

Indigenous Education Council Meeting

June 10, 2024 - 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM
Kingston Campus, MS Teams

Meeting Minutes

ATTENDING:	<p>Amanda Cook (co-chair)</p> <p>Shannon Hall (co-chair)</p> <p>Patti Brinklow</p> <p>Kayleigh Jordan-MacGregor</p> <p>Kelly DeJong</p> <p>Shelley Aylesworth-Spink</p> <p>Mary Ann Lyons</p> <p>Shirley Chaisson</p> <p>April Marsolais</p> <p>Laurie Whitford</p> <p>Bradley Box</p> <p>Kayleigh Jordan-MacGregor</p> <p>Mary Gauthier</p> <p>Gertrude Schreoder</p> <p>Ross McMillan</p> <p>Kelly Terwilligar</p>	<p>Iohahi:io Akwesasne Education & Training Institute</p> <p>St. Lawrence College</p> <p>Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte</p> <p>Downie-Wenjack Foundation</p> <p>Iohahi:io Akwesasne Education & Training Institute</p> <p>St. Lawrence College</p> <p>St. Lawrence College</p> <p>St. Lawrence College</p> <p>St. Lawrence College (student)</p> <p>St. Lawrence College (student)</p> <p>St. Lawrence College (student)</p> <p>Downie-Wenjack Foundation</p> <p>St. Lawrence College</p> <p>St. Lawrence College</p> <p>St. Lawrence College</p> <p>St. Lawrence College (recording)</p>
ABSENT:	<p>Liv Rondeau</p> <p>Holly Brant</p> <p>Nathan Sunday</p> <p>Glenn Vollebregt</p>	<p>Limestone District School Board</p> <p>St. Lawrence College</p> <p>Akwesasne Training Program</p> <p>St. Lawrence College</p>

DISCUSSION

The meeting started at 10:17 AM.

Welcoming in a good way

Mary Ann welcomed all attendees to the meeting by acknowledging the land and sharing a moving story about family and the local Indigenous community.

ACTION

DISCUSSION	ACTION
<p>Introductions</p>	
<p>Council members did a round table of introductions including Patti Brinklow who is a new member from Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte, Tyendinga, as well as Kelly DeJong, who is a program manager with lohahi:io.</p>	
<p>Review IEC Minutes of March 26, 2024</p>	
<p>The minutes of the March 26, 2024, IEC Meeting were reviewed. Shelley reported back on a couple of items from the minutes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shelley provided update on sponsorship items including that Kathy’s group has been working on a sponsorship policy for the college. This policy will be shared with IEC at the fall meeting when it is more complete. Shelley also reported that Kathy is currently looking to fund items in the community that have an impact and lead to positive engagement with community members which is a shift from simple sponsorships. <p>It was moved that the minutes be accepted as presented.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MOVED: Shirley SECONDED: Amanda 	<p>Kelly to add sponsorship policy to the agenda for the fall meeting.</p>
<p>Indigenous Services Update</p>	
<p>Shirley reported on Cornwall and Brockville services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pre-convocation ceremony was in Cornwall last week. Shelley was able to attend the ceremony and commended the group on how well it went. Shannon provided some context on what the ceremony is and why it is done for Indigenous graduates. The centre has been very quiet since the end of the term. <p>Mary Ann reported on Kingston services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The pre-convocation ceremony for Kingston will take place this week Wednesday, at St. Larry’s pub on, and everyone from IEC has been invited to attend. Mary Ann continues to do teachings in the Tipi with some classes. Mary Ann shared that she has been informed that for safety reasons individuals must be approved and added to a list for local school boards in order to attend schools as an outside community member. She has suggested we look into getting some representatives from the Indigenous Services team at SLC on the list. <p>Shannon built on the pre-convocation ceremony highlighting the importance of balancing that with a welcoming ceremony to ensure things begin with a welcoming from the community.</p> <p>Amanda shared that she was able to attend the blanket ceremony for the first time this year. They are working at lohahi:io to get more students to campus</p>	

