

**Western University
Indigenous Postsecondary Education Council**

Meeting Minutes

September 20, 2019

The meeting was held at 9:00AM – 12:30PM at University Community Centre (UCC) 147B

Present:	Affiliation:
Candace BRUNETTE	Special Advisor to the Provost, Indigenous Initiatives
Regna DARNELL	President’s Appointee representing the Faculty of Social Science
Brent DEBASSIGE	Director, Indigenous Education; Western University
Joe HENRY	Dean of Students, King’s University College
Amanda MYERS	Director, Indigenous Student Centre, Student Experience
Peter SIMPSON	Associate Vice-Provost, School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (SGPS)
Robert ANDERSON	Dean of Faculty of Social Science
Paula HEDGEPEETH	Project Coordinator, Indigenous Initiatives
Janice FORSYTHE	Director, Indigenous Studies, Faculty of Social Science
Ashley KEWAYOSH-SAMUEL	Program Coordinator, Indigenous Services, Student Experience
Bette SUMMERS	Education Director, Oneida Nation of the Thames
Tehya QUACHEGAN	Indigenous Student President
Kiersten WILLIAMS	University Student Council (USC) Indigenous Student Liaison
Regrets:	Affiliation:
Kathleen ANDERSON	Metis Nation of Ontario (MNO)
Melanie MOLNAR	Brescia University College
Myrna KICKNOSWAY	Visiting Elder, Indigenous Services, Student Experience
Jody NOAH	Southern First Nations Secretariat/IPEC Co-chair
Jenny MASSEY	Associate Vice President, Student Experience

1. Traditional Opening

- Smudge (optional)

2. Approval of Agenda

- Request to move Indigenous Studies update to beginning of agenda as the Dean of the Faculty of Social Science had to leave early. Approved by all.
- Agenda approved.

3. Approval of Minutes

- Spelling of names to be corrected on the draft meeting minutes (e.g. Ashley Kewayosh-Samuel, Kierstin Williams)
- Previous meeting minutes approved.

4. Indigenous Studies Update

Janice Forsyth, Director presented

- Name change is official – Indigenous Studies
- Program review is now complete and approved by Senate in September 2019
- Next review update is due in approximately 2 years
- 2 hiring process are ongoing – one internal to the faculty and one with the cluster hire
- If successful with both hiring, the program will only need one more tenure track position to move forward with department status, depending on the criteria for reaching that status.
- There is no policy outlining the requirements for becoming a department, therefore there is flexibility in terms of how to get there.

5. Guideline for Working with Indigenous Community Members

Candace presented draft Guidelines to seek feedback from membership.

- Feedback overall was that the document was well written, clear and addresses need to be considered when working with Indigenous communities
- Some concern that the document could be “friendlier” in its overall tone
- Some concern around “prescribing” a payment
- Asked for clarity that honorariums cannot be issued to staff or faculty of Western
- Suggested the wording of “suggested Honoria”
- Honoria needs to be set and consistent across the campus

6. Review IPEC Terms of Reference

Candace presented a draft Terms of Reference to seek feedback from membership.

- Noted highlighted areas are the recent changes
- (7.16) Delete wording of “designate” after Indigenous Student Association
- (7.25) Indigenous community members remove “new” from Mississauga of the New Credit First Nation
- 9. Change first bullet to “To accommodate First Nations, Co-Chairs will automatically offer toll free conference and Zoom link for members to join from a distance.”
- Future discussions to occur in future IPEC meetings around the possibility of IPEC members sending a proxy.
- Special Advisor (Indigenous Initiatives) will share updated draft Terms of Reference with Provost and discuss next steps.

7. Office of Indigenous Initiatives Update

Candace Brunette presented – please see attached handout

Outlined next steps for moving the new Office of Indigenous Initiatives and Vice Provost/Associate Vice President role forward. Presented preliminary draft of the proposed selections committee for the hiring of the VP/AVP and next steps. If the proposed role moves through the channels smoothly, plans to engage IPEC around the role in January 2020 and post the job posting in February 2020.

- Indigenous Learning Space Update – An Indigenous Space Advisory group has been assembled and has met twice. An Indigenous architect was selected through a public process and request for proposals. Candace Brunette-Debassige and Ashley Kewayosh-Samuel were part of the selection process.

