

**MINUTES OF SENATE
ALGOMA UNIVERSITY
Eighth Regular Meeting of 2015-2016
April 1, 2016**

Humanities Division

M. DiSanto (Speaker), R. Gaywish, A. Pinheiro, A. Ridout, C. Ross, R. Rutherford, E. Turgeon
(regrets: T. O'Flanagan)

Social Sciences

G. Broad, R. Cameron, J. Clarke, C. Denomme, D. Galotta, J. Hermida, V. Jimenez-Estrada, H. Luitel, T. Tchir

Sciences

L. Bloomfield, G. Davies, P. Dupuis, J. Foote, M. Garcia-Ruiz, I. Imre, I. Molina, W. Osei, C. Zhang

Other Members

D. Boissoneau, C. Chamberlin, P. Dingle, D. Friyia, R. Isard, M. Lajoie, D. Marasco (Secretary), R. McCutcheon,
M. Ouimette
(regrets: M. Case; absent: A. Cassar, R. Commanda, C. Langille, K. Politano, K. Snape)

Guests

N. Boyle, S. Choudhury, M. Chowdhury, N. Cruickshank, M. Graydon, C. Hiller, H. Hornstein, K. Kadiyala, C.
Reed-Elder, D. Rice, D. Woodman

The Speaker called the meeting of Senate to order at 1:04pm. He informed Senate of the addition of the Writing Lab instructor hiring committee to DECISION ITEM 16.04.04.01.

16.04.01 APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Moved (Bloomfield/Davies): that the agenda for the April meeting of Senate be approved.

Motion carried.

16.04.02 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES from the meeting of March 4, 2016

Moved (Galotta/Lajoie): that Senate approve the minutes from the meeting of March 4, 2016.

Motion carried.

16.04.03 BUSINESS ARISING (for action or information)

16.04.03.01 Senate Membership

- **Moved (Lajoie/Jimenez-Estrada): that Senate approve Professor Dan Friyia as a member of Senate for the remainder of the 2015 senate year replacing Dr. Sheila Redmond representing the part-time teaching staff (Social Science division).**

Rationale:

The Algoma University Senate Bylaws requires the following, 3.4(a)

iv) Each Division shall have one (1) part-time Teaching staff elected from and by the part-time Teaching staff represented by AUFA;

Motion carried.

16.04.04 DECISION ITEMS (for action)

16.04.04.01 Writing Lab Hiring Committee

- **Moved (Bloomfield/Turgeon): that Senate approved Drs. Graydon and Luitel to serve on the Writing Lab Hiring Committee. (Dr. Luitel as alternate)**

Motion carried. (one abstention, T. Tchir)

16.04.04.02 Curriculum Committee

- **Moved (Jimenez-Estrada/Ross): that Senate approve the addition of ANIS 3907 Special Topics in Anishinaabemowin: Dance for Change: Mii naamodzawin – The Good Life scheduled during the 2016SS term.**

Rationale:

Special topics courses bring an enriched perspective to the Anishinabe Studies program. A specialist, Karen Pheasant, is available to teach this course in a condensed time frame.

Karen is a well-known powwow dancer from Wikwemikong First Nation, and is currently doing her PhD at University of Alberta. Her dissertation is on the role of powwow in the revitalization of Anishinabe culture/lifeways. Karen has confirmed she would be available to teach the course. Of course, the course will have to be posted, but the posting will detail the specialized knowledge of pow wow/Indigenous knowledge as well as the teaching experience that this special, compressed delivery course will require.

ANIS 3907 Special Topics in Anishinaabemowin: Dance for Change: Mii naamodzawin – The Good Life

Song and dance—the powwow has always been a culturally safe environment for reciprocity of Indigenous knowledge. It is a place of learning from Elders, where language thrives in song, and laughter is louder than the drums...it is the place where one learns about “Mii naamodzawin” as the good life of Anishinabe. Today the powwow is more than a socially reconstructed mode of cultural empowerment; it has evolved from being community based cultural activity to a celebratory international event in every province and state of North America. Song and dance, a fundamental aspect of Indigenous ontology journeys into contemporary ways through the powwow. The course will explore the culturally constructed artifact of powwow beyond the aesthetics and stereotypical imagery, and provide a forum for discussion and experiential activity to explore how powwow culture today - as a contemporary movement - fits within Anishinabe reconciliation and cultural reclamation processes underway in North America.

