



## Algoma University Senate

### **Second Regular Meeting of 2024-25**

1:00 p.m. on October 4, 2024, Hybrid Meeting

#### **MINUTES**

##### **ATTENDANCE:**

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

**Faculty of the School of Business and Economics:** C. Denomme, A. Gordon, P. Matthews, B. Schuler-Chin  
[absent/regrets: R. Xu]

**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], Z. Rahman, G. Townsend  
[absent/regrets: M. Nasir]

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

**Guests:** Patty Chabbert, Yves Desgagne, Joel Syrette, Mario Turcot

**Secretariat:** S. Giuliani, S. Kelly, N. Ladouceur

#### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 1:02 pm.

**2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

*Moved [L. Bloomfield / P. Dupuis]: That the agenda for the October 4, 2024 meeting of the Senate be approved.*

Carried.

**3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

*Moved [L. Bloomfield / Z. Rahman]: That the Algoma University Senate approve the minutes from the Senate meeting on September 13, 2024.*

Carried with one abstention.

**Discussion:**

- B. Schuler-Chin noted a typo in her last name.
- N. Cameron noted that she left the meeting at 3:45 pm and requested that this be recorded in the minutes.

**4. PRESENTATIONS**

- 4.1. Makwa Waakaa'igan Update (Presenters: Patty Chabbert, Interim Vice-President, Nyaagaaniid - Equity, Diversity and Inclusion & Special Mission, Joel Syrette, Director Makwa Waakaa'igan)

J. Syrette presented the Makwa Waakaa'igan project by first acknowledging the history of Algoma University as it pertains to its Special Mission. It was noted that Makwa Waakaa'igan will respect the site's history, preserve and share the truths housed in its archives and be a cultural hub for Indigenous teaching, learning and global experiences. He underlined the centrality of honoring the children of Shingwauk and preserving their histories and their truths. J. Syrette noted the importance of preserving in archives the history of more than 70 communities who attended Shingwauk and stressed the importance of sharing this knowledge. It was clarified that the Children of Shingwauk Association includes a collection of schools, such as the Spanish residential school. He also noted the need to be aware of the changing landscape as future students are now acquiring those ways of knowing in high school.

J. Syrette communicated the importance of knowledge and data sovereignty and invited Senators to read the 94 calls to action and reflect on these calls, the impacts their implementation would have on society and what individuals themselves have done to answer the calls.

**Discussion:**

- A Senator inquired about the approaches that would be taken to commemorate the Spanish residential school.
- The President acknowledged the delays and challenges associated with building Makwa Waakaa'igan and thanked Patty Chabbert and Joel Syrette for leading the University on this path and bringing it closer to the communities. J. Syrette illustrated the commitment to truth and reconciliation by describing the work done by the survivors to restore the cemetery.
- A Senator from a Newfoundland community asked how he could become a brother to support and share the stories of their people as the effects have been felt even when residential schools weren't experienced. J. Syrette recognized that they are all relatives and introduced the fundamental concept of Oday (heart) and its use in talking about town, community and village. He underlined the connection to the heart and noted that a way to get involved is to put our hearts in our communities. He used the example of the survivors who have put their hearts into their communities and invited Senators to meet some of them on October 17 during a health summit. He also invited Senators to visit the SASA lounge and the exhibition hall after the Senate meeting.
- The University Librarian thanked J. Syrette and K. McCracken for the new interactive digital database being built and the translation project which will see the entire exhibit being translated and narrated in Ojibway.

**5. BUSINESS ARISING (for action or information)**

**5.1. Election of Senate Member on the Board of Governors**

A call for nomination was made after the Associate University Secretary outlined the eligibility criteria. No nomination came from the floor.

**Discussion**

- A Senator inquired about the status of the Board By-law revisions recently passed noting vacancies in the Senate and SASA member seats. It was clarified that the Board can approve changes to its by-laws without a full membership.
- The SASA Student Senator indicated that SASA had nominated an individual to the Board of Governors' student position. The Associate University Secretary indicated that this would need to be taken up by the Board and that the Secretariat Office would reach out about next steps

## 6. DECISION ITEMS (for action)

### 6.1. Senate Committee Membership Update

*Moved [L. Bloomfield / V. Jimenez-Estrada]: That the Algoma University Senate approve the changes to the Senate Committee membership effective September 17, 2024 as recommended by the Senate Executive Committee.*

Carried with one opposition.

**Discussion:**

- None.

### 6.2. Senate By-law Revisions

*Moved [P. Dupuis / B. Schamp]: That the Algoma University Senate approve the revisions to the Senate by-laws as presented.*

Carried.

**Discussion:**

- None.

### 6.3. Curriculum Committee Recommendations

#### 6.3.1. New Course Proposal: Cases in Management Science and Analytics

*Moved [L. Bloomfield / P. Dupuis]: That the Algoma University Senate approve the new course elective, ADMN 4047 (Cases in Management Science and Analytics) to the Finance, Economics, and Decision Sciences, Faculty of Business and Economics, as recommended by the Curriculum Committee.*

Carried.

