



[Algoma University Senate](#)

First Regular Meeting of 2024-25

1:00 p.m. on September 13, 2024, Hybrid Meeting

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE:

Faculty of Humanities and Social Science: L. Burnett, J.P. Chalykoff, K. DeLuca, D. Nyaga, A. Ridout, S. Lepage [PTF], T. Tchir, E. Turgeon,
[absent/regrets: D. Woodman]

Faculty of the School of Business and Economics: C. Denomme, A. Gordon, P. Matthews, B. Schuler-Chin, R. Xu
[absent/regrets: None.]

Faculty of Cross-Cultural Studies: N. Cameron, V. Jiménez-Estrada, S. Meades (Deputy Speaker), P. Steeves
[absent/regrets: None.]

Faculty of Science: T. Bruni, P. Dupuis, B. Schamp, D. Keough, N. Shaw (Speaker), C. Zhang, M. Yavuz-Muren
[absent/regrets: None.]

Faculty of Computer Science and Technology: S.Bhadra [PTF], M. Nasir, Z. Rahman, G. Townsend
[absent/regrets: None.]

Other Members: L. Bloomfield, L. Brechin, S. Kosuta, R. Mwaura, E. Nahwegezhic, M. Paul, D. Rogers, K. Scullion, T. Spurway, A. Vezina, Vidhi, M. Wabano-McKay, W. Wei, S. Xu
[absent/regrets: T. Kakapshe]

Guests: Dr. Michael Graydon, Mario Turco, Dr. Laura Wyper

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

24.09.00 CALL TO ORDER

The Senate Meeting was called to order at 1:01 pm

24.09.01 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved [V. Jimenez-Estrada / R. Mwaura]: that the agenda for the September 13, 2024 meeting of the Senate be approved.

Carried.

Discussion: None.

24.09.02 APPROVAL OF MINUTES, from the meeting, June 7, 2024 [LINK]

Moved [L. Bloomfield / T. Spurway]: that the Algoma University Senate approve the minutes from the Senate meeting on June 7, 2024.

Carried with 10 abstentions.

Discussion: None.

24.09.03 APPROVAL OF MINUTES, from the meeting, August 28, 2024 [LINK]

Moved [G. Townsend / T. Spurway]: that the Algoma University Senate approve the minutes from the Senate meeting on August 28, 2024.

Carried with 4 abstentions.

Discussion:

- It was clarified that *in camera* minutes will be approved during the *in camera* session and that any discussion of the in camera minutes should occur in the in camera session.

24.09.04 PRESENTATIONS

24.09.04.01 Role of the Secretariat Office

Discussion:

- On the request of the Senate Executive Committee and as the Secretary of Senate, the University Secretary provided a presentation summarizing the role of the Office of the Secretariat. It was outlined in the presentation that the Secretariat Office is a neutral body that supports the Senate and Board of Governors in order to enhance decision making, support governing body composition, advance transparency, provide advice and develop and maintain compliance frameworks. The Secretary also provided an overview of his university governance experience and qualifications, as well as his experience within the post-secondary sector.

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

24.09.06 DECISION ITEMS (for action)

24.09.06.01 Senate Proportional Representation - Addition of Faculty of Computer Science and Technology [LINK]

Moved [D. Nyaga / S. Xu]: that the Algoma University Senate approve the proportional representation of the Algoma University Senate, as amended, effective September 13, 2024, as recommended by the Senate Executive Committee as follows:

Total Senate Members: 49

Faculty Chair: 5 Senators

*Department Chairs (*Includes Directors of Schools): 16 Senators*

Full-time faculty members [at-large]: 7 Senators

Part-time teaching staff: 5 Senators

Non-teaching staff members: 7 Senators

Members by virtue of office: 9 Senators

Carried with 1 opposed.

Discussion:

- A Senator inquired if the Director of Computer Science and Technology position had been removed from the Senate membership in light of the establishment of the new faculty, to which it was confirmed that it was and the presented slate reflected the Faculty's structure.
- A Senator asked if, when making reference to a representative body of Senate, EDI was taken into account. This was confirmed.
- A Senator noted that within the Faculty of Computer Science and Technology that it was likely the Faculty Chair position and one of the Department Chair positions would be held by the same person and inquired if a member-at-large would be appointed in such a situation. The Secretary noted that there was no language in the By-laws surrounding duplication; however, that this could be examined.
- A Senator suggested that the by-laws be updated to note the membership held by part-time teaching staff should be listed as faculty instead to align with how it is listed for full-time members.
- A Senator inquired what would happen when "TBD" was listed beside a Senator position. It was clarified that once individuals were identified, such would be brought forward to the Senate for approval at the subsequent meetings.

