



## Meeting Notes

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

Monday, April 30, 2018, 6:30-8:30pm, Richardson Hall, Room 340

### Present

Benoit-Antoine Bacon	Provost and Vice-Principal (Academic)
Marlene Brant-Castellano	Community Co-Chair and Council Elder
Carol Ann Budd	Incoming Community Co-Chair
Laurel Claus-Johnson	Katarowki Grandmother's Council
Catherine Graham	National Association of Friendship Centre
Shannon Halley	Education Student Society Representative
Kanonhsyonne (Janice Hill)	Director, Office of Indigenous Initiatives and Council Secretary
Melanie Howard	Director, Aboriginal Access to Engineering
Elaine Jeffery	Metis Nation of Ontario
Amanda Kilabuk	Tungsavvingat Inuit
Lindsay Morcom	Director, Aboriginal Teacher Education Program
Armand Ruffo	Faculty Member at Large, QNS, Indigenous Languages and Literatures
Teri Shearer	Deputy Provost (Academic Operations and Inclusion)
Ann Tierney	Co-Chair and Vice-Provost and Dean of Student Affairs
Kandice Baptiste	Director, Four Directions Aboriginal Student Centre
Dwight Bero Jr.	Akwesasne Mohawk Board of Education

### Observers

Haley Cochrane	Coordinator, Office of Indigenous Initiatives
Carlyn McQueen	Coordinator, Office of the Provost and Vice-Principal (Academic)

### Guests

Cherie Metcalf	Associate Dean (Academic), Faculty of Law
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The Aboriginal Caucus of Council met prior to the Council meeting.

## **1. Opening Prayer**

- Carol Ann Budd delivered opening words.

## **2. February 5, 2018, Meeting Notes**

- The meeting notes were approved as circulated.

## **3. Co-Chairs' Remarks**

- Ann Tierney thanked Council members for a productive year and noted that the 2018-19 meetings will be scheduled over the summer.
- Council was reminded that Carol Ann Budd will assume the role of Community co-chair in 2018-19.
- Marlene Brant-Castellano was thanked for her immeasurable contributions and guidance over her six years as Council co-chair. Her leadership has led to the development of a vibrant, effective, and engaged Aboriginal Caucus and Council.
- A contractor has been selected for the expansion of Four Directions Aboriginal Student Centre and work will begin shortly.
  
- Marlene Brant-Castellano advised that Aboriginal Caucus discussed the use of terminology related to Indigenous peoples, the work of the Ad Hoc Committee on Research Collaborations, and the terms of office for Council co-chairs.
- Members of the Ad Hoc Committee on Research Collaborations continue to explore ways to educate students and researchers on how to conduct respectful and collaborative community-based research. The committee is planning a daylong event in fall 2018, which will focus on practical strategies for building mutually respectful research partnerships with Indigenous communities. The session will build on the successful workshop held in October 2017, and will be offered as part of the 2018 Indigenous Studies Research Symposium.
- Council was advised that the membership for Ad Hoc Committee on Research Collaborations is open, and members are welcome to reach out to the Office of Indigenous Initiatives if they wish to join.

## **4. Adoption of Agenda**

- The agenda was adopted as circulated.

## **5. Faculty and Community Presentations**

### **a. Overview of Ahkwesahsne Mohawk Board of Education**

- Dwight Bero Jr., Post-Secondary Manager, Ahkwesahsne Mohawk Board of Education,

provided an overview of the Board's activities.

- The Board oversees three elementary schools (the Ahkwesahsne Mohawk School, Kana:takon School, and the Tsi Snaihne School) and provides support resources for secondary students who reside in Akwesasne and attend a high school within the Upper Canada District School Board.
- In his role as Post-Secondary Manager, Dwight oversees the Board's Post-Secondary Assistance Program. The program provides outreach services to encourage and assist approximately 400 Indigenous youth with the post-secondary application process. Dwight also provides advice and guidance to students who wish to access the program's financial assistance opportunities.

**b. Faculty of Law**

- Cherie Metcalf, Associate Dean, Faculty of Law, delivered an overview of new Indigenous initiatives within the faculty.
- Recent initiatives include a workshop on Indigenous legal perspectives hosted by community members from Akwesasne Mohawk Territory; the faculty's Indigenous Art Commission; a continuing appointment for an Indigenous recruitment and support coordinator; Indigenous admission pathways; and transition and cultural supports.
- The faculty also offers a number of guest speaker lectures, upper year courses, and panel discussions on Indigenous legal traditions, recent cases, and Indigenous rights and histories.
- Ann Deer, Indigenous Recruitment and Support Coordinator, currently has a joint appointment with the Faculty of Law and Smith School of Business. Outreach and recruitment services for undergraduate Indigenous students are in place through Four Directions Aboriginal Student Centre and Aboriginal Access to Engineering working in partnership with Undergraduate Admission and Recruitment.

