



ABORIGINAL ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

27 August 2013

2:00 p.m. in conference room 2-084

PRESENT: Jerome Melancon (Chair) Allen Berger Glynnis Hood
Brittany Lehman Petra Cegiely Mike Clermont
Mary-Anne Falk (Recorder)

REGRETS: Trina Harrison

1. **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 2:06 p.m.

2. **Agenda**

The agenda was accepted with the following additions:

5.a. Clarification of Funding

5.g. Spirit of the Land

MOTION: HOOD/CEGIELNY

Carried

3. **Approval of Previous meeting minutes**

The minutes of the 19 March 2013 meeting were approved as presented.

MOTION: BERGER/LEHMAN

Carried

4. **Remarks from Committee Members**

Jerome:

- Successful year last year with progress made on making a place for students to gather. There is still much work to be done this year. In spite of the budget this year, this is an area of importance where money seems to be still available and relevant. We can also look at things we can do to support the mission of this committee that do not have cost implications.
- Would like to see a focus and division of what needs to be discussed as a group, and what can be assigned by project to individuals/task forces (for report to the committee).
- First Nations of Alberta flyer with contact information is available from Petra if interested.
- Jerome recently purchased a book entitled: "Moving Forward Giving Back; Transformative Aboriginal Adult Education". Please let him know if you'd like to borrow it.
- Opportunity to make progress on the gathering space in the coming year.

Allen:

- The Office of the Provost continues to extend the offer to financially support the hire of an Aboriginal Scholar.
- The Truth & Reconciliation event was powerful. Glynnis, Jerome and Petra attended portions and provided an Augustana presence. Jerome will open a class he's having on residential schools to the broader community. Brittany is working to gather information for a novel she's working on, digging into her family history and connections in this area.

5. **Business**

a. **Clarification of Funding**

The Aboriginal Student Advisor position has been increased to full time.

ACTION: Allen will work with Mark to clarify budget and funding for the year.

b. **Membership**

Jerome's representation on this committee will be up for re-election this fall at Faculty Council. He is willing to let his name stand for another term, and to continue to act as Chair if re-elected.

Brittany is willing to continue on the committee as an additional member. One new student representative has been selected; with the Dean's support we would like to recruit another

student representative.

ACTION: Allen supports the recruitment of an additional student representative. Allen will send a note to the staff list asking for nominations. Committee members will send nominations to Allen for invitation to join the committee by Friday, 13 September.

c. **Meeting schedule for the upcoming year**

Monthly 1 hour meetings; if additional meetings are needed we will schedule as needed.

ACTION: Mary-Anne will send out a call for availability and schedule the meetings for the term.

d. **Gathering Space**

We might want to avoid a functional name (i.e. gathering space) and use a name that is more relevant (resonates, gives character, culturally appropriate, etc.). Traditional place names could tie into the territorial acknowledgement agreement as well. Students, elders, and members of the community could all have a central role in suggesting naming ideas prior to the opening of the space. Another idea was to name it after an alumnus of significance. *ACTION: Hold off on asking people about names until it is more than a concept.*

To set up consultations with Elders and community members it makes sense to work on both the Territorial Acknowledgement Agreement and naming ideas. *ACTION: Bring forward once we have a full student complement so they can take a lead in consulting with other students, bringing it to elders within their own communities, etc.*

Space planners came to campus last spring for meetings with the community. The first version was distributed to the committee. We sent back feedback regarding some of the ideas presented, size, and separation, and recently received a revised document. The three highest priorities identified were social programming space, elder gathering space, and smudging space.

Consider adapting the Chapel Prayer Room into a non-denominational space that could be used by many different groups including as a temporary smudging space. It is important to note that we still need a long term plan to include a smudging room in the gathering space within the Forum. The former Printshop space does have its own ventilation so that space could be explored as a possibility for the future.

ACTION: Committee agreed to target changing the 40 m² and Aboriginal Student Advisor office space this year, as well as changing the Chapel prayer room to be non-denominational and accommodate smudging.

ACTION: Allen and Petra will respond about the draft plans.

e. **Territorial Acknowledgement Statement**

Petra previously distributed a document with some samples from different universities across Canada. The next step is to come up with our own in consultation with the peoples whose land we are acknowledging so ensure we are honouring them and shaping what they have to say in appropriate ways. This would be an appropriate project for a couple of committee members to pursue.

ACTION: Petra will contact people with clear intent and then send their name on to Jerome (in collaboration with another member) to draft. Bring forward at the next meeting.

f. **Conferences**

Petra attended the Native Studies Indigenous Research Conference with Roxanne Harde. It was interesting and eye-opening in what people are working on. She came home with a list of text books that the library may be interested to add to our collection and also contacts with up and coming indigenous scholars.

Petra also attended the Lloyd Barber Summit in May with Mark Chytrcek. It was very good and provided many tips on what services influence selection of a school, and success for students in post-secondary schools. Great speakers and practical ideas were presented (de-colonization, history, economics, etc.). Moving forward, who should attend future conferences on our behalf to get the most benefit from them? How do we share what was learned? Even with the travel budget restrictions it is important to bring forward conference proposals as they arise. Goal to

share what Petra gained from the conferences she attended with the broader campus community.

ACTION: Petra will work with Roxanne to make notes available to students in her Aboriginal and Indigenous Women's Studies course. Petra can put out a message to staff inviting them to have her notes if they are interested in reviewing them.

ACTION: Petra will work with Roxanne Harde on potential candidate contacts.

g. **Projects for the Year**

Nancy Goebel has approached Jerome for a meeting to look at developing library services that would help Aboriginal students succeed. Thursday, 5 September after 10 a.m. or Friday, 6 September between 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

ACTION: Interested members should send their availability to Jerome; he will send meeting time to all committee members and anyone available should attend.

h. **Spirit of the Land**

Conference November 1-2, 2013. Elder John Crier will host the Pipe Ceremony on the Friday. He is interested in coming earlier in the week and setting up teepees on the quad. The Aboriginal Students' Office is co-sponsor and has been charged with making the arrangements to set up the teepees.

ACTION: Bring forward at the next meeting.

6. **Next Meeting Date**

TBC by Mary-Anne

7. The meeting adjourned at 4:06 p.m.