24.09.06.02 Senate Membership 2024-25 [LINK]

Moved [D. Rogers / P. Dupuis]: that the Algoma University Senate approve the revised Senate Membership slate as presented retroactive to July 1, 2024 as recommended by the Senate Executive Committee.

Carried with one objection.

Discussion:

- A Senator inquired if there was a possibility of adding non-AUSU student members to the Senate. The Secretary advised that the University Act outlines that four students have to be elected by the students of the University from amongst themselves, however that the by-laws state that three students are elected by AUSU and one Student is elected by SASA.

24.09.06.03 Senate Committee Membership 2024-25 [LINK]

Moved [M. Paul / V. Jimenez-Estrada]: that the Algoma University Senate approve the revised Senate Committee Membership slate as presented retroactive to July 1, 2024 as recommended by the Senate Executive Committee.

Carried with one objection and one abstention.

Discussion:

- Senators discussed the possibility of having a student seat included on the Senate Executive Committee to provide a student perspective. A Senator provided a historical perspective related to concerns raised about the ability to have quorum on short notice. It was suggested that the position is non-voting and could be shared between student Senators.
- Senators discussed the role of the Secretariat Office on Senate Committees. It was clarified that the Secretariat Office was created to provide support and consistency and are non-voting resources that have no impact on quorum. For consistency, it was decided that specific members of the Secretariat Office would be struck from the proposed committee membership slate and replaced with more generic language such as 'Secretariat Office.'
- Senators discussed whether the Senate By-laws or a procedures document the role of the Secretariat Office or other bodies supporting committees. Concerns were raised about the By-laws or procedures being too prescriptive which could narrow opportunities instead of expanding them. It was also noted that some committees require specific support and a flexible approach may work better.
- A Senator raised a question about students utilizing proxies, to which it was noted that some committee terms of references provide for alternate student members within their composition.

24.09.06.04 Board-Senate Liaison Committee Membership 2024-25 [LINK]

Moved [V. Jimenez-Estrada / A. Ridout]: that the Algoma University Senate appoint Dr. Paulette Steeves to the Board-Senate Liaison Committee for a term effective immediately through June 30, 2025.

Carried with one abstention.

Discussion:

- Questions were raised about the Senate position on the Board of Governors. A Senator advised that a recent notice for By-law changes for the Board indicated that a Senate Member on the Board would not be included in the composition if carried.
- The Secretary indicated that the Auditor General of Ontario recommended that Algoma University reduce and limit the size of the Board, including the number of internal members. In alignment with such, the Board was undergoing By-law revisions and it was noted that it was intended for the faculty member on the Board to be concurrently a Senator.
- A Senator expressed their view that consolidating a faculty member seat and Senator seat on the Board could prove to be problematic as that one person would have to bring multiple perspectives to the role.

- The Secretary noted that the Board had not yet approved the by-law revisions, and the Senate could put forward a Senator candidate for the Board's consideration.
- A Senator serving on the Board-Senate Liaison Committee noted that they hoped a meeting of the Committee could be struck in the near future to discuss this change and that the issue be brought back to a future Senate meeting.

24.09.06.05 Senate By-law Revisions: Notice of Motion October 4, 2024 [LINK]

24.09.06.06 Academic Planning and Priorities Committee Recommendations

24.09.06.06.01 Final Assessment Report, Bachelor of Business Administration Program [LINK]

Moved [A. Gordon / L. Bloomfield]: that the Algoma University Senate approve the Final Assessment Report for the Bachelor of Business Administration 2021-22 program review as recommended by the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee.

Carried.

Discussion: None.

24.09.06.07 Academic Regulations and Petitions Committee - N/A

24.09.06.08 Appeals and Academic Standards Committee Recommendations - N/A

24.09.06.09 Curriculum Committee Recommendations - N/A

24.09.06.10 I-EDI Committee - N/A

24.09.06.11 Quality Assurance Committee Recommendations - N/A

24.09.06.12 Research Advisory Committee Recommendations - N/A

24.09.06.13 Senate Executive Committee Recommendations

24.09.06.13.01 Introduction of Committee Reporting Requirements

The Speaker informed the Senate of the Senate Executive Committee's request for written committee reports and asked Committee Chairs to provide such reports for inclusion in the Senate agendas for information purposes.

