



# Aboriginal Council, Queen's University

## Meeting Notes

October 10, 2017 6:30-8:30 pm Richardson Hall Room 340, Queen's University

### Attendees

Name	Position
Marlene Brant-Castellano	Co-Chair & Council Elder
Anne Tierney	Vice-Provost & Dean of Student Affairs, Acting Co-Chair
Kanonhsyonne/Janice Hill	Director, Office of Indigenous Initiatives, Council Secretary
Benoit-Antoine Bacon	Provost & V-P (Academic) (Principal's Delegate)
Jason LeBlanc	Tungasvvingat Inuit
Billie Kearns	American Indian Science and Engineering Society, Queen's Chapter (AISES)
Leslie Flynn	Health Sciences
Carol Ann Budd	Alumna, Community Representative
Ramna Safeer	Social issues Commissioner (AMS)
Shannon Halley	Education Student Society Representative
Lindsay Morcom	Director, Aboriginal Teacher Education Program
Gordon Smith	Vice-Dean, Arts & Science
Teri Shearer	Deputy Provost (Academic Operations & Inclusion)
Jill Scott	V-P Teaching & Learning
Melanie Howard	Director, Aboriginal Access to Engineering
Vanessa McCourt	Aboriginal Advisor, Administrative Assistant to Aboriginal Council
Sarah Hanson	Co-President, Queen's Native Students Association
Tara Wilson	Co-President, Queen's Native Students Association
Laurel Claus-Johnson	Katarowki Grandmother's Council
Natasha Stirrett	Society of Graduate & Professional Students & Supporting Aboriginal Graduate Enhancement Representative

### Observers:

Ellie Sadinsky, Executive Director, Student Affairs  
 Stephanie Simpson, Director Human Rights Office  
 Jennifer Li, President AMS  
 Palmer Lockridge, VP University Affairs AMS  
 Chelsea Hollidge VP Operations AMS

**Guest:** Vern Altman, Faculty, Visiting Elder

The Aboriginal Caucus of Council met prior to the Council meeting.

Item	Notes
<p><b>Traditional Opening</b></p> <p><b>Remarks by Co-Chairs</b></p> <p>Ann Tierney</p>	<p><b>Elder Brant-Castellano shared Opening Words from Mohawk tradition.</b></p> <p>In accordance with membership categories established by ACQU Terms of Reference, the Nominating Committee reports the following Council Membership for 2017-18:</p> <p><u>Senior Administration (4)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Benoit Antoine Bacon – Principal’s Delegate</li> <li>• Ann Tierney- Vice-Provost and Dean of Student Affairs – Provost’s Delegate</li> <li>• Jill Scott – Vice-Provost (Teaching &amp; Learning)</li> <li>• Teri Shearer – Deputy Provost (Academic Operations &amp; Inclusion)</li> </ul> <p><u>University Community Representatives (5)</u></p> <p>The nominating committee has recommended these positions be filled by four representatives from faculties/schools that would rotate on a staggered basis, and one faculty-member-at-large. For 2017-18, the faculties and representatives are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education - Lindsay Morcom</li> <li>• Arts &amp; Science - Gordon Smith</li> <li>• Engineering &amp; Applied Science - Melanie Howard</li> <li>• Health Sciences - Leslie Flynn</li>   <li>• Armand Ruffo, Arts &amp; Science – Faculty member at large</li> </ul> <p>All faculties and schools have been invited to present to Council this year so that Council has the opportunity to learn more about all of the initiatives underway across the campus that are connected to the TRC Task Force. To date, the Faculty of Law and the School of Graduate Studies have been scheduled to attend Council’s January meeting and the Smith School of Business representative will attend Council’s May meeting. In addition, the four current faculty/schools will be invited to present in January or May.</p>
<p>Marlene Brant-Castellano</p>	<p><u>Student Representatives (5)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• American Indian Science Engineering Society, Queen’s Chapter - Billie Kearns</li> <li>• Alma Mater Society - Ramna Safeer, Social Issues Commissioner (<i>the position of Deputy Commissioner, Indigenous Affairs is currently vacant</i>)</li> <li>• Society of Graduate &amp; Professional Students &amp; Supporting Aboriginal Graduate Enhancement - Natasha Stirrett</li> <li>• Aboriginal Teacher Education Program, Education - Shannon Halley</li> <li>• Queen’s Native Students Association – Co-Presidents Sarah Hanson &amp; Tara Wilson</li> </ul>

