

## Aboriginal Engagement Committee Meeting

26 March 2014

1:00 p.m. in Conference Room 2-084

**PRESENT:** Jérôme Melancon (Chair)      Allen Berger      Glynnis Hood  
                 Petra Cegielly                      Trina Harrison

**REGRETS:** Mike Clermont, Eagle Willier, Michelle Pratt

1. **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 1:04 p.m.

2. **Agenda**

The agenda was accepted as presented.

**MOTION: HOOD/CEGIELNY**

**CARRIED**

3. **Approval of Previous meeting minutes**

The minutes of 4 March 2014 were approved as circulated.

**MOTION: BERGER/HARRISON**

**CARRIED**

4. **Remarks from Committee Members**

Library Project Update – Petra: The Library project proposal for more personalized services for Aboriginal students has been submitted by Nancy Goebel, after having been approved by the Provost. Jérôme and Petra had a chance to consult and take part in the writing. We now wait for the decision. The goal is to implement September 2014.

- b. Petra: Met with Dee and Glynnis about creating a relationship between the Beaver Hills Initiative and Augustana, specifically on developing a project on the history of the Cooking Lake Moraine to continue the work begun by Samantha Matters (Glynnis' student), perhaps by hiring a new student. It seems that there is interest on the part of the Initiative in maintaining Augustana as a partner, especially as we are only located 20 minutes away from the Moraine and since our goals regarding education match each other's. A proposal for funding has been submitted.

5. **Business**

- a. **Truth & Reconciliation Commission Event – March 28<sup>th</sup>** – 39 people had registered for lunch. The schedule for the day was shared. Trina, Petra, Corinne Williams and Leslie Lindballe will be trained on the day before the event by TLS to ensure that the live streaming goes well. The event will cost about \$1200-\$1500; donations have been pledged by the Augustana Sociology Club (\$200) and two United Church committees (\$350 total). Allen will sign and send thank you cards. Jérôme talked to Lucas from Prospective Students about the event, so that everyone at Preview Day knows what is happening. This is a great opportunity for prospective students and their families to see what it means to be a community at Augustana.
- b. **Space for Aboriginal Students to Gather & Meeting with Architect Ben Louie** – The meeting will take place on April 14, 12:00-1:30pm. Ben Louie is creative and energetic, and was here to see the PAC already. He had brought the drawings already created by the space planners for the space downstairs, and showed interest beyond its functional aspects, for design and aesthetics. He envisions the space and the basement as a whole as a unit. That being said, he understands the budgetary limitations. He is also used to working in consultative contexts. He is here to give us a better sense of the project. Our goals with the meeting are to hear his ideas and to offer preliminary responses. Petra will invite Aboriginal students to be present so they may do the same. Jérôme will invite Shana and Tracy from the North Campus.
- The discussion also included further concerns. First, we must be sure that everyone on campus

is happy with the change in the space and knows about the need for such spaces and services for Aboriginal students. There is a need for education and discussion on this basis, and in general. We also will need to bring Elders to the space, and communicate with them constantly.

- c. **Meetings Over Spring/Summer** - Jérôme will ask Michelle to send out two polls to members. The first will be to schedule a meeting on the week of the 23<sup>rd</sup> of April, since that time falls during a final exam; a time will be found, and students will then be invited to attend as well. The second will be to schedule meeting times over the summer, so that we may continue our work, especially as both Trina and Petra will be around. We will continue to solicit student involvement from those who are present.

**ACTION: Michelle will send out a poll for meetings following April 14<sup>th</sup>. Michelle will collect committee members' vacation schedules and look to book summer meetings.**

- d. **Plans for the Summer and Coming Year** - Our current plans continue to include the Territorial Acknowledgement Statement and the space for Aboriginal students to gather. Consultations should take place over the summer, on both issues at the same time if possible.

In addition, Glynnis would like us to discuss the establishment of a bridging program or Transition Year Program (TYP). Petra pointed out that most Aboriginal students at the North Campus (approximately 90%) are not coming directly from high school. Their TYP works well because they have corporate donations. There is consensus that we ought to include Tim Hanson into this discussion, as well as Suzanne from TYP and the enrollment management group headed by Anne-Marie Link. This is a good topic for the summer, after the consultations are over.

**Territorial Acknowledgement Statement** - Allen will use a version of the statement Jérôme had drafted for his opening words at the Teach-In on Friday.

- A. Jérôme will speak with Shana to see how she led her consultations for the Council on Aboriginal Initiatives' statement (Petra says she had emailed her statement to many people). We will invite many people – students, alumni, Elders – to come to campus to discuss it. We can ask students which Elders they think would be good for us to consult with.
- e. B. But first, we need to agree on a statement that makes us all happy. Jérôme will invite everyone to forward to him any information they have about the territory and its traditional inhabitants, as well as specific comments on the draft he has presented. He will then rewrite it, as a basis for further discussion.

6. **Next Meeting Date – to be determined**

7. The meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

**MOTION:HOOD/CEGIELNY**

**CARRIED**