

**MINUTES OF SENATE  
ALGOMA UNIVERSITY  
Third Regular Meeting of 2016-2017  
November 4, 2016**

**Humanities Faculty**

L. Burnett, M. DiSanto (Speaker), A. Pinheiro, A. Ridout, C. Ross, E. Turgeon  
(regrets: T. O’Flanagan; absent: R. Gaywish, W. Johnston)

**Social Science Faculty**

N. Cruickshank, C. Denomme, S. Gruner, J. Hermida, H. Hornstein, V. Jimenez-Estrada, H. Luitel, D. Woodman  
(regrets: B. Waterfall)

**Science Faculty**

P. Antunes, L. Bloomfield, I. Imre, W. Osei, C. Reed-Elder, C. Zhang  
(regrets: G. Townsend, S. Xu; absent: E. James)

**Other Members**

B. Asghar, D. Boissoneau, C. Chamberlin, G. Dusanjh, K. Hernden, M. Kent, M. Lajoie, D. Marasco (Secretary), R. McCutcheon, E. Otten  
(regrets: P. Dingle, D. Friyia, A. Sayers)

**Guests**

J. Barnett, S. Dwyer, M. Graydon, K. Kadiyala, P. Lewis, G. Mahar, M. Ross, M. Rossetto

The Speaker called the meeting of Senate to order at 1:02pm.

He asked that item 16.11.05.01 John Barnett, Executive Director of Ontario Council of University Libraries presentation be moved to the beginning of Senate after the approval of the agenda. Also, that Shingwauk Kinoomaage Gamig (SKG) update be added under 16.11.07 Discussion and Question Period.

**16.11.01 APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

- ***Moved (Otten/Lajoie): that the agenda for the November meeting of Senate be approved as amended.***

Motion carried.

**16.11.02 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES from the meeting of October 7, 2016**

- ***Moved (Otten/McCutcheon): that Senate approve the minutes from the meeting of October 7, 2016.***

Motion carried. (two abstentions for the record, A. Ridout, V. Jimenez-Estrada)

**16.11.03 BUSINESS ARISING (for action or information)**  
**16.11.03.01 Acknowledgment of Traditional Territories**

The Speaker informed Senate this matter was discussed at the last meeting of the Senate Executive. He added that the current wording of the acknowledgement as posted by CAUT is not correct. The Senate was also informed that SKG has forwarded a version that could be used to open Senate meetings.

Senate Executive will review the proposed language and perhaps have a recommendation for Senate to consider at the December meeting.

**16.11.03.02 Role of Elders at Senate**

The Speaker noted that Senate Executive discussed the role of Elders at Senate determining that the role, if any, should be meaningful and not be deemed symbolic. The current Senate Bylaws do not permit Elders to contribute to the decision-making process. The overall direction was that their role, if any, should be meaningful and more than ceremonial.

Senate was reminded that two indigenous groups sit on Senate including SKG and APC.

**16.11.03.03 ACSTAND – membership**

- ***Moved (Lajoie/Bloomfield): that Senate approve Dr. Simon Xu as a member of Academic Standards and Teaching & Learning for the 2016 – 17 Senate year replacing Dr. Pedro Antunes.***

Motion carried.

**16.11.04 DECISION ITEMS (for action)**  
**16.11.04.01 Humanities motion – AU Bylaws Sunset Clause**

- ***Moved (C. Ross/Antunes): that Senate remove the Algoma University Senate Bylaws sunset clause approved at the May 6, 2016 meeting of Senate.***

Rationale:

At the Senate meeting of May 2, 2014, the Senate By-Law Committee proposed changes to Senate By-Laws including to the Powers of Senate, to Definitions, and to Senate Composition. The changes were all approved, but with a six month sunset clause 'for faculty to review the policy changes and their impact on the senate.' One year later, on June 5, 2015, Senate extended the (expired) sunset clause for twelve months and created a sub-committee to review the by-laws. Another year later, Senate extended the sunset clause for a further twelve months. In that period of time, there has not been activity around a faculty review of the policy changes, and at present there appears to be little enthusiasm on the part of Senators to serve on the By-Laws sub-committee.

Given the successful and productive functioning of Senate under these new By-Laws for the past two and a half years, which includes an improved percentage attendance rate by Senators, the Faculty of Humanities proposes that the sunset clause be removed. The By-Law Sub-Committee would then be free to continue work on the By-Laws and to propose whatever further changes or modifications may be needed at this time.

Ross spoke to the motion adding that there was pressure for someone from the Humanities division to serve on the committee, however, there was no appetite from the members.

