



Meeting Notes

ABORIGINAL COUNCIL OF QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY (ACQU)

Monday, October 28, 2013, 6:30 p.m.

202 Robert Sutherland, 138 Union St

In attendance:

Marlene Brant Castellano	Caroline Davis	Alan Harrison
Ann Tierney	Paul Chaput	Melanie Howard
Lindsay Morcom	Duncan Cree	Derek Sagima
Lynn Freeman	Emilie Bouffard	Jamaica Cass
Janice Hill	Norma Sunday	Carol Ann Budd
Robert Rittwage	Jill Scott	Doug Maracle

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

I Opening Session

1. Opening Prayer - Co-Chair Castellano
2. Introductions and welcome to new members - Co-Chairs
 - New members Jill Scott, Michelle Williams and Carol Ann Budd were welcomed to Council.
 - Jamaica Cass informed Council this would be her last meeting as she is soon moving south to go to medical school.
3. Adoption of Agenda
 - Adopted.
4. Adoption of the Meeting Minutes of April 15, 2013
 - Adopted.

5. Reports from the Co-Chairs

Co-Chair Castellano

Highlights from the Aboriginal Caucus meeting that preceded the Council meeting (notes are forthcoming):

- Caucus recommends that Robert Rittwage sit as Council's representative on the university's Council on Employment Equity (CEE);
- Caucus recommends Emilie Bouffard as the Aboriginal representative on the university's General Ethics Research Board (GREB), providing advice to the Board on potential impacts of research proposals from an Aboriginal perspective. Co-Chair Castellano, Lindsay Morcom and Duncan Cree will provide ad hoc advice as requested by Ms. Bouffard.

Ms. Castellano has been invited to participate at various Queen's events in her role as Co-Chair of Council, including the Tricolour Guard Dinner (alumni dinner celebrating those who graduated more than 50 years ago) and an intergovernmental Aboriginal Affairs conference. She will continue to do this to raise awareness of Council and the profile of the Aboriginal community at Queen's.

Co-Chair Davis

Co-Chair Davis remarked on the impressive amount of work that has been completed and is underway by the Council's working groups and stakeholder groups. She noted it was disappointing that the province didn't provide universities through the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities' Post Secondary Education Fund for Aboriginal Learners (PEFAL) with more funding, but this is a reflection of the state of the government's finances and the economy, not of the proposals or the university's work supporting Aboriginal learners. She thanked everyone involved in developing the proposals.

Canada Research Chair (CRC) Update

Provost Harrison was asked to provide an update on the appointment of a CRC in Aboriginal Studies: A candidate has been identified and a dossier has been submitted to the CRC Secretariat. The university is expecting to be notified of the Secretariat's decision in March.

6. Report from the Provost

Queen's National Scholar (QNS)

Three of 29 proposals have proceeded to the second round of the selection process: scholars in African History, Biological Organic Chemistry and Indigenous Literatures and Languages. Two scholars are appointed annually. An announcement is expected in November. To ensure the process proceeds more expeditiously, the selection committee is meeting in November to ensure next year's QNS appointments take effect by July 2014.

Strategic Enrolment Management

The university, through its Strategic Enrolment Management Group, is developing a 10-year enrolment plan. There has been extensive consultation. It is expected a draft or general outline of the plan will have been prepared and can be shared with Council at its January meeting for input. The plan will go to Senate in 2014.

New Residences

The university has received City zoning amendment approvals that are allowing for the start of construction of a new residence building on Stuart St. just east of lower Albert St. There will be a second building constructed across the street fronting Albert. Both buildings are slated for occupancy by Fall 2015. This will provide the university with 540 more residence beds.

Strategic Framework

Queen's Board of Trustees has approved the university's Strategic Framework that will guide our actions over the next several years.

PEFAL Student Success Fund (SSF)

An allocation for the first year of the three-year funding cycle has been implemented with faculty and unit requests having been pro-rated at about 2/3rds based on the 1 per cent increase received by the university. Feedback from the MTCU is that in subsequent years, the university needs to adhere more closely to the fund priorities. The ministry's view is that the university's base grant is for academic programs and this fund is for access and participation, transition, retention through to graduation and partnership initiatives. A process will be developed for faculties and units to develop their fund proposals for year 2 and these will be circulated to Council for comment. The university will be required to make its submission to the ministry in the spring; the exact timeline is not known.

Ms. Morcom asked for additional financial support for ATEP. The Provost said such a request is in the first instance the responsibility of the Dean of Education.

