

St. Lawrence College Aboriginal Education Council (AEC)

Wednesday, April 26, 2017

3:30 – 5:00 p.m.

VDesk (tri-campus)

Minutes

Present:

Rick Anderson - SLC

Shirley Chaisson – SLC

Pauline Giles – SLC Student

Adam Hopkins - FNTI

Gracie Joseph – SLC Student

Amanda Lacosse – SLC

Margaret Lafrance – Akwesasne

Mary Ann Lyons – SLC

Deb Stava - SLC

Regrets:

Lou Anne Hamilton – SLC

Marg Hogan – SLC

Elaine Jeffries – Metis Nation of Ontario

Sheila Lafrance – SLC

Kim Lockwood – SLC Alumnus

Laura Maracle – Queen's University

Norma Sunday - Akwesasne

Nicola Thomas – SLC

1. Welcome and Introductions

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

2. Opening Words

Mary Ann Lyons read the Acknowledgment of Territories.

3. Review and Approval of November 29, 2016 Minutes

The minutes were reviewed and approved as presented.

4. Review Action Items from November 29, 2016

- Deb Stava extended an invitation to Adam Hopkins from First Nations Technical Institute (FNTI) and welcomed him to this meeting. Linda Leween from Tyendinaga was also invited.
- Laura Maracle was to circulate the Queen's policy regarding convocation ceremonies but has not done so yet. Deb will speak to Laura.
- KickStart to College has not yet been piloted at Iohahi:io. Deb is hoping it will happen before fall. She would also like to look at other opportunities for piloting. Mary Ann noted that band offices are interested as well.
- Minutes from the recent IPEC meetings were circulated.
- As part of the annual confirmation of membership, Rick Anderson has now joined the committee.
- Nicola Thomas will present the results of the Aboriginal Survey at the next AEC meeting.

5. Review Agenda

Rick Anderson will check into the finding for this committee. If timing is such that the ministry report is prepared in May-June, he will ensure it comes back to this committee. Typically the report is released to the President's Office who then circulates it as needed. The Ministry circulates the report to IPEC as well.

6. New Business

a. Updates from Aboriginal Services

Cornwall - Shirley Chaisson indicated that in the four years since the Eagle Learning Café opened, usage had gradually increased but this year dropped slightly. Each month the ELC has craft workshops and soup days. It is a challenge to have students participate in a craft workshop. Deb suggested Rick, Mary Ann and Shirley touch base. Lou Anne and Shirley will be touring high schools together on May 2. Shirley would like to see an aboriginal recruiter do high school visits as it may attract some students. Rick Anderson will have a discussion with the Director of Recruitment to get history. Rick will speak to the Strategic Enrolment Management group regarding recruitment of aboriginal students and studies regarding targets.

Brockville –The sign-in sheets for the Brockville ELC will be adjusted to ensure all groups captured. There were approximately 526 visits this year. The Student Success team conducts some activities in the room.

Kingston – Each Wednesday an Elder is on-site in Kingston. In addition to enforcing the aboriginal presence it has increased traffic in the ELC. Mary Ann indicated difficulty in tracking all visitors but noted that in 2015-2016 there were a total of 1004 appointments tri-campus, which is an increase of 300 appointments over the previous year. She also indicated there are approximately 417 full-time, self-identified aboriginal students tri-campus (36 in Brockville, 124 in Cornwall and 238 in Kingston).

b. Updates from Partners

Iohahi:io – Sheila provided an overview of the programs currently running at Iohahi:io including Pre-Health, General Arts & Science – Pre-Archaeology, General Arts & Science – Behavioural Psychology, Energy Systems Technician and Business Accounting. Iohahi:io had also partnered with Algonquin College to run a Food Service Worker program which is now ending. Iohahi:io also created an in-community support position to support people taking programs through the school.

FNTI – Adam Hopkins indicated he was new to his role at FNTI. FNTI will be adding the Child and Youth Care Worker and Social Service Worker programs to the articulation agreement. FNTI is implementing a new strategic plan and recently hired a new Dean and Director. There are currently approximately 270 students enrolled. Deb indicated she is looking at what structures are in place to support partners. In addition, she will be taking staff to FNTI and Iohahi:io to strengthen relationships and put faces to names.

c. TIF Funding Proposal

See Review Action Items.

d. Winter Enrolment

There were 417 (36 in Brockville, 124 in Cornwall and 238 in Kingston) self-identified aboriginal students across the campuses for the entire school year. In the future, the committee would like to see a breakdown of the numbers.

e. Learning Connections Conference

Peter Garrow has agreed to deliver a workshop at the upcoming Learning Connections Conference. Deb Stava will co-present the workshop on Indigenization of Curriculum. The importance of understanding the learning needs of aboriginal students is being discussed and will continue to be discussed.

f. Languages Symposium Conference

Deb circulated the announcement for the Languages Symposium Conference yesterday. Registration closes May 15. It is unfortunate that the symposium conflicts with SLC's Learning Connections Conference.

g. Colleges Ontario TRC Report Framework

The College received the framework at the end of March. The framework will be circulated to the group. It recognizes the role education plays and reports the activities happening in each college. It is based on a medicine wheel.

h. Indigenous Partners in Education Committee (IPEC) Updates

IPEC met in March with the CCVPA and CCPVS. All 24 colleges have full teams to discuss a system response for the Truth and Reconciliation calls for action. Deb will circulate the IPEC minutes once received. Representatives for IPEC are appointed from the AEC table. There is a huge desire among colleges to look at how they can work collectively together as well as with community partners to address aboriginal learning needs. The IPEC AGM will coincide

with the Higher Education Summit in November. The challenge is there is no direct suppository of historical information and Deb S. will give thought to options.

7. Truth and Reconciliation

Work on a response is being completed on the academic and service sides. Rick will be in discussions with CET regarding the CIGAN protocol and truth and reconciliation. SLC is the only college who has not signed off on CIGAN. Rick will bring the discussion points back to the AEC.

8. Next Meeting

Deb will investigate feasibility of a June meeting and will circulate a request to the group if it is possible.

9. Closing Words

Deb S. thanked the group as part of her closing words.

Adjourned: 4:51 p.m.