

**MINUTES OF SENATE
ALGOMA UNIVERSITY
Eighth Regular Meeting of 2017-2018
April 6, 2018**

Humanities Faculty

N. Boyle, L. Burnett, B. Douville [PTF], A. Ridout, R. Rutherford, E. Turgeon
(regrets: W. Johnston; absent: P. Nadeau, T. O’Flanagan)

Social Science Faculty

R. Cameron, J. Hermida, H. Hornstein, V. Jimenez-Estrada, H. Luitel, P. Matthews, P. Ostrowski [PTF],
T. Tchir, B. Waterfall, D. Woodman
(regrets: C. Denomme, S. Gruner)

Science Faculty

P. Antunes, L. Bloomfield (Speaker), M. DeFazio [PTF], Y. Feng, I. Imre, C. Reed-Elder, S. Xu
(regrets: D. Brodbeck, W. Osei, B. Schamp, C. Zhang)

Other Members

B. Asghar, P. Danquah, D. Marasco (Secretary of Senate), D. Rogers, A. Vezina
(regrets: T. Gallivan, K. Hernden; absent: K. Armstrong, M. Case, A.J. Idris, M. Nadeau, S. Roach)

Guests

M. Graydon, J. Hopkin, K. Kadiyala, G. Mahar, C. Ross, D. White

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

18.04.01 APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

- ***Moved (Turgeon/Hermida): that the agenda for the April 6th meeting of Senate be approved.***

Motion carried.

18.04.02 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES from the meeting of March 2, 2018

- ***Moved (DeFazio/Jimenez-Estrada): that Senate approve the minutes from the meeting of March 2, 2018.***

Motion carried.

18.04.03 BUSINESS ARISING (for action or information)
18.04.03.01 Speaker of Senate

Bloomfield recused herself as Speaker of Senate. The Secretary of Senate assumed the role of Speaker of Senate.

- ***Moved (Asghar/Antunes): that Senate approve Dr. Laurie Bloomfield as Speaker of Senate for the rest of the 2017 – 18 Senate year replacing Dr. Paul Dupuis.***

Motion carried.

Bloomfield resumed chairing the Senate as Speaker of Senate.

- ***Moved (Ridout/Imre): that Senate approve Dr. David Brodbeck as a member of Senate from the Science Faculty for the rest of the 2017 – 18 Senate year.***

Motion carried.

18.04.03.02 Fall Reading Week

Information was presented to Senate regarding the scheduling of fall reading weeks by other Ontario universities. It was noted that 65% of the universities have their fall reading scheduled during the week of Thanksgiving.

It was decided by the Senate Executive that the university will continue to schedule the reading week during this time frame. The Registrar assured the Senate that a question or two will be included in next version of the Student Experience Survey scheduled for winter 2019.

18.04.04 DECISION ITEMS (for action)
18.04.04.01 Curriculum Committee – motions

- ***Moved (Reed-Elder/Xu): that Senate approve the following new course as submitted by the Department of Computer Science and Mathematics:***

COSC 2836 Computer Software for the Sciences

The basic software tools applicable to the Sciences are presented. This includes statistical tools such as SPSS or Minitab, spreadsheets, and numerical tools such as Maple, Mathcad or Matlab.

Prerequisite: MATH 1036 or permission of the instructor. (lec 3, tut 1) 3 cr

Rationale:

This course is a required course in first year for the Chemical and Mining streams of the First Year Engineering Pathway Program Algoma University has launched in partnership with Laurentian University, which will be offered at Algoma in Fall, 2018. As of March 1, there were 29 applications to the Engineering pathway program which provides a sound rationale for assuming there will be enough students in the first year Engineering cohort to sustain the course offerings.

The course could be an appealing elective choice for students in other Bachelor of Science programs and will not be restricted to students in the Engineering pathway.

ENGR 1056 Applied Mechanics I

Course topics include statics of particles, rigid bodies, equilibrium, centroid and centre of gravity, structures and frames, friction, and second moment of area. Prerequisite: registration in first year Engineering pathway program or other Bachelor of Science program.

(lec 3, tut 1) 3 cr

Rationale:

This course is a required course in first year for all three streams (Chemical, Mechanical, and Mining) of the First Year Engineering Pathway Program Algoma University has launched in partnership with Laurentian University, which will be offered at Algoma in Fall, 2018. As of March 1, there were 29 applications to the Engineering pathway program which provides a sound rationale for assuming there will be enough students in the first year Engineering cohort to sustain the course offerings.

If students are not able to complete ENGR 1056 in their first year at Algoma, they will need to travel to Laurentian in the spring semester of their first year to complete it. This would make the pathway less seamless and potentially less attractive to prospective students. Further, offering Engineering courses in the first year at Algoma will contribute to retention of students as they are able to enroll in courses specific to the discipline in which they hope to complete their studies.

