



Indigenous Initiatives

Indigenous Postsecondary Education Council (IPEC)

Western University

Meeting Minutes

March 26, 2021

The meeting was held at 9:00am – 1:00pm via ZOOM and Teleconference (due to COVID19)

PRESENT:

Danielle ALCOCK

Deb ARMSTRONG

Christy BRESSETTE

Bernita BRIGHAM-

JACOBS

Candace BRUNETTE

Holly CLAEYS

Regna DARNELL

Lorraine DAVIES

Brent DEBASSIGE

Joan FINEGAN

Janice FORSYTH

Paula HEDGEPETH

Tara HEDICAN

Joe HENRY

Riley KENNEDY

Myrna KICKNOSWAY

Melanie MOLNAR

Amanda MYERS

Jody NOAH

Geoff READ

Alan SHEPARD

AFFILIATION:

Assistant Professor and Indigenous Leader-in-Residence, Schulich School, Western University

Literacy Coordinator, Nokeekwe

Vice-Provost/Assistant Vice-President Indigenous Initiatives, Western University

Post-Secondary Coordinator, Walpole Island First Nation

Acting Vice Provost/ Associate Vice President, Indigenous Initiatives, Western University

Post-Secondary Coordinator, Caldwell First Nation

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

Associate Vice-Provost (Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies)

Associate Professor and Director, Indigenous Education, Faculty of Education, Western University

Acting Dean of Social Sciences, Western University

Director, Indigenous Studies, Faculty of Social Science, Western University

Community Relations and Space Coordinator/IPEC Secretary, Indigenous Initiatives, Western University

SAGE Coordinator, Western University

Dean of Students, Kings University College

Senate Representative, Western University

Visiting Elder, Indigenous Student Centre, Western University

Affiliate Designate, Brescia University College

Director, Indigenous Student Centre, Western University

Southern First Nations Secretariat, Community Organization

Dean of Students, Huron University College

President, Western University

Guests:

Ashley SISCO Sisco and Associates Consulting, CEO, Owner and Principle Consultant

REGRETS:

Alia BIG GEORGE	Indigenous Student Association (ISA) President, Western University
Debbie DOLSON	Post-Secondary Counsellor, Chippewa of the Thames First Nation
Jennie MASSEY	Associate Vice President, Student Experience, Western University
Bette SUMMERS	Education Director, Oneida Nation of the Thames First Nation
Kathleen ANDERSON	Representative, Métis Nation of Ontario
Rick MONTURE	Grand River Post-Secondary Education, Six Nations First Nation
Laura SPERO	Post-Secondary Counsellor, Aamjiwnaang First Nation
Guy WILLIAMS	Special Advisor Indigenous Education & Development, Fanshawe College

1. Traditional Opening

- Myrna Kicknosway opened.

2. Welcome

- Jody Noah/Co-chair to acknowledge Candace Brunette in role of Acting Provost of Indigenous Initiatives
- Introduction of Christy Bressette Acting Vice Provost/Associate Vice President Indigenous Initiatives
- Welcoming words from President Alan Shepard

3. Approval of Agenda

IPEC Co-chair Christy Bressette

Co-chair invited members to add or removed items from the agenda:

- EDI Strategies.

4. Approval of Minutes

Minutes approved with the following changes:

Under Indigenous Education

- Construction Renovations – anticipated start date
- Construction has not started yet

- Geoff Read motioned to approve minutes

- Danielle Alcock seconded

5. Western's Strategic Planning Working Committee Engagement

Candace Brunette & Dayna Kiblibs present

Purpose: engage IPEC for input regarding Westerns Strategic Plan – How can Western strive toward Inclusive Excellence?

- Erasure of indigenous bodies and relationships is a concern
- Self-identifying as BIPOC is an issue brought forward by student. Self-identity should remain distinct
- Reporting on equity linked initiatives – institutional reports needs attention.
- More in-depth discussions need to be had on these issues.
- Engaging in equity serving groups
- Issues pertinent to Indigenous peoples – “Nothing about us without us”, this motto is not respected in Indigenous Education.
- There are champions in this institution that are doing good work in consultation with Indigenous people.
- Impacts of anti-equity approach is harmful
- Hiring indigenous faculty with mentorship environment. Create an environment that is supportive for incoming Indigenous faculty.
- Not enough Indigenous faculty and staff to do the work that is needed. Leadership positions needed within faculty in addition to faculty positions.
- Model hiring process from Faculty of Media Studies – a unique approach to hiring Indigenous faculty.

How do we measure successful research in more inclusive and equitable ways?

- Inclusivity and equitable ways will be reached when Indigenous hiring is evident and forefront across campus.
- Ideological racism responsibility to reshape for the next generation.
- Indigenous engagement at every stage.
- Hiring more Indigenous staff and faculty – essential to systemic change.
- Relationship building needs to be considered in Indigenous research as a form of labour.

Candace invites to participate in survey or set up a meeting to further discuss. Feedback collected until end of April 2, 2021 to be collated to a larger document.

