

Indigenous Education Council Meeting

November 19, 2025 - 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Cornwall Campus, MS Teams

Meeting Minutes

ATTENDING:	Lindsay Brant (Co-chair) Shelley Aylesworth-Spink Holly Brant Patti Brinklow Shirley Chaisson Jennifer Haley Shannon Hall Sandy Lee-Smokal Roxanne Lockyer Leah Nakogee Rebecca Smoke Taylor Smoke Glenn Vollebregt	St. Lawrence College St. Lawrence College St. Lawrence College Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte St. Lawrence College St. Lawrence College St. Lawrence College St. Lawrence College (recording) St. Lawrence College St. Lawrence College (student) Iohahi:io Akwesasne Education & Training Institute Iohahi:io Akwesasne Education & Training Institute St. Lawrence College
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ABSENT:	Lily Bates Bradley Box Keli Brett Sammy Jo Johnson April Marsolais Madison McDonald Wes Pengelly Nathan Sunday Laurie Whitford tba tba tba	St. Lawrence College (student) St. Lawrence College (Alumni) St. Lawrence College (student) St. Lawrence College (Student) St. Lawrence College (student) St. Lawrence College (student) Akwesasne Training Program St. Lawrence College (Student) Downie-Wenjack Foundation Limestone District School Board Metis Nation of Ontario
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DISCUSSION

The meeting started at 10:12 AM.

ACTION

Welcoming in a good way

Lindsay welcomed the group. Members of the Council introduced themselves. Lindsay, as Co-Chair, asked whether Becky or Taylor would consider Co-Chairing and suggested they discuss this prior to responding.

1. Review IEC Minutes of March 24, 2025

The minutes of the March 24, 2025, IEC Meeting were reviewed:

- An addition will be made to the minutes noting that this was Shannon's final meeting as Co-Chair.

It was moved that the minutes be accepted as presented.

- MOVED: Shirley Chiasson
- SECONDED:

2. Indigenous Services Update

Lindsay shared updates:

- The Indigenous Student Advisor position for Kingston will be posted. A question was raised about the distribution list and the posting channels.
- Has participated in several community engagement activities, including exploring a potential partnership with Limestone. She is also exploring opportunities to collaborate with local Kingston groups.
- Several SLC events were held including the tri-campus Sept. 30th event, mini orange shirt cutouts, Indigenous Veterans Day.
- Lindsay has been focusing on the current policies and has identified areas that may need attention.

Holly raised a point regarding the Open House and inquired about strategies to increase engagement at the Indigenous Services table. One suggestion was to increase promotion of the event within the communities and encourage students to visit the table.

ACTIONABLE ITEMS

3. Iohahi:io Programming updates

Jennifer Haley, Dean, shared updates:

- Additional programming includes Office Administration and two new graduate certificates in Addictions & Mental Health and Autism & Behavioural Science.
- There has also been lots of interest in the health-based programs such as PSW and Practical Nursing.
- There is interest in learning more about the LBS model at Iohahi:io which may be considered at SLC.

Becky shared current enrollment figures for the SSW, ECE, and General Construction programs and spoke about a greater focus on pre-health.

Lindsay to share the distribution list with Council.

