



Algoma University Senate Meeting

Third Regular Meeting of 2024-2025

Friday, November 1, 2024 at 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Hybrid Meeting

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

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

[absent/regrets: Dr. D. Nyaga]

Faculty of the School of Business and Economics: Prof. C. Denomme, Dr. A. Gordon, Prof. P. Matthews, Prof. B. Schuler-Chin, Dr. R. Xu

[absent/regrets: None]

Faculty of Cross-Cultural Studies: Dr. N. Cameron, Dr. S. Meades (Deputy Speaker), Dr. P. Steeves

[absent/regrets: Dr. V. Jiménez-Estrada]

Faculty of Science: Prof. S. Bhadra [PTF], Dr. T. Bruni, Dr. P. Dupuis, Dr. B. Schamp, Dr. D. Keough, Dr. N. Shaw (Speaker), Dr. C. Zhang, Dr. M. Yavuz-Muren

[absent/regrets: None]

Faculty of Computer Science and Technology: Dr. M. Nasir, Dr. Z. Rahman, Dr. G. Townsend, Dr. Zamilur Rahman

[absent/regrets: None]

Other Members: Dr. L. Bloomfield, L. Brechin, Dr. S. Kosuta, R. Mwaura, L. Neebar, M. Paul, Dr. D. Rogers, T. Spurway, Dr. A. Vezina, Vidhi, Dr. W. Wei, Dr. S. Xu

[absent/regrets: T. Kakapshe, E. Nahwegezic, M. Wabano-McKay]

Guests: Dr. M. Graydon, Dr. I. Imre, M. Turco, V. Paramanand

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

[absent/regrets: P. Quesnele (Secretary)]

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Moved [Dr. D. Woodman / Dr. T. Tchir]: that the agenda for the November 1, 2024 meeting of the Senate be approved.

Carried.

Discussion: None

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Moved [Dr. P. Dupuis /L. Brechin]: that the Algoma University Senate approve the minutes from the Senate meeting on October 4, 2024.

Carried with two abstentions.

Discussion:

- None.

4. PRESENTATIONS

4.1. Driving Innovation: Partnership between the Faculty of Computer Science and Technology and the Centre of Excellence in Immersive Technology

Dr. V. Parmanand and Dr. S. Xu presented the current partnership between the Faculty of Computers Science and Technology and the Centre of Excellence in Immersive Technology, noting areas of collaboration, ongoing research projects, external funding project initiatives, experiential education opportunities and community engagement.

Discussion:

- None.

5. BUSINESS ARISING (for action or information)

5.1. Election of Senate Member to Serve on the Board of Governors

A call for nominations was made at the meeting. No nominations came forward.

Discussion:

- None.

6. DECISION ITEMS (for action)

6.1. Senate Membership Update

Moved [M. Paul / Dr. P. Dupuis]: that the Algoma University Senate approve the changes to the Senate membership slate as presented.

Carried.

Discussion:

- None.

6.2. Curriculum Committee Recommendations

6.2.1. Psychology Program Revisions

Moved [Dr. P. Dupuis / Dr. D. Woodman]: that the Algoma University Senate approve the program revision, minor modification, to the BA/BSc4 and BA/BSc3 Psychology programs that includes a revision to PSYC4105 Student's Investigation and PSYC2XXX Careers in Psychology, as presented by the Department of Psychology and recommended by the Faculty of Science as recommended by the Curriculum Committee (CURCOM).

Carried.

Discussion:

- A Senator inquired about when the Registrar's Office assigns official course numbers and when this would be communicated to Department Chairs to which the Registrar noted that they would follow-up on this question and report back.

6.3. Senate Governance Committee Recommendation

6.3.1. Interim Decanal Search Process

Moved [M. Paul / L. Brechin]: that the Algoma University approve the Decanal Search Interim Process as recommended by the Senate Governance Committee.

Defeated.

