



Meeting Notes

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

Monday, April 15, 2013, 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Location: [Queen's Centre](#), 2nd floor, A506

In attendance:

Marlene Brant Castellano

Caroline Davis

Paul Chaput

Melanie Howard

Lindsay Morcom

Kate Freeman

Duncan Cree

Mark Green

Derek Sagima

Lynn Freeman

Judith Brown

Mireille Lapointe

Emilie Bouffard

Jamaica Cass

Gordon Smith

Ann Tierney

Alan Harrison

Shauna Shields

Janice Hill

Guests: Steven Liss, Arig Girgrah, Irene Bujara, Ginette Denford, Ellie Sadinsky

I Opening Session

1. Opening Prayer – Marlene Brant Castellano

2. Introductions

3. Adoption of Agenda

4. Adoption of the Meeting Minutes of March 4th 2013

5. Reports from the Co-Chairs Ms Brant Castellano reported on the Aboriginal Caucus meeting that was held immediately prior to the Council meeting. Notes will be circulated. Ms Brant Castellano noted that Aboriginal faculty and staff are encouraged to participate fully in Caucus discussions. To avoid conflict of interest, Caucus recommendations to full ACQU and the university will be flagged as such and forwarded by the student and community members of Caucus, while faculty and staff members can abstain.

Ms Davis reported that the Aboriginal Council will be getting its own website at <http://www.queensu.ca/aboriginalcouncil> instead of being within the pages of the Four Directions Aboriginal Student Centre's website. She also reported on a very interesting and successful day-long visit that she and Provost Harrison spent at Tyendinaga with Ms Brant Castellano, Mr. Don Maracle, the Chief of the Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte, and Derek Sagima, President and CEO of the First Nations Technical Institute.

6. Report from the Provost

Provost Harrison reported on the recent [reappointment of Bill Flanagan, as Dean of the Faculty of Law](#) and the appointment of [Jerry Doiron as the inaugural director of the Isabel Bader Centre for the Performing Arts](#). He also mentioned that the reappointment process of the Dean of the Queen's School of Business is coming to a close, as is the decanal search in the Faculty of Arts and Science.

The Queen's National Scholar program has been reinstated. There were 29 expressions of interests (EOIs) in the first competition and three have been selected to proceed to the second stage of the competition. All three successful EOIs are from the Faculty of Arts and Science, including one in the field of Indigenous Literatures and Languages. A second competition will be launched in the fall.

The university's Strategic Enrolment Management Group has completed the development of its first report. The Senate Committee on Academic Development is recommending that Senate, at its April 30 meeting, approve the report's proposed enrolment targets for 2013-14 and 2014-2015.

A strategic framework has been developed for the Board of Trustees that includes a 'dashboard' that will measure the quality of the student learning experience, research prominence, and financial sustainability.

A Provost's Advisory Committee on Mental Health is being struck to coordinate implementation of the recommendations of the Principal's Commission on Mental Health. The advisory committee will report annually to the community on its progress.

The Provost has been conducting town hall meetings on the new budget model. He also commented on his recent meeting with the First Nations Technical Institute - the topics discussed included academic and co-curricular initiatives.

The Provost was asked if ACQU would have its own budget under the new model. The Provost replied that the budget would continue to be part of the budget of the Division of Student Affairs.

7. Reports from ACQU Working Groups

For Information

Written reports circulated

- i. Aboriginal Student Access and Support
- ii. Indigenous Cultural Awareness and Programming
- iii. Indigenous Knowledge, Curriculum and Research

Ms Brant Castellano noted that the 2011 Native Studies Journal has an article that reports on research partially funded by MTCU about barriers to access and what strategies can help. This article may be of interest to the Student Access and Support working group.

Dr Smith reported that the Indigenous Studies minor concentration proposal passed the Faculty of Arts and Science's faculty board unanimously. The next step is SCAD and Senate in May; the proposal is on track for a September start.

8. Stakeholder Updates

For Information

Several written reports circulated

- i. Four Directions Aboriginal Student Centre (FDASC)
- ii. Aboriginal Teacher Education Program (ATEP)
- iii. Master of Education in Aboriginal & World Indigenous Education Studies (AIWES) (nothing new to report at this time)
- iv. Aboriginal Access to Engineering (AAE)
- v. Professional Master of Public Administration (PMPA)
- vi. Queen's Native Students Association (QNSA) (no report at this time)
- vii. Supporting Aboriginal Graduate Enhancement (SAGE)

Ms Davis welcomed Dr. Lindsay Morcom, ATEP Coordinator and Assistant Professor, Faculty of Education, to Queen's and the ACQU.

II Business Arising from the Minutes

9. Follow up re November's Employment Equity presentation - Alan Harrison

Eight of the nine 2012 Aboriginal Education Policy Objectives are being considered by the ACQU's three working groups. The ninth is "to support increased recruitment of Aboriginal faculty and staff, consistent with the university's responsibilities under existing federal

programs and in accordance with Queen's University's commitment to employment equity." Council had asked how this objective would be addressed by the university.

