

September 22, 2025 Ogimaawin Committee-Internal (OC-I)

Meeting Summary

Members in Attendance: Denise Baxter (Acting Chair); Dr. Glenda Bonifacio; Dr. Kristin Burnett; Dr. Paul Cormier; Joe Duncan; Carlotta Ellison; Dr. Rhonda Koster; Dr. Juan Sanchez Martinez; Stacey Pawluk; Lisa Primavesi; Senator Grant Robbins; Dr. Chander Shahi; Dr. Mirella Stroink; Andrea Tarsitano; Dr. Aamir Raiyeb; Dr. Aamir Taiyeb; Dr. Anita Valliancourt; Dr. Cynthia Wesley-Esquimaux

Members Not in Attendance: Fionna Farquhar; Christopher Glover; Lisa Harris; Dr. Brigitte Leblon; Dr. Wayne Melville; Dr. Christopher Mushquash; Rachelle Pelletier; Dr. Sharla Mskokii Peltier; Robin Sutherland; Larissa Speak; Yolanda Twance

Administrative Resources in Attendance: Marcie Morrison - Secretary

Acknowledgement of New Members (since last meeting)

- Senator Grant Robbins (Elder)
- Elder Joseph Duncan (Indigenous Curriculum Specialist)
- Dr. Aamir Taiyeb (Vice-Provost, International)

Committee Vice-Chair Appointment

Members supported the appointment of Joseph Duncan as Vice-Chair for a 2-year term.

During the meeting, a call was made for volunteers to serve as Chair. No expressions of interest were received.

Internal Updates

- Update from the Vice-Provost, Indigenous Initiatives
 - Kairos Blanket Exercise Training for Facilitators - Staff and students were invited to participate in the free training exercise offered by the Office of Indigenous Initiatives.

Round Table Discussions

- **Draft Indigenous Substantiation Policy** (Denise Baxter and Roshni Antony) - A presentation was shared with the group. Highlights included:
 - Update on status of consultations
 - Purpose of the policy
 - Overview of guidelines , guided by Truth and Reconciliation
 - Core principals
 - Process of substantiating

Members engaged in a discussion by asking questions and sharing their insights and

recommendations on the draft policy and processes. The OC-I will have the opportunity to review the final draft of the policy before it moves forward for approval.

- **Gichi Kendaaswin** (Dr. Gillian Siddall and Dr. Cynthia Wesley-Esquimaux) - An update on the progress of re-thinking this initiative was provided, informing the group that consultations have been completed and a site for the new building on the Thunder Bay Campus has been selected. Members had the opportunity to ask questions, provide feedback, and share their ideas regarding the new space.
- **Indigenous Content Requirement Draft Policy Research Document** (Denise Baxter) - The group was informed that interviews have concluded and a final report on the research that was conducted is being drafted and will come to the OC-I for review. The final report will include recommendations and cost implications.
- **Traditional Land Acknowledgment** (Denise Baxter) - The group was invited to provide feedback regarding updating the University's Traditional Land Acknowledgement. It was noted that the current acknowledgement has not been reviewed for some time and should now include the Barrie STEM Hub Campus. The group engaged in discussion and shared thoughts about the possibility of moving towards individuals writing their own land acknowledgements.
- **Indigenous STEM Access Program** (Denise Baxter, Andrea Tarsitano) - An overview of proposed changes to align the STEM and ITYP was provided. Members engaged in a discussion by asking questions and sharing their insights on the topic.

Policy Review and Consultation

In alignment with the University's Policy Governance Framework, as part of the policy review process for University-wide policies, the OC-I and the OIEC will be engaged during the review cycle, with the intention of decolonizing University policies and procedures by having them reviewed through an Indigenous lens. The group chose the following policies to review this term:

- Contribution to Teaching Award
- Employment Recruitment Policy

Sharing Circle

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

Reports for Information Received

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

The next OC-I meeting is scheduled to take place on November 10, 2025, from 9:00am to 11:00am (ET).