

Meeting Notes

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

Monday, November 12, 2012 - 5:00 – 7:00 pm

Ban Righ Hall, Elspeth Baugh Fireside Room, 10 Bader Lane

I Opening Session

1. Opening Prayer – Marlene Brant Castellano
2. Introductions
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of the Meeting Minutes of April 30th 2012
5. Report from the Co-Chairs

Ms Davis noted the two new Aboriginal language courses that are now on offer and the great interest (enrolment) in the courses.

Ms Brant Castellano noted all of the activity underway at the university. She wants to explore how Council members can become more involved in their advisory role between meetings. She also recounted she had attended the recent Aboriginal Education Councils Gathering, where Queen's was well represented, made presentations and she suggested the university could host it in the future.

6. Report from the Provost:

- A search is underway for the next Deans of Arts and Science and Law;
- A search is underway for the first director of the Isabel Bader Centre for the Performing Arts, now under construction;
- The Directors of the Centre for Teaching and Learning and the Agnes Etherington Art Centre have both resigned – acting directors are in place;
- The university is implementing a new budget model for 2013-2014 and the budget planning cycle is now underway;
- The university submitted its proposed mandate statement to the provincial government at the end of September. The Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities is reviewing it ahead of discussions with Queen's that will eventually result in a strategic mandate agreement with the government;
- Other planning documents completed this past year include an Academic Plan and a Strategic Research Plan;
- A draft strategic framework for the university is to be submitted to the Board of Trustees in December.

II Business Arising from the Minutes

1. Ratification of composition of ACQU Working Groups membership

Corrections to titles: Dr. Duncan Cree is Assistant Professor, Civil Engineering and former Interim Director for the Aboriginal Access to Engineering (AAEP) Program, Melanie Howard is AAEP Director and Dr. Ann Godlewska is no longer Department Head in Geography.

2. Reports from ACQU Working Groups:

i. **Aboriginal Student Access and Support** – Ann Tierney

- Second meeting scheduled for December;
- All Personal Statements of Experience of self-identified Aboriginal applicants are now being read;
- Information from the Office of the University Registrar about self-identified Aboriginal students was distributed: applications, offers and acceptances have increased. Outreach to students who are offered admission will be expanded to encourage acceptance.

ii. **Indigenous Cultural Awareness and Programming** – Janice Hill

- The group has tried to identify all that is being done to raise awareness about ongoing cultural activities and identify gaps. More needs to be done targeting faculty and staff and the onus can't just be on FDASC;
- The group also started to talk about a certificate program for cultural awareness. There is a Cultural Safety training session available; Ms Castellano said she hopes this could be encouraged across campus as part of professional and personal development. Ms Davis agreed. Ms Tierney commented there is an appetite for this and there are existing models that could work for this subject matter (mental health education).

iii. **Indigenous Knowledge, Curriculum and Research**-Gordon Smith

- There are 14 people on the working group that has met five times to discuss the Indigenous Studies Minor proposal;
- A student needs 19 credits for a 4-year degree and a minor concentration is 5 credits. The minor is a small first step. It is very interdisciplinary. Fourteen departments in Arts and Science are participating – these departments offer courses with Indigenous content. They were all contacted to ensure nothing was missed and there was unanimously positive feedback – feeling that this is long overdue;
- The two required courses are both in Global Development Studies. Work has been done to ensure capacity and online versions of the courses are/will be available;
- This proposal aligns with the Academic Plan and the February 2011 Aboriginal Vision gathering;
- This is not costing any money – these are existing courses with capacity;

- Administrative support is being provided by the Department of Languages, Literature and Cultures (LLC). Responsibility is shared among LLC, FDASC and the Aboriginal Council;
- Next step is to go through three-phase university approval process for launch in Fall 2013.

Discussion:

Dr. Petra Fachinger (working group member) asked why a tenure-track faculty member in Indigenous Studies isn't being hired to oversee the program and grow it to something larger.

Dr. Smith said that a CRC search is underway and the Queen's National Scholar program has been revived so there are options for departments. The working group's priority is to launch the minor concentration, not hiring, and doesn't want to hold it up by waiting to get a position first.

Ms Hill said it's hard to determine what should come first – the minor concentration will attract students. It may take time to bring Aboriginal scholars to the university and in the meantime, this will benefit students.

Shauna Shiels (Human Rights Office and working group member) said the initiative is modelled on U of T's program that draws from faculty members in various departments so that wherever these faculty members may be appointed, their work/expertise can be integrated.

Dr. Green stressed the need for Aboriginal scholars and his support for this program is contingent on the university continuing to work towards this goal.

Dr. Fachinger and Mirelle Lapointe (Council community representative from Ardoch) noted that some members of the working group have not been able to attend all meetings. Ms Hill said the working group has adopted Aboriginal protocol so the discussions and decision-making is done face-to-face and that one meeting was specifically scheduled in the evening to accommodate schedules. Dr. Smith assured the Council that community input is important and future meetings will be scheduled in the evening.

Dana Wesley (QNSA rep) commented that this program is overdue and she is very supportive. Ms Brant Castellano commented on the energy surrounding this process. Student demand pushes for growth and progress in this area. The soul (perceptual, cultural and spiritual core to Indigenous Studies) of whatever is done is needed, but who is responsible for the soul? Turf wars can develop regarding where the program is housed. She thanked LLC for administrative support and said the scholarly presence is hugely important.

Ms Shiels noted the working group's impetus for identifying 44 courses with significant Indigenous content was to show the campus how many opportunities there are for students – recognizing they will change/evolve over time as faculty members come and go.

Dr Santeramo said the LLC department will be guided in its program administration by FDASC and elders. He believes the program will attract both students and professors.

1. **Motion of endorsement for Indigenous Studies Minor Plan proposal**, moved by Dr. Gordon Smith and seconded by Robert Rittwage (Community member-at-large) – *passed unanimously*

3. Equity Hiring: Ms Irene Bujara gave a presentation about Employment Equity at Queen's with a focus on Aboriginal participation. A question about how this information impacts Council policy objective #9 will be addressed by the Provost at the next Council meeting.

III Stakeholder Updates – *written reports circulated - questions to be addressed at the next meeting.*

1. Four Directions Aboriginal Student Centre (FDASC)
2. Aboriginal Teacher Education Program (ATEP)
3. Aboriginal Access to Engineering Program (AAEP)
4. Professional Master of Public Administration/Policy Studies (PMPA)

IV New Business – *for ACQU endorsement*

1. 2012/2013 MTCU Allocation

The Provost reported that the only major change to the 2012-13 allocation was to move some funding from ATEP to FDASC. This had no effect on the ATEP program. When Ministry funding levels are determined, the allocation will be discussed and Council will be involved. Ms Davis reiterated Queen's commitment to maintaining activity levels.

Allocation endorsed

2. Mid-year Financial Report – *deferred until the next meeting*

V Other Business

1. ACQU Aboriginal members caucus

Ms Brant Castellano suggests an Aboriginal caucus meeting immediately prior to Council meetings. Areas to be considered include Terms of Reference, clarifying the mandate and goals of Council and determining what the members' jobs will be. Council agendas and materials would need to be circulated at least 5 days and ideally 10 days in advance of the meetings. – *Passed. Aboriginal membership, including Aboriginal students will schedule a meeting at 5pm for 90 minutes immediately prior to the next ACQU meeting.*

VI 2012/2013 Meeting Dates – a late January date will be circulated to Council members

VII **Closing Prayer/Adjournment** – Ms Brant Castellano