	<p><u>Community members (10)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alumnus at large - Carol Ann Budd</li> <li>• FNTI - Adam Hopkins</li> <li>• Metis Nation of Ontario - Elaine Jeffrey</li> <li>• Ardoch Algonquin Nation - Mirelle Lapointe</li> <li>• Tungasuvvingait Inuit - Jason LeBlanc</li> <li>• Akwesasne Board of Education - Norma Sunday</li> <li>• Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory Council - Dan Brant</li> <li>• Urban Aboriginal Knowledge Network Secretariat - Catherine Graham</li> <li>• Katarowki Grandmothers Council - Laurel Claus-Johnson</li> <li>• ATEP Manitoulin North Shore - Stephanie Roy, Official Observer</li> </ul> <p>Marlene Brant-Castellano informed Council that this would be her last year serving on Council.</p> <p>The nominating committee recommends that both co-chair positions operate as follows: Incoming Co-Chair (1 year), Co-chair (2 years), and Past Co-Chair (1 year), to support continuity and provide guidance.</p> <p>Once all member acceptances are finalized, the Caucus will be engaged to select the incoming co-chair; the university senior administration will do the same for the university position. The goal is to have these positions in place for the January meeting.</p>
<p><b>Adoption of the Agenda</b></p>	<p>The agenda was adopted as circulated.</p>
<p><b>Report from Provost</b> Benoit-Antoine Bacon</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Provost welcomed new and returning members of Council. He reported that Queen’s is on track to meet its November 1 enrolment target of 4,517 first-year undergraduate students. Indigenous applications and offers have continued to rise. First-year self-identified Indigenous enrolment has remained relatively stable at 69 for 2017-18.</li> <li>• Queen’s is hiring more faculty members – 200 over five years; we have already welcomed 36 this year, two of whom are Queen’s National Scholars, who will contribute significantly to strengthening Queen’s scholarship in Indigenous studies.</li> <li>• Another Queen’s National Scholar, Dr. Norman Vorano, has received a <a href="#">Pierre Elliot Trudeau Foundation</a> Fellowship – one of the most prestigious and competitive awards in Canada. Dr. Vorano, assistant professor in Art History and Art Conservation, and curator of Indigenous art at the <a href="#">Agnes Etherington Art Centre</a>, was recognized for his work with Indigenous communities in the Canadian Arctic to record, understand, and share Inuit art history.</li> <li>• Provost Bacon said he is pleased to see that, more and more, conversations about Indigenous histories and experiences are taking place on campus, for example, through the new Intercultural awareness certificate, the Queen’s Reads program, academic programming such as the undergraduate course in Canadian Aboriginal Law, and through student transition and support programming.</li> <li>• As noted in the TRC implementation progress update, there are also physical changes happening on campus, including the expansion of the Four Directions Aboriginal Student Centre and the installation of a</li> </ul>

	<p>plinth, which will detail the history of the territory upon which Queen's sits. The Provost said the plinth is a relatively small but, very meaningful initiative to recognize the original inhabitants of this land. He thanked the members of the Cultural Awareness and Programming Working Group of ACQU for their assistance with this important project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He also noted that one of the most important changes since the release of the TRC report is the establishment of the Director of Indigenous Initiatives position, and the appointment of Kanonhsyonne/Jan Hill, in this new role. Provost Bacon extended his congratulations to Jan and said he and Deputy Provost (Academic Operations and Inclusion) Teri Shearer are looking forward to working with her, and learning from her, in the years ahead.</li> </ul>
<p><b>TRC Task Force Implementation Committee Update</b> Teri Shearer</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deputy Provost Shearer acknowledged the many people doing great work across the institution. She said her report is a small subset of initiatives taking place across the institution.</li> <li>• She offered her congratulations to Jan in her new role and noted a few initiatives she is working on, including leading Queen's participation in the provincially-funded <i>Pathways for Indigenous Learners: Collaborating across Aboriginal Institutes, Colleges, and Universities</i> to develop bridging and pathways programming and wraparound support services to facilitate transition to university studies and ensure Indigenous students' success. Articulation agreements between universities, colleges, and Aboriginal Institutes developed within this project will allow for the seamless transition of Indigenous learners across the sector.</li> <li>• The Deputy Provost also noted that the Four Directions Aboriginal Student Centre and the Queen's University International Centre have jointly developed an Intercultural Awareness Certificate Program, which is already highly enrolled, and responds to a TRC Task Force Report recommendation.</li> <li>• The Faculties and Schools will be submitting their five-year TRC implementation plans by end of December.</li> <li>• Ms. Shearer invited Council to the unveiling of the Indigenous plinth on October 16 at 2pm on a well-travelled path across University Avenue from Richardson Hall.</li> </ul> <p>Co-Chair Brant Castellano thanked Deputy Provost Shearer for her report and noted that all of the reports received by Council reflect a new phase of activity and commitment across the University, supporting the broad-based public education necessary to sustain momentum toward reconciliation. She said that she is proud to be part of what is happening at Queen's.</p>
<p><b>Matariki Student Mobility Program Presentation</b> Lindsay Morcom</p>	<p>Dr. Morcom and three students travelled to the University of Western Australia in Perth on Nyungar Territory this summer. She took Council, day by day, through the week-long trip and provided recommendations for future events, suggesting that Queen's and the local community would have much to offer visitors and network members from around the world.</p>
<p><b>Tungasuvvingait Inuit (TI)</b> Jason LeBlanc</p>	<p>Mr. Leblanc spoke to Council about TI, an Ontario-based Inuit service organization, its history, mission, mandate, values and the breadth and depth of its services. <a href="http://tungasuvvingaitinuit.ca">http://tungasuvvingaitinuit.ca</a></p>

<p><b>Research Collaboration with Indigenous communities</b> M. Brant-Castellano</p>	<p>Co-Chair Brant-Castellano told Council that the Committee on Research Collaboration needs to do groundwork in the Queen’s community before initiating outreach to Indigenous communities. This will begin at an <a href="#">Indigenous Research Collaboration Seminar</a> on Friday October 27, 1-4pm, in conjunction with the <a href="#">19<sup>th</sup> annual Symposium on Indigenous Knowledge hosted by Four Directions ASC</a>.</p> <p>The workshop includes a keynote by Queen’s honorary degree recipient Alex McComber, on community-university partnerships with the Kahnawake School Diabetes Prevention Project. A panel of community, student and faculty members will talk about their experiences in Indigenous research, and the afternoon will conclude with a talking circle. Participation and feedback in the workshop will provide guidance to the planning committee for future initiatives. Dr. Brant-Castellano will write to Council, and Caucus in particular, to outline next steps ahead of the January meeting.</p>
<p><b>Adjournment</b></p>	<p>Co-Chair Brant Castellano noted the Council package contains reports from Council’s working groups and stakeholder groups.</p> <p>Council was adjourned at 8:22pm with closing words from Co-Chair Brant-Castellano.</p> <p>Next meeting: Monday, January 22, 2018 at Queen’s.</p>