It was recommended that Powwow be incorporated into the title of the course.

Gaywish informed Senate that she would provide a revised title to the Registrar.

Motion carried

16.04.04.03 Scholarship Committee

- ***Moved (Marasco/Broad): that Senate approve the revisions to the 'General Regulations on Scholarships, Awards and Bursaries as submitted.***

Rationale:

The general regulations on scholarships were reviewed with the intent of administering scholarships more strategically for recruitment and retention purposes. Using historical data and research, the goal was to revise the current regulations to maximize the effectiveness. Building on the administrative revisions to the regulations will prove to be most attractive to the recruitment of students and ongoing support of current students. The impact of merit-based scholarships is numerous for example, motivating students in their studies and demonstrating that they belong to the university community by bearing some of the costs of post-secondary education. Long-term, we will be analyzing the changes to the program assessing for additional scholarship opportunities for our students as well as providing analysis of the data, expected outcomes, successes and weaknesses.

The following are the significant changes to the General Regulations on Scholarships, Awards, and Bursaries:

- *Scholarship renewals based on a student being enrolled in 24 credits over consecutive fall/winter terms;*
- *Renewable scholarship opportunities to students who have completed a college diploma program and university transfer students – pathway scholarships have been increased in value and are renewable;*
- *Addition of a platinum entrance award (16K) over five years for candidates presenting a minimum entrance average of 95%;*
- *AU recognition award for pathways presenting a 'B' average 3.00 – 3.29gpa;*
- *Tiered-approach to the scholarship renewal – students will be compensated based on their average received during the previous academic year (best 24 credits, prorated) according to the bronze, silver, gold and platinum scale.*

Motion carried.

16.04.04.04 Academic Restructuring

The Speaker asked Senators about the issue of academic restructuring and whether the discussion should take place in open or closed session. The Senate was amenable to the matter being discussed in open session.

Discussion began with a concern regarding the lack of a motion accompanying the academic restructuring package – it was decided that a motion to waive the notice of motion would be required.

- ***Moved (Marasco/McCutcheon): that Senate waive the notice of motion for consideration of the Academic Restructuring proposal.***

Motion carried. (closed ballot)

The Speaker asked the President for the motion.

- ***Moved (Jimenez-Estrada/Broad): that Senate approve the academic restructuring proposal as presented.***

The President spoke to the motion and the importance of such a framework to the university.

A number of faculty provided feedback regarding concerns with the proposal including:

- Changes are too significant to determine whether this will impact the operations in a positive manner
- Can changes to our current divisional structure be made to ensure efficiencies
- The proposal could encourage silos and barriers to collaboration amongst departments
- Impact on senate committee structure and policy
- Lack of evidence to support recruitment and retention efforts

Additional comments were made in support of the initiative emphasizing the necessity of the changes to our current structure.

A question was asked regarding the anticipated start date of the reorganization and who would bear the responsibility of the revisions to senate bylaws, committees, and academic calendar.

It was suggested that the motion include an implementation date. The mover and seconder of the motion were amenable to the inclusion.

- ***Moved (Jimenez-Estrada/Broad): that Senate approve the academic restructuring proposal as presented to be implemented as of July 1, 2016.***

Motion defeated. (closed ballot)

16.04.05 INFORMATION ITEMS (reports of committees)

None

16.04.06 STANDING REPORTS

16.04.06.01 Board of Governors Representative

Johnston submitted a written report.

16.04.06.02 Dean

The Dean provided an oral report. He reported on the Geography external review process, leadership series for faculty, the international day for the elimination of racial discrimination and the photography competition.

16.04.06.03 President

The President submitted a written report.

16.04.07 DISCUSSION AND QUESTION PERIOD

Ridout asked about the calculation of FTEs. The matter will be brought forward to the next meeting of the university senate.

16.04.09 ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thesis presentations for Computer Science students will take place Saturday, April 2.

Thesis presentations for Sociology students will take place Thursday, April 21.

It was announced that the Social Work department has hired a Program Director. (Dr. Barbara Waterfall)

16.04.10 ADJOURNMENT

Moved (Dupuis/Lajoie) that Senate adjourn.

Motion carried. (Senate adjourned at 3:00pm)