



## Ogimaawin Indigenous Education Council Advisors Committee

### MINUTES

<b>Date:</b>	January 18, 2022
<b>Time:</b>	2:30pm - 4:00pm (EST)
<b>Join Remotely:</b>	Zoom Meeting

#### MEMBERSHIP

**Members in Attendance:** DEANS: Dr. Elizabeth Birmingham; Dr. Jula Hughes; Dr. David Richards; Dr. Mirella Stroink; FACULTY & STAFF: James Aldridge; Denise Baxter; Dr. Kristin Burnett; Anna Chief; Fionna Farquhar; Lisa Harris (Interim Vice-Chair); Mercedes Jacko; Dr. Rhonda Koster; Sabreena MacElheron; Sheryl O'Reilly; Jerri-Lynn Orr; Lisa Primavesi; Robin Sutherland; Dr. Anita Vaillancourt (Chair); Céline Wick

**Members Not in Attendance:** Dr. Dean Jobin-Bevans; Dr. Janusz Kozinski; Dr. Wayne Melville; Dr. Todd Randall; Dr. Ulf Runesson; Dr. Chander Shahi; Dr. Paul Cormier; Dr. Cynthia Wesley-Esquimaux; Christopher Glover; Dr. Jessica Jurgutis; John Kimball; Tracey Larocque; Dr. Joseph LeBlanc; Dennis McPherson; Heather Moynihan; Dr. Christopher Mushquash; Dr. Raymond Neckoway; Professor Doe O'Brien; Dr. Lana Ray; Dr. Robert Robson; Dr. Michelle-Marie Spadoni; Andrea Tarsitano; Yolanda Twance; Dr. Sarita Verma;

**Administrative Resources:** Barbara Eccles (University Secretary/OIEC Secretary); Marcie Morrison (Secretary); Debra Bevan (Recorder)

**Invited Guest:** Dr. Anna Guttman, Chair of English (Lakehead University)

SECRETARY'S NOTE: The meeting proceeded without a quorum.

The meeting was called to order at 2:31pm.

#### Item

1. Approval of Agenda (Dr. Anita Vaillancourt)

MOVED (K. Burnett) that the agenda be approved with the following addition:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Under Other Business add “Indigenous Emergency Fund (Sheryl O'Reilly)</li> </ul> <p>CARRIED AS AMENDED</p>
2.	<p>Approval of the November 1, 2021 Minutes (Dr. Anita Vaillancourt)</p> <p>The minutes of the November 21, 2021 meeting were circulated in advance with the meeting material.</p> <p>MOVED (K. Burnett) that the November 21, 2021 meeting be approved CARRIED</p>
	<p>The Chair welcomed and introduced a new Committee member, Céline Wick and guest Dr. Anna Guttman.</p> <p>The OIEC Advisory Committee members present introduced themselves and shared words of welcome.</p>
3.	<p>Planning Discussion for the Next National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (Denise Baxter and Dr. Anna Guttman)</p> <p>Highlights and common themes from the discussion included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This topic is planned to be discussed at the Ogimaawin Indigenous Education Council meeting on January 31, 2022.</li> <li>Do we declare September 30th a day off at Lakehead or keep it as a regular day with classes in session?</li> <li>Other universities have recognized this day as a day off for staff and students to attend National Day of Truth and Reconciliation events. Last year, the Senate did not approve for the day to be recognized due to the academic calendar.</li> <li>Many members believe that canceling classes is important as this allows students to participate in events, however some non Indigenous students may not want to participate in such events.</li> <li>There is concern that if the day is declared a closure that this day may be viewed similar to Remembrance Day where the day is only viewed as a day off and the reason for the holiday is not observed. Students might not use the day for learning or reflection - we won't be able to force students to spend their time in a particular way.</li> <li>People have a moral obligation to attend the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation events - Instituting incentives that result in rewards or personal gains was opposed. It was recommended that “rewards” should not be offered for people participating.</li> </ul>

- A concern was raised that some faculty members would find the loss of a teaching day quite difficult.
- The University has found a way to schedule other unexpected calendar changes with a far less time allowance than the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation. The following was suggested:
  - There would be no loss of instructional days;
  - Closure on Friday Sept. 30 2022 to observe National Day of Reconciliation;
  - A makeup day for this canceled Friday would be on Tuesday Dec. 6 (currently scheduled last day of class is Dec 5);
  - Dec. 7-8 to be scheduled as study days (2 rather than 3 study days is what is provided most terms, including Fall 2021, Winter 2022 and Winter 2023);
  - Dec 9: Exams begin as currently scheduled.
- Based on the above; Lakehead would need to consider other departments such as security, financial, etc. Although the University would be closed, maintenance staff etc are still required to work. How is a decision made on who is granted a day off to observe this day? It was suggested that Lakehead research other institutions that did declare the day off in 2021 regarding payroll issues, etc., and what worked for that particular institution.
- If the University is closed to observe the day, it may be looked upon favourably by prospective students and therefore attract a positive reaction resulting in encouraging recruitment from the north. Or it may result in retention rather than recruitment.
- Comments were also raised about staff wanting to support the community events on that day, however certain staff, particularly in the Indigenous Initiatives office don't have a choice due to having to work particular days.
- No staff or faculty would be required or expected to work on the day. Associated events would be held the week prior to the date.
- It is suggested that the University lean towards a "University Closure Day" rather than a "Statutory Holiday" as statutory implies that something was imposed on us which is not the case. There is also the possibility that down the road the Provincial Government may declare this day a Statutory Holiday.
- Whatever decision is made, it should be consistent throughout the University.
- It was suggested that Lakehead may want to consider June 21st - National Indigenous Peoples Day, as a university closure day.

