



## Queen's University Aboriginal Council

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### Meeting Notes

Monday, March 4, 2013  
6:30 p.m.  
202 Robert Sutherland

#### **Present:**

Marlene Brant Castellano  
Caroline Davis  
Paul Chaput  
Doug Maracle  
Duncan Cree  
Mark Green  
Lynn Freeman  
Alan Harrison  
Kate Freeman  
Brendan Huston  
Gordon Smith  
Wenda Watteyne  
Melanie Howard  
Jamaica Cass  
Shauna Shiels  
Janice Hill  
Irene Bujara  
Ellie Sadinsky

#### **Regrets:**

Judith Brown  
Ann Tierney  
Emilie Bouffard  
Norma Sunday  
Mireille Lapointe  
Robert Rittwage

### **I OPENING SESSION**

- 1. Opening Prayer** – Marlene Brant Castellano
- 2. Introductions**
- 3. Adoption of Agenda** - adopted
- 4. Adoption of Meeting notes of November 12, 2012** - adopted

## **5. Report from the co-chairs**

Ms Davis reported that Gordon Smith has requested a Council representative for the university's Council on Employment Equity, which he chairs. *This will be deferred*, as many Council members' terms are expiring and the Council's membership will be discussed at the next meeting.

Queen's has received an invitation to the Lloyd Barber Summit on Aboriginal Post-Secondary Education at the University of Regina on May 23-24. *Members are invited to indicate their interest in attending to Provost Harrison.*

Ms Brant Castellano noted that the community has been invited to submit comments to the Principal's Appointment Review Committee. *The Council Co-Chairs will draft a letter indicating that Council is gratified by the university's commitment to Aboriginal services and programs and supports the continued implementation of the Academic Plan, developed during Principal's Woolf's first term. There is some urgency to this – the letter will be submitted by the end of the week and reported on at the next Council meeting.*

## **6. Report from the Provost**

Provost Harrison supplemented his written report from March with the following information:

-Queen's is allocating a Tier 2 Canada Research Chair (CRC) to the Faculty of Arts and Science for a CRC in Indigenous Studies. The university submits the name of a proposed appointee to the CRC Secretariat and the government approves it or not. The Provost noted the decisions regarding the field of study for proposed CRCs are being made in alignment with the areas of focus and priority of the Strategic Research Plan. Council will be updated as this process moves forward.

- The process for identifying the next Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Science, who is retiring, is underway. An announcement is expected by the end of March, as well as an announcement about the Dean of the Faculty of Law – the current Dean has indicated he is willing to be reappointed for another term. The Dean of Queen's School of Business has also indicated his willingness to be considered for renewal for a third term; that process is expected to be completed by the end of April.

A question was asked about how outreach may be done to recruit aboriginal candidates for senior positions at the university, including Deans. The Provost replied that selection committee members receive equity training and the Director of the Human Rights and Equity Offices sits on all senior administrative committees. There is wide-reaching and targeted promotion of senior vacancies. When search firms are used, their expertise is used to solicit candidates from

equity-seeking groups. The university's equity profile, which shows that aboriginal peoples are the most underrepresented group, is brought to the attention of search consultants and the committee.

#### **7. Reports from the ACQU Working Groups** – written reports circulated previously

**Aboriginal Student Access and Support:** Ms Howard reported that this working group met in February and discussed transition programs at other universities. The group is continuing to investigate these programs.

**Indigenous Cultural Awareness and Programming** – no further update

**Indigenous Knowledge, Curriculum and Research:** Dr Smith reported that he, Ms Janice Hill and Dr Jill Scott met with the Arts and Science curriculum committee last week about the Indigenous Studies minor and are in the process of responding to their questions. The approvals process continues and Dr Smith will continue to update the Council.

He also voiced his support of the new CRC in Indigenous Studies. He is chairing the search committee; it is an open search to identify candidates for submission to the CRC Secretariat. He noted that four departments put forward the proposal so it is a somewhat complex process. The Secretariat is vigilant about the representation of proposed CRC candidates regarding equity-seeking groups and pushes universities in this regard. Ads are expected to be posted for the position within the next few weeks. They request candidates with linkages and experiences interacting with aboriginal communities. *The completed ad will be circulated to Council via email from Ms Hill with a short response time to provide comments.* The goal is to have the CRC in place by July 2014.

