

## Aboriginal Engagement Committee Meeting

14 August 2014

10:00 a.m. in Conference Room 2-084

**PRESENT:** Jérôme Melancon (Chair)      Allen Berger (11:18am)      Glynnis Hood  
                 Petra Cegiely                      Michelle Pratt (Recorder)

**REGRETS:** Mike Clermont, Brittany Johnson, Trina Harrison

1. **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 10:18 a.m.

2. **Agenda**

The agenda was accepted with the following additions/amendments:

5a. Terms of Reference with respect to a Quorum

5b. Communication about the Territorial Acknowledgement Statement

5f. Tipi on Campus

**MOTION: HOOD/Cegiely**

**CARRIED**

3. **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

The minutes of were approved as amended.

**MOTION: CEGIELNY/HOOD**

**CARRIED**

4. **Remarks from Committee Members** - Petra talked about the Aboriginal Student Space Steering Committee meeting that was held Tuesday afternoon. She reported that the meeting went well. She felt that the architect and consultant really listened to the input the members have provided in past meetings and that this was reflected in the new designs that were presented.

Jerome reported that the Territorial Acknowledgement statement has been approved by Committee members through the email vote. It should be noted that it has been adopted with the understanding that it is a living document. He also mentioned that he and David Goa were discussing guest speakers on the topic of Reconciliation and have invited Ronald Niezen and Wab Kinew to come in October. Glynnis suggested Mary Wilson who was one of the commissioners of the Truth & Reconciliation events, and Cindy Blackstock was mentioned by Petra. Jerome mentioned Dr. Littlechild.

Jerome also mentioned that he would send out an email to ask faculty about any plans they may have with respect to teaching Aboriginal themes. One teaching seminar that has been planned is the showing of a movie about indigenous themes in the classroom and how students relate to the topic and their perceptions.

Petra mentioned that Gordon Naylor has been hired as the new Math and Physics teacher at the Ermineskin School.

5. **Business**

a. **Terms of Reference with Respect to a Quorum for AEC Meetings**

Consensus was that a quorum would be 50% plus one of the membership and that wherever possible there is an Aboriginal Committee member present as part of the quorum. Decisions made can be subject to comment by Committee members who were absent for the vote. The Committee requests the Terms of Reference be amended to include the clarification of a quorum.

*ACTION: Dean's Office to review Terms of Reference and amend as appropriate.*

- b. **Communication about the Territorial Acknowledgement Statement** – The next steps for the statement will be to have it presented to Executive Council for approval. Jerome will email the document to be placed before Executive Council on Monday, August 18<sup>th</sup> if possible. Once approved, the statement is to be shared with Faculty Council. It will also be shared with the Aboriginal Student Services Office and the Council for Aboriginal Initiatives on North Campus. It was agreed that the statement should be shared campus-wide and it was suggested that Allen communicate to the appropriate offices on North Campus (copying Petra). It was also suggested that Allen send an email to Augustana staff as well. Further the statement should be added to the Augustana website under the Aboriginal Engagement Committee page once approved the statement. Jerome will place it on the website. Allen to let AEC know once Executive Council has approved.
- ACTION: Jerome to place the statement on the web page after approval. Allen to communicate the statement to the various audiences.*
- c. **Smudging in Small Prayer Room** – Petra reported that it looks like the renovations have begun. She has spoken with Craig and Robin who are okay with using the space for smudging. Robyn has asked her to speak to the student chaplains about smudging however as she has not as yet been able to speak with John Crier, she was hesitant to do so. The Committee discussed how to proceed once renovations are complete. The consensus was to wait until a recognized Elder could advise as to whether the space needed to be blessed prior to students using it for this purpose even if that meant the space was not available to students at the beginning of the year.
- ACTION: Petra to continue her efforts to speak with John Crier.*
- d. **FAQ's for Space** – Petra reported that she, Allen, Jennifer and Hans met and brainstormed about the questions and answers. Allen was to review the notes and pull together a draft for the sub-committee's review and forward to Christopher to edit for word choice and readability. The intent was to have placed the FAQ's in front of Executive Council for the meeting on Monday, August 18<sup>th</sup>. However given the timing, once the FAQ's are drafted, they are to be emailed to AEC members for their comments first with a deadline for response. Then sent onto Executive Council in September. This item is to be brought forward again at the next meeting.
- ACTION: Allen to complete the draft FAQ's and forward to committee members.*
- e. **Communications** – Petra and Jerome have been approached by the Jennifer Ha, a writer for the student paper, The Daglightale, to provide information on the space for an article she'd like to write. It was suggested that Jerome and Petra ask her to wait to do an article for a future issue, suggesting she'll get a better article as there will be more to talk about.
- The discussion on the topic of determining target audiences and what they need to know was tabled for the next meeting.
- ACTION: Jerome and Petra to speak with Jennifer about delaying the article.*
- f. **Tipi on Campus** – Glynnis questioned if there was consensus that a tipi would be beneficial to the campus. She suggested that a CSL project where students could go and peel the logs, etc. might be a possibility. Members discussed whether an all-weather tipi could be erected and used for ceremonies, etc. A tipi could be an opportunity to engage with community through a raising and lowering ceremony which could become annual events.
- Erecting a tipi on campus would need to go to the Building Committee at Augustana. Perhaps the Faculty of Native Studies could help with what needs to be done if we want to move in this direction. F&O on North Campus could also be asked about how they worked with Native Studies and what concerns they had about the tipi they put up. Cecil Crier, John Crier's brother was involved.

Glynnis volunteered to start researching the background information to determine if it's feasible. She is willing to find a donor to purchase one if the project receives approval. Glynnis will advise when she is prepared to bring the information back to the Committee.

*ACTION: Glynnis to research the feasibility of having a tipi on campus.*

Allen added to the conversation on the Aboriginal Space, mentioning that the rough construction budget is \$500,000 plus \$66,000 in consulting fees for design. Added to that will be the soft costs such as furniture, etc., which should still see the project budget come in below the \$1M dollar commitment from the Provost's Office. There is reason to be cautiously optimistic that there will be funds remaining for programming. The next steps include the Steering Committee meeting again in two weeks, with a meeting between the architect and AEC two weeks after that. The larger consultation group will be invited to meet before the end of September. With final designs and working papers being completed so that the project can go to tender in February or March of 2015.

ACTION: Michelle to ask Ben how much time he needs on the next agenda for AEC.

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

7. The meeting adjourned at 11:37 a.m.

**MOTION: CEGIELNY/HOOD**

**CARRIED**