

Aboriginal Management Council Meeting

November 23, 2009

2:00-4:00 p.m.

ATAC 3004

MINUTES

- Present:**
- J. Beaver, Ogemawahj Tribal Council
 - P. Capon, Matawa First Nations
 - J. Flett, Board of Governors
 - Dr. F. Gilbert, President
 - A. Oombash, President, Lakehead University Native Student Association
 - E. Sault, Thunder Bay Indian Friendship Centre
 - Dr. P. Smith, Chair, AMC Advisors Committee
- Advisors:**
- S. Cornell, NNEP Manager
 - B. Johnson, Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer
 - O. McKenzie, Northern Ontario School of Medicine
 - C. Neckoway, NLIP Coordinator
 - M. Ryks-Szelekovszky, Vice-Provost (Student Affairs)
 - L. Wabange, Aboriginal Cultural & Support Services
- Deans:**
- Dr. J. O'Meara, Faculty of Education
 - P. Lee, Chair, Biology
- Regrets:**
- N. Bouchard, Anishinabek Employment & Training Services
 - D. D. Frenette, Nishnawbe-Aski Nation
 - Dr. E. Gardner, Chair, Aboriginal Education Department
 - Dr. L. Hayes, Vice-President
 - G. Hendrick-Laliberte, NAP Coordinator
 - Dr. P. Hicks, Graduate Studies
 - T. Pile, Chair, Métis Nation of Ontario
 - Dr. G. Siddall, Faculty of Social Sciences & Humanities
 - R. Wagner, Orillia Campus
 - Dr. S. Wolf, Senate Research Ethics Board
- Guests:**
- A. Mekanek, Powwow Coordinator, Lakehead University Native Student Association
- Secretary:**
- K. Roche, Secretary of Aboriginal Management Council

1. Welcome and Opening Prayer

Ethel Sault led the opening prayer

Peggy Smith noted that she was asked to chair the meeting in T. Pile's absence. Each person introduced themselves around the table.

2. Approval of Agenda

MOVED (P. Capon/B. Sabourin) that the agenda for the November 23, 2009 meeting be approved with the following amendments:

- 6.4 Joint SAC/AMC Sub-Committee Member Appointment
- 6.7 Date to be determined for Policy Framework Presentation/Workshop
- 6.8 Ontario Native Women's Association Representation on AMC
- 8.4 Martin Aboriginal Education Initiative – letter distributed

CARRIED

3. Conflict of Interest

P. Smith noted that she was related to Mary Alice Smith.

4. Approval of Minutes

MOVED (B. Sabourin/ P. Capon) that the Minutes of the AMC meeting of October 26, 2009 be approved with the following amendment:

A. Oombash was added to the attendance list under Guests.

CARRIED

5. Unfinished Business

5.1 Advisors Committee Written Report on Self-Assessment

P. Smith noted that the Advisors Committee has not met. A meeting is scheduled in January. P. Smith will report back to AMC following that meeting.

5.2 Recommendations from the Advisors Committee - Recruitment and Retention of Aboriginal faculty

P. Smith noted that the Advisors Committee would discuss this issue at the January meeting.

- 5.3 Northern Ontario Superior Chiefs Appointment of the Union of Ontario Indians/Fort William First Nation Representative
K. Roche noted that Judy Currie had been contacted several times although she had not yet confirmed the name of the individual appointed as the Union of Ontario Indians/Fort William First Nation representative.

6. New Business

- 6.1 MOVED (P. Capon/B. Sabourin) that Judy Flett be accepted as the Board of Governors' representative on AMC for the term September 2009 to August 2010.
CARRIED

The Board of Governors voted at its annual meeting in September 2009 to appoint Judy Flett as the Board representative on AMC. The term for this appointment is one year.

- 6.2 MOVED (F. Gilbert/E. Sault) that William Perrault be appointed as the new AMC Member at Large.
CARRIED

The Secretary will check the AMC By-laws to determine if AMC meetings are open to non-members.

William Perrault will be notified that he has been appointed to AMC as the member-at-large for a two-year term.

AMC asked the Secretary to provide information from the by-laws pertaining to the meeting protocol, specifically whether meetings were considered open to the public. AMC will discuss this at the next meeting.

- 6.3 MOVED (F. Gilbert/B. Sabourin) that Alec Oombash and Sarah Nelson be appointed as the new Lakehead University Native Student Association representatives for the term November 2009 to August 2010.
CARRIED

- 6.4 The Joint SAC/AMC appointment was postponed to the next meeting of AMC.

An AMC representative is needed for a one-year renewable term to serve on the Joint SAC/AMC Committee. At present, P. Smith is the AMC representative and L. Wabange is the AMC Advisors' representative. No one expressed interest in serving as the remaining AMC representative on this committee.

6.5 Native Language Instructors' Program for Lakehead Orillia Campus

J. Beaver noted that she had asked that this item be added to the November 23rd agenda. She provided the background noting that a few years ago Lakehead University had been asked to offer the Native Language Instructor's Program in the Orillia area in response to local interest. This issue was discussed at the AMC Retreat in June 2008. The Dean of Education, J. O'Meara reported that a framework has been developed to offer this Program and that K. Feddersen, Orillia Campus Dean, is working on a consultation process with the Tribal Councils in the Orillia area. Dean J. O'Meara will continue to work with the Dean of the Orillia Campus, the Orillia Advisory Committee, and the Tribal Council to move this initiative forward.

Dean O'Meara was asked to provide a progress report to AMC at its next meeting.