Following the discussion, the Committee decided to make a recommendation to the Ogimaawin Indigenous Education Council on January 31, 2022 regarding the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation at Lakehead. To do the timing of scheduled meetings for both the Advisors Committee and the OIEC, and to ensure that all Committee

	<p>members have the opportunity to provide feedback and vote, the Committee agreed to an electronic vote, via email, that will be conducted prior to the Ogimaawin Indigenous Education Council meeting on January 31, 2022.</p> <hr/> <p><i>Additional related comments from the "Zoom Chat" conversation included:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "I heard from several Indigenous students that they would prefer to be in communities on this day."</li> <li>• "I believe it should be considered with the same gravity as Canada Day is given. Indigenous Peoples do not deserve a holiday only if it can be afforded. Decolonization is not cheap."</li> <li>• "Not sure if it's possible but if it was a stat holiday could staff donate that day's pay to a fund for Indigenous students in need."</li> <li>• "I would just propose our wording has longevity for National Reconciliation day to be recognized as a holiday so it is not debated subsequently with every academic calendar year."</li> <li>• "Could we as an institution send a strongly worded letter from Lakehead to the Province supporting this as a provincially recognized holiday and ask other higher education institutions to sign and join us?"</li> </ul> <hr/>
4.	<p>Provost Task Force on Indigenous Content Requirement (Denise Baxter)</p> <p>An update on the Provost Task Force on Indigenous Content Requirement work to date was provided.</p>
5.	<p>Chair Report/Update (Dr. Anita Vaillancourt)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• OIEC Advisors Committee Terms of Reference Review Ad hoc Committee Update</li> </ul> <p>It was reported that the Ad hoc Committee is holding its first meeting immediately following this meeting. The Chair plans to keep the OIEC Advisors Committee updated on the Ad hoc Committee work.</p>
6.	<p>Internal Reports for Information</p> <p><i>Note: Internal reports will be shared with the OIEC at its next scheduled meeting.</i></p> <p>The Office of Indigenous Initiatives report and the Chair on Truth and Reconciliation report were circulated in advance of the meeting.</p> <p><del>a. Faculty of Education (Dr. Wayne Melville)</del> There was no report.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>b. Office of Indigenous Initiatives (Denise Baxter) A written report was submitted and circulated.</li> <li>c. Chair on Truth and Reconciliation (Dr. Cynthia Wesley-Esquimaux)</li> <li>d. <del>Joint SAC/OIEC Sub-Committee (Denise Baxter)</del> There was no report.</li> </ul>
7.	<p>Round Table Discussion</p> <p>The discussion today revolved around the topic of the Next National Day of Truth and Reconciliation as noted above.</p>
8.	<p>Other Business</p> <p>Indigenous Student Emergency Fund:</p> <p>Members received an update regarding the Indigenous Student Emergency Fund. Students needing to access the emergency fund should contact: Joshua Levac, Associate Registrar, Student Awards &amp; Financial Aid (manager.safa@lakeheadu.ca).</p> <p>This fund is to be used for emergency purposes. There are no restrictions on this fund. It is provided to an Indigenous Student from any program in any program year. The funds are to be used for a student who would otherwise be seriously affected by their financial situation, perhaps unable to continue their studies without this bursary. Multiple awards can be given out, although funding is limited. An email should be sent to Josh Levac by staff/faculty if a student requires access to the fund. The general application within the myAwards portal found here: <a href="https://lakeheadu.academicworks.ca/users/sign_in">https://lakeheadu.academicworks.ca/users/sign_in</a></p> <p>Orange Hoodies:</p> <p>Orange hoodies will soon be available on the Lakehead bookstore website for purchase. All profits from the sales of these hoodies will be going to the Indigenous Student Emergency Fund.</p>
9.	<p>Informational Items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Previous Ogimaawin Indigenous Education Council Meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Approved Minutes of the October 7, 2021 OIEC Meeting</li> <li>o Summary Report of the November 15, 2021 OIEC Meeting (minutes have not yet been approved)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

- b. OIEC Advisors Committee Membership, Terms of Reference and Minutes Online (please notify Marcie Morrison with any corrections to membership)
- c. 2021-22 OIEC Advisors Committee Meeting Schedule
  - o Next Meeting: March 21, 2022, 2:30pm - 4:00pm (EST)
- d. Joint Senate Academic Committee and Ogimaawin Indigneous Education Council Sub Committee Terms of Reference (amendments approved by the Senate Academic Committee on October 4, 2021)

The meeting was adjourned at 3:58pm.