Indigenous Advisory Circle

Minutes of the meeting of January 13, 2020

Present at STP: Grafton Anton, Eileen Antone, Brenda Simpson, Lori Campbell, Heather George, Rick Myers

On the Phone: Marisha Roman, Chris Read

1. Opening
The meeting opened at 2:40 with Marisha presiding. Grafton conducted a smudge and offered opening remarks. Eileen provided a Thanksgiving address.

Due to the addition of Heather George to the Circle as the new student representative, it was agreed to do a round of introductions.

2. Agenda
The agenda was approved with the addition of a report from the student representative.

3. Minutes
The minutes of June 19th were approved as circulated

4. Membership Update
We had previously agreed to invite Andrew Nault to join as the Metis representative but he has now joined the WISC staff, making him ineligible. Also, Nikita, who was going to join as an Inu representative, has moved to Chicago. Lori will use her alumni contacts to seek out other candidates.

5. Director’s Report
Highlights from the Report include:

- Grafton asked if the INDG courses fit the Calls for Action in terms of educating mainstream student in Indigenous history and culture. Lori replied that it does, though the course is not mandatory. A discussion of the advantages and disadvantages of mandatory courses ensued.

- Eileen expressed appreciation for the quantity and quality of work being done by the WISC.

6. Report from the Students
Heather reported that some concerns were expressed by students after the Knowles lecture due to a comment suggesting that some Indigenous communities support pipelines.
Jadum Hunt and Kelsey Hewitt are working with Heather on the Indigenous food research project that has received over $100k in external funding. Heather hopes that the research will provide the basis for an INDG course on Indigenous food sovereignty.

An umbrella organization called the Indigenous Student Associations of Ontario (ISAO) has a grant to help organize Indigenous student organizations in the provinces. The UW ISA is participating.

Eileen asked about the funding or the UW ISA. Chris explained that UW does not fund student organizations; all student organizations are funded by the Waterloo Undergraduate Student Association (WUSA). Heather explained that the ISA originally had WUSA funding as a club, but the ISA decided to withdraw from WUSA over its lack of interest in the Colten Boushie affair and because of a feeling that accepting funds from WUSA would compromise the ISA’s capacity to make political statements. ISA currently generates its own funding through honoraria for singing and other fund-raising activities.

7. **Principal’s Report**

Rick reported that JP Gladu, the STP Chancellor, has resigned from his position as President and CEO of CCAB. He will continue his term as Chancellor until June. The Board will likely strike a search committee in February to name a new Chancellor.

The College is proceeding with a Minor in Indigenous Entrepreneurship, which will be run through the Faculty of Arts. We have met with the leadership of the Faculty of Arts and they are quite supportive. Our intention is to package the curriculum from the Minor as a diploma for non-degree students, which will allow us to connect it to partners like Six Nations Polytechnic. STP expects to hire a new full-time faculty member at this time next year to lead the program.

The Board has approved a new territorial acknowledgement for the College. It is essentially the statement proposed by the IAC. Changes were made to the final words to make the statement a little more specific. The new text is as follows:

*Our College is situated on lands deeply connected to Indigenous peoples who have historically lived, and who currently live, in this territory. We recognize that these lands have always been the source of learning for Indigenous peoples. As an educational institution, we are committed to respecting the traditional knowledge that Indigenous peoples have derived from these lands and learning from their experiences on them.*

8. **Adjournment**

The meeting concluded at 4:20 with a prayer in Oneida from Grafton and one in English from Eileen.

Rick Myers
Secretary