DISCUSSION	ACTION
<p>by making sure they feel welcomed and safe. She feels a welcoming ceremony would be a wonderful addition and feels it would be well received by the community and students.</p> <p>Ross asked if the ceremonies such as welcoming and smart start should be on the SLC campus or if they should take place within the communities. Shannon advised that as the students need to be on campus to attend either way that it makes sense for these to take place here.</p> <p>Significant conversation took place about timing and options for a welcoming ceremony. April shared that this would help relieve a lot of the stress and anxiety of leaving the community. Shelley commented that in terms of logistics that perhaps it could be set up for lunch the Friday before orientation it may help set that as the start of their post-secondary career on that date.</p>	<p>SLC members to discuss a welcoming ceremony for academic start-up at IWKB bi-weekly meeting on June 18th.</p>
ACTIONABLE ITEMS	
<p>Approach to Scholarships</p> <p>Ross provided an update on the work he has been doing with Brad Craig-Pettem, Associate Director of Student Services on scholarships. They have pulled data on what funding, bursaries, and scholarships are available and used. This includes sponsorships from various areas such as the Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte and Iohahi:io.</p> <p>Ross asked about the focus should be for scholarships, what unmet needs exist in specific areas and groups. Shannon explained this originally was brought to IEC from Glenn, her understanding was he was looking for a specific type of scholarship that would be supported fully by SLC. They generated the idea of the full scholarship, but they then had questions about what parameters were required for such an item and what is the area of focus. Amanda advised that OSAP and financial aid covers books, some educational supplies and provides a small living stipend but there are other areas of cost they get asked about. This includes areas such as requirements for placements, laptops and other equipment, as well as travel expenses.</p> <p>Mary Ann shared she knows about indigenous student fund as well as other awards and other sponsorships and bursaries. She said every year she is contacted by various groups and sponsors asking if she knows any students that would be eligible and accepting of the money. Ross shared that he is aware there can be challenges with getting students to actually apply for these items, and he would like to explore the opportunity to tie some of these into financial aid where the college is able to simply issue the awards as we would already have the information required for many of these funding opportunities.</p> <p>Context around scholarship and bursary and what the difference is presented. The option of setting up an Indigenous fund for unexpected costs that create barriers to completion of their studies.</p> <p>Council members agreed to go back to their communities to explore specific</p>	<p>Kelly to bring forward to next meeting.</p>

DISCUSSION	ACTION
<p>unmet needs among potential students and bring these ideas back to council for further discussion.</p>	
<p>Tri-Campus Downie Wenjack Space Development</p>	
<p>Ross provided an update on the space development in Cornwall, which is going well, currently we are still waiting on seating. Work is also progressing for the space in Brockville. Mike and Pat Downey are likely to attend as well as three from the Wenjack family. Kelly is working to make the travel arrangements with Kayleigh and the Wenjack family.</p> <p>Ross also provided update on the elder spaces, the set up to ensure elders are registered with the parking system. There is a safety concern with painting the entire space purple, as such just the logo within a purple square has been presented as an alternative to ensure it is still very visible without creating a slip hazard. This was welcomed by the group as a suitable Opening of spaces scheduled for October 17th and 18th.</p>	
<p>Presentation of Final Wayfinding Project</p>	
<p>Matt Kennelly, Associate Director of Engineering and Maintenance with Facilities shared a final update on the design for the tri-campus wayfinding project.</p> <p>Matt provided the background for the project which was identified as a priority due to confusion, inconsistent signage, and accessibility issues. Pictograms for identifying each area are based on the Seven Grandfathers. The same pictograms will be used on every campus. Each threshold were the wing changes, there is an opportunity to include regional Indigenous stories that are unique. Explained the land acknowledgment and tree of peace to tie all the campuses together as a global community.</p> <p>Everything is currently in production, with a planned timeline to have all the signage in place before the start of the fall term.</p> <p>Shelley commented that she would like to see work done with communications and the recruitment team to ensure the new wayfinding and the stories that are embedded within it are included as part of the college's overall story.</p>	<p>IEC members are to review text for entrance and thresholds as attached to meeting package. Any questions or comments can be directed to either of the council co-chairs no later than end of day Friday, June 14th.</p>

