

ADVISORS COMMITTEE TO OGIMAAWIN ABORIGINAL GOVERNANCE COUNCIL

SELF-ASSESSMENT FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 2010-MAY 2012

FOR PRESENTATION AT O-AGC MEETING, SEPTEMBER 2012

The Terms of Reference for the Advisors Committee state that “the functioning of the Advisors Committee will be subject to review by the O-AGC every second year, including self-assessment by the Advisors Committee, to ensure that it is operating effectively and fulfilling its functions.” This self-assessment has been discussed by members of the Advisors Committee at two meetings on February 21, 2012 and April 2, 2012.

The mandate of the Advisors Committee is to “to serve as a vehicle for inter-departmental communication and liaison with the Lakehead University Aboriginal Management Council (AMC) on matters affecting Aboriginal post-secondary education.” Advisors Committee members are made up of Aboriginal-specific programs, departments and positions, including Aboriginal faculty, the Deans of all faculties and key administrative positions such as the Vice-President Academic, the Vice Provost Student Affairs, the Vice Provost Aboriginal Initiatives, and the O-AGC representative appointed to the Research Ethics Board.

The Advisors Committee discussions about its mandate resulted in the following conclusions:

MANDATE: As noted in its 2010 report, the Advisors Committee places more emphasis on its role in bringing forward issues from the University community to the AMC, than on taking AMC issues back to the university community, since members of Aboriginal-specific programs and Deans are all observers at AMC meetings. This is still the case, although there are a number of Deans who do not attend either the Advisors Committee meetings or the O-AGC meetings, leaving a gap in communication.

MEMBERSHIP: The Advisors Committee membership list has been updated as per the Terms of Reference. There are a number of new members, including Aboriginal faculty and support staff, who were specially invited and welcomed to the Advisors Committee, including:

- Dr. Christopher Mushquash, Assistant Professor, Psychology
- Ms. Tracey Larocque, Contract Lecturer, Kinesiology
- Michelle Marie Spadoni, Assistant Professor, School of Nursing
- Ms. Fay Zoccole, NAGE Coordinator
- Mr. Greg Lowan, Contract Lecturer and PhD Candidate, Faculty of Education
- Ms. April Jones, Aboriginal Liaison Advisor at the Orillia Campus -
- Mr. Tom Beardy, Faculty, Aboriginal Education
- Ms. Wanda White, Sessional Lecturer, Faculty of Education

MEETINGS & ATTENDANCE: In its assessment in 2010 the Advisors Committee noted the importance of attendance of all members at its meetings. Attendance has increased; however, there is still room for improvement, in particular from the Deans of various faculties. There are a few Deans who attend the Advisors Committee regularly, and who have noted the value of the dialogue at these meetings.

Proposed Changes: The Advisors Committee renewed its commitment to regular monthly meetings, two weeks prior to AMC meetings. In addition the Advisors Committee will arrange to meet with the Dean's Council to explain the workings of the Advisors Committee, the AMC Strategic Plan and the importance of the Deans' participation. *Incomplete. There is still a need to raise awareness with the Dean's Council about the function of the O-AGC Advisors Committee. This is all the more important, given that the V-P Aboriginal Initiatives is no longer a member of Dean's Council.*¹

CHAIR: During Peggy Smith's sabbatical from July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011, the Advisors Committee was led by co-chairs Sandra Wolf and Lisa Wabange. Upon her return from sabbatical, Peggy Smith resumed her role as chair until April 2012. At this point, two new co-chairs were chosen: Yolanda Wanakamik from Aboriginal Initiatives and Annette Schroeter, Aboriginal Research Facilitator. *Since this report, Yolanda Wanakamik has taken the position of Acting V-P Aboriginal Initiatives as of September 1, 2012 and Annette Schroeter and Sandra Wolf have agreed to co-chair the Advisors Committee.*

ORILLIA: The Advisors Committee has been in contact with faculty at Orillia interested in Aboriginal issues and has included the Dean of Orillia campus as a member. At its Jan. 14, 2010 meeting, the Dean's designate attended via phone, as did Aboriginal Faculty member Nancy Stevens. Orillia campus will be involved in future Advisors Committee meetings.

