

ADVISORS COMMITTEE FOR THE OGIMAAWIN-ABORIGINAL GOVERNANCE COUNCIL (O-AGC)

TUESDAY, MARCH 26, 2013

2:00 – 3:30P.M.

ATAC 5035

MINUTES

- Present:** Dr. David Barnett, Engineering
Dr. Andrew P. Dean, Science & Environmental Studies
Ms. Judy Flett, Aboriginal Education Programs Coordinator
Ms. Katelyn Fraser, Administrative Assistant, Orillia Campus (Teleconference)
Dr. Rodney Hanley, Provost and Vice-President (Academic)
Dr. Philip Hicks, Graduate Studies
Ms. Heather Moynihan, Engineering (Dean's Alternate)
Mr. Raymond Neckoway, Social Work & Aboriginal Faculty
Dr. Gillian Siddall, Social Sciences & Humanities
Dr. Peggy Smith, Natural Resources Management
Dr. Michelle-Marie Spadoni, Aboriginal Faculty, Nursing
Prof. Lee Stuesser, Law
Ms. Suzanne Tardif, Native Access Program
Ms. Yolanda Wanakamik, Acting Vice-Provost (Aboriginal Initiatives)
Dr. Sandra Wolf, Chair, O-AGC Advisors Committee & Aboriginal Faculty, Education
- Guests:** Mr. Frank Cappadocia, Provost, Orillia Campus (Teleconference)
Dr. Moira McPherson, Deputy Provost, Office of the Provost & Vice-President (Academic)
Ms. Alexa Scully, PhD Student, Faculty of Education
- Recording:** Ms. Ashley Dokuchie, Secretary, Advisors Committee for the Ojimaawin-Aboriginal Governance Council
- Regrets:** Ms. Tina Armstrong, Aboriginal Affairs, Northern Ontario School of Medicine
Mr. Bruce Beardy, Native Language Instructors' Program
Mr. Tom Beardy, Aboriginal Faculty, Education
Dr. Laura Buker, Aboriginal Faculty, Education
Ms. Anna Chief, Aboriginal Outreach/Recruitment
Ms. Sandra Cornell, Native Nurses Entry Program
Dr. Bahram Dadgostar, Business Administration
Dr. Ruby Farrell, Aboriginal Faculty, Indigenous Learning
Dr. Sreekumari Kurissery, Interdisciplinary Studies, Orillia Campus
Ms. Tracey Larocque, Aboriginal Faculty, Kinesiology
Dr. Lori Livingston, Health & Behavioural Sciences
Mr. Dennis McPherson, Chair, Indigenous Learning
Dr. Christopher Mushquash, Aboriginal Faculty, Psychology
Dr. John O'Meara, Education
Dr. Ulf Runesson, Natural Resources Management
Mrs. Marian Ryks-Szelekovszky, Vice-Provost (Student Affairs)
Ms. Yolanda Twance, Aboriginal Cultural & Support Services
Dr. Roger Strasser, Northern Ontario School of Medicine
Ms. Nancy Stevens, Lecturer, Social Work, Orillia Campus
Dr. Herman van den Berg, Orillia Campus
Ms. Wanda White, Aboriginal Faculty, Education
Ms. Dolores Wawia, Education Elder in Residence & Aboriginal Faculty

A moment of silence was held in honour of Elder Agnes Hardy.

1. **Welcome and Introductions**

Dr. Sandra Wolf, Chair of the O-AGC Advisors Committee welcomed everyone.

The committee members introduced themselves around the table and via teleconference.

2. **Approval of Agenda**

ITEM# 6. New Business

The agenda was approved with the addition of Ms. Alexandra Scully – Aboriginal Education Research Proposal.

3. **Conflict of Interest**

No conflicts of interest were declared.

4. **Approval of Minutes of February 12, 2013 – attached**

The O-AGC Advisors Committee Minutes of February 26, 2013 were approved and will be posted on the O-AGC website.