It was noted that the motion does not prevent the By-law committee from reviewing the current bylaws and making recommendations to the Senate. It was also mentioned that during the last two and one-half years, there was ample opportunity for members through their faculties to provide feedback regarding the current senate structure.

Motion carried.

#### **16.11.04.02 Senate Executive – notice of motion AU Bylaws**

- ***Moved ( / ): that Senate approve the changes to the Algoma University Senate Bylaws replacing division and divisions with faculty and faculties.***

#### Rationale:

Last June 2016, the Algoma University Senate approved the Five Year Academic Plan 2016 – 2021 which adopted the terms faculty and faculties. In an effort to be consistent, division and divisions throughout the document have been replaced with faculty and faculties.

#### **16.11.04.03 Curriculum Committee**

- ***Moved (Burnett/Ridout): that Senate approve the following new courses as submitted by the Department of English and Film:***

##### ENGL 2856 Literature and Film

A study of the relationship between literature and film that focuses on film adaptations of literary texts from one or more genres by one or more writers. In addition to the texts and films, classic and contemporary theories of adaptation will be examined. One goal will be to see how rich the literary texts are, how they offer directors and adaptors multiple possibilities. Another will be to explore the films as critical readings of the literary texts they adapt. The course will also examine the films as rich and meaningful texts in themselves. *Prerequisite: ENGL 1006/07 or ENGL/FILM 1606/07 or permission of Department.* Students may not retain credit for both ENGL/FILM 2856 and ENGL/ FILM 2855. (LEC 3, TUT 1) (3 cr)

##### FILM 2856 Literature and Film

A study of the relationship between literature and film that focuses on film adaptations of literary texts from one or more genres by one or more writers. In addition to the texts and films, classic and contemporary theories of adaptation will be examined. One goal will be to see how rich the literary texts are, how they offer directors and adaptors multiple possibilities. Another will be to explore the films as critical readings of the literary texts they adapt. The course will also examine the films as rich and meaningful texts in themselves. *Prerequisite: ENGL 1006/07 or ENGL/FILM 1606/07 or permission of Department.* Students may not retain credit for both FILM/ENGL 2856 and FILM/ENGL 2855. (LEC 3, TUT 1) (3 cr)

Rationale:

The Department has decided to split ENGL/FILM 2855: Literature and Film. ENGL 2855 will be deleted.

ENGL 1996/2996 Algoma Reads

This course invites students from across Algoma University's campus and the Algoma region to read together the five novels selected by the CBC for Canada Reads. Students will approach these five novels from multiple perspectives and disciplines and will reflect on what they can teach us. Through lively and respectful conversation, students will develop their persuasive abilities in both speech and writing. No prerequisite. Students may not receive credit for both ENGL 1996 and ENGL 2996. (LEC 3)

Rationale:

This course will be offered as a pilot course in Fall 2017 with the aim of demonstrating the centrality of books to our understanding of ourselves and our culture. Although the course can be taught via traditional lecture by a single faculty member, it is hoped that the course will incorporate five public lectures featuring visiting speakers in order to promote interest. The course will be specifically marketed as an ideal course for the Early Access Program but will also be available at the second year level for those students requiring an upper year English elective. It will be engaging for non-English majors from both the local region and overseas by exploring central debates in Canadian culture. The course will be taught in an open and interdisciplinary manner and will feature guest lectures from faculty members in departments relevant to the particular content of each novel.

- ***Moved (Burnett/Otten): that Senate approve the following course deletions as submitted by the Department of English and Film:***

ENGL 2855 Literature and Film

FILM 2855 Literature and Film

- ***Moved (Burnett/McCutcheon): that Senate approve the following revised course as submitted by the Department of English and Film:***

From

ENGL 2136 Children's Literature I

An introduction to the scholarly study of literature written for children, this course explores the major periods and genres of children's literature from its Anglo- Saxon beginnings through its eighteenth- century emphasis on the didactic purpose of children's literature and mid-nineteenth century Golden Age to the beginning of the twentieth century. Texts may include chapbooks, hymnals and primers, fables, Mother Goose rhymes, folk and fairy tales, and novels. Authors may include John Bunyan, Mme de Beaumont, Charles Perrault, the Brothers Grimm, Hans Christian Andersen, Edward Lear, Robert Louis Stevenson, Lewis Carroll, Louisa May Alcott, Mark Twain, Kate Greenaway, Rudyard Kipling, L. Frank Baum, E. Nesbit. No prerequisite. (LEC 3) (3 cr)

