

Ogimaawin-Aboriginal Governance Council – Chairs Report
September 2016

Board of Governors' Meetings:

- Report from the Board of Governors –April 21, 2016
 - o Report from President – Lobbying for Gichi-Kendaasiwin in Ottawa with Cynthia Wesley-Esquimaux, Peggy Smith, Dr. Brian Stevenson, Elder Gary Martin;
 - o Additional lobbying for SINFER Building – Science Centred building renovation.
 - o Innovation Week – promotion of student Economic Development and Innovation Programs/Projects
 - o Committee of the Whole – Scholarship, Bursaries and Awards, still not sure on the “free tuition” impacts or how it will rolled out. Forward to agencies. Initial data indicates free tuition brings in more students. Starting financial literacy training for students. Link between First Nation education offices and scholarships department/AI needed. 50/50 scholarship with Lakehead and First Nations post-secondary programs can happen.
 - o Teachers for Canada – how to prepare for Northern Schools; other options to bring First Nations students into the university.
 - o Presentation on Aboriginal Initiative – focusing on AI at Lakehead, Truth and Reconciliation, and O-AGC's report to the President.
- Report from the Board of Governors Meeting in Orillia - June 20, 2016
 - o Met with Georgian College Board of Directors on University / Collage collaboration
 - o Chairs Report – asked Bonnie Paterson to engage on Board structure / policy as a follow-up from the previous structural review – continual improvement
 - o President's Report – Capital requests to Ottawa infrastructure program and the year in review.
 - o Renewing brochures on sexual violence based on new legislation and student feedback for September. They will be engaging specifically with Aboriginal Initiatives.
- Graduation 2016:
 - o Gratifying to see so many Indigenous Students graduate in some many faculties; including five new law graduates as a portion of the first graduating class of the Bora Laskin School of Law
 - o Convocation address by Doctor Helene Cromarty, one of the honouree doctorates giving during the 2016 commencement in Thunder Bay. Her journey as an Indigenous women, nurse, mother, advocate, policy advisor and friend has been an encouraging story of on-going education both at school and in life. The recognition of Tammy Squidi, an Anishnawbe woman originally from Wequemiquong First Nation as a fellow of the university was also very encouraging for her work in the rehabilitation field.
- Announcement for Gichi-Kendaasiwin – July 15, 2016:
 - o Minister Gravelle announced a \$1,000,000.00 donation to help get the Gichi-Kendaasiwin Centre shovel ready for development. Upon completion this will provide the engineering, technical, and site preparation to leverage additional funding from Canada and Ontario to build the centre. This will provide a teaching space for Indigenous programs, both within and from outside the University. It will allow for all the Indigenous programs to be housed in a culturally appropriate and central location. Plus it fits in with the overall reconciliation agenda by the university and will hopefully bring more Indigenous students to the Lakehead.