ENGR 1057 Applied Mechanics II

Mechanics is the study of forces and their effects. It involves broad principles that govern the behavior of objects. While designing devices, engineers need to know their behavior to loads and forces that can be exerted on them while they are static or in motion. This is indeed important to prevent possible device failure. All engineers make use of equations of motion, whether they are civil engineers analyzing the response of a structure to an earthquake or mechanical engineers determining the trajectory of a satellite or a rocket. This course will exploit various principles of mechanics that govern the behavior of objects in motion. Prerequisite: ENGR 1056 (lec 3, tut 1) 3 cr

Rationale

This course is a required course in first year for the Mechanical and Mining streams of the First Year Engineering Pathway Program Algoma University has launched in partnership with Laurentian

University, which will be offered at Algoma in Fall, 2018. As of March 1, there were 29 applications to the Engineering pathway program which provides a sound rationale for assuming there will be enough students in the first year Engineering cohort to sustain the course offerings. Most of the applicants are seeking to enter the Mechanical pathway for which this is a required course.

If students are not able to complete ENGR 1057 in their first year at Algoma, they will need to travel to Laurentian in the spring semester of their first year to complete it. This would make the pathway less seamless and potentially less attractive to prospective students. Further, offering Engineering courses in the first year at Algoma will contribute to retention of students as they are able to enroll in courses specific to the discipline in which they hope to complete their studies.

The course could be an appealing elective choice for students in other Bachelor of Science programs and will not be restricted to students in the Engineering pathway.

Motion carried.

- ***Moved (DeFazio/Reed-Elder): that Senate approve the following course additions to the 2018 fall/winter terms as submitted by the Department of Computer Science and Mathematics:***

COSC 2836 Computer Software for the Sciences (19W)

ENGR 1056 Applied Mechanics I (18F)

ENGR 1057 Applied Mechanics II (19W)

Motion carried.

18.04.04.02 Experiential Learning definitions

- ***Moved (Rogers/Asghar): that Senate adopt the definitions of experiential learning (EL) in Appendix A as Algoma University's institutional framework for the types of experiential learning found in the curricular experience.***

Rationale:

Experiential learning is a significant goal of Algoma University's 2016-2021 Strategic Plan. In addition, Algoma's Strategic Mandate Agreement identifies the expansion of experiential learning opportunities as one approach to innovation in teaching and learning excellence. Establishing common definitions for EL supports:

1. Effective and accurate tracking and reporting;
2. Work on curriculum review and renewal at the department level;
3. Faculty efforts to develop and redesign course offerings to integrate EL;

4. A university wide understanding of the wide ranges of EL opportunities; and,
5. Recruitment and retention by highlighting strengths of existing EL in academic programming.

If adopted by Senate, the following calendar codes will be adjusted to reflect the common definitions:

EXP: *a course in which learners are purposefully engaged in direct experience and focused reflection in order to increase knowledge, develop skills, clarify values, and develop people's capacity to contribute to their communities.*

WIL: *a course which formally and intentionally integrates a student's academic studies with learning in a workplace or practice setting.*

WIL will be a calendar code used to identify courses which meet the six-point checklist the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development is using to define experiential learning.

This means any course with a WIL designation will meet *all* of the following six criteria:

1. Takes place in a workplace or a simulated workplace;
2. The student is exposed to authentic demands that improve their employability, interpersonal skills, and transition to the workforce;
3. The experience is structured with purposeful and meaningful activities;
4. The student applies program knowledge and/or essential employability skills;
5. The experience includes student self-assessment and evaluation of the student's performance and learning outcomes by the employer and the university; and,
6. The experience counts towards course credit or credential completion.

The experiential learning definitions were adopted from both Brock and Ryerson University and have reviewed by Academic Planning as well as the three Faculties.

Members expressed concerns questioning whether there is flexibility to the definitions, as some areas may not be acknowledged and fully expressed. While experiential learning is likely taking place in many of the courses being offered, it is important to ensure tracking is consistent with all experiences in the classroom. Comments were also made that the definitions do not directly address Anishnaabe practices and this can be construed as being Eurocentric.

A request was made that the motion be tabled to expand the definitions as well as work with Shingwauk Kinooomaage Gamig (SKG).

The Dean commented this is a living document which requires Senate approval and allows the university a great starting point that we will continue to work with.

The Registrar asked for the motion to be tabled.

- ***Moved (Marasco/Reed-Elder): that the motion be tabled until the experiential learning definitions can be reviewed with some of the concerns brought forward by Senate.***

Motion carried (D. Rogers abstained).

