

**REPORT TO THE LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY SENATE
FROM**

OGIMAAWIN ABORIGINAL GOVERNANCE COUNCIL, LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY
Reporting on Ogimaawin – Aboriginal Governance Council Advisors Committee
business arising from April 2, 2012, meeting.
Next Ogimaawin meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 16, 2012

Relationship between the Ogimaawin – Aboriginal Governance Council and the Ogimaawin – Governance Council Advisors Committee

The Ogimaawin – Aboriginal Governance Council reports to the President of the University, in a position in parity with the Board of Governors and Senate. The Ogimaawin is a community-based organization. Voting members represent local and regional Aboriginal organizations except for the member representing the Advisors to the Ogimaawin – Aboriginal Governance Council as the Chair of the Committee.

The purpose of the Advisors Committee is to serve as a vehicle for interdepartmental communication and liaison with the Lakehead University Ogimaawin-Aboriginal Governance Council on matters affecting Aboriginal post-secondary education at Lakehead University. Membership in the Advisors Committee includes representation from Aboriginal-specific programs and departments, as well as Aboriginal-specific positions, including Aboriginal faculty. The Committee also includes the Deans or their designates, and persons in key administrative positions such as the Vice-President (Academic), the Vice-Provost Aboriginal Initiatives, and the Ogimaawin representative on the Research Ethics Board.

The position of Chair rotates among the membership and is elected every second year. Dr. Peggy Smith has served as Chair for the past year, and for several terms in the past. For the forthcoming year 2012 - 2013, Ms. Annette Schroeter, Aboriginal Research Facilitator, and Ms. Yolanda Wanakamik, Aboriginal Outreach/Recruitment Officer, will assume co-chair responsibilities. Much appreciation is extended to Peggy for her past work and to the Incoming co-chairs.

Link to Terms of Reference for the Advisors to the Ogimaawin – Aboriginal Governance Council:
http://aboriginalinitiatives.lakeheadu.ca/uploads/docs/OAGCAdvisorsToR2011/Advisors_Cttee_ToR_approved25jan10_edited_15Nov11.pdf

Guest Presentation – Centre for Place and Sustainability Studies

Dr. Robert Stewart presented information to the Committee regarding the Centre for Place and Sustainability Studies. He represented Dr. David Greenwood, Canada Research Chair in Environmental Education. The Centre for Place and Sustainability Studies will generate new approaches to research and teaching that focus on relationships formed with and around outdoor spaces. Research generated through the Centre will help guide how local and regional communities respond and adapt to interconnected sustainability challenges such as climate change and economic security.

Dr. Stewart and the Committee shared ideas for using outdoor space on campus for meetings and as classroom space. Lakehead University is rich in “green spaces,” including ceremonial spaces on the west edge of the campus. Members expressed support for the work of the new Centre

Recruitment and Retention of Aboriginal Faculty Study

Dr. John Hodson has assembled a set of preliminary findings from the survey of current and past Aboriginal faculty at Lakehead University. Findings will be presented to the Ogimaawin Aboriginal Governance Council. The Committee hopes to be able to make some of the findings available to Senate in the fall. Recommendations arising from the study may provide a key to Senate's efforts to implement the Academic Plan.

Métis Research Rendezvous

The Métis Nation of Ontario and Aboriginal Initiatives, Lakehead University are hosting a Research Rendezvous on Tuesday, April 17th at the Bartley Residence on the Thunder Bay campus. University faculty and students and members of the Métis community are invited to participate in this day of research conversation.

The purpose of the gathering is to facilitate dialogue among members of the Métis community, Lakehead University researchers, and others around Métis research needs. We anticipate that potential partnerships/collaborations will be identified and the Métis community will be connected to Lakehead University researchers in order to build capacity for research with the Métis community. Participants will learn about research projects currently underway and participate in the conversation regarding existing research and research priorities. This interactive event provides opportunities to develop new relationships and research partnerships.

Memorandum of Agreement between Lakehead University and the University of Waikato

The Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Waikato was signed in February and recently ratified by our President. Like Lakehead University, University of Waikato is a centre of Maori scholarship and education in Aotearoa/New Zealand. This is the first agreement between Lakehead University and a university in Aotearoa/New Zealand that will create opportunities for student/faculty exchanges, bi-lateral research and program development.

Submitted Wednesday, April 4, 2012, for Senate Friday, April 13, 2012
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