



Meeting Notes

ABORIGINAL COUNCIL OF QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY (ACQU)

Monday, April 14, 2014, 6:30 p.m.

John Orr Room, 3rd Floor, [JDUC](#), 87 Union Street

In attendance:

Marlene Brant Castellano

Caroline Davis

Lindsay Morcom

Paul Chaput

Melanie Howard

Robert Rittwage

Duncan Cree

Carol Ann Budd

Janice Hill

Lynn Freeman

Michelle Williams

Guests: Arig Girgrah, Vanessa McCourt, Joe Brant, Ginette Denford, Oke Maracle, B.Sc.'15 (Civil Engineering), Nickoli (Nick) Parcher, B.Sc. (Mining Engineering)

Regrets: Alan Harrison, Ann Tierney, Gordon Smith, Jill Scott, Rebecca Luce-Kappler, Doug Maracle, Derek Sagima, Peter Geikie, Wenda Wateyne, Melanie Gray

I Opening Session

Opening Prayer

–Co-Chair Brant Castellano

Introductions

Presentation on Aboriginal Access to Engineering (AAE)

Melanie provided a brief overview of all of the elements of the initiative.

Melanie and Oke described student involvement in special projects, including a design project, in which Oke developed a to-scale paper-engineered war canoe for use by the AAE Outreach program.

Melanie, Nick and Oke also spoke about Queen's attendance at the American Indian Science and Engineering Society's Leadership Summit in Albuquerque, New Mexico in March 2014, that provided networking and leadership skill-building opportunities, and a cultural exchange for students from across North America.

Adoption of Agenda

Adoption of the Meeting Notes of February 26, 2014 - Spelling error noted for correction on p4, item 4 – otherwise accepted as distributed.

Reports from the Co-Chairs

Ms. Brant Castellano reported on the discussions of the Aboriginal Caucus at its meeting immediately preceding Council:

- Students in various faculties may want a voice on Council, as the number of students increases across campus. Caucus is asking Council's nominating committee to develop a roster of student groups who may wish to have representation (e.g. students in the new Indigenous Studies Minor), as well as opportunities for input from community sites in Council deliberations.
- Caucus heard about activities in the Employment Equity Committee and in Alumni Relations activities, where Aboriginal peoples and achievements are gaining a higher profile.
- The issue of identifying opportunities to nominate Aboriginal peoples at Queen's for various honours is being referred to the Cultural Awareness Working Group.
- Caucus discussed how to enhance connections with the Office of Advancement to support more culturally aware activities and approaches to their activities.
- Caucus members were asked to write brief memos (1 page or less) with a rationale and ideas on how to move their particular issue forward.
- Duncan Cree is leaving the University. Ms. Brant Castellano thanked Dr. Cree for his contributions to the Aboriginal community at Queen's, in particular, his work on the creation of the Aboriginal Access to Engineering initiative.

On behalf of the Provost, Co-Chair Davis thanked all members of Council for their participation at both Caucus and Council this year. She recognized Michelle Williams on the occasion of her last Council meeting, as her term as AMS Social Issues Commissioner comes to an end.

Emails will be sent to Council between now and the next meeting in October with timely information, including an enrolment report, as the number of incoming Aboriginal students for Fall 2014 looks very positive.

Reports from ACQU Working Groups

Written reports to be distributed
For discussion

i. Aboriginal Student Access and Support

On Ann's behalf, Ellie spoke to the steps taken to communicate tuition and fees to incoming students, prospective students, Bands and guidance counselors, as well as the work underway to support retention of Aboriginal students, and collaborative marketing and communications efforts across Faculties and units.

ii. Indigenous Cultural Awareness and Programming

Jan spoke of the group's most recent project: a protocol handbook to support the faculty, students and staff in communicating and connecting with elders and setting up activities and guests in their classes.

iii. Indigenous Knowledge, Curriculum and Research

On Gordon Smith's behalf, Jan reported that a sub-group met with Geography professor Ann Godlewska to discuss her survey of first-year students on their awareness of Aboriginal peoples and cultures.

The Kahswentha Indigenous Knowledge Initiative cancelled its final teach-in due to busyness of the end-of-term. Planning for next year will be undertaken by a Research Assistant, Jennifer Hardwick, a graduate student who was involved in the establishment of the Indigenous Minor.

Deputy Provost Jill Scott is working through the [Matariki Network](#) to identify new opportunities for connections on the development of a graduate course on Global Indigenities. The proposal is to have a 3-week pilot project to start with, on perhaps two campuses.

Queen's and Carleton are involved in a new initiative, the Centre for Indigenous Research, Culture, Language and Education (CIRCLE). The universities will be working together to identify opportunities for collaboration.