HIGHLIGHTS OF ADVISORS COMMITTEE INPUT & MOTIONS TO O-AGC:

January 25, 2010

MOVED (P. Smith/D. Frenette) that the meetings of AMC and the Advisors Committee are open to members and invited guests, and that all other individuals must make a request to the Secretary, and that this motion serves as Notice that a motion will come forward to the next meeting of AMC to add this requirement to Section 3.9 of the AMC By-laws. CARRIED.

MOVED (P. Smith/W. Perrault) that the revisions to the Terms of Reference for the AMC Advisors Committee be accepted and that this motion serves as Notice that a motion will come forward to the next meeting of AMC to replace the current Terms of Reference in the AMC By-laws with the proposed Terms of Reference. CARRIED.

¹ Italicized text includes comments bringing O-AGC members up to date on outstanding Advisors Committee issues as of the September 2012 O-AGC meeting at which this report is presented.

MOVED (W. Perrault/P. Smith) that the AMC draft minutes be made available to the AMC Advisors Committee prior to AMC approval. CARRIED. *The practice is that draft minutes are made available to the Chair of the Advisors Committee who reviews them to bring forward agenda items for Advisors Committee meetings.*

MOVED (D. Dawn/J. Beaver) that the Aboriginal Management Council requests that Lakehead University provide a dedicated space for smudging. CARRIED.

February 22, 2010

MOVED (P. Smith/R. Wagner) that AMC recommend that the ACSS space needs report be presented at the next Lakehead University Space Committee meeting with the recommendation that the Space Committee pursue a dedicated space for cultural programming. CARRIED.

September 27, 2010

MOVED (P. Smith/P. Capon) that AMC recommends to the President consideration be given to a full-time staff position for the Aboriginal Resource Centre at the Orillia Campus to focus on Aboriginal affairs, cultivate relationships with the Aboriginal communities, recruitment, and develop support services in consultation with and reporting to the Vice-Provost (Aboriginal Initiatives) and that Orillia and Thunder Bay Campuses' administration determine the feasibility of creating this position. CARRIED. *April Jones has been working at Orillia campus as Aboriginal Liaison Advisor since November 2011. Her position was funded from the President's Requests for Initiatives funds. Long-term, permanent funding will need to be put in place to maintain this position at Orillia.*

October 25, 2010

MOVED (L. Wabange/B. Sabourin) that AMC include an Orillia Campus report in the Updates/Reports section on the AMC Agenda. CARRIED.

MOVED (L. Wabange/B. Sabourin) that AMC requests that the President of Lakehead University include an AMC member of member of the Advisors Committee on the Vice-President (Academic) and Provost Search Committee.

April 18, 2011

MOVED (L. Wabange/S. Wolf) that the name of the Aboriginal Management Council be changed to the Ogimaawin Aboriginal Governance Council. CARRIED.

September 26, 2011

Concerns raised about the slow pace in moving Native Nurses Entry Program offices back to the Braun Building. *NNEP had their grand opening of new offices in Braun Building in Rm 1045 on September 5, 2012.*

February 27, 2012

MOVED (P. Smith/R. Wagner) that the O-AGC supports in principle the Lakehead University 2012-2017 Academic Plan. CARRIED.

OUTSTANDING ISSUES FOR ADVISORS COMMITTEE FROM AMC:

- Address retention of Aboriginal faculty. *Study and report being completed by Dr. John Hodson. Recommendations to be presented to O-AGC October 2012 meeting.*
- Carry on work on ensuring legal duty to consult is incorporated in academic programming. *Poster prepared by Dr. Peggy Smith and Dennis McPherson. Has been distributed across campus. Discussion will continue to incorporate duty to consult material in Aboriginal courses across campus, particularly in light of requirement of Academic Plan 2012-2017 2.1.1 Establish a joint SAC/SUSC Task Force composed of faculty from various disciplines, both campuses and the Registrar in order to develop a plan for ensuring that all Lakehead students graduate with at least one course that incorporates Indigenous knowledge and/or Aboriginal content. Discussions taking place with proposed Centre of Excellence in Mineral Exploration and Sustainable Mining Development.*
- Compile articulation agreements with Aboriginal organizations/programs. *Incomplete.*
- Ensure that AMC Strategic Plan is conveyed to all faculties and departments. *O-AGC is in a new planning cycle, co-coordinating with the Lakehead University Draft Strategic Plan and Academic Plan 2012-2017. Once this planning cycle is complete and O-AGC has reviewed and renewed its Strategic Plan, O-AGC should undertake a campaign to communicate its Strategy across the University community.*