



Aboriginal Council, Queen's University

Meeting Notes

May 26, 2020 6:30-8:30 pm via Zoom

Members in Attendance:

Name	Position/Organization
Carol Ann Budd	Community Co-Chair
Ann Tierney	Vice-Provost & Dean of Student Affairs, University Co-Chair
Patrick Deane	Principal and Vice-Chancellor
Mark Green	Provost and Vice-Principal (Academic), Office of the Provost
Kanonhsyonne (Janice Hill)	AVP, Office of Indigenous Initiatives (Secretary)
Gordon Smith	Vice-Dean, Faculty of Arts and Science
Haley Cochrane	Project and Communications Coordinator, Office of Indigenous Initiatives
Brian Frank	Associate Dean, Faculty of Engineering
John Pierce	Vice-Provost, Teaching and Learning
Allen Doxtator	Cultural Advisor, Office of Indigenous Initiatives
Sebastian De Line	Indigenous Graduate Student
Deb St. Amant	ATEP Coordinator/Elder-in-Residence, Faculty of Education
Paige Van Tassel	Indigenous Graduate Liaison, Society of Graduate and Professional Studies (SGPS)
Dawn Lavell Harvard	Ontario Native Women's Association
Jacob Calderone	American Indian Science and Engineering Society, Queen's Chapter (Q-AISES)
Amanda Kilabuk	Tungasvvingat Inuit

Guests in Attendance:

Kandice Baptiste	Director, Four Directions Indigenous Student Centre
Cherie Metcalf	Representative, Faculty of Law

Regrets:

Elaine Jeffrey	Community Member, Metis Nation of Ontario
Dave Mowat	Community Member, Chief of Scugog First Nation
James Reynolds	Associate-Dean, School of Graduate Studies
Leslie Flynn	Vice-Dean, Faculty of Health Sciences
Dwight Bero Jr.	Akwesasne Mohawk Board of Education
Laurel Claus-Johnson	Katarowki Grandmother's Council
Patti Brinklow	Tyendingaga Mohawk Council
Emma Sparks	Queen's Native Student Association
Wendy Phillips	Elder in Residence, Office of Indigenous Initiatives
Teri Shearer	Deputy Provost, Office of the Provost and VP (Academic)
Lori Garnier	Executive Director, Smith School of Business

Meeting Minutes:

Item	Notes
Opening Prayer Allen Doxtator	All shared opening words and prayer.
Introductions All	Roundtable introductions.
Adoption of the Minutes Ann Tierney	No changes to note. Minutes adopted. Ann noted that this meeting will be recorded for the purpose of taking minutes. No objections.
Co-chair Remarks Carol Ann Budd	<p>Carol Ann began by acknowledging that this is Ann's last meeting as University Co-Chair and thanks Ann on behalf of Council for her great work, leadership and guidance throughout her term as Co-Chair.</p> <p>She then welcomed Provost Mark Green as Dr. Green took on the role of Provost since Council last met in the winter.</p> <p>On behalf of Aboriginal Caucus, Carol Ann shared that Caucus discussed the Liberty Lecture update and the Chown Hall event. Caucus discussed the plan that is in place to support students should the lecture move forward – the lecture was cancelled as a result of COVID-19.</p> <p>Caucus briefly discussed the Indigenous scholarship with plans to bring forward the proposal at the fall Council meeting.</p>
Co-Chairs Remarks Ann Tierney	<p>Ann thanks Carol Ann for her kind words and noted that it's been a great honour for her to serve as Co-Chair. She graciously accepted Carol Ann's invitation to stay involved in the activities of Council.</p> <p>She shared that Indigenous admissions are up 26% since last year despite COVID-19. She spoke to the strengths of Four Directions Indigenous Student Centre and the ways in which they support Indigenous students at Queen's.</p> <p>Ann spoke to the ACQU annual report which was shared with Council via email last week. She asked that members take the time to review the report and submit any changes to the Office of Indigenous Initiatives by Monday, June 8th, 2020. She noted that once the report has been accepted, it will be sent to Senate and the Board for review at their September meetings.</p>
Adoption of the Agenda Ann Tierney	No changes proposed. Agenda adopted.
Update from the Office of the Principal Patrick Deane	<p>The Principal spoke to the challenges and difficulties that the university has faced in regard to COVID-19 since Council last met.</p> <p>The Principal spoke to his imposition in regard to the invited speaker for the Liberty Lecture series and noted that the university faces different complexities when inviting speakers to the university.</p> <p>He noted the issue of how to reconcile this issue and committed to doing his work in the spirit of Council. He hopes to remove the necessity of allowing the proposed speaker to speak including compensatory arrangements.</p>

