

January 20, 2025 Ogimaawin Committee-Internal (OC-I)

Meeting Summary

Members in Attendance: Denise Baxter; Dr. Elizabeth Birmingham; Dr. Paul Cormier; Daniel Cox; Carlotta Ellison; Christopher Glover; Lisa Harris (Chair); Dr. Douglas Ivison; Dr. Brigitte Leblon (Vice-Chair); Andrew Ktytor; Sheryl O'Reilly; Stacey Pawluk; Robert Perrier; Dr. Sharla Mskokii Peltier; Lisa Primavesi; Robin Sutherland; Dr. Juan Sanchez Martinez; Dr. Subramanian Sivaramakrishnan; Dr. Mirella Stroink; Andrea Tarsitano; Yolanda Twance; Dr. Anita Valliancourt

Members Not in Attendance: Dr. Glenda Bonifacio; Dr. Kristin Burnett; Brandon Chevrier; Keira Loukes; Dr. Janusz Kozinski; Dr. Wayne Melville; Dr. Christopher Mushquash; Jerri-Lynn Orr; Rachelle Pelletier; Dr. Todd Randall; Dr. Michelle-Marie Spadoni; Larissa Speak; Dr. Cynthia Wesley-Esquimaux

Administrative Resources in Attendance: Marcie Morrison - Secretary

Welcome and Introductions of New Members (since last meeting)

- Dean of Business - Dr. Subramanian Sivaramakrishnan
- Nijii Outreach & Recruitment Coordinator - Andrew Ktytor
- Manager of Indigenous Initiatives and Maawjigamig - Carlotta Ellison

Internal Updates

- Update from the Vice-Provost, Indigenous Initiatives
 - Métis Research Chair - It was reported that Lakehead is one of four institutions being considered for this appointment. The process was discussed and some political concerns were raised.
 - Canada Foundation for Innovation Grant Application - An update on this grant application was provided.
 - Universidad de Veracruzana - The Committee was reminded that Lakehead will be hosting three students from Mexico, March 6-16, 2025, Thunder Bay Campus.
 - Members were encouraged to attend the following events, details were provided:
 - Indigenous Cultural Traditions Club Pow Wow - March 7-9, 2025, Lakehead University Hangar
 - Visiting Scholar Dr. Andrew Judge - January 23-28, 2025, Lakehead University

Round Table Discussion

- Indigenous Outreach and Recruitment Update - Highlights from the update included outreach stats, engagement data, update on funding, and an overview of upcoming events and initiatives. The group engaged in a discussion about the information that was provided.

- Official Credential Development for Indigenous Access Program Update - It was reported that consultations over the last year regarding this initiative have been overall supportive. The proposal is ready to go to the Senate Academic Committee for review, consideration and approval. It is planned that this program will be in place for 2025 convocation ceremonies. The group discussed recognition of the credential outside of Lakehead, and how the current criteria may be impacting postsecondary funding.
- SAC/OIEC Joint Subcommittee Interest-to-Serve Form - Members reviewed and approved the revised interest-to-serve form for circulation.
- Lakehead's Decision regarding closure on September 30 - It was reported that the President has decided that employees are not required to work on September 30 when it falls on a workday. A communications bulletin will be sent to the University Community soon with more details.

Overview of Lakehead University Human Research Ethics

Sue Wright and Ann Klymenko were invited to the meeting to provide an overview of the research ethics program at Lakehead. [Click here to view the full presentation.](#) The group engaged in a discussion about the information that was provided. The discussion focused around the hiring of Indigenous faculty, the shortage of Indigenous faculty and staff, and the traditional standard practice for honouring Indigenous volunteers.

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 OIEC and the OIEC Advisors Committee will be consulted during the review process, with the intention of decolonizing University policies and procedures by having them reviewed through an Indigenous lens. Members were asked to think about the questions below when reviewing each policy.

1. Can you identify any barriers that exist in the current policy for Indigenous faculty and/or staff?
2. Does the current policy appropriately support Indigenous 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 two policies were brought forward for consultation at this meeting:

- Research Ethics Board Terms of Reference
- Policy Framework for Research Ethics Involving Humans at Lakehead University

Prior to the meeting, members were invited to leave comments directly in the feedback documents provided, there was also time set aside during the meeting for discussion. Sue Wright and Ann Klymenko were available to address questions.

These policies will be reviewed further at the next meeting.

Sharing Circle

Members were invited to share 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 March 17, 2025, from 10:00am to 12:00pm (ET).