



Meeting Notes

MEETING OF THE ABORIGINAL COUNCIL QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY (ACQU)
October 26, 2015 6:30 – 8:30 pm 340 Richardson Hall, Queen's University

In attendance:

Janice Hill	Doug Maracle	Marlene Brant Castellano
Caroline Davis	Ann Tierney	Daniel Woolf
Alan Harrison	Armand Ruffo	Sam McKegney
Lynn Freeman	Rebecca Luce-Kapler	Lindsay Morcom
Mark Green	Donato Santeramo	Carol Ann Budd
Alex Chung	Robert Rittwage	
Norma Sunday		

Item	Notes
Welcome and Introductions Co-Chair Brant Castellano	New members to Council were welcomed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kaitlyn Brant & Lydia Brant - American Indian Science and Engineering Society - AISES, • Erin Sutherland - SAGE • Laurel Claus Johnson- Katarokwi Grandmothers Council (guest)
Principal's Remarks Principal & Vice-Chancellor Daniel Woolf	Principal Woolf commented on the progress made by Council and the three working groups and referenced the presentation made by Ann Tierney and Janice Hill to the October Board of Trustees meeting. He advised council of the call for proposals for The Principal's Dream Courses , an opportunity to enhance existing courses through speakers, field trips, etc. One of the three themes is Indigenous identities. Principal Woolf commented on the success of the opening celebration of Brant House, the visibility of the residence and the significance of the naming. He also said he will continue to advocate at the provincial and

	<p>federal levels for more funding for Indigenous students, faculty and staff to enhance and support Indigenous knowledge at the post-secondary level. In June, Universities Canada (previously named the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC) adopted principles to foster reconciliation as part of the universities' response to the TRC. Executive Heads have begun to discuss how best to increase PSE access for Indigenous students and move forward.</p>
<p>Opening Remarks Co-Chair Brant Castellano</p>	<p>Ms. Brant Castellano expressed immense pleasure at the naming of Brant House and the occasion it presented to celebrate the great law of peace and Hiawatha belt, bringing together the five nations. She is pleased that Brant House will be there for successive generations of students. She said the naming is also a celebration of the work of council and the work being done by members elsewhere in their lives.</p>
<p>Opening Remarks Co-Chair Davis</p>	<p>Ms. Davis said the Brant House celebration was a very moving occasion and the university has made much progress. Donors are interested in supporting Aboriginal education. One donor has gifted a book to FDASC.</p>
<p>Adoption of Agenda & May meeting minutes</p>	<p>No questions or comments.</p>
<p>Recommendations from the Truth & Reconciliation Report (TRC) & the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples (RCAP) Co-Chair Brant Castellano</p>	<p>Ms. Brant Castellano is involved in planning the conference "<i>Sharing the Land, Sharing the Future</i>", proposed for Nov. 2016 to mark the 20th anniversary of the release of the RCAP. Reconciliation is the theme, as there is a strong link between the TRC and RCAP. She said many TRC recommendations do not relate to residential schools, but to national conditions, attitudes and violence, and the denial of identity, history and culture.</p> <p>There was little action from the RCAP, but the TRC report is prompting allies, concerned citizens, and people of good will and compassion to ask, 'What can we do to change this?' Boards are saying, 'we need to make reconciliation a priority.' Allies are using their prestige, membership and influence to seek conciliation for the first time in history.</p> <p>Queen's hosted the organizing meeting for the project in July. The Oversight Committee is focusing on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -writing fundraising proposals to make the event happen; -public communications to strengthen networks and collaboration; -connecting with other reconciliation projects and

	<p>gathering outcomes to feature at the conference; -commissioning 12 papers that look at specific sectors (health, education, law) to see what progress has been made, what barriers need to be overcome and what can be done moving forward.</p> <p>The hope is to mobilize for change and create centres of activity through Canada's 150th anniversary year to create alliances and make sure that for the next 150 years, Canada makes reconciliation a reality. Ms. Brant Castellano asked council members to reflect on how we can encourage people to light sacred fires, make connections and talk, then gather and amplify these voices and encourage people to continue this work in their own communities so that the light can't be ignored.</p>
<p>Council Objectives & Working Group Priorities</p>	<p>Access & Support Ms. Tierney provided updates on ongoing community outreach that aims to increase access to information about financial resources for students, and the creation of new pathways to university, i.e. bridging programs, to further increase the number of Indigenous students. Queen's has seen a steady increase of applications, offers, and acceptances but we want to keep this momentum going. Sandra den Otter (Associate Dean, School of Graduate Studies) has joined the working group.</p> <p>Indigenous Knowledge and Curriculum Dr. Santeramo advised Council there are over 21 students enrolled in the Indigenous minor. A new curriculum committee will investigate the development of a mandatory introductory course as well as a capstone course for the minor. The committee is also interested in developing pedagogical ways of delivering traditional knowledge and culture to students. Another focus is to secure grants to provide short and long term funding for student research.</p> <p>He said the committee recognizes the importance of offering opportunities (e.g. field trips) off-campus and in the community. Ms. Hill advised that there are also opportunities on-line for some of the Indigenous Studies courses.</p>

