

Report to Ogimaawin Governance Council November 8th, 2013
Prepared by: Michelle Spadoni

Advisory Committee October Meeting:

October Meeting of the Advisory Committee: canceled, no recommendations came forward from the September Ogimaawin Council Meeting. No outstanding work from previous Advisory Committee Meeting.

Good News: Touched base with Dr. Peggy Smith. It was so wonderful to hear the strength in her voice, and to listen to the healing in her words and thoughts. I (Michelle) told her we missed her energy and clarity and look forward to her return. Peggy notes she is growing stronger with each day.

Report from October 21st, 2013 Senate Meeting

** Note three areas distinctly stood out in the October Senate Meeting all stemming from Senate Reports. ***President's Report:*** Update on Gichi Kendassiwini building initiatives. ***Provost's Report Oct 2013:*** New initiatives for Aboriginal Initiatives; Aboriginal Initiatives and Faculty of Science and Environmental Studies Mentorship program, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities 2014 Conference on Literature, the Environment and Culture in Canada. ***Faculty of Law:*** Updates and progress re Indigenous curriculum/course changes and additions Please see below for details.

(i) President's Report to Senate October 2013 Highlights

It was noted that the Architectural drawings for the Gichi Kendassiwini building have been presented to the Ogimaawin Governance Council. Presentations to Senate and the Board of Governors are now being prepared (p.6).

(ii) Provost's Report to Senate October 21, 2013 Highlights

Aboriginal Initiatives (AI)

Community Relations: Dennis Franklin Cromarty (DFC) has agreed to work with Lakehead University on a student outreach & recruitment plan and to develop an on-campus recreation project and pool use schedule, and we will be working with Healthy Minds Canada on Thunder Bay-wide Anti-Stigma Project (p.1).

Aboriginal Student Recruitment and Aboriginal Cultural & Support Services
AI has purchased computers for the student lounge/computer lab to ensure students have access to updated technology and work stations (p.1).

Administration

AI has hired new staff for each of its standing positions and reconfigured one position to extend community engagement and partnership building, and to recruit and support graduate students. A new "Transition Advisor" has been hired, she is a Lakehead Master's Degree graduate, and will be responsible for incoming students, academic and workforce transitions, and developing a Lakehead specific transitions model (p.1).

Faculty of Science & Environmental Studies

In Lakehead University, Aboriginal Initiatives and the Faculty of Science and Environmental Studies are pleased to announce the launch of the new Aboriginal Mentorship Program (AMP). AMP matches experienced university students with Aboriginal high school students to create a positive connection that will both inspire and assist the high school student in learning about science (p. 2).

The AMP program will run from December thru to April during the academic year 2013/1014. There are six separate events planned within the AMP program during this time period. The program kicks off during the month of December with an initial visit by AMP mentors to participating high schools for introductions and an orientation session. Mentors and mentorees will have an opportunity to meet one another and learn more about the AMP program (p. 2-3).

Faculty of Social Sciences & Humanities

In August 2014, the Department of English will be hosting the 2014 Conference of the Association for Literature, the Environment, and Culture in Canada (ALECC), the theme of which will be Culture, Environment, and Social Justice. Anyone interested in participating in or contributing to this exciting event is invited to contact Dr. Douglas Ivison at douglas.ivison@lakeheadu.ca (p.3).

(iii) Faculty of Law Course Calendar Proposed Changes/Additions

2531—Special Topics in Aboriginal Law (Fall 2014) .5 credit course. (Elective course in the second year of law degree program)

Law 1530 Current Version—Native Canadian World Views and Law (Fall 2013). Proposed Change (proposed version): Law 1530 Indigenous Legal Traditions (Fall 2014). .5 credit. **Description:** Introduces students to world views from the perspective of Aboriginal Peoples in Canada and how these perspectives fit within the legal system (description has not changed). **Rationale for change:** There is a pejorative connotation to ‘native’ for some people and a trend within the broader academic community to focus discussions on indigenous legal traditions. Originally listed as Elective, proposed listed as **Required**

Law 2000—Aboriginal Law (Fall 2014) 1 credit

Description: Examines Aboriginal rights under the Common Law, Constitution and relevant legislative provisions that effect Aboriginal peoples.

Rationale: Required course in the second year of the law degree program.

Other new courses for approval to calendar include: Law 2510 Administrative; Law 2530—Business Organizations; 2511 Human Rights and International Law; Law 2512 Environmental Law; Tax Law; Law 2553 Remedies; Law 2020 Civil Practice; Law 2513 Labour and Employment