



# Indigenous Initiatives

Indigenous Postsecondary Education Council (IPEC)

Western University  
Meeting Minutes

April 29, 2022

The meeting was held at 8:30am – 12:00pm via ZOOM

**PRESENT:**

Danielle ALCOCK  
Deb ARMSTRONG  
Peter ATERMAN  
Christy BRESSETTE

Bernita BRIGHAM-  
JACOBS  
Sara Mai CHITTY

Regna DARNELL

Cortney DAKIN  
Raymond DELEARY  
Mindy GILL-JOHNSON  
Paula HEDGEPEETH

Ashley KEWAYOSH

Rick MONTURE  
Melinda MORADIPOUR  
Amanda MYERS  
Jody NOAH  
Chantelle RICHMOND  
Walter SANDS

**AFFILIATION:**

Community Representative, SOAHAC, London, Ontario  
NokeeKwe, Community Representation  
Communications, Indigenous Initiatives, Western University  
Vice-Provost/Assistant Vice-President Indigenous Initiatives, Western University

Post-Secondary Coordinator, Walpole Island First Nation  
Curriculum and Pedagogy Advisor, Indigenous Initiatives, Western University

President's Appointee representing the Faculty of Social Science, Western University

SAGE Coordinator, Western University  
Executive Director, Atlohsa

Education Administrator, Saugeen First Nation  
Community Relations and Space Coordinator/IPEC Secretary, Indigenous Initiatives, Western University

Student Success Coordinator, Indigenous Student Centre, Western University

Grand River Post-Secondary Education, Six Nations First Nation  
Office Administrator, Indigenous Initiatives, Western University

Director, Indigenous Student Centre, Western University  
Southern First Nations Secretariat, Community Organization

Acting Director, Indigenous Studies, Western University  
Communications Coordinator, Indigenous Initiatives

**REGRETS:**

Kathleen ANDERSON  
Holly CLAEYS  
Debbie DOLSON  
Joe HENRY  
Misko KICKNOSWAY  
Melanie MOLNAR

Representative, Métis Nation of Ontario  
Post-Secondary Coordinator, Caldwell First Nation  
Post-Secondary Counsellor, Chippewa of the Thames First Nation  
Dean of Students, Kings University College  
President, Indigenous Student Association, Western University  
Affiliate Designate, Brescia University College

**Western University, Indigenous Initiatives**

WSSB, Suite 2150, 1151 Richmond St., London, ON, Canada N6G 2V4  
T. 519-661-6111, ext. 48240 email [indigenousinitiatives@uwo.ca](mailto:indigenousinitiatives@uwo.ca)



Erica NEEGANAGWEDGIN	Director, Indigenous Education, Faculty of Education, Western University
Laura SPERO	Post-Secondary Counsellor, Aamjiwnaang First Nation
Bette SUMMERS	Education Director, Oneida Nation of the Thames First Nation
Vicky SWEENEY	Associate Dean, Huron College University
Gillian BALFOUR	Vice-Principal and Academic Dean, Kings University College
Lorraine DAVIES	Associate Vice-Provost (Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies)
Guy WILLIAMS	Special Advisor Indigenous Education & Development, Fanshawe College

1. **Traditional Opening**

2. **Welcome**

- Jody Noah - Co-chair
- Christy Bressette - Co-chair

3. **Student Experience through Covid**

Amanda Myers/ISC Director/PPT Presentation

- Enrollment numbers are up, increasing over last three years.
- Currently at 655 self identified students.
- New staff compliment, Indigenous Student Centre (ISC) staff additions to support students.
- ISC remained opened for services and supports with provincial protocols in place
- [YouTube link](#) – grad ceremony

4. **Indigenous Learning Bundles – cancelled**

5. **Office of Indigenous Initiatives Updates**

Christy Bressette – VP/AVP Indigenous Initiatives

- New Provost – Florentine Strzelczyk– VP Academic – former VP and Provost Academic at Memorial University. Supportive of Indigenous Initiatives and the needs.
- President Shepard and Provost Strzelczyk are interested in coming to community to build relationship.
- Western is number one in Canada and third in world in 2022 impact rankings. Work towards the united nations SVG’s – focusing on ending poverty and ending hunger and equality for everyone. Connection to indigenous knowledge’s and the connections to original teachings and concepts.
- Plans to provide training for sophomores for orientation week. Provide a presentation focuses on cultural safety and awareness. Possible KAIROS exercise.
- OII presenting to the leadership team on the importance of Indigenization in the academy. Roles and importance of this work as it relates to the TRC calls to action and the Truth and Reconciliation report
- New staff at OII – Walter Sands/Communications Coordinator, new associates through Career Launch Program (Western Graduates)
- New community enhancement coordinator at ISC
- Awasis (Cortney) Dakin, SAGE coordinator

- Recruiting at Western – staff, students and faculty. Cluster hire is beginning – seven new Indigenous faculty to Western. CRC's in additional cluster hire.
- Faculty Relations will receive training on engaging with Indigenous scholars. Drafting a Guide to engaging with Indigenous faculty which will provide guidance and direction at Western on how to engage with faculty. Companion guide to two other housed on the OII website – Guide to Engaging with Indigenous students, and a Guide to Engaging with Indigenous Community.
- Indigenous identity – national discussion has taken place. A report has been drafted.
- Western and Indigenous Initiatives are currently working on a guideline for assisting with Indigenous Identity.