5. **Business Arising from Minutes** (not on the Agenda elsewhere)

5.1 Cultural Protocol Policy (Ms. Yolanda Wanakamik)

Ms. Y. Wanakamik distributed copies of the draft Smudging Protocol Policy to committee members. The policy changes the reference to “Cultural” protocol to “Smudging” protocol. She noted that this policy had not been updated since August 2004. She discussed the specific changes and additions to the policy and noted that in emergent situations smudging with traditional medicines will always be permitted in the ACSS Student Lounge and that special arrangements for Smudging with Traditional Medicines at the Orillia Campus are to be made through Student Affairs or the Aboriginal Liaison Advisor.

This revised policy will be going forward to O-AGC for presentation and discussion before the final approval from Human Resources.

Once the policy is approved by Human Resources, a series of Smudging 101 sessions will be offered to the Lakehead University community.

5.2 Nishtam Watapiin Sub-Committee (Ms. Yolanda Wanakamik)

Ms. Y. Wanakamik advised that work for the Nishtam Watapiin Sub-Committee-

is ongoing. A framework has been developed and this sub-committee will continue to meet to finalize the goals and objectives.

5.3 For Discussion and Recommendations: Orillia Campus – Retention of Aboriginal Staff (Dr. Sandra Wolf)

This was a concern that was brought forward to O-AGC when Ms. April Jones, the former Aboriginal Liaison Advisor at the Orillia Campus had left Lakehead and accepted a full-time position with another institution.

Dr. S. Wolf called upon Mr. F. Cappadocia to address this matter.

Mr. F. Cappadocia was pleased to report that the Aboriginal Liaison Advisor posting was advertised as a one-year contract and closed on March 22, 2013 Ms. Y. Wanakamik will be part of the hiring committee for this position. He also noted that he has been working collaboratively with the Office of Aboriginal Initiatives and Dr. R. Hanley on moving this one-year contract into a full-time position at the Orillia Campus. An evaluation demonstrating key indicators such as increased Aboriginal programming, supports and student enrollment at the Orillia Campus will need to be completed.

He also shared that from his meetings with the Chippewas of Rama First Nation and the Ogemawahj Tribal Council that they would like to see a full-time Aboriginal specific position and other Aboriginal staff in various departments across the Orillia campus. All job postings at the Orillia Campus will be shared with the local Aboriginal community.

The Elder in Residence Teaching Series with Elder Ernie Sandy have been offered throughout the academic year and they would like to continue the sessions into the spring and summer as well.

5.4 Selection of Chair/Co-Chair: The Committee will choose its leadership every second year. The Chair or a designate will be the voting member to the O-AGC. (Dr. Sandra Wolf)

Drs. Michelle Marie-Spadoni and Laura Buker have agreed to be the Co-Chairs.

The committee agreed to accept them Co-Chairs of the O-AGC Advisors Committee effective July 1, 2013 for the next two years.

6. **New Business**

6.1 Aboriginal Education Research Proposal – Ms. Alexa Scully

Dr. S. Wolf has asked Ms. Alexa Scully, a doctoral student within the Faculty of Education to come and speak to the O-AGC Advisors Committee about her doctoral work. She is requesting participation of the O-AGC in “community engagement” in her doctoral research.

Dr. P. Smith has suggested that Ms. A. Scully submit a two-page research proposal that addresses the methodology as well as the purpose, so that O-AGC could make an informed decision at the meeting on April 15, 2013. She also noted that there should be a strong focus on why she is seeking the participation of O-AGC and that her research proposal should be reviewed by her supervisor. Dr. P. Smith and Dr. S. Wolf have also agreed to review the proposal before it is submitted to O-AGC.

The committee agreed that Ms. Scully will provide O-AGC with a two-page research proposal and will give a presentation at the meeting on April 15, 2013.

7. Draft Ogimaawin-Aboriginal Governance Council Agenda of April 15, 2013

The committee reviewed the draft agenda as distributed. It was noted that Ms. Alexa Scully, a doctoral student within the Faculty of Education would submit a two-page summary with the meeting materials and that she would give a presentation to O-AGC at the meeting on April 15, 2013.

8. Reports on status of ongoing initiatives

8.1 Aboriginal specific programs

Office of Aboriginal Initiatives

Ms. Y. Wanakamik advised that the Office of Aboriginal Initiatives staff have been busy with recruitment and that they have attended many community events such as the Feathers of Hope Conference and the Mining Conference at Fort William First Nation.

The 2013 LUNSA Powwow went very well and as part of this year’s Powwow, Inuit Throat Singers, Ms. Becky Kilabuk and Ms. Romani Makkik were invited to perform throughout the weekend.