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<p>Rescheduled Condolence Ceremony</p> <p>An update was provided for the Condolence Ceremony, they will now take place on separate days for each campus with the ceremonies scheduled to take place each day from 2:00 – 4:00 PM.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tuesday, October 1, 2024 – Cornwall Campus - Wednesday, October 2, 2024 – Brockville Campus - Tuesday, October 8, 2024 – Kingston Campus <p>New prompts and promotional materials have been developed to reflect the new schedule.</p>	
NEW BUSINESS	
<p>Consultation Process at SLC</p> <p>The consultation process questions were brought to IEC by Holly who is absent but had questions about the standard operating processes and pathways to consulting with communities and IEC. Several examples where consultation has taken place were presented including work on the Integrated Mental Health Strategy, Tri-campus Wayfinding program, Athletics rugby jersey, and program content in the BScN program.</p> <p>The question about creating a process that provides clarity to others in consultation with IEC was presented. Shannon suggested that certain items are for the bi-weekly circle with Indigenous Services and items from there can be determined if they should come to IEC.</p> <p>Shelley shared that the Director, Indigenous Initiatives position has been approved and she is working with BPC to get the search started. She will share the posting once it's available with members of IEC.</p> <p>While there is not specific policy that states there must be Indigenous staff on interview panels Shelley will ensure there is proper representation on the selection committee for the Director position. This is accepted as a best practice and has been followed for all Indigenous positions at the college.</p> <p>It was suggested that once the Director position is filled, that individual could work with IEC on a framework for Indigenous Ways of Knowing and Being which would involve both Council and the Indigenous Staff Circle.</p>	<p>Shelley to send posting for the Director, Indigenous Initiatives position to IEC members when available.</p>
<p>Community Engagement Budget</p> <p>Shannon asked if there was an available budget for community engagement activities including for curriculum development which requires instructors and guest speakers among other items such as travel and space bookings. She also acknowledged the importance of ensuring we are not overburdening communities while aligning activities with broader goals and strategic</p>	

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initiatives. Patti agreed that it would make planning engagement easier if they knew there was a set budget.

Ross advised that available budgets are dependent on needs, purpose and what the engagement activity is. There are several processes for setting budgets within the college including funding for strategic initiatives (SI) as well as department specific requests.

Shannon asked about IEC support in having relevant budget conversations with various department managers. Ross felt this was certainly something that would be supported regardless of reporting structures within the college in terms of staff and management. Given the college has reduced and nearly stopped all SI funding opportunities some wondered how the college is now supporting new and ongoing cross departmental initiatives.

Shelley referred back to the IEC workplan and advised that both the budget/funding item and community engagement pieces should be reflected within the workplan as it is updated.

Roundtable

Gertrude shared that she has been setting up community visits for the fall and they are already quickly filling in.

Patti advised that they are currently working through various student applications, and they will be able to fund about 280 of them, with 50 or more they will not be able to support. She is looking forward to seeing the college's sponsorship process in the fall and believes it will be a wonderful opportunity to help support students. Patti did express she has had some challenges getting ahold of some people as everything seems to have shifted to email and very few phone calls seem to be answered.

Mary Ann extended an invitation to all members of IEC to attend Kingston's pre-convocation ceremony taking place this Wednesday at 6 PM at St. Larry's pub on campus. She did ask anyone planning to attend to let her know in advance so she can ensure there is enough food for everyone.

Ross thanked both Mary Ann and Shirley for their ongoing support and work on the Downie-Wenjack Legacy Spaces as well as many other initiatives over the year.

Kelly DeJong expressed her enthusiasm to continue working on helping students integrate into SLC and the overall college experience.

Mary shared the next round of Kairos blanket exercises has been scheduled and with a focus on getting participation from academic staff including faculty and program coordinators, over the course of the next academic year.

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<p>Kayleigh shared the foundation is headed into their slower season giving them time to focus their attention on preparing for the fall. She reminded the group that as a Legacy School, SLC has unlimited access to the toolkit through the foundation which will have an updated kit available in the fall. All SLC staff can register for the it here: https://downiewenjack.ca/our-work/legacy-schools-programs. She also shared the link scheduled Indigenous History Month activities: https://downiewenjack.ca/ihm-2024/.</p> <p>Amanada shared that as the application deadline is approaching for Iohahi:IO they are working through the applications as they are received. Programs are starting fill up and they have seen an overall increase in numbers. They continue to do work to help Iohahi:IO students integrate into SLC.</p> <p>Shirley is busy getting ready for the fall with construction work started in the Cornwall space and drawings for Brockville now completed. She has also been approved to have the centre make Wampum belts on campus during the fall term.</p> <p>Shannon announced the Indigenous Pedagogy program will be ready for the fall which includes a three day experience at the conclusion. This program will help advance Indigenous Ways and Knowing and being throughout the college.</p>	
<p>Next Meeting Date</p> <p>Meeting dates beginning in the fall were discussed by IEC as noted below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - November 6, 2024, on Cornwall Campus. - March 26, 2025, on Brockville campus. - June 9, 2025, on Kingston campus. 	<p>Kelly to send out calendar holds for meetings when IEC resumes meeting in the fall.</p>
<p>Adjournment</p> <p>Meeting and IEC closed by Mary Ann. The meeting adjourned at 2:01 PM.</p>	<p>Kelly will send meeting minutes to IEC once completed.</p>