Discussion:

- In answer to a clarification question surrounding the purpose of an interim process it was noted that the Senate Governance Committee was tasked by the Senate Executive to develop an Interim Process for Decanal Searches in order to have a process in place for the upcoming decanal searches and that Governance Committee work on the establishment of a policy for a permanent process for decanal search and reappointment.
- Senators raised concerns with the provided Interim Process for Decanal Search noting absence of language for acting deans, the use of the word "normally", the desire for more prescriptive measures for deciding whether a search would be internal or external, clearer provisions for conflict of interest and declaration of biases, and the potential addition of an external member to the Search Committee. It was noted that these would be taken into advisement as the Senate Governance Committee developed the official policy.
- Senators raised concerns surrounding consultation to which it was noted that a feedback form was circulated to Faculty members and that the current policy development process provides provisions for consultation and that thorough consultation would be conducted in the development of the new decanal search and re-appointment policy.
- The Senate agreed to not move forward with an interim process and wait for the full policy to be developed. In response to questions about the urgency to conduct the current searches it was suggested that the Senate consider extending the terms of the Acting Deans to which the Chairs of the faculties with current Acting Deans offered to bring the discussion of such back to their faculties on potential extensions.
- A member of the Senate Governance Committee expressed concerns about how the provided interim process was drafted and the review time for such, to which it was noted that the Committee was provided with a sector scan and multiple opportunities for feedback and review.

6.3.2. Senate By-law Revisions: Notice of Motion December 6, 2024

Discussion:

- The Speaker of Senate advised of the notice of motion to revise the by-laws, and that the approval of such would be on the next Senate meeting agenda.
- Dr. A. Ridout moved to waive the notice of motion in order to vote on the By-law revisions at the meeting.

- The Acting Secretary raised a point of order, explaining that the Senate By-laws stipulate that all By-law revisions must be accompanied by a notice of motion and that there are no provisions within the By-laws that allow the notice of motion to be waived and that doing such would be a violation of the Senate By-laws.
- The Speaker inquired about the possibility of setting aside the By-laws to which the Acting Secretary raised a second point of order to reiterate her recommendation against this practice, noting that the Senate By-laws did not include language allowing such, and that Robert's Rules of Order does not allow for an assembly to suspend its By-laws.
- The Senate discussed and decided to proceed with making a motion to suspend the Senate By-laws and its use of Robert's Rules of Order to which the Associate Secretary stated that this approach could not be endorsed from a governance perspective.
- A Senator noted that the Senate had waived notices of motion in the past and felt that this established a precedent for doing so.

Motion [Dr. G. Townsend / Dr. L. Burnett] to suspend the Senate By-laws and Robert's Rules of Order for the express purpose of this agenda item.

Carried with one opposition and one abstention.

Moved [Dr. G. Townsend / Dr. A. Ridout]: that the Algoma University Senate approve the revision to Section 8 of the Senate By-laws as recommended by the Senate Governance Committee.

Carried with two abstentions.

7. INFORMATION ITEMS

7.1. Algoma University and Northern Ontario School of Medicine University MOU [December]

Discussion:

- None

7.2. Senate Committee Membership Update

It was noted that the Senate Committee membership had been updated to reflect the appointment of Lorretta Neebar as University Registrar who is a member of several Committees by virtue of office.

Discussion:

- None

7.3. Council of Ontario Universities (COU) Academic Colleague Report

Discussion:

- None

7.4. Reports of the Standing Committees

Discussion:

- A Senator raised concerns about the lack of reports submitted by multiple Committees and requested that the Secretariat Office make available the list of committee meeting dates and that they be added to the next Senate agenda, noting that the Senate needs

to assess if committees are working well and address any gaps. It was also suggested that the lack of reporting be included in the Senate minutes.

7.4.1. Academic Planning and Priorities Committee

Discussion:

- A Senator inquired about the absence of a Committee report from APPCOM to which the chair noted that the last meeting occurred 48 hours prior to the Senate meeting at which time the agenda had been distributed. Upon a request to discuss changes to hiring, the VPAR and the President summarized some of the the external constraints impacting the University, noting the potential ongoing reduction of study permits and Provincial Attestation Letter (PAL) allocations, the ongoing freeze to tuition and the enrolment corridor and noted that there had been a delay in posting until the University received its PAL allocation.
- The President clarified, in answer to a question, that the University's efforts are focused on maintaining its current PALs and focusing on a high conversion rate. She further indicated that risk mitigation strategies were underway, including and the development of scenarios in collaboration with departments and faculties to navigate the current uncertainty. She noted that an update would be provided at a future Senate meeting.
- In response to a question about vacant positions due to failed searches, the VPAR provided clarification on the processes outlining the involvement of APPCOM as well as measures in place for controlled hiring.

