



Indigenous Initiatives

Indigenous Postsecondary Education Council (IPEC)

Western University

Meeting Minutes

Friday November 20, 2020

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

PRESENT:

Danielle ALCOCK

Kathleen ANDERSON

Bernita BRIGHAM-
JACOBS

Candace BRUNETTE

Regna DARNELL

Brent DEBASSIGE

Janice FORSYTH

Paula HEDGEPEETH

Tara HEDICAN

Kendrew JACOBS

Myrna KICKNOSWAY

Melanie MOLNAR

Rick MONTURE

Amanda MYERS

Jody NOAH

Laura SPERO

Guy WILLIAMS

AFFILIATION:

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

Métis Nation of Ontario

Post-Secondary Coordinator, Walpole Island First Nations

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

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

Associate Professor and Director, Indigenous Education, Faculty of
Education, Western University

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

Community Relations and Space Coordinator/IPEC Secretary,
Indigenous Initiatives, Western University

SAGE Coordinator, Western University

Indigenous Relations Liaison, University Student Council, Western
University

Visiting Elder, Indigenous Student Centre, Western University

Affiliate Designate, Brescia University College

Grand River Post-Secondary Education, Six Nations First Nation

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:

Alia BIG GEORGE	Indigenous Student Association (ISA) President, Western University
Lorraine DAVIES	Associate Vice-Provost (Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies)
Debbie DOLSON	Post-Secondary Counsellor, Chippewa of the Thames First Nation
Joan FINEGAN	Acting Dean of Social Sciences, Western University
Joe HENRY	Dean of Students, Kings University College
Jennie MASSEY	Associate Vice President, Student Experience, Western University
Geoff READ	Dean of Students, Huron University College
Bette SUMMERS	Education Director, Oneida Nation of the Thames First Nation

1. **Traditional Opening**

- Myrna Kicknosway opened.

3. **Approval of Agenda**

IPEC Co-chair Candace Brunette welcomed everyone.

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

- No additions to current meeting.
- Invite new University President to next meeting.

4. **Approval of Minutes**

Minutes approved with the following changes: no changes.

- Amanda Myers motion to approve.
- Regna Darnell seconded.

5. **Sisco Consultants – Update on Language Revitalization Research**

Ashely Sisco of Sisco & Associates presented. Please see attached document.

- Purpose: share feedback from community engagement process conducted in summer/fall 2020 – high-level overview of preliminary findings.
- Engaged in participatory brainstorming session based on data and research.
- Jana George presented key findings.
- Sisco & Associates and OII to report back to IPEC in New Year 2021.

6. Office of Indigenous Initiatives (OII) Updates

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

- Search for VP/AVP Indigenous Initiatives underway –ISC and OII teams scheduled to meet with top two candidates.
Western’s Strategic Plan Steering Committee (SPSC) update - Riley Kennedy was nominated by IPEC – membership as undergraduate student – not elected. Candace Brunette-Debassige was appointed by the President to serve on the SPSC.
- New Dean of Social Sciences Nick Harney
- New Dean of Education – Donna Kotsopoulos
- OII Budget process– one-year transitional budget in effect. Followed by a 4-year budget plan in 2022. New VP/AVP Indigenous will oversee the 4-year budget process.
- OII Communications: seeking ideas on distributing Indigenous Strategic Plan (ISP) Progress report widely.
- New OII Communication Officer position/career opportunity – request for IPEC members to please tap on shoulder, any potential candidates.
- Indigenous Alumni Chapter in development– notify Paula Hedgepeth if you know of Western Indigenous alumni
- Indigenous Learning Space – renovation underway – general contractor request for proposal released, construction to begin in New Year with plans to unveil in summer or fall 2021.

7. Indigenous Student Centre (ISC) Update

Amanda Myers, Director ISC presented.

