

Aboriginal Engagement Committee Meeting

Tuesday, 27 January 2015

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

PRESENT: Jérôme Melançon (Chair) Allen Berger Glynnis Hood
 Petra Cegielly Trina Harrison Alyssa Belanger
 Erika Bull-Giroux Katherine Swampy Mike Clermont
 Mary-Anne Falk (Recorder)

REGRETS: Brittany Johnson

1. **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 1:03 p.m.

2. **Agenda**

The agenda was accepted as presented.

MOTION: HOOD/BELANGER

Carried

3. **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

The minutes of 9 December 2014 were approved as presented.

MOTION: CEGIELNY/BERGER

Carried

4. **Remarks from Committee Members**

Petra: Thank you to Alyssa, Katherine, and Erika for the work on International Week.

5. **Business**

- a. **Name of the space for Aboriginal students** – Petra and Jerome hosted a lunch for Aboriginal students and found it to be successful with 12 students in attendance at any one point, and over 20 overall. Brought forward the Elders' recommendation of "Lodge" and as a result of the discussion most students shared that they liked the idea of "Wahkotowin Lodge". They also expressed a need of events and a display to explain the meaning. They felt that although people may not understand the meaning of the word "Lodge" right away it is an opportunity to educate them, and noted that shortening it to Lodge will not take away from the meaning. There are different spellings of Wahkotowin across different communities so it was suggested to put in brackets that it is Plains Cree (because there are so many different dialects).

ACTION: Erika will contact Ida Bull (Curriculum specialist in Samson), Petra will contact Bruce Cutknife, and Jerome will contact Dorothy Thunder (Faculty of Native Studies) for their input on the spelling of the name. Allen will work with Facilities and Operations to proceed with naming process once the spelling has been agreed upon.

MOTION: CLERMONT/HOOD

Carried

To name the space the Wahkotowin Lodge.

b. **Steering Committee**

- i) Meeting report – in addition to the groups invited some additional people attended. We reviewed the plans and got to the point of proceeding to tender and hiring a contractor. Discussed more ideas about the cultural components. The architect will be giving F&O an update of where we started one year ago, and where we are now. The budget discussions will happen then the FFE (Furniture Fixtures & Equipment) discussions will likely be in June and take 1-2 meetings. Ben suggested a brief update in April once we've hired the contractor and can summarize a timeline. Allen will suggest an earlier meeting for FFE may be required to allow at least a 12 week turnaround for art and furniture. *ACTION: Allen will contact Alan Heyhurst regarding timing for the next consultation.*
- ii) Delivering Honorariums – Petra would like to deliver honorariums and explanations to members that were not in attendance at the last Steering Committee meeting rather than

wait until the next meeting. Because three elders did show up unexpectedly we did not have enough honorarium funds available to pay them. Seeking advice on how to deal with no honorariums or unexpected guests at meetings. People who were at previous meetings but may perceive they were not invited could also be updated when Petra visits Maskwacis. Everyone who has ever attended any of these meetings could be updated via newsletter (focus being thank you) to bring everyone up to speed on the process and share the same messaging. A written document sent by letter mail was agreed upon. The final plans that everyone has officially agreed on could be included as part of the news/update letter. This would be appropriate to come from Alan Heyhurst as Chair of the Steering Committee and the person leading these consultations, with assistance from Petra and Jerome for the text. Specifically for Mary and Bernice a handwritten note at the end apologizing for the lack of invitation (sorry about the mix up with the invitations for the last meeting, we were able to incorporate your ideas and we're grateful for your participation thus far). Petra, Trina & Glynnis expressed interest in visiting Maskwacis to deliver honorariums and the newsletter together. Could get design help from Christopher Thrall. Jerome is comfortable to draft an update for the newsletter and consider using it as a template to roll out to the rest of the campus once the name has been settled. In the future we will keep extra cash on hand to handle unexpected honorarium situations.

Working to balance respectful consultation and serious budget and timeline constraints.

ACTION: Allen will contact Alan regarding the newsletter. Jerome will draft text if needed.

- iii) Updating participants to past consultations – see above.
 - iv) Alberta Foundation for the Arts Grant – Bring back to the next meeting after Petra explores the possibility.
- c. **Enrollment Priorities** – Jerome and Tim Hanson met and discussed enrollment concerns. There is already a practice of ensuring we admit Aboriginal students and if it comes to a conflict between a few spaces left open self-identified Aboriginal students would take priority. There is no need for policy beyond the practice at this time. Allen met with the Enrollment Management Committee and gave them instructions to protect and enhance the Aboriginal student applications at Augustana.
- d. **Smudging Policy** – changes to the wording of the policy went to Executive Council, who approved the policy in principle. Now waiting to hear from F&O on North Campus for final approval. It was agreed there is no requirement to wait for final approval on the policy changes before we hold an event about smudging on campus as the room is already in use and the policy is a formality (terms and conditions of use of the room). The purpose of the event is to bring an Elder on campus to inaugurate the room while having an opportunity to educate about smudging. This could be two separate events. If we want to smudge outside that space considerations need to be given and approvals obtained. Petra previously mentioned a pipe ceremony and Katherine feels that we have to go through with it now. This ceremony includes four men and includes a feast to feed guests. John, Don, Gary, and Bruce were suggested. The space has already been approved by Elders for use and is in use by students so it was agreed that it could be combined as recognition of the space with the Lodge grand opening this fall as one big celebration.
- ACTION: Mike will contact Chris Blades to see if we've heard back for approval on the policy.*
- e. **Tipi on Campus** – no feedback yet. The donor would like to proceed with purchase and make a gift to the campus; Mike confirmed there is storage. *ACTION: Glynnis will meet with the building committee prior to approving the donor purchase.*
6. **Next Meeting Date** – to be confirmed.
7. The meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.