

December 3, 2025 Ogimaawin Committee-Internal (OC-I)

Meeting Summary

Members in Attendance: Denise Baxter; Tami Chamberlain; Joe Duncan (Vice-Chair); Fiona Farquhar; Lisa Harris; Dr. Rhonda Koster; Dr. Juan Sanchez Martinez; Stacey Pawluk; Lisa Primavesi; Senator Grant Robbins; Dr. Anita Vaillancourt (Chair)

Members Not in Attendance: Dr. Glenda Bonifacio; Dr. Kristin Burnett; Dr. Paul Cormier; Carlotta Ellison; Christopher Glover; Dr. Brigitte Leblon; Dr. Wayne Melville; Dr. Christopher Mushquash; Rachelle Pelletier; Dr. Sharla Mskokii Peltier; Dr. Todd Randall; Dr. Chander Shahi; Robin Sutherland; Larissa Speak; Dr. Mirella Stroink; Andrea Tarsitano; Dr. Aamir Raiyeb; Yolanda Twance; Dr. Cynthia Wesley-Esquimaux, Indigenous Initiatives Orillia

Administrative Resources in Attendance: Marcie Morrison - Secretary

Invited Guests: Dr. Gillian Siddall - President & Vice-Chancellor; Hugh Briggs - Director, Physical Plant

Acknowledgement of New Member (since last meeting)

- Tami Chamberlain, Indigenous Initiatives Coordinator, Orillia

Internal Updates

- Update from the Vice-Provost, Indigenous Initiatives
 - An update on new hires and recruitment initiatives in the Office of Indigenous Initiatives was provided.

SAC/OIEC Joint Subcommittee Vacancy

By consensus, the OC-I supported the appointment of Serhii Batarchuck to the SAC/OIEC Joint Subcommittee to fill a vacancy created by a sabbatical, for a term commencing immediately to July 31, 2026.

Round Table Discussions

- **Gichi Kendaasiwin Update** (Dr. Gillian Siddall and Hugh Briggs) - A presentation was shared with the group highlighting the proposed site plans for the new Thunder Bay Campus structure. It was noted that the Elders Council approved the proposed Site Four Plan and design concept. The OC-I also supports the proposed Site Four Plan and design concept.
- **Indigenous Content Requirement (ICR) Final Report** (Denise Baxter and Dr. Anita Vaillancourt) - The final report, including the executive summary, historical context, and recommendations, is nearing completion. It will be presented at the next OC-I meeting for

review and feedback before being shared with the OIEC and the Senate. A critical finding highlighted the significant traumatic emotional and mental impact of the ICR course on Indigenous students. This raised a discussion point regarding potential recommendations, such as excusing Indigenous students from the requirement or offering them a dedicated course section. It was suggested that a future OC-I meeting dedicate time specifically to discussing the report's findings.

- **Indigenous Substantiation Draft Policy Update** (Denise Baxter) - It was reported that the first draft was shared with the Elders Council in the fall, who recommended that the policy align with the Seven Teachings. The amended version will be shared with the Elders Council next week, and collaboration with Human Resources, Legal Counsel, and the President and Vice-Chancellor is underway. The final policy will then come to the OC-I for review and feedback before being shared with the OIEC and Senate for final approval.

Policy Review Engagement Opportunity

In alignment with the University's Policy Governance Framework, and as part of our ongoing commitment to decolonization and reconciliation, the OIEC and the OC-I will be actively engaged in reviewing university-wide policies. This process seeks to center Indigenous ways of knowing, being, and doing by incorporating an Indigenous lens into policy review and development. Members are encouraged to reflect on the questions below, approaching each policy with respect for Indigenous perspectives and cultural integrity.

1. Can you identify any barriers that exist in the current policy for Indigenous students, faculty and/or staff?
2. Does the current policy appropriately support Indigenous students, faculty and/or staff in ways that are aligned with traditional and cultural practices?
3. Does the current policy conflict with Lakehead's commitment to truth and reconciliation in any way?

The following policy was brought forward for review during the meeting:

- Employment Recruitment Policy

The feedback document was live until January 26, 2026. All feedback will be shared with the policy owners during the scheduled review process for consideration.

The committee intends to evaluate the effectiveness of the policy engagement process for its members at the upcoming meeting.

Sharing Circle

Some members shared information about projects, work, accomplishments, concerns, upcoming events, etc., happening within their departments and the University community.

Updates, Reports, and Items for Information Received

- Report from the Office of Indigenous Initiatives
- Report from the Chair on Truth and Reconciliation

The next OC-I meeting is scheduled to take place on January 26, 2026, from 9:00am to 11:00am (ET).