- ISC Communications - Instagram platform has been highly successful in engaging and disseminating information to Indigenous students.
- ISC currently has 1500 Instagram followers – third nationally amongst universities – give aways have contributed in a doubling in numbers.
- New Staff: Kylie Bressette has joined as the Manager of Indigenous Admission and Enrollment.
- New scholarships – Donna Noah the Financial Aid Coordinator will be launching the new National Indigenous Scholarship Program in the New Year. ISC will be targeting communication locally and nationally.
- Tisha Summers – Art Therapist since the summer 2020 – offering counselling virtually and in person.
- Three student placements.
- TVDSB partnership: ISC continues to support Indigenous students through academic peer tutoring and mentoring – Melissa Schnaar-Rice leads the program along with Charlene Camillo and Starr Albert from the TVDSB.

- Indigenous women’s programming and men’s programming upcoming – ISC has received funding to hire a student to help develop the program using research.
- Second soup day post COVID19 – November 18 - Teresa Nicholas instructed Corn Soup cooking lessons via ZOOM. ISC supplied ingredients to students through contactless drop off or pick up in the ISC. The program accompanies Longhouse teachings on the Haudenosaunee Three Sisters’ story.

8. Indigenous Studies (IndigiStu), Faculty of Social Science updates

Janice Forsyth, Director of Indigenous Studies presented.

- IndigiStu collaborating with OII and Continuing Studies to complete an Indigenous language programming review.
- IndigiStu has moved all courses to online - Rick Fehr is a great asset to virtual teaching.
- The program is considering blended learning options in the future.
- The second round of the Indigenous faculty cluster hire is in progress. If secured a new faculty hire, IndigiStu will comprise of 4 tenure track full time Indigenous faculty members in total.
- This number will support Indigenous Studies in moving toward a department status.
- IPEC members expressed interest in enrollment of students in the program. Statistics were generally discussed.

9. Indigenous Education, Faculty of Education Update

Brent Debassige, Director Indigenous Education, presented.

- Indigenous Education offices under renovation construction commences in January 2021
- New Indigenous Education Scholarship launched with a focus on Indigenous students and students with disabilities.
- Indigenous Education is partnering with OII to complete Indigenous student recruitment and marketing research.
- Education is participating in the Indigenous faculty cluster hire process. So far, hired two new faculty members through this process they are: Renee Bedard and David Barillas-Chon.
- New staff member, Chett Monague who will serve as the Indigenous Education Program Coordinator. Chett starts January 11, 2021.
- Indigenous Letter of Understanding (LOU) Western has updated its faculty collective agreement to be more inclusive of Indigenous faculty member needs.

10. Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry Update

Danielle Alcock, Indigenous Lead presented.

- Indigenous Lead submitted yearly budget with a focus on human resources needs. The hiring of an Indigenous liaison continues to be most pressing unmet need, along with a new request to hire 2 Curriculum and Pedagogy developer positions.
- There is also a need for a project lead to continue to support all the work in Schulich School of Dentistry and Medicine.
- Medical learning – shift focus on specific streams. Indigenous Health Equity, Diversity and Inclusion evidence based research and application.
- Cultural safety training. Dean of Schulich is doing training and currently working to get others on board, 30 leadership positions at Schulich
- Dentistry Associate Dean has instructed students complete cultural safety training in their 4th year before doing community work
- There is a need to establish an Indigenous Council at Schulich.
- Working on studying how London Health Science Centre and Schulich work together.
- Incoming Indigenous students will be registered with Physicians Canada.
- Upcoming events: Jan 20 & 21. Provincial and territorial health leaders will come together to report back on how we can work to improve the federal healthcare situation in response to Joyce Echaquan's treatment and resulting death.
- Schulich also hosted an anti-racism retreat report released on January 23, 2021 – next steps to be determined.

11. Action Items Pending

Jody Noah, IPEC Co-Chair, presented.

- Update VP/AVP (Indigenous Initiatives).
- Letter to Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry drafted and sent out on behalf of IPEC in support of Indigenous Lead.

11. Adjournment/Traditional Closing

- Myrna conducted a traditional closing.