



Indigenous Initiatives

Indigenous Postsecondary Education Council (IPEC)

Western University

Meeting Minutes

Friday September 18, 2020

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

PRESENT:

Danielle ALCOCK

Kathleen ANDERSON

Alia BIG GEORGE

Bernita BRIGHAM-
JACOBS

Candace BRUNETTE

Sara Mai CHITTY

Regna DARNELL

Lorraine DAVIES

Debbie DOLSON

Joan FINEGAN

Janice FORSYTH

Paula HEDGEPEETH

Riley KENNEDY

Myrna KICKNOSWAY

Amanda MYERS

Jody NOAH

Laura SPERO

Guy WILLIAMS

AFFILIATION:

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

Métis Nation of Ontario

Indigenous Student Association (ISA) President, Western University

Post-Secondary Coordinator, Walpole Island First Nations

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

Indigenous Pedagogy and Curriculum Advisor, Western University

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

Associate Vice-Provost (Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies)

Post-Secondary Counsellor, Chippewa of the Thames First Nation

Acting Dean of Social Sciences, Western University

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

Project Coordinator, Indigenous Initiatives, Western University

Undergraduate Student Senator, Western University

Visiting Elder, Indigenous Student Centre, Western University

Director, Indigenous Student Centre, Western University

Southern First Nations Secretariat, Community Organization

Post-Secondary Counsellor, Aamjiwnaang First Nation

Special Advisor Indigenous Education & Development, Fanshawe College

Guests:

Alisha FOWLER

Jana GEORGE

Ashley SISCO

Tehya QUACHEGAN

Sisco and Associates Consulting, Director of Operations

Sisco and Associates Consulting, Research Associate

Sisco and Associates Consulting, CEO, Owner and Principle Consultant

Sisco and Associates Consulting, Research Assistant

Western University, Indigenous Initiatives

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REGRETS:

Brent DEBASSIGE	Associate Professor and Director, Indigenous Education, Faculty of Education, Western University
Joe HENRY	Dean of Students, Kings University College
Jennie MASSEY	Associate Vice President, Student Experience, Western University
Rick MONTURE	Grand River Post-Secondary Education, Six Nations First Nation
Melanie MOLNAR	Affiliate Designate, Brescia University College
Geoff READ	Dean of Students, Huron University College
Bette SUMMERS	Education Director, Oneida Nation of the Thames First Nation

1. **Traditional Opening**

Myrna Kicknosway

3. **Approval of Agenda**

IPEC Co-chair Candace Brunette welcomed everyone.

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

- Add Professional Development discussion if time permitting.

4. **Approval of Minutes**

Minutes approved with the following changes: no changes.

- Debbie Dolson motioned to approve
- Janice Forsyth seconded

5. **Gonfalon Project Update & Discussion**

Paula Hedgepeth presented

- Western's Convocation Committee has invited the Office of Indigenous Initiatives to create an Indigenous Gonfalon as part of Western's Convocation Ceremony.
- OII conducted early engagement with IPEC members on what symbols, colours and materials could be used for the Gonfalon. Once the design is drafted, OII will be reengage IPEC and plan to commission Indigenous artists to create the Gonfalon.
- IPEC Council was invited to provide their input via email by emailing Paula Hedgepeth by November 30, 2020.

6. **Indigenous Language Revitalization Program Development – Community Engagement**

Ashely Sisco of Sisco & Associates presented

- Gathered feedback about Western's role and current and future Indigenous languages programming needs and capacities.
- A series of questions focused on Needs, Ideal Programming and Support were presented to the Council for feedback and input.
- Findings to be reported back to Office of Indigenous Initiatives and IPEC at future meetings in the New Year.

7. Indigenous Financial Aid Update - First Nations Scholarship Program – Engagement Process

Candace Brunette, Acting Vice Provost/Associate Vice President Indigenous Initiatives presented.

