



IPEC Minutes

January 20, 2023

Office of Indigenous Initiatives

General Meeting: 1:30 pm to 4:00 pm, Hybrid Meeting

Present	Affiliation
Danielle ALCOCK	Community Representative, SOAHAC, London Ontario
Deb ARMSTRONG	Nokee Kwe, Community Representation
Peter ATERMAN	Communications, Indigenous Initiatives, Western University
Christy BRESSETTE	Vice-Provost/Assistant Vice-President, Indigenous Initiatives, Western University
Sara Mai CHITTY	Curriculum and Pedagogy Advisor, Indigenous Initiatives, Western University
Paula CORNELIUS-HEDGEPEETH	Community Relations and Space Coordinator/IPEC Secretary, Indigenous Initiatives, Western University
Courtney DAKIN	SAGE Coordinator, Western University
Regna DARNELL	President's Appointee representing the Faculty of Social Science, Western University
Raymond DELEART	Executive Director, Atlohsa
Mindy GILL-JOHNSON	Education Administrator, Saugeen First Nation
Ashley KEWAYOSH	Student Success Coordinator, Indigenous Student Centre, Western University
Rick MONTURE	Grand River Post-Secondary Education, Six Nations First Nations
Melinda MORADIPOUR	Office Administrator, Indigenous Initiatives, Western University
Amanda MYERS	Director, Indigenous Student Centre, Western University
Jarvis NAHDEE	Post-Secondary Coordinator, Walpole Island First Nation
Jody NOAH	Southern First Nations Secretariat, Community Organization

Chantelle RICHMOND	Acting Director, Indigenous Studies, Western University
Walter SANDS	Communications Coordinator, Indigenous Initiatives
Regrets	Affiliation
Kathleen ANDERSON	Métis Nation of Ontario, Representative
Gillian BALFOUR	Vice-Principal and Academic Dean, Kings University College
Holly CLAEYS	Post-Secondary Coordinator, Caldwell First Nation
Lorraine DAVIES	Associate Vice-Provost (Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies)
Joe HENRY	Dean of Students, Kings University College
Misko KICKNOSWAY	President, Indigenous Student Association, Western University
Melanie MOLNAR	Affiliate Designate, Brescia University College
Erica NEEGANAGWEDGIN	Director, Indigenous Education, Faculty of Education, Western University
Laure 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
Guy WILLIAMS	Special Advisor Indigenous Education and Development, Fanshawe College

General Meeting

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 the last three years.
- Currently 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](#) – graduate 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 knowledges and the connections to original teachings and concepts.
- Plans to provide training for sophomores for orientation week. Provide a presentation that 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. CRCs (Canadian Research Chairs) 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.

6. 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 opportunities for students and staff throughout the summer. Another result of this program is positive skill building
- The Student Experience survey is being developed and will be brought to IPEC soon. 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.

7. 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 initiative which is led by Candace Brunette Debassige. Presentation in Spring Perspectives on 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 need guidance. This guide will point allies in the direction of resources available.

8. 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 Western's 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 of 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)

9. 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

10. 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.

11. 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 do not 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 discussion later, possibly.
- 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 are issues at institutions. Getting mainstream to learn and acknowledge history is exhausting. It is important the staff and faculty are supported in this work.
- Deb Armstrong – Nokee kwe Community Representative
 - Summer jobs are available at Nokee Kwe. 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.

12. Next Meeting

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

13. Adjournment/Traditional Closing

- Myrna Kicknosway conducts a traditional closing.