



## Ogimaawin Indigenous Education Council (OIEC)

### MINUTES

<b>Date:</b>	November 25, 2025
<b>Time:</b>	1:00pm - 2:00pm (ET) External Member Caucus (External Members only)  2:00pm - 4:00pm (ET) Orientation and OIEC Meeting (All Members)
<b>Join Remotely:</b>	Zoom Meeting: Link: <a href="https://lakeheadu.zoom.us/j/96901577665">https://lakeheadu.zoom.us/j/96901577665</a> Meeting ID: 969 0157 7665 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• For technical support phone 1-866-652-8657 or email <a href="mailto:multimed@lakeheadu.ca">multimed@lakeheadu.ca</a></li><li>• To test ahead of time visit <a href="https://zoom.us/test">https://zoom.us/test</a></li><li>• Please remember to mute yourself when possible</li></ul>

**OIEC Members in Attendance:** Precious Anderson - Member-At-Large (Chair); Dr. Gillian Balfour - Provost and Vice-President, Academic (Lakehead University); Paul Capon - Matawa First Nations; John Dixon (Delico Anishinabek Family Care); Tyler Goode - Indigenous Student Member (Thunder Bay); Arlene Merkley - Barrie South Simcoe Métis Council; Dr. Sharla Peltier - Indigenous Faculty Member (Lakehead University); Senator Grant Robbins (Elder, Non Voting); Dr. Gillian Siddall - President and Vice-Chancellor (Lakehead University, Non Voting); Dr. Bryanna Scott-Kay - Metis Nation of Ontario (Vice-Chair); Dr. Anita Vaillaincourt (Chair of the Ogimaawin Committee-Internal)

**Not in Attendance:** Denise Baxter - Vice-Provost, Indigenous Initiatives (Lakehead University); Charles Brown - Member At Large; Tammy Chamberlain - Indigenous Student Member (Orillia); Chief Melvin Hardy (Anishinabek Nation, North of Superior Region); Michael Nitz - Lakehead University Board of Governors; Dr. Linda Rodenburg - Orillia Principal (Lakehead University);

**Administrative Resources:** Marcie Morrison - Acting Secretary

**Not in Attendance:** Dr. Jason Lisi - Secretary

**Invited Guests in Attendance:** Dr. Heather Murchison - Vice-Provost, Institutional Planning & Analysis (Lakehead University); Nathan Jensen (Mitchell-Jensen Architects); Hugh Briggs - Director, Physical Plant (Lakehead University); Kathy Pozihun – Vice-President, Administration & Finance (Lakehead University)

Elder Grant Robins shared an opening prayer.

The meeting was called to order at 2:03pm.

New Member Dr. Anita Vaillancourt, Chair of the Ogimaawin Committee-Internal, was welcomed and introduced to the group.

Item	Presenter(s)
1. Approval of Agenda  BY CONSENSUS, the OIEC approved the agenda as circulated.	Precious Anderson
2. Conflict of Interest  Members were reminded to share any conflicts of interest that arise, to support trust and transparency in the Council's work together.	Precious Anderson
3. Approval of Previous Minutes  BY CONSENSUS, the OIEC approved the minutes from the April 1, 2025 meeting as circulated.	Precious Anderson
4. Sharing Circle  Members shared information about projects, work, accomplishments, concerns, upcoming events, etc., happening within their organizations and/or departments.	Precious Anderson
5. Update from the OIEC Chair  It was noted that the Vice-Chair would fill in as Acting Chair for a portion of the meeting when the Chair departs due to a scheduling conflict.	Precious Anderson
6. Indigenous Focused Strategic Plan Priorities  Members are encouraged to read the 2025-2030 Lakehead Strategic Plan, which was circulated in advance of the meeting, in preparation for the discussion.	
6.1 Introduction to the 2025-2030 Strategic Plan Themes with an Indigenous Focus  Dr. Heather Murchison joined the meeting.  Members received a comprehensive presentation outlining the initiatives related to advancing Truth and Reconciliation, all of which are strategically embedded within the five core themes of the 2025-2030	Dr. Gillian Siddall, Dr. Heather Murchison

