

Advisors Committee to Ogimaawin Aboriginal Governance Council
Self-Assessment for the Period June 1, 2014-May 31, 2016

Prepared by Dr. M.A. (Peggy) Smith, Former Chair, Advisors Committee

For Presentation at O-AGC Meeting, January 30, 2017

The Terms of Reference for the Advisors Committee state: “These Terms of Reference and 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 covers the period 2014-2016 and was prepared by Dr. Peggy Smith, Former Chair of the Advisors Committee.

CHAIRS:

Dr. Laura Buker (retired April 12, 2016) and Dr. Marie Spadoni co-chaired the Advisors Committee for the period 2013-2015. A motion was passed at the OAGC meeting on September 21, 2015 to appoint Dr. Peggy Smith as Chair of the OAGC Advisors Committee for a one-year term effective July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016. In November 2016, Dr. Raymond Neckoway agreed to act as Chair of the Advisors Committee and a motion was passed on November 14, 2016 by OAGC to appoint Dr. Neckoway as Chair.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of the Advisors Committee is “to serve as a vehicle for inter-departmental communication and liaison with the Lakehead University Ogimaawin-Aboriginal Governance Council (O-AGC) on matters affecting Aboriginal post-secondary education.” The terms of reference are to:

- Provide a forum to discuss issues and formulate recommendations to the OAGC related to Aboriginal education that both promote the objectives and mission of Lakehead University and represent the best interests of Aboriginal students, particularly those relating to the provision of high quality programs and services;
- Foster open and constructive dialogue on all issues, especially on those occasions where conflict may be perceived by some members between university objectives and the best interests of Aboriginal students;
- Review and/or advise on matters raised by the O-AGC, and/or as required by respective faculties and departmental units;
- Regularly report to Faculties and departmental units on O-AGC matters, preferably at formal Faculty Council/departmental meetings, by the Deans or their designates who are members of the Advisors Committee; and
- Review and/or discuss proposal ideas for consideration by the O-AGC.

The purpose and terms of reference for the Advisors Committee continue to be relevant. There is no need for a change in either. The current membership of the Advisors Committee is attached.

HIGHLIGHTS OF ADVISORS COMMITTEE WORK 2014-2016:

The main work of the Advisors Committee during the period 2014-2016 was the preparation of the report, *The Status of Indigenous Initiatives at Lakehead University 2015*. This report came out of an Advisors Committee meeting in 2014 in which an Ad Hoc Committee was struck “to prepare a report with a historical background and recommendations addressing the recent changes in the Department of Aboriginal Education and Native Nurses Entry Program.” The final report was much broader, covering a range of Aboriginal initiatives at Lakehead. This report and its recommendations were endorsed by OAGC and are being responded to by President Brian Stevenson.

The Advisors Committee also had ongoing discussions about the implementation of the Indigenous Content Requirement which became policy on September 1, 2016 and support for the Kendaasiwin Building project. Aboriginal-specific programs, including Aboriginal & Cultural Support Services, the Office of Aboriginal Initiatives, the Native Nurses Entry Program, the Native Access Program and Indigenous programming in the Faculty of Education, provided updates to the Advisors Committee throughout this period.