- Indigenous Policy Development Update – A new Domestic Tuition Fees for Native American Students policy has been developed and approved which offers Canadian tuition rates to Native American students in spirit of the Jay Treaty.
- Indigenous Initiatives Staffing Update – The Office has posted for an Indigenous Curriculum and Pedagogy Advisor.
- Indigenous Faculty Cluster Hiring Update – a posting for up to four tenure track Indigenous faculty positions in the areas of Education, Health and Indigenous Studies has been posted. The Office of Indigenous Initiatives will circulate dates and times for candidate public talks as they arise. Search Committee in place includes three Deans and three Indigenous faculty members plus Jody Noah as IPEC Co-Chair.
- Congress 2020 happening at Western in May 2020 –plans to open doors to Indigenous community partners. Special Advisor will be seeking input from IPEC at future meetings.
- Indigenous Financial Aid Review Update – the Consultant has completed the literature review, interviews and review of best practices. A small Committee will review findings and write a report with recommendations to the Provost to improve financial aid offerings for undergraduate students at Western.
- Indspire funding partnership agreement opportunity - Special Advisor sought advice from IPEC members on the possible criteria for student eligibility as part of a matching program. IPEC members agreed on giving priority to the students outlined was important but also to extend to mature students in the region including SFNS members. They also recommended that the process be reviewed after one year to see if it is successful. There were some questions on whether Affiliates could or would be included in the program. Special Advisor will be meeting with External Relations staff to share feedback and inquire about Affiliates inclusion.

8. Indigenous Student Centre Update

Amanda Myers and Ashley Kewayosh-Samuel presented

- Name change is official – Indigenous Student Centre (ISC)
- Re-posted for Supporting Aboriginal Graduate Enhancement (SAGE) Coordinator part-time role for an Indigenous graduate student
- The Community Enhancements Coordinator role has been re-posted, it is full time permanent role within ISC.
- There will be a part-time Cultural Counsellor role to be posted soon. Students have expressed a strong need for this position but ISC has funding for only on a PT basis.
- Indigenous Awareness Week dates are scheduled for January 20-24, 2020, theme will be set around Indigenous student success. Ashley Kewayosh-Samuel will be reaching out to different areas in November to invite people to participate in planning meetings.
- The Indigenous Students Association (ISA) has booked their annual powwow date for March 22, 2020.
- ISC is moving forward with a partnership with TVDSB to create and offer an Indigenous Academic Tutors Program in local high school. Western's ISC will partner by hiring and training Academic Tutors. Job posting will go out in the Fall 2020.

9. Indigenous Education Update

Brent Debassige presented

- Update that the Dean of the Faculty of Education resigned in August 2019, which has been a great loss for the Faculty and its institutional memory which is needed to keep momentum going in the area of Indigenous Education. Two Acting Deans have been appointed with assurances that the commitments to expand Indigenous Education space for faculty members offices will continue. This space is separate and in addition from the Indigenous Learning Space adjacent to the Faculty of Education.

- There continue to be plans to redesign the Indigenous leadership structure within the Faculty of Education.
- Six Nations Polytechnic (SNP) community-based program partnership continues with an MPEd program which is now offered every year (as opposed to every other year). The second cohort at SNP in progress and will complete their Masters' programs in April 2020. This type of community-based model requires ongoing attention and the Director of Indigenous Education requires support staff to facilitate the growing needs in the areas of community engagement and communications. A new staff position - a manager of Indigenous Education - is being explored as a possibility. The Faculty has indicated some openness to funding this new position and the job description is under development to be evaluated and posted.
- The Faculty of Education continues to progress with its required Indigenous education course where every BEd student will have taken Indigenous course before they graduate.
- The Faculty also offers many other Indigenous graduate level courses with a special focuses on Indigenous Education for EdD and MPEd.

10. Other Discussion Items

The Mauna Kea issue

- Special Advisor updated IPEC on the reoccurring community questions and feedback she has received regarding the Mauna Kea issue and Western's participation as an ACURA board member.
- Brent Debassige followed up by sharing his extensive research on the issue and the media coverage which has not fairly represented Native Hawaiians.
- Special Advisor updated IPEC that a small group of Indigenous and non-Indigenous faculty members are working with Western's Research Vice President to raise the issues and explore writing a public statement similar to other universities.

11. Round Table – Questions, comments and concerns

- Special Advisor shared that the new President, Alan Shephard and Chancellor will be installed in a ceremony on October 22nd, 2019. She also indicated that Convocation and Secretary's Office have requested to have Indigenous elements incorporated into the ceremony. Special Advisor is consulting with longstanding Elders affiliated with Western, Mary Lou and Dan Smoke.
- Students discussed the significance of a new President and their interest in establishing a relationship and presenting him with a gift.

Action Item

- (7.26) change Delaware Nation to traditional name Eelünaapéewi Lajkéewiit
- (7.34) Fanshawe College name change from First Nations Centre to Institute of Indigenous Learning

12. Adjournment/Traditional Closing

- Meeting closes at 1PM following lunch