6.6 APSET Consultation Process and the Plan

B. Sabourin introduced Mary Alice Smith, a consultant hired by Aboriginal Initiatives to prepare the APSET report. M. A. Smith worked with a small steering committee and engaged with the Aboriginal community to gather information necessary to prepare this report. A list of the participants involved in the creation of this document was provided. The document was prepared as part of a requirement by MTCU for a plan. The APSET document is in accordance with Lakehead University's Strategic Plan 2010-2013, the Mission Statement, the MTCU's criteria, and the needs of the Aboriginal communities.

M. A. Smith summarized the report noting the strengths and successes at Lakehead University including high Aboriginal student retention attributed to the support services and smaller class-sizes; governance structure that includes AMC representation on the Senate, Senate committees, and the Board of Governors; and many Aboriginal specific programs such as NLIP, NNEP, and Aboriginal Education.

M. A. Smith noted that relationships are improving in the community and educational opportunities are available for Aboriginal students in Orillia. Aboriginal Alumni recognition is improved and important. Web-based learning was identified as important.

Gaps in the framework were also noted. Moving to Thunder Bay is a challenge for many because of the distance and family ties. M. A. Smith noted that unless universities get involved in promoting elementary school education completion as well as high school completion, students cannot meet the requirements necessary to attend university.

Many Aboriginal students find writing, reading, and research skills are challenges to beginning university.

B. Sabourin noted that ideally the APSET document will become the basis for the AMC Strategic Plan.

Lakehead has the opportunity to become leaders in the consultation process by coming up with a best-practices approach.

One AMC member requested more emphasis on partnerships, particularly external partnerships, to assist students in developing careers in other areas, and to get information and ideas such as working one on one with individuals in their field.

MOVED (P. Capon/E. Sault) that Lakehead University's Aboriginal Management Council approves in principle the four strategies as outlined in Lakehead University's Aboriginal Postsecondary Education Training (APSET) Plan 2010-2013.

AMC discussed the proposed document.

- A question was asked about the status of the Post Secondary Student Support Program (PSSSP) to eliminate educational grants turning them into repayable loans. Last year, the AMC supported action to prevent this. This issue has been pursued by the Presidents. It was noted that enrolment may be impacted with this change.
- AMC requested an updated on where the discussions are now. K. Roche will email Dobi-Dawn Frenette for an update.

The Chair called the question.

CARRIED

This document will form the foundation of future funding from MTCU and form the future strategy for AMC.

Paul Capon left the meeting. The Chair noted that quorum was lost.

- 6.7 Date to be determined for the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities Policy Framework Presentation/Workshop – B. Sabourin

Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities: Postsecondary Education and Training Policy Framework for Aboriginal Learners and the Community Engagement Process.

The date has been set for November 30th to review document and get input. Lakehead University Native Students Association (LUNSA) and Lakehead University representatives will be participating. The Ministry's framework was distributed. Judy Flett will attend as an AMC representative and Alec Oombash will attend on behalf of LUNSA.

6.8 ONWA Representation on AMC

The Secretary updated the AMC on the letter received from ONWA. Ingrid Green has been appointed by ONWA. An electronic vote will be conducted and Ingrid Green will be invited to the January meeting. Bev Sabourin and Peggy Smith will draft a letter of appreciation to Ethel Gardner. Dr. Gardner is leaving the University in December.

7. Updates/Reports

7.1 Aboriginal Cultural & Support Services – L. Wabange updated AMC on Aboriginal Cultural & Support Services activities. She noted that a Sweat Lodge partnership has been established with the Northern Ontario School of Medicine. This partnership will provide students with the opportunity to participate in Sweat Lodge Ceremonies with a variety of conductors.

7.2 Aboriginal Education – E. Gardner's written report was submitted prior to the meeting. P. Smith reviewed the content of the report.

7.3 Vice-Provost (Aboriginal Initiatives) – B. Sabourin did not distribute a report at this time.

7.4 Aboriginal Community Liaison Report – B. Johnson summarized the highlights of his distributed report.

7.5 International Indigenous Learning Centre – J. Flett reviewed the report from the committee.

7.6 LUNSA Update – A. Oombash explained that LUNSA has been trying to structure ideas and determine what responsibilities are to be addressed.

Archie Mekanek reviewed the financial situation for LUNSA and briefly discussed the plans for the Powwow. The Powwow will be March 12-14, 2010.

7.7 Native Access Program – P. Smith summarized the Native Access Program report in G. Hendrick-Laliberte's absence.

7.8 Native Nurses Entry Program – S. Cornell updated AMC on the highlights of the report.

- 7.9 Research Ethics Committee – Dr. Wolf did not distribute at report at this time.

8. Information Items

- 8.1 The correspondence to Rosie Mosquito, Executive Director, Oshki-Pimache-O-Win Education & Training Institute was distributed with the meeting materials.

- 8.2 The correspondence to Elder Isabelle Mercier was distributed with the meeting materials.

- 8.3 Lakehead University's *Aboriginal Initiatives Magazine* has won the National Orientation Directors' Association (NODA) award for General Brochures Designed for Special Populations. To view the full announcement, please visit the Office of Aboriginal Initiatives website.

- 8.4 Martin Aboriginal Education Initiative

Martin Aboriginal Education Initiative material requesting input and participation in Aboriginal students education was distributed.

Faculty of Education are encouraged, but also initiatives can come from other members of AMC. Initiatives including information about successful entrepreneur initiatives should be submitted to the website.

9. Adjournment

MOVED (A. Oombash /F. Gilbert) that the meeting be adjourned.
CARRIED

Peggy Smith, Acting Chair

Karen Roche, Secretary