Discussion:

- It was clarified that the By-laws ask for annual committee reports and that the monthly reports are in addition.

24.09.06.14 Senate Governance Committee - N/A

24.09.06.15 Teaching and Learning and Technical Support Services - N/A

24.09.07 INFORMATION ITEMS

24.09.07.01 Unity Partnership Presentation [October]

24.09.07.01 NOSM University Partnership Presentation [October/November]

24.09.08 STANDING REPORTS

24.09.08.01 Decanal Reports *DECANAL REPORTS*

- L. Bloomfield and W. Wei provided high level overviews of their written reports.
- The Faculty Chair from Cross Cultural studies requested to be able to share verbal updates from the faculty in the absence of a Dean.

Discussion: None.

24.09.08.02 Vice-President Academic and Research Report *VPAR'S REPORT*

- The Interim VPAR asked that the report be accepted as written and if there were any questions.

Discussion: None.

24.09.08.03 President and Vice-Chancellor Report

The President was unable to attend this portion of the meeting due to unexpected air-travel delays. D. Rogers noted on her behalf the Forum held two weeks ago and that a full written report would be provided at the next Senate meeting.

Discussion: None.

24.09.09 DISCUSSION AND QUESTION PERIOD

- A Senator asked about reporting requirements for AUSU and SASA to which it was clarified that both groups are not required to submit monthly reports, but annual reports would be welcomed.

24.09.10 OTHER BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS

- Senators discussed the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on September 30 and the university's decision to not cancel classes. It was noted classes were previously canceled on this day, however they would not be canceled this year as in consultation with Indigenous representatives, it was felt that it was important for students to be on campus to engage in activities surrounding truth and reconciliation.
- Senators noted that often Indigenous people bear the responsibility of organizing all the activities and it is hoped that the schools, faculties, and student associations collaborate in organizing activities in the spirit of the Special Mission. It was suggested that the university allocate budgetary resources for such activities, noting that other universities adopted similar approaches and encouraged students to learn about Indigenous culture through participating in the activities.
- Senators discussed the potential negative impact (i.e. loss of marks) for students who choose to miss class to engage in events, especially Indigenous students. It was also noted that students may not have time to participate due to their class schedule, and

may not be aware of the activities. It was suggested that, in the future, the day could be an observance day with the university reviewing different ways to engage the student body through SASA, AUSU and other organizations.

- A Senator raised the importance of integrating Indigenous and other under-represented groups within the curriculum throughout the year and having access to funding to meaningfully recognize individuals who come to class to share their knowledge with students.
- The question of accommodation was raised and it was clarified that the Senate does not have the authority to give direction to instructors, but could encourage them not to penalize students for attending activities. Senators discussed bringing consistency to the approach and noted the importance of making decisions before the deadline to finalize the syllabi to help professors prepare their class schedule. It was noted that in some cases, especially science labs, the term may need to be extended as all labs are important.
- It was suggested that, for this year, students do not lose attendance marks and accommodation be given to complete assignments set on that day.
- **RESOLUTION** [K.Scullion / S. Meades]: *That Senate urges faculty to not penalize students who choose to participate in the many Truth and Reconciliation Commission related activities scheduled on September 30, 2024.*
Carried with one abstention.

24.09.11 ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Dr. Bloomfield thanked Senators who brought food for the food bank.
- Dr. Bloomfield suggested having the Speakeasy open after Senate meetings to socialize and invited the Deans to take turns to host such and Senators to contribute ideas/suggestions for activities.

24.09.12 IN CAMERA SESSION

The Speaker notified Senators that in alignment with the Senate By-laws, the Senate may hold an in camera session when items of a personal and confidential nature are being discussed. It was noted that the in camera agenda pertained to personnel matters and as such needed to be held in a confidential session.

Moved [G. Townsend / B. Schamp]: to move the meeting in camera.

Carried.

Discussion: None.

Moved [A. Ridout / L. Bloomfield]: to record the approval of any motions made in camera in a manner that does not release confidential information.

Carried.

Discussion: None.

24.09.12 ADJOURNMENT

Moved [S. Meades / D. Rogers]: to adjourn the Senate meeting at 4:00 pm.