A calendar will be distributed to faculties and units with information/material deadlines dates, although they may change subject to ministry direction/requests.

7. Reports from ACQU Working Groups

Written reports distributed
For Information

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

Further to the reports provided, the Indigenous Knowledge, Curriculum and Research working group plans to focus this year on developing professional learning communities at Queen's to support the Indigenous Minor program. This would include initiatives to bring Elders, activists and wisdom-keepers to campus.

The Student Access and Support working group will be meeting soon to set its objectives. It had been focused over the summer on the PEFAL Student Success Fund (SSF) proposals and the internal allocation for year one.

It was suggested the working group chairs start their next report to Council with their objectives for the coming year.

8. Stakeholder Updates

Written reports distributed
For Information

- i. Four Directions Aboriginal Student Centre (FDASC)

It was noted that some funding has been withdrawn from the local Friendship Centre. The FDASC has submitted two proposals to the Community Foundation for Kingston and Area. One is for an Aboriginal Youth Leadership Program for high school students, and the other would bring Aboriginal wisdom keepers, artists, activists and Elders to campus to support and complement the Indigenous Studies courses. These would provide opportunities for local Aboriginal community members as well as members of the Queen's community.

- ii. Aboriginal Teacher Education Program (ATEP)

ATEP is looking at developing an Indigenous Studies teachable and there are discussions underway in the Faculty toward making a 3-hour credit in

Indigenous Studies a mandatory requirement for completing a Queen's education degree. The Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples in 1996 recommended such a requirement for teacher credentialing in Canada. The ACQU heartily endorses its introduction at Queen's.

iii. Master of Education in Aboriginal & World Indigenous Education Studies (AIWES)

iv. Aboriginal Access to Engineering (AAE)

AAE is expanding its support to graduating students who are making the transition to the workforce and will be expanding its outreach activities, thanks to the part-time position funded by the PEFAL SSF. There is ongoing collaboration with Four Directions regarding recruitment. Recruitment materials were available at the meeting for Council members.

Dr. Mark Green has received a National Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) "Create" program grant to support sustainable engineering in remote areas. This three-section program will be implemented next year and will include internships that help develop engineers with specialized skills.

v. Professional Master of Public Administration (PMPA)

Norma Sunday, Janice Hill and Melanie Howard recently attended the *Indigenous Issues in PSE: Transitions to the Workplace* conference in Toronto.

vi. Queen's Native Students Association (QNSA)

The group has just begun its meetings and there will be more to report at the next Council meeting.

vii. Supporting Aboriginal Graduate Enhancement (SAGE)

There will be more to report at the next meeting. SAGE is keen to support an increased presence of elders and artists on campus.

II Business Arising from the Minutes

9. ACQU representative to the university's Council on Employment Equity (CEE)
– Co-Chair Castellano

See below, item 12.

10. PEFAL
i. Student Success Fund (SSF) **For Discussion**

See above, Report of the Provost

- ii. 2013-14 mid-year MTCU report (*due November 29, 2013*) **For Information**

The format for this financial report has changed from a 'per faculty/unit' report to an initiative-based report. This information is being gathered from faculties and units. The document will be circulated to Council for endorsement via email prior to the November 29 submission date.

- iii. Targeted Initiative Fund **For Discussion**

None of the proposals moved to the second stage. Units did not receive any specific feedback from the ministry.

11. Report from Nominating Committee **For Information**

A representative to Council from the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK) will be named shortly. There is still one community vacancy. Ms. Hill and Ms. Castellano will discuss options.

ATEP will include a community management committee report in its January report. Electronic connection for direct communications will be explored.

III New Business

12. ACQU representative to the university's General Ethics Research Board (GREB)
– Co-Chair Castellano

As per the recommendation of Aboriginal Caucus (see above item 5): that Emilie Bouffard sit on GREB as Aboriginal representative: approved.

As per the recommendation of Aboriginal Caucus (see above item 5): that Robert Rittwage be appointed as the Council's representative to the Council on Employment Equity (CEE): approved.

IV Other Business

13. Annual Report 2013

For information
– Co-Chair Davis

This report on Council's 2013 activities will be drafted and circulated to Council for input and discussion at the January meeting for submission for the February Senate meeting.

V Next Meeting Dates

January 27, 2014, 6:30 p.m. – Aboriginal Caucus 5:00-6:30 p.m.

April 21, 2014, 6:30 p.m. – Aboriginal Caucus 5:00-6:30 p.m.

VI Closing Prayer/Adjournment

– Co-Chair Castellano