6. Language Revitalization Report Update

Ashley Sisco presents

- Gather input form local FN communities and indigenous students and community partner for a need for an enhanced indigenous languages program.
- Strengthen, unmet needs, and gaps and how to move forward together
- LDCC signalled need to western to enhance indigenous languages offering - ISP

- 2020 hired SISCA to facilitate engagement
- Prioritize Anishinaabe, Onyota:aka and Lenapewe
- Strength mapping in local communities and at western
- Principles for action – partner with local communities, address learning barriers.
- New funding from e-campus to support the dev of indigenous languages program – to create a pilot.
- Establish an Indigenous Languages Advisory Group – chaired by Christy Bressette AVP/VP,
- Dev and deliver three indigenous languages courses in fall of 2021. Online workshops in protection and revitalization of indigenous languages – discounted rate for community and workshops for undergraduate students. Online Anishinaabe language course.
- Overview of SISCO report – DRAFT report to be sent to IPEC members along with current IPEC minutes.

7. Indigenous Student Update

Riley Kennedy presents Undergraduate.

- Students are exhausted, but finding resiliency through culture, family and friends.
- ISA has had a slow year du to the switch to online
- Health series has had three speaker this year

Tara Hedican presents Graduate.

- SAGE – two book clubs. Braiding Sweetgrass. HeartBerries. Hoping to host an online writing retreat.
- SOGS – combining the SAGE and SOGS roles. Indigenous student voices taking on these roles.
- Care packages sent out to graduate students
- One on one peer support for students
- Challenges for students which are being monitored to best of ability.

8. Department/Faculty Updates

Paula Hedgepeth, Community Relations and Space Coordinator
Please see OII update attached and dated March 26, 2021.

Candace Brunette – Special Advisor the Provost – Curriculum Development

- Mapping on curriculum that contains Indigenous content, professional development needs, and gap analysis based on Calls to Action from the Truth and reconciliation report.
- Commitment from the Academic Provost, Sarah Pritchard, to invest in indigenizing the curriculum.
- Develop a strategy to utilize these funds.
- Model after Carleton University – learning bundles
- Hiring another curriculum developer to help do this work.

- Creating another grant at program and/or faculty level to support the integration of content through a program review. \$40,000 over two years to support entire programs. Will ensure Indigenous pedagogies embedded into their programs in a respectful way.
- Affiliate access to the bundles as well as the program review will be considered.

Amanda Myers, Director ISC presents.

- Indigenous graduation is scheduled for May 7 2021.
- Financial support – national scholarship for Indigenous undergraduate and graduate students. Local first nations at all levels of study.
- Mini University program continues on a virtual platform for 2021. Process of hiring students to lead this program. Helps with recruitment moving forward. Janice Forsyth, Director of Indigenous Studies presented.

Janice Forsyth, Director Indigenous Studies presents.

- Cluster hire – second round/iteration of process. Interviewed two candidates for Social Science. Offer to one candidate went out.
- Indigenous Studies has been approved for Department status.
- Funding from e-campus was received for language learning and revitalization programs and courses.

Brent Debassige, Director Indigenous Education, presented.

- Faculty of Education, Indigenous Education welcome Indigenous faculty members, developing critical mass.
- There is a needed to add additional Indigenous content to Education curriculum.
- Update Indigenous Education webpage. Link to Indigenous education webpage from Faculty of Education home page.
- Link for Office on Indigenous Initiatives from Westerns landing page would be beneficial.
- Indigenous Education scholarships transitioned from Faculty of Education page to Indigenous Education page
- Adjudicating applications for Master of Indigenous Education program 2022. 10 Applicants this year.
- Capstone Culminating Presentation Event for the Master of Education co-hort – March 27, 2021 via Zoom 9AM to 1PM.
- Renovations of Indigenous Education space – delays as a result of COVID. Possible new space in the Faculty of Education – will advise.

Danielle Alcock, Indigenous Lead presents.

- Strategic planning for the next five years – small group sessions. Talking circles with students, staff and faculty. EDID is top of the list – biggest priority
- Admissions – 10 interviewees this year. Dentistry 1 applicant.
- Memorandum of Understanding from University of Toronto– supports removing financial barriers. Allows for support of 30 more students
- Indigenous graduates coming up
- EDI office through Schulich – hiring a DEAN for that role. Indigenous Health will be under this office.
- EDI specialist will be posted
- Funding supports for students through Indigenous physicians of Canada.
- Indigenous liaison role funding is being made available.

9. IPEC Round Table for General Member Sharing

Christy Bressette facilitates.

- Kings Update – new academic plan in early stages.
- Conversations happening on how to support Indigenous learners and faculty at Kings
- Reflection Circle construction will begin this spring.
- Funding ask to support Indigenous learners coming to Kings College. A match program. Goal to raise \$25,000 and Kings will match up to \$50,000. Engagement with Indigenous Staff and faculty for best and most effective way to engage Indigenous learners for this funding.
- Need to protect Indigenous programs because they do not follow Institutional guidelines.
- COVID plan 2021 – in-person fall plans are being put in place but if that should change due to Covid, keeping Westerns community safe will be priority.
- Summer IPEC meeting - gathering input for continued meeting or cancel. Will be discussed further with co-chairs.

10. Adjournment/Traditional Closing

- Myrna Kicknosway conducts a traditional closing.