Indigenous Advisory Circle

Minutes of the Meeting of January 14, 2019

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

On the Phone: Marisha Roman

Regrets: Chris Read

1. **Opening**

The meeting began with a smudge in the WISC and Grafton offered an opening prayer. We then re-located to Room 220 and were joined by Marisha, who chaired the meeting.

2. **Agenda**

It was agreed to add the topic of “membership” under Other Business.

3. **Principal's Report**

3.1 Rick provided a brief summary of his follow-up with Chris Read after the November meeting. Chris was appreciative of the IAC’s offer to be of service in terms of building bridges with Chief Hill.

3.2 Rick reported on a College initiative to lodge its Indigenous scholarship money with Indspire. Indspire can obtain matching funds from the Federal Government, doubling the value of what we can offer. Rick noted that he shared this news with Roly Webster, who runs varsity athletics for UW. Athletics also has a matching fund for athletic scholarships, which means that it would be possible to turn a donation for a scholarship for one Indigenous student athlete into four scholarships for Indigenous athletes. Roly will follow up with his coaches to determine whether there is an opportunity to implement such an arrangement.

3.3 Rick provided an update on the work being done on the Bachelor of Indigenous Entrepreneurship. Members were presented with a draft copy of the Program-level Learning Outcomes for the BIE. Marisha advised consulting with AFOA and Indspire about placement for the experiential component of the program. Grafton suggested using the Medicine Wheel/Four Directions framework for thinking about the learning outcomes.
4. **Director’s Report**

Lori circulated a detailed report. Highlights are:

1. **Strategic direction**
   1.1 **WISC**
   1.1.1. **Staffing**
   Vaiva Dzemionas – Social Practicum student from Renison University College. Viva is sharing her time between WISC and Residence Services at STP. She will be with us a couple of days/week until end June.

   1.1.2. **Facilities**
   We made a few aesthetic changes in and around the centre over the holidays. We changed up some artwork, painted two chalkboards on the walls, added a couple of “beanless” air chairs, and put up a display of all of the powwow posters.

   1.1.3. **Alumni**
   We have a graduate student that will be reaching out to our alumni over this term to build relationships between Alumni and WISC. The student will be doing this as part of her work on our Indigenous Workways Research Project.

2. **Building and strengthening partnerships**
   2.1 **Internal – highlights**
   - 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence, Red Ribbon event
   - Attended meeting at Six Nations with Chief Ava Hill, at her request, along with representation from the Indigenous Student Association
   - Hosted end of term feast at WISC

3. **Recruitment**
   3.1 **Youth outreach – highlights**
   WISC staff have been very busy revamping the Directions Youth Camp. It has a new name: **LEAD: Leadership, Entrepreneurship, and Design Thinking**. It will still include cultural activities, but the primary focus will be to have youth “solve a problem” over the course of the week. They will practice critical thinking, problem-solving, and public speaking skills. We have partnered with the Indigenous Liaison from Google and Okwaho Equal Source, an Indigenous organization that used the 4 R’s (respect, relevance, reciprocity, and responsibility) to guide work that fuels social, economic, and environmental impact for Indigenous and minority-owned enterprises.

   Brenda asked whether Google would be supporting the new camp financially. Lori clarified that the support was primarily coming in terms of space, access to technology and give-aways.

   Grafton offered congratulations to Lori on such a range of activity and accomplishments.

5. **Process for Naming the Ceremonial Firegrounds**

   There has already been agreement that the Ceremonial Firegrounds should have an Indigenous name. Lori indicated that her unit would like to have an official announcement of a new name at a short ceremony on March 21. Lori noted that the President and the Provost will be coming to the WISC for a soup-lunch on that date.
Grafton and Eileen accepted a request to meet with students one afternoon in February in order to develop a naming proposal.

6. Membership

Both Patrick and Tauny have struggled to attend IAC meetings. It was agreed that Lori would approach them about stepping aside, as per the rules in our terms of reference.

Lori suggested that two recent graduates of the University might be good choices for the IAC, Andre Nault and Nikita Larter. Andre is Metis and Nikita is Inuit. There was unanimous support for the suggestion. Lori will reach out to the two of them.

7. Territorial Acknowledgement

As agreed, Marisha shared some thoughts about the wording of an official territorial acknowledgement for the College. Her specific proposal was to say the following:

We acknowledge that our College is situated on lands that are 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 institution of higher learning, we acknowledge the importance of this relationship between land, learning and knowledge and are committed to seeking ways to enhance our learning environment through these practices.

As the time allotted for the meeting expired at this point, and Marisha had another meeting to attend, it was agreed to defer discussion of the territorial acknowledgement to the next meeting.

8. Closing

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 after some good words from Grafton.

Rick Myers
Secretary