**6. Update on Ontario Postsecondary Education Fund for Aboriginal Learners (PEFAL) Year-end Reports**

- Council was advised that the 2017-18 PEFAL template from the Ministry was not received in time for the year-end report to be included in the Council agenda package. A draft year-end report will be distributed to Council in May for review and feedback.
- It was noted that the PEFAL grant has remained static for the last several years, while the university's contributions have increased year-over-year to help ensure Indigenous students' needs are met.
- In response to a question, it was subsequently confirmed that the "university contributions" expenditure lines include funds that participating faculties and shared services reported to have spent on PEFAL projects. The source of these funds is not explicitly tracked or identified through the reporting process and may include operational, grant, and donor funding.
- It was noted that the university expenditures listed in the report are limited to funding

that is directly related to Indigenous student services and does not capture the total amount of funding allocated for the many other Indigenous initiatives across campus.

- Council was reminded that the Ministry recently undertook a review of the PEFAL funding envelope and an updated funding framework is expected in 2018-19.
- **Terminology Discussion**
- Kanonhsyonne (Janice Hill) noted that the Office of Indigenous Initiatives has received multiple requests for input on the use of terms such as Indigenous, Aboriginal, First Nations, etc. and if one term should be made standard across the university.
- Following the terminology discussion at the February 5, 2018, Council meeting, where members deliberated some of the complexities around using one term over another, Kanonhsyonne (Janice Hill) determined that the Office of Indigenous Initiatives should develop a Terminology Guideline that provides a clear definition and history behind various terms relating to Indigenous people. Interested parties could then refer to the guideline and select the term that resonates most with them and/or their initiative.
- Council members agreed that there is no need for one standard term to be used across campus and that individuals are welcome to consult with Council on the use of terminology for new initiatives, if appropriate.
- Amanda Kilabuk advised that she could provide input for the Inuit section of the Terminology Guideline.
- It was noted that the Metis and the Inuit can get lost in the term Indigenous, although some feel Indigenous is more inclusive.
- A draft of the Terminology Guideline will be shared with Council for review and feedback.

## **7. Approval Process for ACQU Co-Chairs**

- Marlene Brant-Castellano reminded Council that the proposed appointment process for the ACQU co-chairs was submitted for review at the last meeting.
- The proposed structure was developed to ensure ACQU has effective and consistent leadership. The ACQU's co-chairs will typically serve a 2-year term, however, where continuity of experience and/or strategic linkages best serve the interests of Council, the length of an appointment may be extended beyond the current two-term limit. The co-chair mandates will be staggered to ensure consistency in leadership.
- The nominating committee will meet over the summer to fill any vacancies on Council.

## **9. Report from the Provost**

- Dr. Fahim Quadir has accepted the appointment as Vice-Provost and Dean of the School of Graduate Studies for a five-year term effective July 1, 2018. Dr. Quadir will join Queen's from York University, where he served as Interim Dean and Associate Vice-President in the Faculty of Graduate Studies, and a professor of Development Studies

and Social Science. The School of Graduate Studies will benefit from his broad expertise in graduate education and his commitment to the graduate student experience.

**a. TRC Task Force Implementation Report**

- Benoit-Antoine Bacon noted that, although there is still much work to be done, over the last year the university has taken some important first steps in creating lasting change on campus. Council was recognized for the role it has played in collectively helping to guide and support the change that is underway across campus.
- Kanonhsyonne (Janice Hill) was thanked for her work over the past year in guiding and facilitating the implementation of the TRC Task Force's recommendations.
- Kanonhsyonne (Janice Hill) noted that progress has been made on all of the 25 recommendations and that she was pleased with what has been accomplished so far.
- Areas of significant achievements include enhancing the visibility of the presence of Indigenous communities on campus; enhancing services and pathway opportunities for Indigenous students; and supporting faculty members as they work to integrate Indigenous knowledge into curricula by hiring an Educational Developer (Indigenous Curriculum and Ways of Knowing).
- It was recently announced that five Indigenous PhD students have accepted Queen's offer of a 12-month pre-doctoral fellowship. These individuals will be part of departmental and research clusters in various fields, and will teach a one-term course as part of their fellowship. The Faculty of Arts and Science is delighted with the response to this important pilot project and looks forward to welcoming this group of Indigenous teachers and scholars to Queen's in 2018-19.
- It was noted that the successful implementation of the recommendations from the TRC Task Force is dependent on the engagement of the entire university community, and many faculty, staff, and students have made significant contributions to reconciliation efforts since the TRC Task Force report was released in March 2017.
- Council members requested hard copies of the TRC Task Force Implementation Report, which will be distributed at the next Council meeting.

**Stakeholder and Student Reports**

- The stakeholder and student reports were provided for information.

**Closing Prayer/Adjournment**

- Kanonhsyonne Janice Hill welcomed Haley Cochrane, Coordinator, Office of Indigenous Initiatives. Haley will act as Associate Secretary of Council going forward.
- Carol Ann Budd delivered closing words.