



# Aboriginal Council of Queen's University

## 2013 Annual Report

March 2014

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The Aboriginal Council of Queen's University (ACQU) provides advice to the university and is mandated to be involved in all decisions affecting Aboriginal programs and services at Queen's. It normally meets three times per year. This report summarizes and highlights the Council's activities in the 2013 calendar year.

The Council's [website](#) (new in 2013) includes information about the Council's mandate, [membership](#) and activities, including [meeting summaries](#).

### **March 4 Council meeting**

The ACQU was originally scheduled to meet in January 2013, but weather forced the meeting to be rescheduled to March.

- The Council's Aboriginal Caucus, led by Council Co-Chair Marlene Brant Castellano, met for the first time prior to the full Council meeting and will continue to do so.
- The Provost provided an update on plans to recruit a Tier 2 Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Studies. Aboriginal peoples are the most underrepresented group in the university's equity profile.
- Council's three working groups provided reports on recent activities, as did representatives from the Four Directions Aboriginal Student Centre, the School of Policy Studies and the Faculties of Education and Engineering and Applied Science.
- Council struck a membership nominating committee and discussed a draft document updating Council's terms of reference and general composition.

### **April 15 Council meeting**

- [Dr. Lindsay Morcom](#) was welcomed to Council and to Queen's as the new Coordinator of the Aboriginal Teacher Education Program (ATEP) and Assistant Professor, Faculty of Education.
- Graduate student Shauna Shiels was recognized for her contributions to Council and the university community on the occasion of her last Council meeting.

- Council was informed that it would be getting an independent web site within the [www.queensu.ca](http://www.queensu.ca) suite of sites (instead of being part of the Four Directions Aboriginal Student Centre site). Council's new url is [www.queensu.ca/aboriginalcouncil](http://www.queensu.ca/aboriginalcouncil)
- Reports from the working groups, academic units and student support units, were provided. Of note was progress towards the planned Fall 2013 launch of the Indigenous Studies minor in the Faculty of Arts and Science.
- Council reviewed drafts of the 2012-13 year-end report to the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities on the university's annual grant (\$682K for the last three years) from the Postsecondary Education Fund for Aboriginal Learners (PEFAL).
- Council discussed submissions for the next (three year) PEFAL funding cycle. The province has named its program-based fund the Student Success Fund (SSF). It has also created the Targeted Initiative Fund (TIF) for new initiatives. It was determined that proposals totaling \$1.1M in 2013-14 would be submitted to the SSF. When the funding amount for Queen's is known, the Council's Aboriginal Student Access and Support Working Group will meet to consider and advise the university on an internal allocation.
- Council reviewed initial proposals for the TIF and asked units to prioritize their ideas.

*Council then worked via email to provide input to the Provost. Concept documents for five initiatives were put forward for TIF funding after a review of the proposals, the fund criteria and the feedback received from Council.*

- Council received a report from the Nominating Committee and endorsed all of the committee's recommendations for membership. Ms. Davis was reappointed as Co-Chair for a two-year term.
- An updated Terms of Reference document for the ACQU was endorsed for submission to Senate.

- Vice-Principal (Research) Steven Liss attended Council to speak about an Aboriginal Scholars program to increase Aboriginal faculty. He suggested a broad-based approach from institutions across the country and a role for the ACQU in connecting with Councils at partner institutions to garner support to demonstrate to the federal government. He said he would return to Council as the initiative is developed.

### **July 22 special meeting of the Aboriginal Student Access and Support Working Group**

All Council members were invited to attend this working group meeting to discuss the possible internal allocation of the provincial PEFAL Student Success Fund grant to Queen's.

The university had submitted a request for \$1.1M in annual funding for 2013-2016 and received \$689K per year, a one per cent increase over the previous grant. This represented 67% of the university's 'ask,' and after discussion and updated information provided via email, it was determined that once duplicative initiatives were removed, faculties and units would receive 67% of their original requests.

### **October 28 Council meeting**

- New members Jill Scott, Michelle Williams and Carol Ann Budd were welcomed.
- Graduate student Jamaica Cass was thanked for her contributions. She is moving to the U.S. to attend medical school.
- Council endorsed the appointment of Robert Rittwage to the university's Council on Employment Equity.
- Council endorsed the appointment of Emilie Bouffard as the Aboriginal representative on the university's General Ethics Research Board. Ms. Bouffard will be supported by Marlene Brant Castellano, Lindsay Morcom and Duncan Cree upon request.
- Council was updated on the search for a Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Studies: A candidate's dossier is with the federal CRC Secretariat and the university expects to be notified of the decision in March 2014.
- A Queen's National Scholar candidate in 'Indigenous visual and material cultures of the Americas' has been identified as one of four initial submissions that are proceeding to the [second round of the selection process for 2014](#).
- Council discussed its approach for the next two years of the PEFAL SSF grant. Feedback from the ministry is that the university needs to adhere more closely to the fund priorities (access and participation, transition, retention through to graduation and partnership initiatives) as opposed to supporting academic programs (as they are supported through the university's base grant). A process will be developed for faculty

and unit SSF proposals for year two and will be circulated to Council for comment. The university will be required to make its submission in spring 2014.

- Council members confirmed that none of the university's five proposals to the new TIF proceeded to the second stage of selection.
- Working groups, academic units and student support units provided updates. Priorities for 2014 are being identified.
- The Nominating Committee reported that a representative to Council from the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK) is to be named shortly. This still leaves one community vacancy and options will be discussed by Co-Chair Castellano and Ms. Janice Hill.
- Council's first meeting for 2014 was confirmed for January 27.

[www.queensu.ca/aboriginalcouncil](http://www.queensu.ca/aboriginalcouncil)