

St. Lawrence College Aboriginal Education Council (AEC)

Thursday, April 12, 2018

3:30 – 5:00 p.m.

VDesk (tri-campus)

Minutes

Present:

Lou Anne Hamilton – SLC
Marg Hogan – SLC
Elaine Jeffery – Metis Nation of Ontario
Amanda Lacosse – SLC
Sheila Lafrance – SLC
Mary Ann Lyons – SLC
Deb Stava - SLC
Nicola Thomas – SLC

Regrets:

Rick Anderson - SLC
Shirley Chaisson – SLC
Adam Hopkins - FNTI
Kim Lockwood – SLC Alumnus
Laura Maracle – Queen’s University
Sandy Maracle - Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte
Norma Sunday - Akwesasne

1. Welcome and Introductions

Deb Stava, Chair, welcome the group and had members introduce themselves.

2. Opening Words

Mary Ann Lyons conducted the opening words

3. Review and Approval of April 26, 2017 Minutes

The minutes were reviewed and approved as presented.

4. Review Action Items from April 26, 2017

There were no action items to review.

5. Review Agenda

The agenda was approved as presented.

6. New Business

a. *Updates from Aboriginal Services*

Aboriginal Services tri-campus now falls under Marg Hogan's portfolio and has already conducted meetings with staff.

Brockville - Shirley Chaisson has been visiting the Brockville Eagle Learning Café (ELC) twice per week and will continue to do so through the end of the semester. There has not been much interaction with students outside of the same group of four students consistently coming to the ELC. A dreamcatcher workshop was offered and netted four student participants.

Cornwall – On April 11, the ELC hosted a Donor Night activity where dream catchers were made. In addition, the ELC held a soup day for students.

Kingston – The Kingston ELC received extra funding to provide crafting and elder services three days per week. As a result, they offered workshops to create moccasins, mitts and other items. Craft workshops will be offered through May-June on a casual basis. In the winter semester, Mary Ann Lyons taught approximately forty-five hours to various programs including to Human Resources students. The demand is increasing and Mary Ann would like to see an inventory of teachers across the various program areas as it can be difficult for her to do it through her current role. Mary Ann will circulate the Year in Review report at the end of the year with more information.

b. *Updates from Partners*

Metis Nation of Ontario – Elaine Jeffery gave kudos to Mary Ann for going to the classroom to provide education. She also indicated she has materials she is willing to donate.

Iohahi:io – Sheila Lafrance reported that Iohahi:io held an open house the week prior to the meeting and there was a lot of community interest. They are expanding on what they are looking to offer from SLC including Mental Health and Addictions, Pre-Trades, Leadership Development Certificate, Communicative Disorders Assistant and possibly PSW. The ESET program was also launched this year and was a big undertaking since it is a capital/equipment heavy program. They are also partnering with the Language School for a pathway to Trent University and are in early conversations with SUNY Potsdam. Rebecca Smoke, Academic Manager, is new to Iohahi:io and comes from SUNY Potsdam. Iohahi:io is looking for a complimentary pathway to SUNY as it is easier for students to travel to. SLC has submitted Mohawk Language and Pre-Contact Indigenous Studies courses to the General Education Committee. Once approved they will be coded and offered at the College. Norma Sunday is now the new Associate Director of Post-Secondary and Adult Learners for AMBE.

FNTI – FNTI has had a complete rollover in staff. Suzanne Brant, President, is the only remaining staff person. Adam Hopkins is now Vice President, Institutional Research. Sarah Mignault is now the Registrar.

c. *Winter Enrolment*

In the winter semester, there were 272 students in Kingston, 120 students in Cornwall and 58 students in Brockville. The numbers have increased slightly and do not include Iohahi:io.

d. *Learning Connections Conference (LCC)*

At this time, Deb is not certain what is planned for indigenous education at the LCC. Nicola and Mary Ann will be presenting the research project and results while discussing practical applications for the classroom and the various actions the College is taking. The LCC organizing committee has changed the format of how topics are assessed. Mary Ann and Nicole provided an overview of what occurred in previous years and indicated that the spots have been decreasing year over year. It was noted that attendance to workshops had been poor.

e. *Colleges Ontario TRC Report Framework*

Deb circulated the TRC Report Framework to the committee.

f. *Indigenous Partners in Education Committee (IPEC) Updates*

The Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development (MAESD) recently hired Arnold Blackstar as their Director, Indigenous Education. IPEC met five times this year and conducted joint meetings with the CCVP and CCVPAs. The conversation has always been the framework and other papers stemming from the framework. The report led by students spoke to a holistic approach for mental health. Deb provided a brief overview of the Aboriginal Institutes Consortium which consists of nine institutes and indicated a desire to work with the institutes so they can deliver their own credentials. Deb also noted that the PFAL review was part of the conversation this past year and Deb, Shirley, Mary Ann and Nicola participated. The point was to engage stakeholders and findings could be incorporated by 2019-2020. Part of the discussion centered on the gap in supporting or preparing learners from K-12 and their transition to post-secondary. The College is looking for ways to decrease this gap and improve retention.

g. *Indigenous Baseline Study*

Nicole Thomas provided an overview of how she came to conduct the Indigenous Baseline Study in partnership with Queen's University. The survey covered topics including but not limited to government, current events, geography, history, attitudes and beliefs. At SLC, surveys were conducted in class in September and participation was voluntary. In addition, exiting students were also surveyed. Across the three campus, first-year students scored an average of 36.9% in Brockville, 34.63% in Cornwall and 43.5% in Kingston. For self-identified indigenous students, there was only a 1% difference. University students and students who had taken an indigenous course scored better. It was strongly suggested that SLC ensure all students in service-provider programs take an indigenous course but it was also noted that indigenizing the curriculum to ensure the content is embedded is important. Deb encouraged community partners to reach out if there are recommendations or ideas. In

addition, Nicola cited an article whereby it claimed all 24 colleges have an aboriginal counsellor. Nicole will send the article to Deb so she can follow-up.

7. Truth and Reconciliation

The College has a working group tasked with providing recommendations to the College executive team regarding indigenizing the curriculum and ensuring indigenous culture is incorporated. As SLC enters a new strategic plan, there is an opportunity to embed the initiatives into the culture. SLC agreed to 14 of the calls to action and signed the CIGAN agreement. Despite that, the group indicated there needs to be a champion at a higher level in the College and perhaps having them take the survey would be beneficial. Marg spoke to Rick Anderson regarding Nicole presenting her findings to the May 11 CLC retreat.

8. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be scheduled for June, possibly June 21. It was recommended the group meet in Brockville in the Indigenous Centre (Room 277).

9. Closing Words

Mary Ann Lyons offered closing words.

Adjourned: 4:50 p.m.