	<p>Regarding COVID-19, the Principal spoke to how things have moved rapidly and there have been some very challenging aspects with the early phase of COVID including ensuring that students finish their year. He credited Four Directions for supporting the students to see their year through to completion through this unimagable time. He re-affirmed his commitment to supporting the community through until the end of this pandemic.</p> <p>Lastly, he reflected on the early stages of the process of identifying and defining the institutions goals and values, and re-imagining Queen's University – in terms of this Council, this would include how to re-imagine the university where Indigenous students, staff and faculty feel it's a safe place in which they have directing stake. He has received several questions on whether COVID has impacted this process and clarified that COVID has taught us more about the importance of community and the role that Queen's needs to play in looking after the interest of the community including global obligations of the university. He noted that planning for the future of the university will need to take into consideration what COVID has taught us about the social mission and obligations of Queen's.</p>
<p>Update from the Provost Office Mark Green</p>	<p>The Provost shared that it's been great to see the collaboration and resilience of the community in these trying times. He reflected on the Haudenosaunee responsibilities of giving thanks and gratitude, and the importance of doing so during this time in order to stay grounded to what is most important. He reminded us to be compassionate as we remain disconnected physically and to be understanding of the difficulty experiences that everyone is experiencing right now.</p> <p>He thanked Four Directions, the Office of Indigenous Initiatives and all departments for supporting all Indigenous students, staff and faculty. He reminded us to stay connected to and be cognizant of our longer-term objectives and not to lose sight of that despite what is going on with the pandemic.</p> <p>The Provost spoke to the importance of continuing to create a welcoming and inclusive environment for Indigenous students and the creative ways to explore learning as remote instruction continues particularly at the undergraduate level.</p>
<p>Report from the Office of Indigenous Initiatives Janice Hill</p>	<p>Jan shared the OII staff have been working remotely since March 14th with team meetings continue weekly. She shared that the progress of the work is well underway for the OII website with a goal to go live in the coming months.</p> <p>She spoke to the strategic planning process and shared that proposals are being sought for consultants who may lead this work. She also shared that an offer has been made for the Associate Director role and that a new Research Assistant has started with the office. The Research Assistant will be assisting with the symposium planning and planning for the Indigenous research day in the fall.</p> <p>Jan shared that the proposal for the Indigenous Students medial/major was approved to be offered in fall 2020. She noted that the delivery of the Land Acknowledgment workshop continues via remote delivery and that the training facilitators are developing a history of the land workshop in collaboration with HR to eventually offer an Indigenous Awareness Certificate.</p>