The Provost said it is clear the university faces challenges in recruiting Aboriginal faculty and staff. There has been progress in some areas, particularly in student recruitment. The collective agreement contains specific articles that address the hiring process, including the consideration of designated groups and promotion. With respect to staff hiring, the university's Council on Employment Equity (CEE) is launching a pilot project related to targeted recruitment and self-identification, as well as examining the issue of cultural competencies and climate. Gordon Smith is the chair of the CEE and has requested that the ACQU designate a representative to sit on the CEE to help facilitate the coordination of the work of the CEE and the ACQU. The Aboriginal Caucus of the ACQU, at its first fall meeting (October 28), will select a representative to sit on the CEE.

10. 2012-2013 year-end Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities report

Financials – Ginette Denford, Manager of Finance and Staffing, DSA

A written report was circulated to members. It includes a financial report, April 2012-March 2013, that details the allocation of the MTCU grant, as well as funds spent by the university toward the initiatives, to show total spending.

We cannot carry forward any MTCU monies and they have all been spent. If there is under spending of unit funds on these initiatives, it would be up to the unit to either carry it forward or spend it in other ways.

It was clarified that Column 2 is included in Column 3.

Kate Freeman and Ginette will follow up to clarify how spending by partner institutions is reported.

This table will be revised and redistributed to Council prior to submission to the Ministry at the end of May.

Summary - Janice Hill, Director, Four Directions Aboriginal Student Centre

A document was distributed that summarizes the information required by the Ministry. (The ministry's template is 16 pages long.)

The information required includes the number of Aboriginal students. Ms Hill said this is hard to determine because most students don't self-identify.

Although it is reported to be approximately 100 full-time and 90 part-time students, it is likely about three times more than that.

The report also includes information about ACQU and key accomplishments. Highlights include the Early Move in Day, the Discovery Days program, the convocation blanket ceremony and the adult admission process for ATEP. Reporting, funding and proposals are based on how we meet the goals of the province's 2011 framework.

The completed template will be circulated to Council prior to submission to the Ministry at the end of May.

III New Business

11. Three-year provincial Postsecondary Education Fund for Aboriginal Learners (PEFAL) submission

Vice-Provost and Dean Tierney explained how the government has released a three-year funding program with \$26.4M for the sector per year. They have split the money into three envelopes: a Student Success Fund (SSF), a Targeted Initiatives Fund (TIF) and Student Bursaries.

SSF proposals are due May 3; Targeted Initiatives Fund proposals are due May 24. The Provost asked faculties for proposals for both envelopes.

a. SSF (continuing programs)

A chart was distributed for the SSF proposals submitted by the faculties and units. These total more than \$1.1M in requested funds. For the last three years, Queen's has received \$682K for these kinds of initiatives.

Council determined that the entire list will be submitted to the Ministry by May 3. A copy of the submission will be distributed to ACQU.

The university understands it will receive notification of its SSF funding amount by the end of May (as per the Ministry). *A meeting of the ACQU's Aboriginal Student Access and Support Working Group will be called to consider and advise the university on the allocation of the funds. Those units that submitted SSF submissions will be invited to attend.*

It was noted by Faculty of Education that its proposal for Professional Development for Community-based faculty, staff and instructors was submitted to SSF but appeared in TIF list because it is a new one-year proposal. *This proposal*

will be submitted as a TIF.

b. Targeted Initiatives Fund (new initiatives)

There is \$2M for short-term innovative pilot programs. This money will be distributed across the PSE sector, as well as to Aboriginal organizations.

Four Directions and the Faculty of Education will prioritize their own proposals and this will be distributed to Council.

TIF proposals will be sent to Council and members will be requested to provide input via email prioritizing the TIF proposals by May 8 to ellie.sadinsky@queensu.ca

12. Updated ACQU Terms of Reference and report from Nominating Committee

Ms Brant Castellano reported on the recommendations of the nominating committee for the next membership of the ACQU. A document from the nominating committee's meeting was circulated.

Ms K. Freeman noted the Faculty of Education has active and long-standing management committees for their community-based partnerships and there are no links between these groups and the ACQU. She asked how an avenue of communication can be created. *Ms Brant Castellano suggested ATEP generate ideas and meet with ACQU co-chairs to discuss options.*

Ms Brant Castellano moved, and Mr. Chaput seconded, that Ms Davis be reappointed as Co-chair of the Council for a two year term.

Council endorsed the nominating committee's recommendations.

The updated Terms of Reference document was endorsed by Council to be submitted to Senate for approval at its April 30 meeting.

After the ACQU's first fall meeting, a membership list will be sent to Senate and this list will be included in the 2013 Annual Report to Senate and the Board of Trustees early in 2014.

IV Other Business

Vice-Principal (Research) Steven Liss spoke to Council about an idea for an Aboriginal Scholars' program to increase Aboriginal faculty. He suggested that an effective strategy would be to go to the federal government with broad support from across the country. He suggested there could be a role for the ACQU in connecting with Councils at partner institutions to garner the this support. This initiative could be developed for the next federal budget cycle. He noted that Principal Woolf is supportive. Dr. Liss said he would like to come back to ACQU as this initiative is developed.

Shauna Shields advised Council that this would be her last meeting. After three degrees, she is now leaving Queen's. Members of the Council thanked her for her active participation.

V Next Meeting Date: October 28, 2013

VI Closing Prayer/Adjournment

