



Indigenous Initiatives

Indigenous Postsecondary Education Council (IPEC)
Western University

Meeting Minutes

February 25, 2022

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

PRESENT: AFFILIATION:

Danielle ALCOCK	Community Representative, SOAHAC, London, Ontario
Peter ATERMAN	Communications, Indigenous Initiatives, Western University
Gillian BALFOUR	Vice-Principal and Academic Dean, Kings University College
Christy BRESSETTE	Vice-Provost/Assistant Vice-President Indigenous Initiatives, Western University
Shazad Chaudhary	Research & Data Analyst, Indigenous Initiatives, Western University
Sara Mai CHITTY	Curriculum and Pedagogy Advisor, Indigenous Initiatives, Western University
Regna DARNELL	President's Appointee representing the Faculty of Social Science, Western University
Lorraine DAVIES	Associate Vice-Provost (Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies)
Raymond DELEARY	Executive Director, Atlohsa
Debbie DOLSON	Post-Secondary Counsellor, Chippewa of the Thames First Nation
Dean Doxtator	Community Representative, N'Amerind, London, Ontario
Paula HEDGEPETH	Community Relations and Space Coordinator/IPEC Secretary, Indigenous Initiatives, Western University
Mindy Gil-Johnson	Education Administrator, Saugeen First Nation
Cody GROAT	Director Proxy, Indigenous Studies, Western University
Sean HOOGTERP	Indigenous Initiatives, Huron, Brescia & Kings College University's
Misko KICKNOSWAY	President, Indigenous Student Association, Western University
Myrna KICKNOSWAY	Visiting Elder, Indigenous Student Centre, Western University
Melanie MOLNAR	Affiliate Designate, Brescia University College
Melinda Moradipour	Office Administrator, Indigenous Initiatives, Western University
Amanda MYERS	Director, Indigenous Student Centre, Western University
Erica NEEGANAGWEDGIN	Director, Indigenous Education, Faculty of Education, Western University
Jody NOAH	Southern First Nations Secretariat, Community Organization
Laura SPERO	Post-Secondary Counsellor, Aamjiwnaang First Nation
Vicky SWEENEY	Associate Dean, Huron College University
Chantelle RICHMOND	Acting Director, Indigenous Studies, Faculty of Social Science, Western University
Guy WILLIAMS	Special Advisor Indigenous Education & Development, Fanshawe College

GUESTS:

Jana GEORGE	Sisco and Associates Consulting, Research Associate
Ashley SISCO	Sisco and Associates Consulting, CEO, Owner and Principle Consultant

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



REGRETS:

Kathleen ANDERSON	Representative, Métis Nation of Ontario
Bernita BRIGHAM-JACOBS	Post-Secondary Coordinator, Walpole Island First Nation
Holly CLAEYS	Post-Secondary Coordinator, Caldwell First Nation
Joe HENRY	Dean of Students, Kings University College
Rick MONTURE	Grand River Post-Secondary Education, Six Nations First Nation
Bette SUMMERS	Education Director, Oneida Nation of the Thames First Nation

1. Traditional Opening

Myrna Kicknosway offers traditional opening.

2. Welcome

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

3. Approval of Agenda and Previous Minutes

- Agenda approved
- Previous Minutes approved

4. Indigenous Languages Presentation

Ashley Sisco and Jana George present

- Courses, enrollments, and evaluation results shared with IPEC (slide deck available)
- Recommendation to waive requirements for advanced degrees related to language instructors.
- Issue with UWOFA, collective agreements and union which need to be addressed.
- Students reported positive feedback when engaged in the courses
- Possible trauma informed training for instructors in the future recommended.
- Observation of regional dialects and how to honour.
- Work together to discuss Language initiatives with Fanshawe and community partners.

5. Office of Indigenous Initiatives Updates

Christy Bressette – VP/AVP Indigenous Initiatives

- Alan Shepard returned from leave.
- New Provost to be announced – May 1st
- Western leadership actively support work of decolonization, indigenization, and reconciliation at Western.
- New hires at Indigenous Initiatives.
- Cluster hire for Indigenous faculty. Work continues recruitment and retention.
- Projects and events in progress – Indigenous Learning Space, formal curriculum, Canada Research Chairs, student scholarships, post-doctoral fellowships, Building Reconciliation Forum June 2023

Amanda Myers – Director of Indigenous Student Centre

- Mental well-being is an issue for students as a result of Covid and year end stress.

