

REPORT TO THE LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY SENATE

FROM

OGIMAAWIN ABORIGINAL GOVERNANCE COUNCIL, LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY

Next Ogimaawin-Aboriginal Governance Council meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 15, 2013, from 1:30 PM to 3:30 PM, in ATAC 3004.

Business conducted at the Ogimaawin - Aboriginal Governance Council meeting held February 25, 2013:

Two guest speakers were present to discuss business relevant to Aboriginal education at Lakehead University.

- ⊗ Dr. Lee Stuesser, Dean, Lakehead University Faculty of Law, joined the meeting to report, with Dr. Stevenson, on events subsequent to the February 15th vote by Senate to approve a change in the curriculum of the Law School. Dr. Stuesser and Dr. Stevenson both asserted their ongoing and unchanged commitment to maintaining the highest level of Aboriginal perspective possible within the Law School curriculum. Dr. Stuesser read a communication from Ms. Karen Drake, the incoming Métis law faculty member who will teach the law class as it currently stands changed from a 1.0 course to a .5 course. Ms. Drake's support for the change in the course from an Indigenous Studies course to a Law Faculty course was sound and reflected an Aboriginal perspective.

None the less, as of February 25th, students had been camped in Dr. Stevenson's outer office in an attempt to draw attention to what they feel is an inappropriate action taken by Senate. Dr. Stevenson reported that he has supported the students by providing them with coffee and free access to the outer office. He welcomes the display of passion by the students and the opportunity to engage in dialogue regarding social justice. As of March 6th, as this report is being written, the students have continued their action.

- ⊗ Cameron Clark, Chair, Lakehead University Board of Governors, spoke to Ogimaawin about the proposed Lakehead University Strategic Plan for 2013- 2018. He thanked Ogimaawin for the input provided. He shared his perspective on how the plan had been approved by Senate and the Board of Governors had been affirmed in their crafting of the plan, as those processes were communicated to Mr. Clark by Dr. Matheson. Ogimaawin members present voted to articulate support for the plan.

Selection and Acceptance of Offer to Join Lakehead as Vice-Provost of Aboriginal Initiatives

Dr. Rod Hanley was pleased to announce that Dr. Cynthia Wesley-Esquimaux has been offered and has accepted the position of Vice-Provost of Aboriginal Initiatives at Lakehead University. Senators will recall that this position was held by Ms. Beverly Sabourin until recently. Dr. Wesley-Esquimaux served as a Scholar in Residence here at Lakehead in October of 2011. At that time she presented a set of research findings and policy recommendations to Senate. Cynthia has a stellar reputation as an academic, researcher, and change agent in Canada, and internationally, as well. Dr. Hanley's announcement was met with an outpouring of appreciation by all present.

Aboriginal Representation on the Research Ethics Board of Lakehead University

The Chair of Ogimaawin and representative Aboriginal professors met with Dr. Stevenson and the Lakehead University Research Officer to concur regarding plans for Aboriginal representation on

the Lakehead University Research Ethics Board. General agreement was achieved with some compromises made by all concerned. I will report with more detail regarding this issue as concrete decisions are made and additional actions are taken.

Appointment of Community Representative from the Ontario Native Women's Association Centre for Membership in Ogimaawin

Ms. Tanis Thompson has replaced Ms. Ingrid Green.

Representative from Ogimaawin on the Lakehead University 50th University Planning Committee

Ms. Judy Flett offered to serve on that Committee. A motion was made and approved to support her service on that Committee.

Ogimaawin-Aboriginal Governance Council Advisors Report and Recommendations

Dr. Sandra Wolf reported that recommendations to the President arising from the Lakehead University Aboriginal Faculty Recruitment and Retention Study are finalized. Dr. Peggy Smith summarized the recommendations, their intent and the implications of those recommendations. Ogimaawin voted to move the recommendations forward to the President, who will make appropriate decisions regarding their implementation, revision or other action. Ms. Rosie Mosquito, whose letter to the Aboriginal Governance Council in 2009 created the impetus for the study, will be notified of completion of action and will be appropriately thanked for her thoughtful concern.

Dr. Gillian Siddall reported that the work of the Joint Senate Academic Committee and Ogimaawin-Aboriginal Governance Council Subcommittee to identify common concerns and work to be completed is underway. She will be reporting progress as progress is made.

Submitted Wednesday, March 6, 2013, for Senate gathering Friday, March 22, 2013

Sandra Wolf, Ph. D

Faculty of Education, Lakehead University