	<p>She shared that new programming from the OII includes the Elder Meet & Greet sessions, a bi-weekly offering facilitated by Al and Wendy, moderated by Haley – each session has had over 100 participants in attendance to date.</p> <p>Lastly, she shared that SILS has been postponed to summer 2021 and that a new sub-committee has been struck to review curriculum to ensure that Indigenous Ways of Knowing and Indigenous history are incorporated into curricula university wide.</p>
<p>Update on the Work at the Agnes - Ancestors Sebastian De Line</p>	<p>Sebastian shared that an Advisory Circle was created to advise the museum on access, care and repatriation for the Indigenous collection. The Circle will advise on how to better Indigenize the museum and decolonize institutional places.</p> <p>He shared that some of the work that is starting now is the repatriation of some of the Mohawk pieces in the collection. Some of the collection came into the museum from the university in the late 19th century from the geology department and other alumni/affiliates of the university. Ancestors at the time were treated with pesticides and arsenic – the Elders will work together with the art conservation lab to test the pieces to ensure that they are safe so that they can be returned to the community.</p> <p>It is estimated that there are 7,000 ancestors in the collection. Examples of ancestors from the collection include Haudenosaunee, Anishinaabe, Inuit and global pieces such as rattles and bark cloth.</p>
<p>2019/2020 ISSF Information and Approval Co-Chairs</p>	<p>Ann shared that the 2019/2020 ISSF was provided to Council by email via the calendar hold for today’s meeting. She asked members to approve the report as in advance of the deadline to the Ministry (May 31st).</p> <p>She explained that the new reporting template consists of minimal modifications – modifications include requesting that the institution provide Indigenous student headcount data for each term (the old template asked for Fall term headcount only) and additionally institutions are being asked to provide information on the impact that COVID-19 has on Indigenous students specifically on the strategies and initiatives that are used in assisting students.</p> <p>The financial updated noted that as of February 29th, \$674,977.00 had been spent via the Indigenous Student Success fund. Additionally, Queen’s had contributed \$610,871 to cover additional expenditures for programming related costs.</p> <p>Ann highlighted that as in each of the past years that funding has been received through the ISSF, the ministry funds only cover about 50% of the costs associated with programming expenditures. This results in the university’s annual contribution being nearly the same as the ministry funding received.</p>
<p>Update on Walking Tour Paige Van Tassel</p>	<p>Paige shared information on the Indigenous walking tour, a project inspired by the First Story App which is used in the Toronto area.</p> <p>SGPS will be offering an Indigenous walking tour as part of the SGPS orientation week to acknowledge the lands that Queen’s is situated on to engage with local history. The hope is to have a virtual audio tour guided by Dr. Laura Murray. The broader goal for the tour is to eventually work with the City of Kingston with their existing app to include the Indigenous walking tour fully translated in the relevant Indigenous languages.</p>

<p>Presentation by the Faculty of Engineering and Applied Sciences Brian Frank</p>	<p>Dr. Frank shared an update on the work Faculty. Some of the highlights included the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nationally recognized Indigenous engineering initiative within the Aboriginal Access to Engineering. The outreach activities for STEM have switched to in-home activities such as engineering design challenges with an Indigenous perspective. • Summer planning is underway for the design and robotics club. • Tutoring continues to be provided to Indigenous Engineering students. • 13 Indigenous graduates, largest class of Indigenous graduates to graduate at Queen's. • Curriculum work for the design and professional practice spine, a requirement for every engineering student. Modules have been developed to focus on the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, TRC Calls to Action and infrastructure considerations from an Indigenous perspective. Work continues to expand this offering in a virtual format.
<p>Nomination Committee Membership Renewals Carol Ann Budd</p>	<p>Carol Ann explained that the University Co-Chair is appointed by the Principal and Provost and that the Community Co-Chair is appointed by the Aboriginal Caucus. The appointment is a 2-year term however the term may be extended beyond the 2-year limit.</p> <p>She added that when a Co-Chair finishes their term, they are invited to serve as Past Co-Chair for one additional year. In this position, the individual will then take on an advisory and mentoring role and will continue to participate in Council meetings.</p> <p>Carol Ann noted that for the upcoming academic year, Council will be looking to the Principal and Provost to appoint a new University Co-Chair over the summer. The University Co-Chair will then begin their term at the Fall Council meeting.</p> <p>Additionally, she stated that Council will be requesting proposals from Aboriginal Caucus to appoint an Incoming Co-Chair for the Community Co-Chair position. The Incoming Co-Chair would then become Community Co-Chair effective Fall 2021. The intent behind choosing an Incoming Co-Chair is so that they can observe and participate in the responsibilities that they will assume once they become Co-Chair once their term begins.</p> <p>She asked that proposals for Community Co-Chair be submitted by email to the Office of Indigenous Initiatives with a deadline to submit by August 1st. Proposals will then be reviewed, and an Incoming Community Co-Chair will be chosen by Caucus during the next Caucus meeting in the Fall.</p> <p>Additionally, she highlighted that there are a few vacancies to fill on Council and that the Co-Chairs will be looking for direction from the members on filling these vacancies.</p> <p>An idea to establish a nominating committee as a sub-committee of Council to fill any vacancies in the membership was proposed.</p>
<p>Stakeholder Reports Co-Chairs</p>	<p>No changes to note.</p>

	Deb shared that the ATEP community-based program in the James Bay territory had to defer for the year as a result of COVID-19.
Closing Prayer Allen Doxtator	Al shared closing words.