<p>For follow up:</p>	<p>Cultural Awareness & Programming Ms. Hill advised that the Indigenous Protocols Handbook is being finalized. There has also been an increase in the number of acknowledgements of territory at campus events and meetings, and is being included in many faculty and staff email signature lines. The acknowledgement is also now on the Queen’s homepage.</p> <p>The working group is seeking to increase delivery of Cultural Safety Training to the Queen’s community. Module 1 has been changed to the Kairos Blanket exercise, which is very impactful. Professor Elaine Power (Cultural Studies) has instituted the exercise for over 700 first-year students.</p> <p>The working group will facilitate a Kairos Blanket exercise for Council and all working group members.</p>
<p>Stakeholder Reports</p> <p>Aboriginal Teacher Education Program (ATEP), Faculty of Education</p> <p>For follow up:</p>	<p>Further to the written reports circulated with the agenda, the following additional comments were made by program representatives:</p> <p>Dean Luce-Kapler, informed Council that there were no applications for the community-based ATEP in 2015/16. Since the BEd has been doubled to four terms, there is concern as to how to arrange a program for community-based students. The faculty and community directors are working on a format in which students would come to Queen’s for two summers, but there are recognized issues with this model. A PhD student has researched the barriers for part-time learners, such as not being able to be away from home in summers, and the required length (80 days) of practicums. The hope is to raise these issues with the government while continuing to do more research. Dr. Morcom was able to secure funding to connect the various ATEP sites for program delivery, but more support is needed to ensure the survival of the program. The student demographic is primarily single mothers in the north.</p> <p>The Provost advised he will raise this with the Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities.</p>
<p>Sustainable Engineering in Remote Areas (SERA) Mark Green</p>	<p>Dr. Green shared that the TRC’s Wilton Littlechild’s talk at SERA earlier in October was well attended, and that Cultural Safety Training was provided to, and well</p>

	<p>received by, the incoming SERA students. The SERA program has positions for undergraduate Aboriginal students. The students do not have to be in engineering, but need to have an interest in sustainable engineering. More information at http://www.queensu.ca/sera/home</p>
<p>Presentation to the Board of Trustees Ann Tierney</p>	<p>Ms. Tierney commented that the goal of the presentation was to give the board a comprehensive view of what is happening at the university relating to Indigenous education and support. She highlighted increasing enrolment and high retention rates, and commented on the number of initiatives across campus that have supported this success, including FDASC, early move-in, QSuccess, AAE, ATEP, and student-organized events that all build community and support.</p>
<p>Mid-Year Financial Report Submitted by Ginette Denford</p>	<p>Ms. Hill and Provost Harrison said it is anticipated that government funding will stay the same for another year and then the government will reconsider funding distribution and levels. The Provost said that a government report on the post-secondary education (PSE) funding model will be completed at the end of this month.</p>
<p>ACQU Membership Recommendations Marlene Brant-Castellano</p> <p>For follow-up</p> <p>For follow-up</p>	<p>Further to the Nominating Committee report circulated with the meeting agenda, the Aboriginal Caucus discussed council membership prior to the council meeting.</p> <p>Ms. Brant Castellano is recommending the addition of two supernumerary positions: one Aboriginal student representative position and one Aboriginal community representative position. The nominating committee will work to identify a representative process for inclusion of a wide student voice prior to next cycle.</p> <p>The caucus is also suggesting that council hear from ATEP community-based groups either in writing or through video about how they could be connected into council on a regular basis. Dr. Morcom will confer with community groups to seek representatives to ‘meet’ with council via video.</p> <p>Dr. Morcom suggested that the ACQU join the World Indigenous National Higher Education Council (WINHEC). She will put forward a proposal that council join this group.</p> <p>Dr. Morcom will also speak with Deputy Provost Jill</p>

	<p>Scott about how the council can be apprised of developments, through the Matariki Network.</p>
<p>Communication Opportunities Co-chair Caroline Davis</p> <p>For follow-up</p> <p>Closing Blessing Co-Chair Brant Castellano</p> <p>Next meeting: Wed. Jan. 27 2016.</p>	<p>It was suggested that photos and profiles of faculty, staff and students could be developed by communications and published on line and in the Gazette campus newspaper to increase awareness and visibility of the Indigenous community on campus.</p> <p>Ms. Hill and Ms. Sadinsky will contact communications.</p>