

Aboriginal Engagement Committee Meeting

Thursday, 26 February 2015

1:00 p.m. in the Dr. Roger Epp Conference Room, 2-004

PRESENT: Jérôme Melançon (Chair) Allen Berger Glynnis Hood
 Petra Cegiely Trina Harrison Katherine Swampy
 Mike Clermont Mary-Anne Falk (Recorder)

REGRETS: Brittany Johnson Alyssa Belanger
 Erika Bull-Giroux

1. **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m.

2. **Agenda**

The agenda was accepted with the following changes:

Item 5.g. Tipi Proposal (Glynnis)

MOTION: HOOD/CEGIELNY

Carried

3. **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

The minutes of 27 January 2015 were approved as presented.

MOTION: HOOD/SWAMPY

Carried

4. **Remarks from Committee Members**

5. **Business**

a. **Name of new space – update in terms of spelling and where we are in the naming process**

The committee discussed what the proper spelling might be. On the basis of discussions, emails, and advice seeking in many different directions, it has been decided that the spelling will be Wahkohtowin Lodge with no accents.

b. **Status of Smudging Policy and Multi-Faith Prayer Room Update**

Petra delivered an honorarium and a gift to Leonard Saddleback during Reading Week. Fire extinguishers, guidelines and banners are all installed. The Aboriginal Student Office website still needs updating that this space is now available. Petra suggested that the policy is missing reference to temporary closure of the room during special use of the neighbouring spaces. Jerome noted that respectful use of the space is included in the policy and does not need to be detailed in the policy. The door signs, etc. would be used as procedure for the implementation of the policy without being specified in the policy (which is meant to be universal). Petra would like this practice shared with other users of the space. It could also be added to the posted guidelines to make users aware. Chaplaincy could disseminate something to users as the keeper of the Chapel/Prayer Room space together with the policy once approved.

The policy is already followed on campus and in review at the Provost's Office. It is also being considered for implementation at all UAlberta campuses.

ACTION: Petra will work with Augustana Chaplaincy to determine the best way to proceed with communications once the policy is approved.

c. **New Space Grand Opening** – the Wahkohtowin Lodge grand opening target audience is largely students, as well as alumni, donors, and community. The audience for this event is different than the Founders' Hall event will be (likely on Alumni weekend). Consideration could be for a grand opening during the Week of Welcome, with a "plan B" in place if it isn't finished in time. It will be important for the new President to be here, we could invite Ministers of Government (Education, Aboriginal Affairs), etc. The grand opening should encompass the naming ceremony, smudge room, tipi, etc. When the subcommittee meets they should consider: (1) date that would be culturally appropriate, (2) flexibility for when the space will be finished, (3) weekday when

students and staff are available to attend, (4) early fall in consideration of student workloads, (5) comfort/appropriateness of some dignitaries.

MOTION: HARRISON/SWAMPY

Carried

That a Dean's appointed event committee be formed, comprised of members from External Relations and this committee.

- d. **Smudging event during wellness week** – at the last meeting we agreed that there would not be an event to celebrate this room until the Wahkohtowin Lodge opening but students have planned an event in the end of March. An ASA rep requested help from Petra to invite an Elder for an event in the Multi-fait prayer room on March 27. Petra is working on logistics.
 - e. **Communication about new space** – Nothing to report.
ACTION: follow up at the next meeting.
 - f. **Next Steering Committee Meeting** –
ACTION: bring forward at the next meeting.
 - g. **Tipi Proposal** – Glynnis distributed an attachment that she would like input on before forwarding to the Building Committee.
ACTION: Glynnis will bring forward to the Building Committee at their meeting on March 3. Mary-Anne will forward the revised document to the committee.
- MOTION: HOOD/HARRISON**
- To accept the proposal as discussed to take forward to the building committee
- 6. **Next Meeting Date** – to be confirmed. Target will be the last week of March.
 - 7. The meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.