## **II BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

1. **Mid-year financial report** –deferred from November's meeting. *A year-end report will come to Council at its April meeting.*

2. **Stakeholder Updates** –written reports circulated previously

**Four Directions Aboriginal Student Centre:** Ms Hill noted that Aboriginal Awareness Week is being marked on campus March 17-23. The first Celebration of Indigenous Arts, Music and Dance is being held on Saturday March 16 from 10:00 am - 4:30 pm in the ARC. It is being coordinated by Mr Huston, the centre's work-study student. This event is the successor to the Pow-wow.

**Aboriginal Teacher Education Program:** Ms K Freeman noted government cuts to teaching programs aren't affecting this program as much, because of the need in several regions for Aboriginal teachers. Some participants are current teachers who are upgrading and expanding their skills.

Research is underway on placements among recent and not-so-recent graduates.

A new coordinator, Dr Lindsay Morcom, has been hired, starting April 1. Dr Morcom is Metis, originally from Manitoba. She is a Rhodes Scholar and has worked in South America. She has a great deal of interest in Aboriginal language revitalization. She will visit all the community sites soon after starting. She should also become involved in the Council. Ms Watteyne suggested she should also visit the MNO. The MNO has created a Metis education kit for teachers and she may be interested in this – there is a great interest among teachers in this kit.

**Master of Education in Aboriginal and World Indigenous Education Studies:** Ms K Freeman highlighted that the admission process for July 2013 is continuing. A new cohort of students will be spending one month on campus. The first graduate of AWIES completed her program this year.

**Aboriginal Access to Engineering:** Ms Howard reported that a five-year strategic plan for this initiative (it is no longer being called a program) has been approved and will be circulated to Council. The number of aboriginal applicants to the faculty for next year is 29 – last year it was 17. There are currently 11 self-identified students in the faculty, one that came forward recently. Dr Green has met with every student to review their academics and to check in with them to ensure all is going well and refer them to the academic support services available.

**Professional Master of Public Administration/Policy Studies:** Ms L Freeman will provide a full update to Council at its next meeting.

### III NEW BUSINESS

1. **Annual report 2012:** This report is to be tabled at the March Senate meeting. It was *endorsed with minor changes*. Any questions from Senators at the meeting will be directed to the Provost. Ms Hill will be present to provide further responses, as needed.

2. **Report from Aboriginal Caucus:** Ms Brant Castellano reported that eight caucus members, including Ms Hill, attended the first caucus meeting prior to the Council meeting. The caucus stressed the importance of being involved in the strategic allocation of provincial funding once it is announced, as well as approving past spending.

It is being assumed that there will be provincial funding for 2013-14. If the funding is cut, Provost Harrison and Ms Davis reiterated the university's commitment to cover the budgets of the programs affected. The province has hinted there will be a review of its funding program at some time, but likely not in the near future.

**3. Appointment of Membership Nominating Committee:** A membership document was circulated. Ms Cass, Ms Brant Castellano and Ms Watteyne will represent the Aboriginal Caucus on this committee.

Ms Brant Castellano outlined the committee process that is described on page 2 of the document. *An email to all Council members will be sent that invites comments and suggestions for membership.* A story with appropriate context and background is to be included in eQueen's (the twice-weekly internal communication to faculty and staff) inviting recommendations for membership that encourage committed individuals to support the vision of Council and make the time to participate on an ongoing basis. This invitation will also be sent to the community through the Four Directions Aboriginal Student Centre and to alumni.

The document includes a proposed motion\* that was endorsed by Council with a change to clause D: *The following will be added to the beginning of the clause: "Bearing in mind the importance of the Council's work..."*

The April 15, 2013 meeting of Council will be the last meeting of the current Council; the committee will recommend new Council members for endorsement at that time.

*\*Subsequent to the Council meeting, the University Secretariat has advised that this motion should not go to Senate as a stand-alone item. It has been recommended that the Council's Terms of Reference be updated to include reference to the Nominating Committee, its role and responsibilities, as well as the general composition of Council. An updated Terms of Reference document will be circulated to Council for the April 15, 2013 meeting.*

#### **IV OTHER BUSINESS**

**1. Other Business** - none

**2. 2013 meeting dates** – *The next meeting of Council is scheduled for April 15.* Agenda items will include the year-end MTCU financial report for 2012-2013 and a presentation of the proposed allocation of 2013-14 funds.

**3. Closing prayer/Adjournment** - Ms Brant Castellano