Stakeholder Updates

Written reports to be distributed
For Discussion

i. **Four Directions Aboriginal Student Centre (FDASC)**

Jan highlighted the success of the Aboriginal Awareness Week and A Tribe Called Red concert.

ii. **Aboriginal Teacher Education Program (ATEP)**

- Lindsay reported that students are back from their practica from as far away as New Zealand.
- ATEP has developed a workshop for QUIC, a drum-making workshop, and a new workshop for outdoor experimental education. The incoming class includes 18 students at Manitoulin, 21 at Seven Generation and eight on campus.
- The Faculty of Education is introducing a 12-hour mandatory Aboriginal education component to the curriculum when the Faculty moves to the 2-year B.Ed program. Aboriginal Studies is also being introduced as a teachable.
- For ATEP's part-time community-based students, there is a \$1,000 scholarship now available for each ATEP site that will help support students, who may not have otherwise been able to complete a practicum due to the associated costs.
- Joe Brant is helping ATEP complete an Alumni 'Where are they now?' project.
- Sadly, an ATEP student died of cancer last month.

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

Ms. Brant Castellano suggested Council would be interested in hearing about the experience and perspective of AWIES students.

iv. **Aboriginal Access to Engineering (AAE) presentation – see above**

- v. **NSERC CREATE Program** in Sustainable Engineering in Remote Areas (SERA).

Dr. Cree reported that new students are set to arrive in September. Course development is in progress.

vi. **Professional Master of Public Administration (PMPA)**

- Information sessions are underway as part of recruitment activities for 2014-15. There is a wide geographic spread from which the PMPA students are drawn, and it is beneficial to meet prospective students in their communities. Ms. Brant Castellano noted that Aboriginal communities remain oral in tradition, and word of mouth about Queen's can be very effective.
- Lynn commented on the benefit of the meetings about recruitment efforts, marketing and other activities, that are taking place among the various faculty and unit program administrators between Council meetings.
- Lynn also reported on an initiative in the Faculty of Law. Professor Kathy Lahey spent time in Sweden at a conference on Indigenous women in the Arctic. Council may wish to connect with Professor Lahey about the research.

vii. **Queen's Native Students Association (QNSA)**

viii. **Supporting Aboriginal Graduate Enhancement (SAGE)**

- Ms. Brant Castellano said 2016 is the 20th anniversary of the release of the Royal Commission report. As part of her ongoing work related to the Commission and the outcomes associated with its report, she is encouraging national and regional conferences and events to celebrate the progress made and changes being initiated by Councils like the ACQU and communities. She suggested the voices of youth through SAGE chapters across Canada could become forums for activity and planning partners for such activities.
- It was noted that the School of Policy Studies has capacity to deliver conferences, and has delivered conferences in the past focused on Aboriginal issues and the timing would work well. *Lynn asked for 1-page proposals on potential events that the SPS could support in collaboration with community-based transformative initiatives.* SPS also can support publications.

II Business Arising from the Minutes

MTCU PEFAL

i. **2013-2014 Report** (draft)

All comments are welcome by May 12 to ellie.sadinsky@queensu.ca.

The report will be submitted to the Ministry by the end of May.

ii. **2013-14 Financial Report**

Preliminary figures were circulated.

Original “wish list” budgeted expenditures were \$1.6M; the University spent a total of \$1.1M, including \$689,000 from the PEFAL SSF. Various factors account for the variance and will be explained in notes to the Ministry when the report (a template) is submitted at the end of May. For example, increased collaboration on recruitment initiatives reduced expenses. Another factor is that the budgeted numbers included faculty salaries that are not included in the year-end figures, as the University works to align PEFAL SSF to the fund priorities as described by the Ministry.

Budget assumptions will be included that provide details of the ‘snapshot’ upon which the budget was based.

The submission will also clarify provincial and university expenditures, including indirect costs related to our programs. The University will also list what initiatives were put on hold, and what initiatives were funded by sources (i.e. units) other than PEFAL. The goal is to hold our funding proportional to our size in the next round of PEFAL funding (starting in 2016-17), given the increased competition for funding and lack of growth in provincial funding.

Update from Nominating Committee

11 appointments are expiring May 1, 2014, including all student representatives.

- Mireille Lapointe will be reappointed to represent Ardoch Algonquin First Nation.
- Doug Maracle will be reappointed to represent the Tyendinaga Mohawk Council.
- Robert Rittwage will be reappointed as the Aboriginal Community member at large.
- Lynn Freeman will serve another term as SPS representative.
- The Metis Nation of Ontario will be appointing a new local representative.
- An Inuit representative continues to be sought from an Inuit organization based

in Ottawa.

- The National Association of Friendship Centres has named Pamela Quart, Director of the Urban Aboriginal Knowledge Network Secretariat, as its representative.

The Nominating Committee will discuss having a more fluid description of student representation and propose possible updates to the TOR to respond to an increasing number of student organizations on campus. The Committee will also explore opportunities for Council to connect with ATEP community-based sites/advisory committees.

Robert Rittwage volunteered to sit on the Nominating Committee as the community representative; a student representative is also required.

Given the length of time until the next Council meeting, Council authorized the committee to 'fill the gaps' and prepare proposals for membership for the October Council meeting.

III Other Business

IV Proposed Meeting Dates for 2014-2015:

Next meetings: October 15, 2014
 January 19, 2015
 May 11, 2015.

V Closing Prayer/Adjournment

– Co-Chair Brant Castellano