	<p>Strategic Plan. A discussion period followed the presentation. Dr. Heather Murchison left the meeting.</p>	
7.	<p>Site Plan Endorsement - Gichi Kendaawswin</p> <p>Kathy Pozihun, Nathan Jensen and Hugh Briggs joined the meeting.</p> <p>Members received a presentation, which included a site analysis and conceptual design for the Gichi Kendaasiwin project. A discussion period followed the presentation.</p> <p>BY CONSENSUS, the OIEC endorsed the proposed Site 4 Plan.</p> <p>Kathy Pozihun, Nathan Jensen and Hugh Briggs left the meeting.</p>	<p>Kathy Pozihun, Nathan Jensen, Hugh Briggs</p>
8.	<p>OIEC Nominating Committee</p> <p>External Member Appointment:</p> <p>BY CONSENSUS, the OIEC approved the appointment of Wendy Houston as an Indigenous Member-at-Large for a three-year term, commencing immediately to June 30, 2028.</p> <p>Senate Undergraduate Scholarships and Bursaries Committee (SUSBC) Member:</p> <p>BY CONSENSUS, the OIEC approved the appointment of John Dixon to the SUSBC, for a two-year term commencing immediately to June 31, 2027.</p>	<p>Dr. Bryanna Scott-Kay</p>
9.	<p>President's Report</p> <p>The president's report was circulated in advance of the meeting.</p>	<p>Dr. Gillian Siddall</p>
10.	<p>Call for Fellow of the University Nominations</p> <p>Links to the following reference documents were circulated in advance of the meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Fellow Nomination Form</li> <li>● Email Communication (Sent to OIEC on November 3, 2025)</li> <li>● Fellow of the University Guidelines and Procedures</li> <li>● Brainstorm Possible Nominees</li> </ul>	<p>Marcie Morrison</p>

	Members were encouraged to submit nominations and share this information with their networks.	
11.	<p>Call for Research Ethics Board Members: Indigenous Community Representative</p> <p>Details regarding the call for a REB community representative were shared on behalf of the REB. It was noted that the vacancy has been successfully filled.</p> <p>A discussion followed concerning the need for specific Indigenous expertise on the REB and its overall composition. The President suggested the possibility of inviting the Vice-President, Research and Innovation to a future meeting to further discuss this important topic.</p>	Precious Anderson
12.	<p>Policy Review Engagement</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Members were encouraged to consider the guiding questions below when reviewing policies:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Can you identify any barriers that exist in the current policy for Indigenous faculty and/or staff?</li> <li>2. Does the current policy appropriately support Indigenous faculty and/or staff in ways that are aligned with traditional and cultural practices?</li> <li>3. Does the current policy conflict with Lakehead's commitment to truth and reconciliation in any way?</li> </ol> <p>All feedback will be shared with the policy owner(s) for consideration during the regular review process.</p>	Marcie Morrison
12.1	<p>Employment Recruitment Policy</p> <p>The current policy was circulated in advance of the meeting.</p> <p>Members were encouraged to leave written comments directly in the feedback document linked to the agenda before and after the meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● FEEDBACK DOCUMENT: Employment Recruitment Policy</li> </ul>	Marcie Morrison

13.	<p>Reports and Informational Items</p> <p>Supporting documentation for the items listed below was circulated in advance of the meeting for information.</p>	
13.1	<p>Resolutions Without a Meeting (Appointments approved by the OIEC via email over the summer)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. John Dixon and Melvin Hardy:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ On July 22, 2025 the OIEC approved the following motions via email:                                     <p><i>“MOVED that the OIEC appoint Melvin Hardy as an External Voting Member on the OIEC, for a 3-year term, commencing immediately to June 30, 2028.</i></p> <p><i>“MOVED that the OIEC appoint John Dixon as a Member-at-Large on the OIEC, for a 2-year term, commencing immediately to June 30, 2027.”</i></p> </li> </ul> </li> <li>b. Michael Nitz:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ On June 20, 2025 the OIEC approved the following motion via email:                                     <p><i>“MOVED to appoint Michael Nitz as the Board of Governors Member on the OIEC for a term commencing July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026.”</i></p> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
13.2	<p>Reports from the Board of Governors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. June 6, 2025</li> <li>b. April 24, 2025</li> </ul>	
13.3	<p>Reports from the Senate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. September 29, 2025</li> <li>b. June 19, 2025</li> <li>c. May 12, 2025</li> <li>d. April 22, 2025</li> <li>e. March 24, 2025</li> </ul>	
13.4	<p>Report from the Office of Indigenous Initiatives</p>	
13.5	<p>Report from the Chair on Truth and Reconciliation</p>	
14.	<p>Other Business</p> <p>There was no other business.</p>	<p>Precious Anderson</p>

Closing Prayer

Elder Grant Robbins shared a closing prayer.

The meeting adjourned at 3:38pm.