



## Meeting Notes

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MEETING OF THE ABORIGINAL COUNCIL OF QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY (ACQU)

*Monday, April 30, 2012 from 5:30 to 7:30 pm*

*Kingston Hall, Red Room*

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Opening Prayer- Elder Marlene Brant Castellano

Adoption of agenda and minutes of Tuesday, March 27, 2012 meeting

Question re timing of graduating ceremony -

Janice: only 3 students identified for spring convocation and only 1 self-identifies so we will postpone until fall when we have at least 8 students we know who are graduating and all have self-identified and have been participating in the aboriginal community.

We are working with the OUR about recognizing the 3 students this spring as they cross the stage if they are open to that.

Alan: The additional celebration will be in addition to the regular convocation and will happen in the fullness of time.

Caroline Davis: Sean Atleo is being granted an honorary degree this spring

Paul will be graduating at the same session as Atleo's

Dana: recognition could be the same as what was done for her (Janice will follow up)

Kate: there are some community-based ATEP students, who will be convocating in the fall. Kate will forward Jan their student numbers so they can be identified.

Report from the Co-Chairs -n/a

### **Business Arising from the Minutes**

1. Approval of Ministry of Training Colleges & Universities (MTCU) Report

Mimi: no separate SAGE line?

Jan: It is part of 4 Directions, but it will be separated out.

Kate: thanks to all who worked on report and synthesized her submission.

Motion to approve in principle subject to final numbers checked.

Moved by Alan, seconded by Judith.

## 2. Election of Community Co-Chair

Caroline summarized the responsibilities, which will include:

- Chairing some of the Council meetings (co-chairs will alternate)
- Co-chairs would work with Jan to draft agendas and allocate time for items
- The co-chair is someone people can turn to, to get an issue raised at the table.
- Co-chairs can sit in on any committee meetings.
- Co-sign MTCU report.

The Aboriginal Caucus met and unanimously determined that Marlene Brant Castellano will serve as the Aboriginal Community co-chair of the Council for the next 15 months or until her appointment by the Provost ends.

## 3. Review of Proposed Policy Objectives and Working Groups (Appendix B)

-The Provost suggested Council's first task would be to agree on the 9 objectives that have been proposed.

Caroline noted the policy objectives reflect the visioning exercise. Alan said both the visioning exercise and the Academic Plan were referred to in developing these objectives.

-Several wording changes were suggested. The revised language will be circulated for final changes.

-There was also a suggestion that specific measurement targets and timelines are developed. Alan said this would be one of the first tasks of the working groups - to determine how best to measure progress against the objectives and set timelines. By next meeting, working groups will have met and will have plans in place with these specifics.

-A Council member questioned how budget be considered in the working groups, given the financial situation of the university.

The Provost said if something is a priority, the simplest way to demonstrate this is to put resources behind it. However, an extremely expensive proposal might take longer. Better to start with what you want

to accomplish. Some of these things will cost money and we'll have to do them at the expense of other things.

-There was discussion about policy objective #9 (faculty recruitment) - why it is not part of a working group's mandate (because of Queen's institutional employment equity responsibilities) and if the wording of the objective can be changed to mandate the university to hire more aboriginal faculty.

Irene explained that Queen's has responsibilities under the Federal Contractors Program (FCP) and there is an FCP action group working on many initiatives. She said all members of faculty hiring and promotion committees are trained in employment equity (3 hours) and an EE rep is chosen and provided with further training. This is embedded in the collective agreement.

Equity is also part of senior staff hirings too, but not general staff hiring.

OUTCOME: Irene will speak to employment equity at Queen's at the next meeting and the recruiting processes for faculty and for staff (senior and general). Materials to be provided well in advance.

#### NEXT STEPS RE WORKING GROUP MEMBERSHIP:

-Committee members are to indicate their interest -in order of preference - in particular working groups to Jan.

Membership can include non-voting members of Council. There doesn't have to be a Chair - but there needs to be spokesperson to report to the Council.

The time commitment for the working groups would be 3-4 meetings (2 hours, by teleconference/Skype) before the fall.

-Working group membership and supports will be determined.

-The first task of working groups: to specify their own priorities, how they will measure their progress and timelines. This will be brought back to the next Council meeting for comment.

#### 4. Stakeholder updates - anything new since the last meeting

##### i. Four Directions:

- Update on aboriginal convocation provided earlier
- Work with marketing and communications to raise profile – for example, news story on the Visiting Elders
- Updating website – to include links to all things aboriginal at Queen’s
- 2 work study students from the past year are now volunteering and at least one summer student will be hired to help plan a fall event.
- Changes to the powwow – weather-dependent and the last few years have been very cold and nasty. Considering a showcase of aboriginal culture, dance, music instead of a powwow. Goal is education. We want to encourage non-aboriginal people to attend.
- Aboriginal Experience program for high-school students: Discover your path to the future at Queen’s University – May 16-18. Working with Arts and Science, Engineering and Nursing. Travel subsidies available. Spread the word!
- Cultural programming continues: weekly drumming session, art installation at Fireside Lounge in ARC.
- Jan is participating at COU Reference Table in May and will report at next meeting.

#### ii. ATEP

- Preparing for community groups to come to campus for 2 weeks in August sessions (60 people) starting Aug 13.
  - Possible trip to the Friendship Centre
  - Tour of Tyandinaga art activities
- Looking for more connections

#### AWIES

- Accepting intake for Summer 2013-no deadline-open until spaces are filled. Starts with 2 on-campus courses to build community. Then it’s distance/blended learning. Spread the word!
- Campus and community-based graduations are planned

#### iii. Engineering

- Duncan attended 2 conferences – International Polar Year in Montreal and a Sudbury conference of Ontario Native Educators.
- Hired a summer student

- Participating in Discovery Days – taking high school students for a morning
- Incoming student orientation
- Partnering with ScienceQuest (summer kids camps) in their visits to reserves

iv. Policy Studies – n/a

**II New Business** - none

**III Other Business**

Mimi is leaving to go to Emily Carr University of Art and Design in BC (tenure track position) so stepping down from SAGE and Council. Hopefully Paul will step in.

The Provost received a proposal recently for an Indigenous Studies program. Will refer it to third working group to determine launch plans. Could be implemented by 2013.

The ministry has recently issued an RFP for Masters in Aboriginal Public Administration program. We already have a flourishing program in SPS. We plan on submitting a proposal for that program.

Doug:

- Friendship Centre – Powwow on June 15 behind legion on Montreal St.
- New program for aboriginal community members 12-24 years old.
- Alternative secondary school program for aboriginal students – relevant bridging program

Marlene to Kate: When considering programming for community-based programming for ATEP, you could consider exposing them to Council

Caroline: Travel expense forms for this meeting and last meeting should go to Jan

Kate: Ministry funding is coming within the next few weeks. There may be guidelines that Council has to approve. We have slight reallocations but nothing major and it sounds like status quo but we are waiting for something in writing.

Jan: The funding will likely be a 1-year extension of the current envelope.

Caroline: We will send it around by email when we get any guidelines.

**Next Meeting Date, Time and Location:** October