7.4.2. Academic Regulations and Petitions Committee

No report submitted.

7.4.3. Appeals and Academic Standards Committee

No report submitted.

7.4.4. Board-Senate Liaison Committee

No report submitted as the Committee had not met.

7.4.5. Curriculum Committee

Report submitted.

7.4.6. I-EDI Committee

No report submitted as the Committee had not met since the last Senate meeting.

7.4.7. Quality Assurance Committee

No report submitted. The Committee Chair noted that this was an oversight due to travel and that a report would be provided at the next meeting.

7.4.8. Research Advisory Committee

No report submitted.

7.4.9. Senate Governance Committee

Report submitted.

7.4.10. Teaching Learning and Technical Support Services

No report submitted as the Committee had not met since the last Senate meeting.

8. STANDING REPORTS

8.1. Decanal Reports

Reports were provided by the Dean of Business and Economics, the Dean of Computer Science and Technology and the Dean of Science.

Discussion:

- A Senator inquired about the potential expansion of the Algoma University Computer Society (ALCOMS) to the Sault Ste. Marie campus to which it was noted that questions regarding the schedule of activities and expansion of the society could be brought to the Algoma University Students' Union.

8.2. Vice-President Academic and Research Report

The Interim VPAR welcomed the new Manager, Research Office to the University and provided and informed the Senate that the hiring Committee for the Vice-President Academic & Research had been formed.

Discussion:

- A Senator requested clarity on the Academic Integrity Office noting concerns surrounding overlapping responsibilities to which it was noted that this office was put in place to support academic integrity processes and policies including the appeals process. It was suggested that the Academic Integrity Office provide a presentation at a future Senate meeting.
- A Senator asked if mitigation measures had been developed in the case of unexpected changes to the exam schedule and asked when the schedule would be released to which the University Registrar noted that the final exam schedule was ready and a memo would be sent out on Monday and indicated that she would look into the history of revisions to the exam schedule.
- A Senator requested IT and registrarial support for classes scheduled outside the regular work hours.

8.3. President and Vice-Chancellor Report

The President acknowledged and congratulated the teams who organized the following events: convocation ceremonies, John Rhodes Scholarship dinner, Halloween event and Department of Psychology community event. The President informed the Senate that the President of NOSM University would be visiting the Sault Ste. Marie campus in January and Dr. Piercey Normore would present to Senate on the Ontario Mental Health and Addictions Research and Training Institute.

Moved [Dr. G. Townsend / M. Paul]: to extend the Senate meeting to 3:15 pm. Carried.

Discussion:

- A Senator requested that the President's report be added to the agenda package.
- The President invited the VPAR to answer questions related to research office space, grant writing, and research support. The VPAR indicated that priority for space allocation was given to full-time faculty who do not have an office and noted that research support is already in place through the Senate Research Advisory Committee and the Research Office. She reiterated her suggestion to invite Crystal Williams, the new Manager of Research, to present to Senate.

- The President indicated that a bigger conversation about space allocation was needed, but noted that renovated space, including twelve new offices, was available in Brampton for faculty to which it was requested that Department Chairs be consulted on this.

9. DISCUSSION AND QUESTION PERIOD

Discussion:

- None.

10. OTHER BUSINESS / NEW BUSINESS

Discussion:

- A Senator informed the Senate that an informal joint meeting of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences and the Faculty of Cross-Cultural Studies was held on September 3rd, 2024 and a motion was passed by this group to request the commencement of the process to hire a permanent Dean for July 1, 2025. The Senator advised that the motion was shared with the interim Vice-President Academic and Research.

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Discussion:

- AUSU invited faculty to attend a queer movie night event being held that evening from 6 pm to 9 pm as well as a second queer movie night event on Transgender Day of Remembrance on November 20, 2024.

Moved [Dr. N. Cameron / Dr. A. Ridout]: to extend the Senate meeting to 3:30 pm.

Carried.

12. IN CAMERA SESSION

Moved [M. Paul / Dr. P. Dupuis]: that the Senate move in camera.

Carried.

Moved [Dr. B. Schamp / Dr. P. Dupuis]: to record the approval of any motions made in camera in a manner that does not release confidential information.

Carried

13. ADJOURNMENT

Moved [Dr. G. Townsend / Dr. M. Paul]: to adjourn the Senate meeting at 3:10 pm.