**Discussion:**

- None.

#### 6.3.2. First Nation Social Policy and Community Development Certificate Revisions - CESD Program

*Moved [M. Paul / V. Jimenez-Estrada]: That the Algoma University Senate approve the proposed program revision, minor modification to the First Nation Social Policy and Community Development Certificate, which includes the addition of course options, as recommended by the Curriculum Committee (CURCOM).*

Carried.

**Discussion:**

- A Senator made an inquiry about why the name of the 2023-24 Curriculum Committee Chair was included on the briefing note

rather than the current chair, to which it was noted that this motion came from the June Curriculum Committee which took place after the last Senate meeting of the 2023-24 year and before the new governance year and that this was missed at the previous Senate meeting due to the transition.

- A Senator inquired about the changes noting its potential impacts on the Faculty of Computer Science & Technology and the offering of additional courses. It was noted that the proposed change was based on recommendations from the partner when they entered into an agreement with and that the impact of the change on Computer Science was discussed with S. Xu. It was also noted that there is no requirement to roster optional courses with the same frequency and that the certificate was designed to be completed over 2 years and, as such, about half of the courses would need to be on the roster each year.

#### 6.4. Quality Assurance Committee Recommendations

##### 6.4.1. Role of Faculty Chairs in the Final Evaluation of Self Studies

*Moved [P. Dupuis / B. Schamp]: As recommended by the Quality Assurance Committee and by the Senate Executive Committee, that in the absence of, and until a formal determination is made on, the role and responsibilities of Faculty Chairs in cyclical program reviews, the Senate approve that the Deans shall be directed to determine a formal review process for all current cyclical program reviews.*

Carried with five objections and two abstentions.

##### **Discussion:**

- The Chair of the Quality Assurance Committee (QualCom) noted that the IQAP identifies specific roles for Faculty Chairs in the oversight of self studies and cyclical program reviews, and that given that these roles are no longer included in the collective agreement, there is a gap in this process which has led to delays in these processes. To address this issue, QualCom proposed that Faculty Deans be directed to determine a formal review process for all current cyclical program reviews.
- Senators inquired about the impact on faculties that currently do not have a Dean and where this should be directed and suggested this be directed to the faculty chair, it was noted that Senate could not provide direction to Faculty Chairs given the current state of

the positions and the only option was to direct this to Deans and that there was a provision in the motion that would allow for this to be directed to faculty chairs once the roles are determined.

## 6.5. Senate I-EDI Committee Recommendations

### 6.5.1. Addition of Graduate Student Member to Committee Composition

*Moved [B. Schamp / M. Paul]: That the Algoma University Senate approve the expansion of the Senate I-EDI Committee composition to include two graduate students, one from Biology and one from Computer Science, as recommended by the Senate I-EDI Committee.*

Carried.

#### **Discussion:**

- The Committee Chair noted that the motion was brought forward as graduate students had shown interest in being involved in the I-EDI Committee.
- A Senator asked if the committee would consider adding two graduate students to provide a holistic perspective: one from Biology and one from Computer Science. The Committee Chair noted that they were amenable to this.

### 6.6. Adjunct Professor of Biology Nomination: Dr. Kenneth Lee

*Moved [B. Schamp / P. Dupuis]: That the Algoma University Senate approve that Dr. Kenneth Lee be appointed as an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Biology for a period of three years beginning October 11, 2024.*

Carried.

#### **Discussion:**

- L. Bloomfield spoke to the nomination and expressed her full support.

### 6.7. Adjunct Professor of Biology Nomination: Dr. Chris MacQuarrie

*Moved [P. Dupuis / B. Schamp] That the Algoma University Senate approve that Dr. Chris MacQuarrie be appointed as an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Biology for a period of three years beginning July 1 2024.*

Carried.

#### **Discussion:**

- It was noted that the two individuals brought forward would be connected to research centers and as such it could provide a great opportunity for a future presentation to Senate on affiliations and partnerships.

### 6.8. Approval of Graduand List - Fall 2024 Convocation

*Moved [P. Dupuis / D. Keough]: that the Algoma University Senate admit to their respective degrees in-course the students as submitted who have completed all the requirements of their respective degrees and that diplomas for the degrees be awarded at the October 4, 2024 meeting of the University Senate for the conferring of degrees.*

Carried.

*Moved [L. Bloomfield / P. Dupuis]: that the Algoma University Senate approve the students as submitted who have completed the requirements of their respective honours diploma and that Honours Diplomas be awarded at the October 4, 2024 meeting of the University Senate for the conferring of certificates.*

Carried.

*Moved [D. Woodman / D. Keough]: that the Algoma University Senate approve the students as submitted who have completed the requirements of their respective graduate certificate and that graduate certificates be awarded at the October 4, 2024 meeting of the University Senate for the conferring of graduate certificates.*

Carried.

**Discussion:**

- The Senate congratulated the Registrar and his team on completing this work.

