

March 17, 2026 Ogimaawin Committee-Internal (OC-I)

Meeting Summary

Members in Attendance: *Dr. Glenda Bonifacio; Dr. Kristin Burnett; Dr. Paul Cormier; Joe Duncan (Vice-Chair); Fionna Farquhar; Christopher Glover; Lisa Harris; Dr. Rhonda Koster; Dr. Brigitte Leblon; Dr. Juan Sanchez Martinez; Larissa Speak; Andrea Tarsitano; Yolanda Twance; Dr. Anita Vaillancourt (Chair); Dr. Cynthia Wesley-Esquimaux*

Members Not in Attendance: *Denise Baxter; Tami Chamberlain; Carlotta Ellison; Dr. Wayne Melville; Tanya Moses; Dr. Christopher Mushquash; Stacey Pawluk; Rachelle Pelletier; Dr. Sharla Mskokii Peltier; Lisa Primavesi; Dr. Todd Randall; Dr. Chander Shahi; Dr. Mirella Stroink; Robin Sutherland; Senator Grant Robbins; Dr. Aamir Raiyeb*

Administrative Resource in Attendance: *Marcie Morrison - Secretary*

Invited Guests in Attendance: *Dr. Langis Roy - Vice-President, Research and Innovation (Lakehead University); Anne Klymenko - Director, Research Services; Susan Wright - Manager, Research Ethics and Contracts Research Services*

Sharing Circle

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

Internal Updates

- **Indigenous Curriculum Specialist Update (Joseph Duncan)**
 - **Etuaptomk (Two-eyed Seeing Tour)** - An update on the spring tour initiative was provided. Approximately 100 participants have completed the tour to date, with positive feedback received. An additional session is scheduled in the coming weeks, with 200 students already registered. A feedback survey will be administered, and the program will be refined as needed based on the results. There has also been external interest from Indigenous organizations, and outreach is underway to offer tours to these groups in April. The next phase will focus on engaging Lakehead University instructors to participate and provide feedback, helping to assess whether the program should continue for first-year students in the fall. Overall, feedback collected will be used to enhance the program and evaluate its long-term value.
 - **Development of Indigenous Pedagogy Award** - A report on progress to date in developing a recommendation to amend the Contribution to Teaching Awards Policy to include an Indigenous Pedagogy Award was provided. The general intent of the award and the key challenges were highlighted, particularly around the nomination process. As most existing awards rely on self-nomination, he noted that this

approach may not align with Indigenous cultural practices and that alternative, more appropriate nomination pathways should be explored. He will be proposing a revised nomination process for consideration. The anticipated timeline to finalize the recommendation is approximately 12–18 months, after which it will be brought forward to the Senate Teaching and Learning Committee for review.

- **Etuaptomk Landbase Camp-Pedagogy and (Re)Search** - It was reported that a three-day land-based teaching camp, grounded in a Two-Eyed Seeing approach and developed in partnership with Indigenous communities, is currently in development. Funding applications have been submitted to support this initiative. If successful, the camp is anticipated to take place in August.

Round Table Discussions

- **Lakehead's Official Traditional Land Acknowledgement (to include Barrie) (Dr. Anita Vaillancourt)**

Members reviewed the proposed amendments to the current official land acknowledgement, including the addition of Barrie, and agreed that further consideration is needed to ensure all represented territories are acknowledged accurately and respectfully. The Committee Chair will seek guidance from the Ogimaawin Indigenous Education Council at its next meeting, recognizing the cultural and political complexities involved. There was consensus on the importance of centralizing the approved land acknowledgement, along with supporting resources, in a single, accessible location on the University's website.

- **Indigenous Membership and Recruitment on the Lakehead University Research Ethics Board (REB) (Dr. Langis Roy, Anne Klymenko and Susan Wright)**

The committee discussed the composition, policies, and practices of the REB, with a strong focus on Indigenous representation and the ethical review of Indigenous research. While current policies align with Tri-Council requirements, members emphasized that existing structures are insufficient to meaningfully support Indigenous scholars and communities. Key challenges include limited Indigenous membership, overburdening Indigenous faculty, lack of community awareness and engagement, and the need for more culturally appropriate approaches to research ethics. There was broad agreement on the importance of strengthening recruitment, support, and policy frameworks to better reflect Indigenous perspectives and methodologies. Dr. Roy and his team plan to take away what was learned during today's discussion and will come back with an update on any changes they were able to make.

Annual Item of Business

SAC/OIEC Joint Subcommittee Interest-to-Serve (Dr. Anita Vaillancourt)

The Committee reviewed the current interest-to-serve form to ensure questions are relevant, accurate, and effective in collecting a qualified pool of applicants. No amendments were made. Interest-to-Serve call is scheduled for the end of March, with applications coming to the OC-I at the April meeting.

Policy Review Engagement - Students at Risk Policy

Aligned with the University's Policy Governance Framework and our commitment to decolonization and reconciliation, the OIEC and OC-I will be invited to review university policies through an Indigenous lens, centering Indigenous knowledge and perspectives. Members are encouraged to reflect on these guiding questions throughout the process:

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 *Students at Risk Policy* was brought forward for consultation during the meeting.

It was noted that the policy lacks clarity and does not provide sufficient guidance, including the absence of reference to Indigenous Student Support Services and unclear distinctions between supports available to faculty vs. students. It was further noted that a procedures component is missing and should be developed to support effective implementation.

Reports Received for Information

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

The next OC-I meeting is scheduled to take place on September 22, 2026, from 9am-11am (ET).