The Paul Born Community Conversations Events on February 26, 27 & 28, 2013 were a great success and about 500 people participated throughout all three days.

Native Access Program

Ms. S. Tardif was pleased to report that approximately 70% of the NAP students

will be graduating this year.

Aboriginal Education

Ms. J. Flett noted that she has been busy with various recruitment activities such as the Matawa Education and Feathers of Hope Conferences. She also noted that Mr. Bruce Beardy is attending a Native Language Conference as well.

Nursing

Dr. M. M. Spadoni was pleased to report that twelve NNEP students will be graduating this year. She also noted that she is working on a reflective piece on Indigenous Knowledge in Nursing at Lakehead University.

Faculty of Law

Prof. L. Stuesser was delighted to report that five Aboriginal students have accepted offers to the Faculty of Law at Lakehead. He also noted that he is moving ahead with establishing an Aboriginal Advisory Committee for the Faculty of Law.

Faculty of Engineering

Dr. D. Barnett had an initial meeting with some representatives to discuss the revitalization of the Native Access Program for Engineering. He also advised that he has met with Mr. Mark Sault, Director of Post-Secondary at the Seven Generations Education Institute as well. The Faculty of Engineering will be contacting graduates from the NAPE Program and bringing them together in May 2013.

Office of the Provost & Vice-President (Academic)

Dr. R. Hanley advised that Dr. Cynthia Wesley-Esquimaux, the new Vice-Provost (Aboriginal Initiatives) at Lakehead University has been invited to attend the O-AGC Meeting on April 15, 2013. Y. Wanakamik will extend an invitation to Dr. C. Wesley-Esquimaux on behalf of Dr. R. Hanley as he will be away on international business.

Joint SAC/O-AGC – Aboriginal Course Content Survey

Dr. M. McPherson noted that the work for the Aboriginal Content in Courses Survey is well underway. At the recent meeting of the Senate Academic Committee there were several questions that were brought up regarding the survey and that there was a recommendation from SAC to edit that particular part of the survey.

Dr. G. Siddall noted that there is a 50% requirement for Aboriginal content courses.

It was noted that the Joint SAC/O-AGC Committee reports to the Senate Academic Committee.

8.2 Kendaasiwin Centre (Dr. Peggy Smith)

Dr. P. Smith advised that Mr. Paul Mitchell, Architect for the Kendaasiwin Centre is proceeding with the architectural drawings. She also had a meeting with External Relations in regards to starting a community fundraising campaign. She anticipates that meetings with the Provincial Government will be forthcoming, but does not have any dates set as of yet.

She advised that the Kendaasiwin Steering Committee has been restructured into three different administrative committees. As Chair, she is part of all three committees to ensure there is continuity.

9. **Proposed O-AGC Advisors Committee Meeting Schedule 2013-2014**

Ms. A. Dokuchie will consult with the newly appointed Co-Chairs and will circulate a revised schedule to O-AGC Advisors Committee members that coincides approximately two-weeks prior to the regularly scheduled O-AGC Meetings.

It was noted that the O-AGC Meeting Schedule will be going forward for approval at the O-AGC Meeting on April 15, 2013.

10. **Items for Information**

10.1 Lakehead University Communications Bulletin – February 7, 2013

Karen Drake, Assistant Professor of Law

Ms. Karen Drake is currently enrolled in the Master of Laws program at the University of Toronto, focusing on Aboriginal legal issues, specifically identifying and evaluating the rationale underlying Aboriginal rights.

A Lakehead Alumna, Karen received her Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy in 1998 and went on to complete a Master's degree at Queen's University in 1999. After graduating from the University of Toronto's Faculty of Law in 2007, Karen took up private practice as an Associate with the local law firm of Erickson & Partners where she practiced in the areas of Civil Litigation with a focus on Aboriginal legal issues, labour and employment law, and human rights.

Dr. S. Wolf noted that Ms. K. Drake gave a presentation to Senate on her Indigenous Worldviews and the Law course at the meeting on March 22, 2013.

- 10.2 The job posting for an Aboriginal Liaison Advisor at the Orillia Campus has been posted. The closing date for applications was March 22, 2013.

11. **Adjournment**