

## Aboriginal Engagement Committee Meeting

22 October 2014

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

**PRESENT:** Jérôme Melançon (Chair)      Allen Berger      Glynnis Hood  
                 Petra Cegielly                      Trina Harrison (Recorder)      Alyssa Belanger  
                 Brittany Johnson                      Katherine Swampy

**REGRETS:**      Mike Clermont

1. **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m.

2. **Agenda**

The agenda was accepted with the addition of Smudging Policy.

**MOTION: BERGER/CEGIELNY**

**CARRIED**

3. **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

5e – Smudging in Small Prayer Room: Petra suggested wording changes to the minutes of 3 October 2014 as follows:

The campus received the Elders' agreement to allow students to use the space immediately. Chris Blades, Mike and Petra will meet 9 a.m. Monday morning for a quick discussion after which Petra will email students. She will also talk to Chaplaincy about appropriate signs on the door. The Committee agreed to invite Elders back to campus for an educational session about smudging. Judy Louis was going to send a copy of a school policy on smudging to Chris. Petra will follow up to see if it has been received.

The minutes of 11 September 2014 were approved as presented and the minutes of 3 October 2014 were approved as amended.

**MOTION: JOHNSON/HOOD**

**CARRIED**

4. **Remarks from Committee Members**

a. Katherine Swampy was welcomed as student member of the Committee.

5. **Business**

a. **Naming of Aboriginal Student Space** - Petra shared a list of the names that had been brought to her since the consultations when it was agreed that we would use the term Wahkotowin. The following was discussed around each of the possible naming opportunities:

Center, Hall, Lodge, Village, Kinship Centre, Point, Hub, Polestar, Crossing, Place

- Lodge: too much like a place of residence; denotes something else than what we are building.
- Point: implies only one place; close to crossing.
- Hub: too much reference to a space on North Campus.
- Polestar: does not bring positive images to mind.

All the above were unanimously dismissed without further discussion.

- Hall: has a residential school connotation therefore should not be used. We also have halls in residential facilities.
- Village allows for different names, but people live in villages.

- Kinship Centre is repeating Wahkotowin, and would encourage users and audience to use an English translation for the space and that is not what is preferred.
- Centre: is overused and clinical, there are already 'centres' on campus that do other things;
- Place: did not necessarily receive a negative reaction from the group and was thought to be neutral. It might refer to a place of kinship, of relation. It does not drown out "Wahkotowin" and instead brings attention to it. However, it communicates nothing. The name we are looking for should have more of a symbolic or metaphorical meaning. Also, it sounds to some like a street or subdivision name.

Further consideration was given to "Crossing," "Commons," and "Circle."

Crossing - was suggested at previous meetings and was considered to be a top option for the following reasons:

- references the pathways in the design, describes a journey, a transformative place; it is a place where people meet and settle; it fits the story we are telling about the space
- the alliteration is nice
- works into our acknowledgement statement
- indicates cross-cultural connections. A crossing of cultures and ideas is invited there
- people establish settlements at crossings because pathways join there
- a negative reference could be made to Jesus dying on the cross (taught with the Cree word for crossing) and the residential school experience
- a concern was raised about the space being seen as only a bridge or something that implies a fleeting feeling; it is not a pedway or a bridge; some staff may remember Ole's Crossing
- potential sponsors may also be confused by it

Commons was added to the list to consider:

- again alliteration is nice, it is accessible language and broad understanding, has no residential connotations
- a place for everyone; often used on other campuses
- builds into the idea of the Forum
- has reference to a shopping space ("Camrose Commons" about to open)

Circle was added:

- no negative feelings towards circle
- unanimously liked by group
- speaks to the Aboriginal students present at the meeting
- also takes the pressure away from the rest of the space
- although for about nine years the alumni publications have been called the Circle

The word "Group" was revisited - place, commons, and circle. Determined that the space as a whole would have one general name and then rooms within the space could also be named.

"Crossing" and "Commons" were the final two possibilities and were reopened for discussion. It was clear that the group favoured the positive references and metaphorical meanings of Crossing, but were cautious of the possible negative connotation.

Jerome suggested adding an 'S' to Crossing to make it "Crossings". And the group unanimously decided to go with Wahkotowin Crossings as the name.

Jerome was to look up the spelling of Wahkotowin.

Allen was to bring up the name to Ben Louie the next day, to possibly move along the naming process.

## 6. Next Meeting Date – to be determined

7. The meeting adjourned.  
**MOTION:HARRISON/BELANGER**

***CARRIED***

DRAFT