

**MINUTES OF SENATE
ALGOMA UNIVERSITY
First Regular Meeting of 2015-2016
September 11, 2015**

Humanities Division

N. Boyle, M. DiSanto (Speaker), T. O’Flanagan, A. Pinheiro, A. Ridout, C. Ross. R. Rutherforddale
(absent: R. Gaywish, E. Turgeon)

Social Sciences

G. Broad, D. Galotta, J. Hermida, V. Jimenez-Estrada, H. Luitel, T. Tchir, D. Woodman
(regrets: C. Denomme)

Sciences

L. Bloomfield, G. Davies, P. Dupuis, J. Foote, M. Garcia-Ruiz, I. Molina, W. Osei, C. Reed-Elder
(absent: C. Zhang)

Other Members

C. Chamberlin, R. Commanda, R. Isard, D. Marasco (Secretary), R. McCutcheon, R. Scott, K. Snape
(absent: D. Boissoneau, A. Cassar, K. Politano)

Guests

N. Cameron, M. Chowdhury, J. Clarke, D. Helwig, C. Hiller, H. Hornstein, K. Kadiyala, D. Rice

The Speaker called the meeting of Senate to order at 1:06pm.

15.09.01 APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

Motion carried.

15.06.02 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES from the meeting of May 1, 2015

Moved (Jimenez-Estrada/Boyle): that Senate approve the minutes from the meeting of June 5, 2015.

Motion carried.

15.09.03 BUSINESS ARISING (for action or information)
15.09.03.01 Senate Membership 2015 – 16

The Speaker informed Senate the following revisions to the senate membership as was approved at the June 2015 meeting of Senate:

- Dr. Robert Rutherford replacing Dr. Warren Johnston (History);
- Dr. Alice Ridout as Chair of the English department, replacing Dr. Michael DiSanto (Speaker); Dr. DiSanto representing the Humanities as a member-at-large.

The vacancy in the Social Science division, specifically, the Social Work Director will be discussed at the next meeting of the division.

Moved (Bloomfield/Broad): that Senate approve the Senate membership list for 2015 – 2016 as amended.

Motion carried.

15.09.03.02 Senate Committee Membership, 2015 – 2016

Moved (Bloomfield/Davies): that Senate approve the list of Senate Committee membership for the 2015 senate year as submitted.

Boyle informed Senate there will be a few changes from the Humanities division. It was decided by Senate that the motion be tabled.

Moved (Dupuis/Scott): that the motion to approve the Senate Committee membership for 2015 be tabled.

Motion carried.

15.09.03.03 AU By-laws – Ad hoc committee

The Speaker reminded Senate of the motion that was approved at the June 5, 2015 meeting of Senate:

Moved (Marasco/Broad): that Senate approve the terms of the Algoma University By-laws to be extended by one year, during which time, Senate Executive will strike a senate sub-committee to review the by-laws and make recommendations to SENEX by May 2016.

He added that Senate Executive will provide more information at the next meet of Senate including terms of reference and membership.

15.09.03.04 Humanities motion – academic advising

Preamble: In the face of enrolment challenges, given the centrality of academic advising to recruitment and retention, the Humanities Division would like to recommend the following motion:

(Johnston/Boyle): that Senate strike an ad hoc committee to seek input from faculty, staff, administration and students regarding academic advising and offer recommendations for improvement.

Boyle spoke to the motion indicating frustration over the state of academic advising, adding that all advising should be completed by faculty.

Reed-Elder agreed with the motion adding it places an importance on the student's academic preparation.

Broad agreed, however, she hoped that the committee when struck, would consider work-load issues.

The Speaker called for each division to consider nominations to serve on the committee to be brought forward to the next meeting of Senate.

Motion carried.

15.09.04 DECISION ITEMS (for action)

15.09.04.01 ARP – Academic Standing (language regarding academic suspension)

Moved (Marasco/McCutcheon): that Senate approve the policy change regarding academic suspension as follows:

From:

Suspension (asked to withdraw from the university): A student will be required to withdraw from the University if he or she:

1. does not satisfy all the conditions of admission in one year or 30 consecutive credits;
2. fails more than **42 credits**;
3. has not achieved good academic standing in 2 consecutive years or 60 consecutive credits.

To:

Suspension (asked to withdraw from the university): A student will be required to withdraw from the University if he or she:

1. does not satisfy all the conditions of admission in one year or 30 consecutive credits;
2. fails **30 credits** or more;
3. has not achieved good academic standing in 2 consecutive years or 60 consecutive credits.

Marasco spoke to the motion adding that the change regarding academic suspension is rather normative with universities in the province.

There was discussion regarding the impact of such a policy change and the issue of 'F' grades which are not calculated on students' averages.