- Positive feedback from students in regards to Indigenous Student Centre services.
- Student enrollment is up slightly.
- Student Scholarships to be announced
- Community Enhancement Coordinator hiring in process
- Indigenous Marketing and Recruitment Strategy released soon.
- Mini University program 2022 will be online.
- Indigenous Student Graduation Ceremony scheduled for April 1, 2022

Shazad Chaudhary – Research and Data Analyst

- Evaluation of ISP (2016) presentation

Sara Mai Chitty - Curriculum & Pedagogy Advisor

- Formal Curriculum, Learning Bundles, work with Lead, Candace Brunette. 5 modules for faculty to embed in courses in ethical and responsible way.
- Protecting Indigenous knowledge created and shared.

Peter Aterman – Communications Specialist

- DRAFT Annual Progress Report 2021 shared with IPEC

Department/Faculty Updates

Indigenous Studies

Cody Groat (Proxy) - Acting Director of Indigenous Studies

- Director term completed – Interim Director, Chantelle Richmond.
- Search for new Director of Indigenous Studies to start July 2023.
- Hiring of Indigenous faculty and support of Indigenous Studies. Ongoing discussion with Administration. Indigenous Studies is independent of Indigenous Initiatives and move toward department status.
- Work with Sara Mai Chitty is strengthening Indigenous Studies.

Indigenous Education

Erica Neeganagwedgin – Director of Indigenous Education

- Scholarships available this term
- MPeD is in progress and successful. Recruitment has begun for next year with 6 applicants for review.
- Hiring for Indigenous Education coordinator.
- DRAFT Strategic Plan is under review.

6. Health Break

IPEC Round Table Sharing

Focus: Upon review of the Strategic Directions of the [Indigenous Strategic Plan](#), and the themes of [Western at 150](#), how can Western continue to support your PSE needs?

- Debbie Dolson-Young: Chippewa of the Thames First Nation
 - Happy to see Language initiative and success off the pilot.

- Strong language immersion in Early Centre; expanding to schools, working on instructors, etc.
 - Excited to see the ongoing collaborative work with language
 - 15 students at Western from COTTEN and well supported.
- Jody Noah – Co-Chair and Munsee -Delaware update
 - Policy review in October; attended by Laura and Debbie. Just had approval to increasing running allowance amount for students. Retro back to start of winter.
 - Engagement with AFN chiefs of Ontario and AIAI;
 - Online database – started for fall term last year. Students able to apply online.
 - Wellness checks and virtual check-ins with students. Has been okay but wishing for more participants
 - New system for sending sponsorship letters
- Dean Doxtator – N’Amerind (Proxy) New Member
 - Work with Wheable, Nokee Kwe and Fanshawe.
 - Training small courses; budget limited to support with post secondary.
- Mindy Gill-Johnson – Saugeen – New Member
 - Education Administrator a Saugeen First Nation. Look after members from Kindergarten through to PhD.
 - For post-secondary students, provide support and guidance for students and supporting them through the COVID lockdowns.
- Ray Deleary – Atlohsa – New Member
 - Institutions role in ensuring students entering workforce, in their hiring practice, looking to see cultural knowledge, lived and community experience, ahead of other credentials.
 - Partnerships with community is important for the benefit of disconnected students as well as all students.
 - Not institutions place to provide cultural learning but creating pathways and possible opportunities for the students.
- Sean Hoogterp – Indigenous Initiatives Coordinator at the 3 Affiliates – New Member
 - Work to decolonize, Indigenize spaces, curriculum, etc. at the affiliates.
 - Will be working collaboratively with ISC
 - Working collaboratively with ISC to provide as many supports as possible for Indigenous students.
- Regna Darnell
 - Conference coming up - 2022 Raising Indigenous Voices in Academia & Society conference - with call for papers.
 - Looking for Western’s support - Donation to support registration for people who want to attend.
 - Role of non-Indigenous scholars to bring awareness to the work that is being done
- Lorraine Davies - School of Graduate and Post-Doctoral Studies

- Working on initiatives of decolonizing and Indigenizing policies, programs; Admission policies; eliminating unconscious biases; intentional recruitment of Indigenous students.
- Mel Molnar – Brescia
 - Strategic Plan for upcoming 5 years
 - New President as of fall – Former Academic Dean
 - Jody Wilson-Raybould on March 8th – scheduled for evening.
- Vicky Sweeney – Huron
 - Indigenous sculpture installation by Indigenous artist, Leeroy Henry.
 - Expressed interest in helping with the Building Reconciliation Forum in 2023.

Next Meeting

- Currently scheduled for March 25, 2022. Will be rescheduled.
- Researching strategic ways to engage this council in an efficient manner.

7. Adjournment/Traditional Closing

- Myrna Kicknosway conducts a traditional closing.