- OII updated IPEC members on suite of new Indigenous financial aid offerings established at Western.
- Announced the hiring of a new Indigenous Financial Aid Coordinator– Donna Noah based in ISC
- Shared information about the National Indigenous Scholarship Program (3 per year) to be launched in November 2020
- New Indigenous needs based funding \$100,000
- A new 5 year partnership with Indspire to offer bursaries to Western students
- A new Local First Nation Scholarship Program inspired based on UBC’s Musqueam scholarship program that offers scholarship specifically to local First Nations students connected to the London District Chiefs Council (LDCC) (8 communities) to be launched in new year.

Local First Nations Scholarship Program Criteria/Distribution discussion

Agreed that scholarships should be distributed to full time and part time students across all levels (undergraduate, graduate and professional)

- Agreed to consider factors beyond only academic merit (i.e. community contributions)

5. Office of Indigenous Initiatives (OII) Updates

Candace Brunette-Debassige, Acting Vice Provost/Associate Vice President Indigenous Initiatives presented. Please see attachment titled OII updates.

6. Indigenous Student Centre (ISC) Update

Amanda Myers, Director ISC presented.

- COVID 19 fatigue – extra levels of work resulting in added stress for ISC staff.
- Joy Spear Chief-Morris has assumed temporarily Ashley Kewayosh-Samuels position.
- Dona Noah was hired as Financial Aid Coordinator.
- Centre underwent a renovation over the summer– updated carpet and flooring and fresh paint
- Priority of ISC remains Indigenous student success. Access of ISC space for printing, computer lab remains open and available with social distancing measures in place. 10 student maximum in Indigenous Student Centre.
- Elders continue to offer service – safety of Elders remain top of mind – Myrna Kicknosway is delivering service virtually.
- Tisha Summer is providing counselling and art therapy to Indigenous students on site.
- Personal Protective Equipment is available for staff and students.
- New opportunities for ISC due to COVID 19. For example, Mini University has expanded Canada wide.

7. Indigenous Studies, Faculty of Social Science updates

Joan Finegan, Acting Dean of Social Science read J. Forsyth update.

- Indigenous Studies program is offered fully online.
- Lewis Williams, new faculty hire, starts teaching in January 2021.
- Nearly all courses are full. Indigenous language courses had better uptake than projected. Completed revamp of Mohawk language courses done last year has added to this progression.
- Course enrolment is strong and program enrolment is up.
- Continued conversations occurring about faculty hiring. Additional faculty hire from the Dean's office. Working towards reinvigorating Indigenous strategic hiring process.

8. Indigenous Education, Faculty of Education Update

Brent Debassige, Director Indigenous Education, presented.

Sent regrets

9. Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry Update

Danielle Alcock, Indigenous Lead presented.

- Medical students have been organizing –advocating for change.
- Schulich hosted an antiracism retreat September 30, 2020.
- The Faculty welcomed a new Dean Dr. Yoo over the summer.
- Indigenous Physicians Association of Canada (IPAC) has completed a review of medical schools in Canada. Report card to be released.
The Faculty continues to face a number of challenges with underrepresentation of Indigenous students, staff and faculty.
Indigenous Lead is participating in the Faculty's budget process and plans to request for funding to hire student support, curriculum development and advisor.
- Co-chairs offered to write a letter of support from IPEC addressed to Dean of Schulich to support funding request.

10. Action Items Pending

Update VP/AVP (Indigenous Initiatives)

Jody Noah presents.

- The Selection Committee has been reviewing applicants.
The Committee plans to interview in November.
There may be opportunities for candidates to meet faculty and staff.

IPEC Annual Planning

Candace Brunette addressed

- Paula Hedgepeth is creating an Owl website for IPEC members
- Candace Brunette will create an orientation PowerPoint presentation for new members that will be housed on the Owl website. The presentation will provide context on the complex bicameral governance structure in the academy.
- Candace will explore a partnership with Continuing Studies to offer discounted PD courses with Continuing Studies for IPEC members as a gesture of reciprocity for their service.

11. Adjournment/Traditional Closing

Myrna conducted a traditional closing.