Marasco confirmed that currently, 'F' grades (less than 50%) are not calculated on the students' cumulative nor term averages. This policy was continued from the time the university was affiliated with Laurentian University. He continued by informing senate that LU has since changed this with a formula for calculating F grades into overall/term averages. He added that if it is Senate's wish to consider having F grades calculated as part of the students' averages, the issue should be discussed by a senate committee, likely Academic Standards and consider the effect on students' academic standing.

Moved (Hermida/O'Flanagan): that the motion regarding academic suspension be tabled.

Motion carried.

Moved (Reed-Elder/Woodman): that Senate refer the policy change regarding academic suspension to Academic Standards and Teaching & Learning for consideration and that the committee review the current policy of not calculating 'F' grades in term and overage averages.

Motion carried.

15.06.04.02 ARP – Letters of Permission

Moved (Marasco/Broad): that Senate approve the method of how Letters of Permission are administered as follows:

Current

For students who have been approved to complete courses by Letter of Permission, upon completion, the Office of the Registrar will enter the credit on the student's academic record. All courses successfully completed by Letter of Permission (minimum grade of 60% or C) will be included on the student's academic record but not included in the student's term or cumulative average.

Revised

Once approved, Letter of Permission courses will be noted on a student's Algoma University transcript as IP (in progress). Students must obtain a minimum grade of 60% in their LOP course to receive credit. Once an official transcript is received from the host institution, grades will be recorded as P (pass), F (fail) or NC (no credit received). In all cases, LOP grades are not calculated in determining the student's term nor cumulative averages.

60% or above = Pass (P)

50 – 59.9% = No credit received (NC)

49.9% or below = Fail (F)

It is the responsibility of the student to ensure that once the LOP course is completed, an official transcript is requested from the host institution and sent directly to the Office of the Registrar at Algoma University (copies, faxes, unofficial transcripts will not be accepted). Transcripts for LOP courses must be submitted no later than May 15 for spring convocation, and September 15 for fall convocation.

In all cases, students who have not registered for an approved Letter of Permission course must submit written verification direct from the host institution indicating the course status. If written documentation is not received from the host institution, a failing grade (F) will be assigned. Students withdrawn from an LOP course will be required to submit an official transcript indicating withdrawal prior to the date for academic penalty.

Students may repeat a course twice (three completions in total when the original attempt is included). This includes course equivalents attempted on a Letter of Permission at another institution. All attempts will appear on the students' academic records, but no more than one attempt will be assigned credit. Students who intend to complete courses for a third time will be required to petition the Senate Committee on Academic Regulations and Petitions for approval – this includes courses by LOP.

Marasco spoke to the motion indicating the policy change with respect to Letters of Permission will provide more accountability for students completing courses at other institutions for credit at Algoma. He added that it will also give the Office of the Registrar ease to track student progress when LOP courses are approved.

Motion carried.

15.09.05 INFORMATION ITEMS (reports of committees)

None.

15.09.06 STANDING REPORTS

15.09.06.01 Board of Governors Representative

There was no board report since the last meeting of Senate.

15.09.06.02 Dean's Report

The Dean submitted a written report.

15.09.06.03 President's Report

The President spoke to his report and thanked all those individuals who took the opportunity to schedule meetings with him over the last couple of months. He added that although we have significant challenges ahead, he was impressed of the depth of commitment of the stakeholders and recognized the fact that we need to work together to move the institution forward.

There was discussion on the following matters:

- Concern over the abbreviated meetings of senate, specifically, the need for the duration of senate meetings to be extended to allow for discussion. Additionally, there was a suggestion that senate meetings should be more transparent, and every effort should be made to minimize motions to move 'in camera'.
- Concern over finalizing the academic plan and how the process would unfold to incorporate the document into an institution or strategic plan; the President informed Senate he has an ambitious timeline for completion of the strategic plan – he added that for Academic Planning and Priorities, it should be business as usual.
- A request was made for information with respect to space moves/allocation, and the process to approve such moves, office space, instruction space, etc.
- Some faculty wanted to provide opinions on how to enhance recruitment efforts and asked about how/who should ideas be given to.
- Interest by faculty to have a stronger working relationship with the Board; at what point, and how does the Board integrate with the faculty. It was suggested that board members should be somehow connected to university events both academic and cultural.
- The President's report spoke of capital build projects, of which three were submitted: an addition to the ECC, a building to support Anishinaabe Studies and Professional programs, and a student life centre. Some members hoped that there would be consultation with the collective faculty to ensure for an efficient planning process.

15.09.07 DISCUSSION AND QUESTION PERIOD

Jimenez-Estrada asked about the smudging policy and what efforts are being made to give stakeholders an opportunity to voice their opinions.

The President informed Senate that he has asked the APC for a review of the policy.

15.09.10 OTHER BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS

None.

15.09.09 ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announcements were made regarding events including Theatre Algoma, Pride fest, and conservatory concerts at Mill Square.

15.09.10 ADJOURNMENTS

Moved (Bloomfield/C. Cameron): that Senate adjourn. (Senate adjourned at 2:52pm)

Motion carried.