



Indigenous Initiatives

Indigenous Postsecondary Education Council (IPEC)

Western University Meeting Minutes

October 1, 2021

The meeting was held at 9:00am – 12:00pm via ZOOM and In Person at the Chu Centre, IGAB

PRESENT: AFFILIATION:

Christy BRESSETTE	Vice-Provost/Assistant Vice-President Indigenous Initiatives, Western University
Bernita BRIGHAM-JACOBS	Post-Secondary Coordinator, Walpole Island First Nation
Shazad CHAUDHARY	Research, Evaluation and Innovation Specialist, Indigenous Initiatives
Sara Mai CHITTY	Curriculum and Pedagogy Advisor, Indigenous Initiatives, Western University
Regna DARNELL	President's Appointee representing the Faculty of Social Science, Western University
Janice FORSYTH	Director, Indigenous Studies, Faculty of Social Science, Western University
Nick HARNEY	Dean of Social Sciences, Western University
Paula HEDGEPEETH	Community Relations and Space Coordinator/IPEC Secretary, Indigenous Initiatives, Western University
Tara HEDICAN	SAGE Coordinator, Western University
Riley KENNEDY	Undergraduate Student Senator, Western University
Ashley KEWAYOSH-SAMUEL	Student Opportunities Coordinator, Indigenous Student Centre, Western University
Myrna KICKNOSWAY	Visiting Elder, Indigenous Student Centre, Western University
Melanie MOLNAR	Affiliate Designate, Brescia University College
Erica NEEGANAGWEDGIN	Director, Indigenous Education, Faculty of Education, Western University
Jody NOAH	Southern First Nations Secretariat, Community Organization
Geoff READ	Dean of Students, Huron University College
Laura SPERO	Post-Secondary Counsellor, Aamjiwnaang First Nation

Guests:

Opiyo ALOYO	AVP Equity, Diversity & Inclusion, Western University
Jana GEORGE	Research Associate, SISCO Consulting
Wilson LUO	Director, Business Development, Western Research Mitacs
Ashley SISCO	SISCO Consulting, Owner and Principal Researcher
Sarah PRITCHARD	Provost of Academic, Western University
Aarti YVES	Project Coordinator, Office of the AVP, EDI Western University

REGRETS:

Western University, Indigenous Initiatives

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Holly CLAEYS	Post-Secondary Coordinator, Caldwell First Nation
Lorraine DAVIES	Associate Vice-Provost (Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies)
Debbie DOLSON -YOUNG	Post-Secondary Counsellor, Chippewa of the Thames First Nation
Joe HENRY	Dean of Students, Kings University College
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
Guy WILLIAMS	Special Advisor Indigenous Education & Development, Fanshawe College

1. **Traditional Opening**

- Myrna Kicknosway opened via Zoom

2. **Welcome**

- Jody Noah/Co-chair.
- Christy Bressette Acting Vice Provost/Associate Vice President Indigenous Initiatives.

3. **Mitacs – Indigenous Pathways**

Wilson Luo – information/PPT in OWL

- Introduction and background information provided by Christy Bressette and Jody Noah – SFNS Leakage Study
- History and background of Mitacs provided - collaboration and partnership priority organization.
- High-level overview of the program provided by Mitacs – Accelerate.
- Importance of Indigenous Research Policy used by Mitacs when engaging with Indigenous community.
- Question: Can First Nations be a partner? No, but economic development offices within First Nations can be partners.
- Research opportunity to promote capacity development is available to Indigenous communities.

4. **Updates from Office of Indigenous Initiatives (not inclusive)**

Christy Bressette VP/AVP Indigenous Initiatives

- National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on September 30, 2021. Goal of education and reflection campus wide was achieved.
- Overview of the day – available on the OII website.
- Cody Groat presentation on Understanding Residential Schools and Reconciliation was participated by over 2000 registrants.
- A precedent has been set by OII for the Western at large community to follow when organizing and observing days such as September 30th – Orange Shirt Day and NDTR.
- Student and faculty feedback was shared – appreciation for the space made to observe this day.
- National Reconciliation Forum bid was won by Western University to host in 2022. Expression of interest is in OWL. Two themes that include the following topics – Indigenous Knowledge

as a viable framework for Reconciliation, Responding to lessons from Covid 19 and Indigenous Knowledge and Sustainable Goals.

- October 5th launch of Indigenous Alumni Association via the homecoming event.

Sara Mai Chitty – Curriculum and Pedagogy Advisor

- Formal curriculum – Indigenous learning bundles lead by Candace Brunette-Debassige, inspired by Carleton University Kahente Horn Miller. Invited 10 scholars to create modules based on individual areas of knowledge and experiences.
- Opening ceremony took place in September to start in a good way lead by Liz Akiwenzie.
- Intention of the bundles is to strengthen the already existing curriculum – braided into the courses.
- Seeking feedback from Under grad students and faculty after the bundles have been used.
- Updating the land acknowledgement – looking for feedback for changing from Attawandaron to Chonnonton.
- Land acknowledgement resource being created to assist with reflection and education behind the purpose of the land acknowledgement. Looking for feedback.

Shazad Chaudhary – Research, Evaluation and Innovation Specialist

- OII Annual Report and ISP being developed
- Overview of all departments/faculties that are involved in Indigenous research
- Indigenous Research Centre is evolving based on the report completed by Chantelle Richmond and Research Sub-committee.
- Research opportunities through SSHRC.

Amanda Myers – Director of Indigenous Student Centre

- Centre is open for swipe card access. Priority is safety for students and staff. 8am to 8pm hours.
- TVDSB third year of partnership with ISC undergrad students to support secondary students with tutoring and mentorship. About to start hiring process for this program.
- First round of local first nation's scholarships is closing. A difficult process to get interest and engagement. Creating awareness to communities regarding this opportunity.
- This finding does not affect the funding from the post-secondary funders – SFNS and Chippewa.

Dr. Erica Neeganagwedgin – Director of Indigenous Education

- Correction – Brent Debassige served 8 years in position not 13.
- Scholarship in faculty of education – indigenous education graduate scholarships - masters student are eligible to receive \$10,000. PhD candidates are eligible to receive \$16, 000 per year for five years. Does not impact any other funding.
- MPEd started on July 5th 2021 – fully online due to pandemic. Will run from 2021 – 2023. Planning for 2022 cohort is underway.
- New offices in Faculty of Education – former Western English language center, Room 1180.
- Indigenous Education Coordinator regular fulltime position is posted.
- Motion for course cancellations – Indigenous courses. Not to be cancelled regardless of low number of registrants.
- Motion for the Indigenous Education Director of Faculty of Education position to be part of the Executive Committee at the Faculty of Education.
- Faculty of Education needs more Indigenous faculty – commitment to next 4 years of hiring Indigenous scholars.

5. Indigenous Language Revitalization & Indigenous Identity Policy Update **Ashley Sisco and Associate**

Language Update

- Major milestones: two instructors hired and courses are set to begin.
- 25 seats available for the language class – 100 + applications received. 20 local members, 5 Southwestern local applications.
- Community workshop series and co-curricular - great response to the workshop and co-curricular was at half capacity.

Indigenous Identity Policy

- Very complex process, handled with care.
- Safeguarding seats, resources and position that are intended for Indigenous people.
- 6 distinct areas of focus for the DRAFT policy.
- High level overview of the draft policy.
- UWOFA Collective Agreement considerations around Proof of Identity is recommended to be reassessed for clarity.
- Concerns raised, noted by SISCO.
- Further engagement will be scheduled to discuss this topic.

6. Adjournment/Traditional Closing

- Closing of meeting.