To

ENGL 2136 Children's Literature

An introduction to the scholarly study of literature written for children, this course will range from folk and fairy tales to contemporary picture books. The course will focus on the importance of animals in children's literature from Aesop's fables to Lewis Carroll's white rabbit to Neil Gaiman's wolves coming out of the walls. Students will explore how children's texts have both informed and reflected our cultural attitudes to the environment. No prerequisite. (LEC 3) (3 cr)

Rationale:

This revision is in line with the Department of English and Film's ongoing project of condensing our program so as to be able to offer all courses in a regular two year rotation without course cancellations. Two 3 credit courses of Children's Literature is more than we can fit into our course rotation. This course revision condenses ENGL 2136 and ENGL 2137 into a single course with a particular focus. The logic behind the focus of the course is three-fold: 1. it avoids the overlaps with our Fantasy (ENGL 2127) course that occur in our current historical survey approach to this field as students expect to work their way up to Harry Potter, a text often also included in ENGL 2127; 2. it makes the course a particularly attractive elective to science students and resonates with new environmental science programming on campus (it is already very popular with students from the social sciences so this should broaden its appeal); 3. it plays

to the research and teaching strengths of current full time faculty members in the department. ENGL 2137 will be banked if this course revision is approved.

➤ ***Moved (Burnett/Ridout): that Senate approve the following new course as submitted by the Department of History and Philosophy:***

PHIL 3856 Literature and Philosophy

A study of a central issue or movement of Philosophy as it is explored in both literary and philosophical works. Students will acquire experience in interpreting literature from a philosophical point of view, and, in so doing, gain a sense of art as a site of philosophical reflection and discovery. They also will be introduced to the construction and analysis of philosophical argument for its own sake. Prerequisite: ENGL 1006 & 1007 or PHIL 1117. Students may not retain credit for both PHIL 3856 and ENGL 3856. (SEM 3) (3 cr)

Rationale:

The English Department has been updating its program, banking some old courses and introducing some new ones. This course is specifically designed to be interdisciplinary, a course cross-listed as both an English and a Philosophy course. This course (and its cross-listing) has been approved by both English and History, as well as by Humanities.

**16.11.05 INFORMATION ITEMS (reports of committees)**

**16.11.05.02 Honorary Degree, Distinguished Faculty, Senate Award**

The Speaker reminded Senators that nominations for the Honourary Degree, Distinguished Faculty Award and the Senate Award (investiture June 10, 2017) will be accepted until November 18, 2016. Nominations are to be forwarded to the Secretary of Senate. To date, no nominations have been received.

**16.11.05.03 Joint Working Group**

The Speaker submitted a written report.

**16.11.06 STANDING REPORTS**

**16.11.06.01 Board of Governors Representative**

Antunes submitted a written report from the last meeting of the Board of Governors of October 6, 2016.

**16.11.06.02 Dean's Report**

The Dean updated Senate on the deliberations of the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee. The committee has been active in reviewing the departmental submissions for hiring priorities and using the data compiled to support recommendations to the Senate. A number of discussion points occurred during the deliberations including:

- APPCOM needs to work on developing a long-term operational plan to provide direction to departments to implement their strategies;
- The Social Science Faculty expressed concern regarding the ranking of hiring priorities;
- With approximately 15 requests for hires, and a downward enrolment trend, it will be difficult for the committee to meet all the departmental asks;

- The university should consider how best to deliver our programs to the students;
- We need to differentiate our offering from other institutions that have similar degree programs

The Dean thanked Senate for the healthy discussion and was hopeful that a recommendation could be forwarded to the December meeting of Senate.

#### **16.11.06.03 President's Report**

The President submitted a written report.

#### **16.11.07 DISCUSSION AND QUESTION PERIOD**

Boissoneau updated Senate on the federal government's announcement of funding to SKG for infrastructure. He added that the National Chiefs' Library should be completed in two years.

The Speaker asked Senate for a motion to extend the meeting.

- ***Moved (Hernden/Woodman): that the meeting of Senate be extended until 3:15pm.***

Motion carried.

Boissoneau encouraged Senate to approve a motion to adopt the 94 calls to action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada.

- ***Moved (Boissoneau/Jimenez-Estrada): that Senate adopt the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada Calls to Action in order to redress the legacy of residential schools and advance the process of Canadian reconciliation.***

Motion carried.

#### **16.11.08 OTHER BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS**

None.

#### **16.11.09 ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Registrar thanked the Algoma University Students' Union for their organized effort during the National Day of Action.

#### **16.11.10 ADJOURNMENT**

- ***Moved (McCutcheon/Otten): that Senate adjourn.***

Motion carried. (Senate adjourned at 3:15pm)