18.04.04.02 Department of Psychology

- ***Moved (Reed-Elder/Danquah): that Senate approve the following revision to the entrance requirements for direct from high school students (101) for admission to the four-year Bachelor of Science degree programs in Psychology (BSC4.PSYC):***

From:

Ontario secondary school students seeking admission to the first-year at Algoma University should present the Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) with a minimum overall average of 65% on six courses from any of the following categories in the Ontario curriculum: university courses (U) or university/college courses (U/M)

The required high school prerequisites for admission to the Bachelor of Science degree programs in Psychology are as follows: ENG4U, MHF4U, 2 U/M Sciences (Biology, Chemistry recommended).

To:

Ontario secondary school students seeking admission to the first-year at Algoma University should present the Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) with a minimum overall average of 70% on six courses from any of the following categories in the Ontario curriculum: university courses (U) or university/college courses (U/M)

The required high school prerequisites for admission to the Bachelor of Science degree programs in Psychology are as follows: ENG4U, one U/M MATH (MHF4U, MCV4U, MDM4U), two U/M Sciences (Biology, Chemistry recommended).

Rationale:

Reasons for this proposed change include:

- 1) To increase the perceived quality of the program in the eyes of interested incoming students;*
- 2) To improve the success rate of students who enroll in the Honours Psychology programs.*

Motion carried.

- ***Moved (Reed-Elder/Imre): that Senate approve the following revision to the entrance requirements for direct from high school students (101) for admission to the four-year Bachelor of Arts degree programs in Psychology (BA4.PSYC):***

From:

Ontario secondary school students seeking admission to the first-year at Algoma University should present the Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) with a minimum overall average of 65% on six courses from any of the following categories in the Ontario curriculum: university courses (U) or university/college courses (U/M)

The required high school prerequisites for admission to the Bachelor of Arts (Honours) degree programs in Psychology is ENG4U.

To:

Ontario secondary school students seeking admission to the first-year at Algoma University should present the Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) with a minimum overall average of 70% on six courses from any of the following categories in the Ontario curriculum: university courses (U) or university/college courses (U/M)

The required high school prerequisites for admission to the Bachelor of Arts (Honours) degree programs in Psychology is ENG4U.

Rationale:

Reasons for this proposed change include:

- 1) To increase the perceived quality of the program in the eyes of interested incoming students;*
- 2) To improve the success rate of students who enroll in the Honours Psychology programs.*

Members commented that a wider discussion is needed specific to admission requirements for other academic programs.

The Registrar voiced his concern whether we have the proper academic support services in place for those students entering with a 65% - 69.9% average. He added that it is important that support services are structured to enhance student success for this cohort. A decision to move all program to a minimum 70% (B) grade requirement should be evidence based. It was also noted that there are examples of student success for students who are admitted to the university with this average.

Motion carried.

18.04.05 INFORMATION ITEMS (reports of committees)

18.04.05.01 Joint Working Group

The Joint Working Group terms of reference was presented to Senate as information.

18.04.05.02 Institutional Quality Assurance Process (IQAP)

The IQAP was presented to Senate as information.

18.04.06 STANDING REPORTS

18.04.06.01 Board of Governors Representative

No report was submitted by the Board representative to Senate as the majority of the last Board meeting was in closed session.

18.04.06.02 Executive Lead Research

Antunes provided a written report.

18.04.06.03 Dean's Report

The Dean provided an oral report.

18.04.06.04 President's Report

The President provided an oral report.

She stated that the focus of the next President's report will be on the four priorities that came out of the Senate and Board Retreat.

She thanked the Business Department for a successful business case competition as well as other programs for the excellent scholarly research work by their students.

18.04.07 DISCUSSION AND QUESTION PERIOD

Further to the discussion on academic supports, a motion was forwarded from the floor:

- ***Moved: (Woodman/Reed-Elder) that the following two matters be brought forward to the Senate Executive Committee so that they be referred to the proper Senate committees:***
 - ***Suggest forum for academic supports***
 - ***Suggest budget to support committee***

Motion carried.

A discussion took place regarding the Student Feedback of Teaching (SFT). Concerns were raised by faculty who were aware of students misinterpreting survey directions

The Registrar commented that the issues will be brought forward to Senate Executive to determine the best course of action. He added that a committee should be struck with members of the administration and union executive to review the problems and administration of the tool prior to the beginning of the next SFT (mid-May).

18.04.08 OTHER BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS

None.

18.04.09 ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Sociology thesis students will be presenting on April 19th at 6:00pm in the Doc Brown Lounge,
- Academic Standards and Teaching and Learning Fellowship deadline to submit has been extended – please submit your proposal to Dr. Linda Burnett.

18.04.10 ADJOURNMENT

- ***Moved (Burnett/DeFazio): that Senate adjourn.***

Motion carried. (Senate adjourned at 2:20pm)