<p>4. Letter of Support from IEC for Lindsay to serve on IPEC as SLC rep (next meetings will be Dec. 3/4 and Lindsay will attend virtually)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In response to Ross's request for Lindsay to serve as the representative, it was noted that a letter of support is required to formally appoint her as SLC's representative on IPEC. Lindsay will draft the letter and circulate for review. • Lindsay has been invited to present at the Chiefs of Ontario Conference next week in Toronto. 	
<p>5. Tree Planting - Brockville</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shannon provided some context on a staff member's (Keith Hare) inspiration to plant a tree as his action to Truth and Reconciliation. • After two years of sorting through logistics, the tree is ready, but recent fall challenges have postponed planting until spring. Its location on campus is to be determined. • The tree will be symbolic and used as an outdoor classroom space, designed to be integrated into curriculum and programming. • Shannon welcomes further input how this tree will be utilized, its purpose and input around the ceremony. • A suggestion was made to provide communication that helps educate people about this initiative. 	Lindsay to draft support letter and circulate for review.
<p>6. Creation of an Indigenous Student Leadership Circle</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In response to the strong interest from Kingston students to participate in the IEC, Lindsay has established a tri-campus Student Leadership Circle. 	
<p>7. Fire pits and protocol - open discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was discussion around the need for an overarching fire pit policy, with campus-specific procedures to accommodate the unique requirements of each community's fire department. Health and safety input should be included alongside cultural protocols. • It was suggested that Lindsay review similar policies from other institutions, such as Confederation, Trent, and Queen's. Patti offered to check if Loyalist has an existing policy. 	Lindsay to review similar policies from other institutions.
<p>8. Indigenous student supports in Kingston</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holly raised the issue that students are not accessing available support services and invited recommendations for improving outreach, including accessibility needs. • Suggestions included implementing a Smart Start-style program for Indigenous students which is offered prior to semester start and engaging the Student Leadership Circle as part of the communication. • An email communication to share information on Indigenous supports is also an option. From the discussion, it was learned that Shirley is able to pull a list of students who have self-identified. This list has been used by Lindsay in her communication to students. 	Lindsay to send student distribution list to Holly.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Holly will draft an email tailored for each campus, utilizing the distribution list provided by Lindsay. 	Holly to draft emails.
9. Gen Ed. Courses - how many will be in person vs. online and how many currently offered?	
<p>Jennifer Haley provided an update on the three Indigenous General Education courses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GENE187 Current Topics in Indigenous Studies (online) - GENE192 Indigenous Storytelling (in-person) - GENE1005 The Story of Indigenous People in Canada (online, in-person) • All courses require a curriculum review which will take place in Spring 2026. Currently, GENE187 is the only course being offered; its content is nearly identical to GENE1005. Subject matter experts will be needed. • Building from this review, there is also opportunity to develop degree breadth courses. • Jennifer announced a new format in choosing Gen Eds that will allow students the flexibility to select their course as in-person or online rather than being limited to a single option for the semester. • A student survey will be conducted to gather suggestions for potential new courses. • Results from a separate survey indicate that accountability is the dominant factor driving the preference for in-person courses. 	
10. Kairos Blanket Exercise - Continue or create own SLC version of training for cultural safety/awareness	
<p>The discussion points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resource Requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Delivering the exercise consumes significant staff resources. • Training Challenges: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We are not getting enough interest this fall. ○ It has been over two years for Kairos to respond regarding training for additional staff. • Contract Details: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The current contract allows usage of the Kairos name and their official script. • Questions Raised: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Should we continue with the Kairos contract? ○ Can we develop in-house training? ○ Can experienced participants be trained as facilitators? ○ Is it possible to customize the script for regional relevance? • Suggestions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Incorporate the Blanket exercise as part of a Gen Ed course. ○ Add a pre-Kairos session addressing circle protocol. 	Lindsay to review the scope of the Kairos contract and to set up a meeting with Kairos to determine if we move forward or explore other options.
11. Parking for Indigenous Employees <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	

12. Discussion around policies such as smudging policy, and looking to begin conversations around Identity policy, etc.

- Smudging policy

- The policy would address requests for smudging in various areas across SLC, including residence, the Indigenous Centres, and classrooms.
- There is a current draft of the policy.
- Lindsay was directed to speak with Julie(Chair of the Policy Committee) about timelines to have this policy approved and in place.
- Patti offered to work with her contact at Trent to share information with Lindsay.
- Shannon moved to have this policy completed and in place by next semester. Seconded.

To have Smudging policy in place by next semester.

- Identity policy

- Lindsay sought clarification on whether an identity policy exists, particularly in circumstances where this is required for scholarship consideration.
- Following a discussion, Lindsay will prepare a draft policy in collaboration with the Alumni Department. It will include language regarding SLC-specific awards to ensure applications are not restricted by geographic residency.
- Shirley highlighted two publications (Queen's University Indigenous Identity Project, Indigenous Voices on Indigenous Identity) that will be included with the minutes.

Lindsay to work with the Alumni office to develop the policy.

Shirley will forward the identity publications for inclusion in the minutes.

13. Academic Hiring - Indigenous professors/instructors

- This would be reviewed for future conversations due to the current hiring environment.
- Shelley advised that she will work with Ashleigh (in Belonging, People and Culture) and the Deans to develop a process.

Shelley to work on a process for hiring Indigenous professors/instructors.

NEW BUSINESS

14. Round Table

There were no further updates as time did not permit.

15. Next Meeting Date

Tuesday, March 24, 2026 - Brockville

16. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2 p.m.