyaga]: that the Algoma University Senate approve the revisions to the Disciplinary Regulations on Academic Dishonesty as submitted by the Academic Standards and Appeals Committee of Senate.

Discussion:

- A. Ridout made a point of order requesting to table the specified motion to give faculties time to review the motion and discuss its implications amongst each body.
- The Chair paused the meeting to consult the Secretary of Senate and Robert's Rules of Order to make a ruling on the point of order, following which, the Deputy Speaker asked the Associate University Secretary to clarify proper procedure. It was noted that a point of order is to be used in the case there is a violation in the rights of the assembly, and that the use of a motion to postpone would be more appropriate for the described circumstance.
- A. Ridout requested that the motion be postponed.

Moved [A. Ridout / I. Withers] that the motion regarding revisions to the Disciplinary Regulations on Academic Dishonesty be postponed.

Motion carried. 18 in favour, 12 opposed, 3 abstentions

Discussion:

- Senators indicated that material was provided in advance as per the bylaws and that postponing the motion would adversely affect the Academic Appeal and Standard Committee's (AASC) work in response to the influx of appeals that tend to occur at the end of each semester.
- Senators inquired about the consultation process that went into the proposed policy, to which it was noted that the AASC developed the proposed changes.
- Senators raised concerns about the process identified in the policy noting that it did not align with those recently agreed upon at faculty level processes and indicated that they were not consulted on the proposed changes.
- Senators advocated for the opportunity to discuss the main motion and to bring back a motion to postpone if Senators were still not ready to vote on the main motion. Ultimately, the motion to postpone was carried, which prevented discussion on the actual proposed revisions to the policy.

24.04.05.08 Adjunct Professor Appointment: Faculty of Science [\[LINK\]](#)

Moved [D. Keough / D.Nyaga]: that the Algoma University Senate approve that Dr. Amy L Parachnowitsch be appointed as an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Biology for a three-year term, effective July 1, 2024.

Motion carried.

Discussion:

- None.

24.04.05.09 Adjunct Professor Appointment: Faculty of Cross-Cultural Studies [\[LINK\]](#)

Moved [S. Gruner/ S. Meades]: that the Algoma University Senate approve that Dr. Michael Doyle be appointed as an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Geography, Geology, and Land Stewardship for a three-year term, effective July 1, 2024.

Motion carried.

Discussion:

- None.

24.04.06 INFORMATION ITEMS

24.04.06.01 The Algomian Presentation - Dr. Tony Robinson-Smith (May)

Discussion: None.

24.04.06.02 Updated Senate Membership [\[LINK\]](#)

Discussion:

- A Senator voiced concerns about the vacancy in the Anishinaabe Peoples' Council (APC) seat to which it was indicated that there were no interested candidates from APC to serve on the Senate.

24.04.06.03 Housing/Food Security Presentation

Discussion:

- It was noted that this will be addressed in an upcoming town hall.

24.04.07 STANDING REPORTS

24.04.07.01 Decanal Reports [DECANAL REPORTS](#)

Discussion:

- None.

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

Discussion:

- None.

24.04.08 DISCUSSION AND QUESTION PERIOD

Discussion:

- Senators inquired about the results of the ground scan of the University, and its impacts to academic space, to which the President responded that the scans are complete and that protocols were being developed to deal with the results of such, and that a communication strategy was underway.

24.04.09 OTHER BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS

Discussion:

- None.

24.04.10 ANNOUNCEMENTS

24.04.10.01 Two Part Academic Governance Training with Faculty (hybrid) [\[LINK\]](#)

Part 1: April 24, 2024 from 11:30am - 1:00pm (hybrid from CC 201)

Part 2: May 1, 2024 from 11:30am - 1:00pm (hybrid from CC 201)

Facilitator: Cheryl Foy, President of [Strategic Governance Consulting Services Ltd.](#) [Registration Link](#)

Discussion:

- Senators inquired about the target audience to which it was clarified that this was open to all faculty members.

- D. Nyaga reminded Senators about the [International Conference on Mental Health and Addiction](#) taking place on April 25-26 at the Creekbank site and mentioned that last year's proceedings will be published in June. A. Al-Krenawi thanked R. Torres and D. Nyaga for organizing the conference and highlighted the strong international participation which raises the profile of the university and strengthens its network.
- N. Cameron invited Senators to attend the [2024 Lake Superior Living Labs Network Summit](#) on April 24.

24.04.11 IN CAMERA SESSION

Moved [A. Al-Krenawi / T. Tchir]: to move into an in camera session.

Motion carried.

Discussion: None.

Moved [L. Bloomfield/ S. Gruner]: to approve the motions that were made in the in camera session.

Motion carried.

Discussion: None.

24.04.12 ADJOURNMENT

Moved [P. Steeves / S. Meades]: to adjourn the Senate meeting at 4:00 p.m.

Motion carried.

Appendix 1:

[Senate in camera Meeting Minutes - 05 APR 2024](#)