**7. INFORMATION ITEMS**

- 7.1. Unity Partnership Presentation [November]
- 7.2. Northern Ontario School of Medicine (NOSM) and Algoma University MOU [November/December]
- 7.3. Council of Ontario Universities (COU) Academic Colleague Report
- 7.4. Reports of the Standing Committees
  - 7.4.1. Academic Planning and Priorities Committee
  - 7.4.2. Academic Regulations and Petitions Committee
  - 7.4.3. Appeals and Academic Standards Committee
    - The Appeals and Academic Standards Committee submitted a report.
  - 7.4.4. Board-Senate Liaison Committee
  - 7.4.5. Curriculum Committee
  - 7.4.6. I-EDI Committee

7.4.7. Quality Assurance Committee

The Quality Assurance Committee submitted a report.

7.4.8. Research Advisory Committee

7.4.9. Senate Governance Committee

7.4.10. Teaching & Learning and Technical Support Services Committee

The Teaching and Learning and Technical Support Services Committee submitted a report.

8. STANDING REPORTS

8.1. Decanal Reports

Decanal reports were provided by L. Bloomfield, W. Wei and S. Xu.

**Discussion:**

- A special thank you was given to K. Scullion for his support to the faculties and the University throughout his tenure as Registrar.

8.2. Vice-President Academic and Research Report

D. Rogers presented the report of the Vice-President Academic and Research and thanked Dr. Imre for supporting the preparation of the report. D. Rogers formally recognized and thanked Ken Scullion for his work as Registrar.

8.3. President and Vice-Chancellor Report

The President provided an enrolment outlining Spring and Fall 2024 enrolment numbers. It was noted that overall, enrollment was trending toward the stretch target.

The Senate was provided with an overview of class sizes noting that the average class size was 40 students and the median was 36 and that 757 of 797 classes were at or below the Senate recommended cap for enrolment. It was further noted that the primary mode of course delivery was on campus with 83% of courses being offered this way.

The President reported on the current political and economic uncertainty and policy changes, noting the ongoing tuition freeze and the cap on the domestic student corridor. She indicated that AU is entering SMA4 negotiations. She further noted the impacts on the entire sector and noted advocacy efforts being made. The President informed the Senate of upcoming discussion with the province to discuss PAL allocations noting the recent announcement to decrease PALs by 10%



and that Masters students will be included in this. She noted the need to collaborate on programming in light of all these changes and suggested a potential Senate retreat to plan for the next 5-6 years.

### **Discussion**

- Senators indicated that it is important to find ways to navigate the changes in order to plan for the next five to six years. The President noted the exploration of revenue diversification streams. It was noted that the University's financial health metrics were in a good place and recognized the work done by faculty to develop new masters programs, specifically their community outreach.
- Senators discussed English language requirements across the university recognizing the need for consistency and to understand where prerequisites may be required for certain courses. The Dean of Science noted that she would be willing to organize a session with department chairs to discuss English language proficiency requirements.
- Senators discussed the need for academic skills and writing support to help students succeed. The VPAR indicated that conversations were taking place about writing support and the University Librarian confirmed that a proposal to increase writing support is in the work.
- Senators discussed enrolment noting policy changes and impacts on international student enrolment and comments on the need to increase FNMI and domestic student enrolment and the need to invest in programs and space in order to do so and noted the importance of collaboration in doing so. Senators discussed the need to invest in accessibility services for students.
- Senators discussed concerns of over enrolment that occurred in the past and the workload this placed on faculty and the need for resource planning and communication to avoid this happening in the future.

*Moved [N. Cameron / D. Keough]: to extend the Senate meeting to 3:15 pm. Carried.*

*Moved [M. Paul / D. Keough]: to extend the Senate meeting to 3:30 pm. Carried*

*Moved [B. Schamp / D. Keough]: to extend the Senate meeting to 3:45 pm. Carried.*

9. DISCUSSION AND QUESTION PERIOD
10. OTHER BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS
11. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Registrar expressed gratitude to the President, the VPAR, and the Senate for their support during his tenure, adding that he is confident the University will thrive under the leadership of his successor

L. Bloomfield thanked Senators who contributed to the food to the Food Pantry and provided an update on the post-Senate social which will start in November. She further reminded Senators to complete the IT cybersecurity module.

V. Jimenez-Estrada invited Senators to attend a ceremony in the fire harbor that evening noting the significance of October 4th in addressing gender-based violence for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) and honoring those lives lost.

Senators were reminded of the invitation to visit the SASA lounge and the exhibition hall after the Senate meeting.

12. IN CAMERA SESSION

*Moved [A. Ridout / M. Paul]: That the Senate move in camera.*

Carried

*Moved [P. Dupuis / L. Bloomfield]: To record the approval of any motions made in camera in a manner that does not release confidential information.*

Carried.

13. Adjournment

*Moved [G. Townsend / T. Spruway]: To adjourn the Senate meeting at 3:40 pm.*

Carried.