



## ABORIGINAL ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

24 September 2013

3:35 p.m. in conference room 2-084

**PRESENT:** Jerome Melancon (Chair) Allen Berger (until 4 p.m.) Glynnis Hood  
Petra Cegiely Delwilia Morin Ari Evans  
Mary-Anne Falk(Recorder)

**REGRETS:** Mike Clermont Brittany Lehman Trina Harrison

1. **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 3:38 p.m.

2. **Agenda**

The agenda was accepted as presented.

**MOTION:** HOOD/MORIN

**Carried**

3. **Approval of Previous meeting minutes**

The minutes of the 27 August 2013 meeting were approved with the following changes:

h. Change sentence to read "has been asked for help" (rather than charged).

**MOTION:** HOOD/BERGER

**Carried**

4. **Remarks from Committee Members**

Jerome

- Congratulations to Petra for winning the Excellence in Learning Support Award for her work with students. The official announcement is forthcoming.

5. **Business**

a. **New Student Members**

Welcome to Ari Evans & Delwilia Morin

b. **Posting AEC Minutes**

Jerome posts on the internet and twitter, Petra posts outside of her office. Previously Brittany posted the minutes at the ASA office.

*ACTION: Jerome, Petra and Delwilia will continue past practices and post minutes as noted above.*

c. **Funding from the Acting Provost**

Allen met with the Provost last week. Discussion focused on the 2014/15 budget. Although the Aboriginal Gathering Space did not come up on the conversation, faculty staffing (including a continued commitment to the Aboriginal Opportunity Hire), was discussed.

*ACTION: Allen will follow up with Mark Chytrcek to clarify the funding for Petra's position.*

d. **Update on the Space for Aboriginal Students to Gather**

Allen meets with Facilities and Operations for further discussion in two days.

*ACTION: Bring forward at the next meeting.*

e. **Library Project Update**

Jerome and Petra met with Nancy Goebel to exchange ideas regarding an upcoming library project in which University Libraries are accepting proposals that will help the library to become better at assessing results in exchange for support.

Petra connected with Freda Cardinal (Aboriginal Academic Advisor), Shana Dion (Aboriginal Student Services Centre Director), and Suzanne Butler (Aboriginal Student Services Centre Coordinator) on October 3 at North Campus. Nancy Goebel will now meet with them with Petra joining by teleconference. Regardless of what Libraries decides to use from the ideas we're hopeful that some projects can be implemented locally.

*ACTION: Jerome, Petra and Brittany have committed to being available as resources for this project as it moves forward.*

f. **Territorial Acknowledgement Statement**

Jerome presented an idea to invite Elders to an public event where they could speak about this area and we would have the opportunity to ask the types of questions that will help us shape a Territorial Acknowledgement Statement for Augustana. It would be both beneficial for us to build a reflective and engaging statement that is informed as well as informative to the community. We could coordinate with the Spirit of the Land course. Janice Fehr could be approached to be available if people need support/counselling at the event. Alternately could the same outcome be achieved by individual visits and student focus groups?

Delwiliah can suggest elders that would be very approachable for this type of event. The committee agreed it would make sense to have an opening statement at the event to explain the purpose and have examples of other territorial acknowledgement statements. Shana Dion would be invited as well as some of the people that worked on the Territorial Acknowledgement Statement for North Campus.

Before people are invited budget needs to be determined to ensure elders attending the event would be thanked appropriately (according to protocols) including mileage costs, etc.

It was agreed that as a public event it would not be advertised off campus but off-campus participation if by word of mouth would be welcomed.

*ACTION: Jerome will verify if an ethics application is required. Target date for the event is early November.*

g. **Spirit of the Land**

The committee received a request to coordinate the raising of a tee-pee on the Quad for the week corresponding with the conference. Costs for this and the pipe ceremony are not recovered in the registration fee. The organizers provided an estimate but will proceed with or without monetary support. We would like to offer support but do not have a budget (e.g. the tee pee raising, pipe ceremony).

*ACTION: Jerome will contact the group to indicate that the AEC appreciates their activities and would like to support the initiatives, however we do not have a budget to support them financially. If they need help with specific tasks we can help to connect them with the right people (the committee noted we need to ensure it is clear that we do not currently have the capacity to coordinate a tee pee raising).*

h. **Other Projects**

Ari is taking people up to a sweat next weekend and would eventually like to make it a regular event.

6. **Next Meeting Date**

22 October 2013, 3:35 p.m. in Conference Room 2-084

7. The meeting adjourned at 4:39 p.m.

**MOTION: MORIN/EVANS**

**Carried**