#### Amanda Myers – Director of Indigenous Student Centre

- Mini U preparations are underway virtually this year. Best practice to move forward this way. Moving forward in coming years there will be a hybrid model designed. This will accommodate youth across the country.
- Community Enhancement Coordinator – Merisa Geris
- Head and Heart student programs provide opportunity for student and staff throughout the summer. Another result of this program is positive skill building
- Student Experience survey is being developed and will be brought to IPEC in the near future. The allows ISC to gather important data to further assist students
- ISC is still open with swipe card access to help protect students and staff throughout COVID.
- ISC renovations are coming.

#### Sara Mai Chitty - Curriculum & Pedagogy Advisor

- Career Launch students' being brought on board to assist with Curriculum and Pedagogy.
- Kairos
- Co-curricular record
- Learning Bundles, a formal curriculum initiatives which is led by Candace Brunette Debassige. Presentation in Spring Perspectives in May 9 2022
- Local context: supporting indigenous rights and interests in data and collection. Invitation to community to join.
- Guide for engaging, decolonization and indigenizing at Western. Allies are in need of guidance. This guide will point allies in direction of resources available.

#### Paula Hedgepeth – Community Relations and Space Coordinator

- ILS – renaming is in process
- PPT in OWL – updates on ILS
- Video being created that will contain 4 key messages. BRF 2023, Opening of the ILS, Indigenous Peoples Day, Invitation to Western for BRF, and Westerns commitment to Reconciliation.
- SISCO Report in progress. Jana George from SISCO has been contracted to produce this report based on Community engagement.
- Branding around the Oak Tree. Inclusion on traditional knowledge in the space.
- Marked Calendar dates on the tree rings – village sites, human time with tree time. Dendrochronology. Show the agency of trees as actors and animate beings (message of Indigenous knowledge needs to be emphasized)

Peter Aterman – Communications Specialist

- Communications to be handed over to Walter Sands and incoming associates
- New edition of the Laotysa:n released today.
- Indigenous Strategic Plan is being updated. With a goal to be completed in May 2022
- Communications plan to be completed for the ILS

## Department/Faculty Updates

### Indigenous Studies

Chantelle Richmond - Acting Director of Indigenous Studies

- Two new hires started early March 2022 – Program Coordinator and Program Assistant – Rick Fehr and Charlie Macdonald.
- In search of a new Director of Indigenous Studies – open rank position.
- Anishinaabemowin language is moving forward with course offerings for the upcoming academic year.
- Art mural is being created on wall by Indigenous Studies – recreate the story on the formation of Indigenous Studies
- All courses are now completed and marks are being uploaded.

## 6. IPEC Round Table Sharing

Sharing the work that community is currently working on.

- Jody Noah – Co-Chair and Munsee -Delaware update
  - Often share what Western is doing in Relationship Building with other committees that I sit with.
  - We need to learn together, we don't all have the answers but we can all help each other.
- Danielle Alcock – SOAHAC – Regional Practice Lead
  - Applying for funding
  - A partnership with Western for pathways is of interest. A possible discussion at a later date.
- Mindy Gill-Johnson – Saugeen – Education Administrator
  - Post secondary funding application deadline is approaching
  - Develop program to train teachers to work in the schools in Catholic board.
- Bernita Jacobs – WIFN Education Coordinator
  - Busy with students and ending the year
  - Indigenizing and decolonizing is an issue at institutions. Getting mainstream to learn and acknowledge about history is exhausting. It is important the staff and faculty are supported in this work.

- Deb Armstrong – Nokeekwe Community Representative
  - Summer jobs are available at Nokeekwe. Looking for students, please pass the word along.
- Rick Monture – GRPSEO Education Representative
  - Looking forward to Spring
  - Dealing with Pandemic issues
  - Public school in Brantford looking to rename after Indigenous woman from Six Nations.
  - The term “Indigenizing” is problematic due to the teachings of the Two Row Wampum. Alternate term “learning from each other” or something similar.

#### Next Meeting

- Currently scheduled for summer 2023. Date to be determined and notifications will be emailed out.

#### **7. Adjournment/Traditional Closing**

- Myrna Kicknosway conducts a traditional closing.