Indigenous Advisory Circle

Minutes of the Meeting of June 6, 2017

Attendance: Eileen Antone, Grafton Antone, Lori Campbell, Marisha Roman, Brenda Simpson, Brock Higgins (phone) Dalee Dorough (phone)

Regrets: Jaimie Lickers; Chris Read

1. Opening
Lori introduced the WAEC Staff. Grafton offered a prayer and conducted a smudge. Members conducted a brief sharing circle.

2. Minutes
The minutes of January 27 were approved as circulated.

3. Selection of Chair for 2017-2018
It was agreed that Marisha will serve as Chair next year. Chi miigwech, Marisha!

4. Director’s Report
Lori has spent a good deal of her first six months meeting with key people at UW and at other institutions. She expressed thanks for the warm reception she has received on campus. She reported on a variety of developments at the WAEC.

- Student association is rebuilding itself on a traditional model of governance
- Students and staff have come up with several concepts for a new name for the WAEC: eg, Place of Friendship, Place of Welcome, Place of Learning. Lori is looking for translations of those names. There will also be a sub-name like Waterloo Indigenous Education Centre, but they don’t like the term education because it creates expectations that staff will provide educational services. IAC members expressed support for this view. Eileen recommended finding an Indigenous name that incorporates both Ojibway and Mohawk terms. Grafton suggested something along the lines of “going up the mountain,” which is the way locals would refer to this part of the region. It was agreed that Lori would arrange for a meeting to connect Grafton and Eileen with the students and staff who have been working on this issue.
- Circle of Life-long Learning camp will run at end of July
- Directions Camp will not take place this year because there is a similar camp taking place elsewhere
- Lori will be one of three co-chairs of the UW Indigenization Task Force
• Lori is doing a couple of public presentations, one in Stratford on June 21, and one to
the Canadian Association for the Prevention of Harassment and Discrimination in Higher
Education.
• Application has been made for funding for a research project involving Conestoga,
Windsor, Laurier and the WAEC. The focus is on indigenous alumni and their
employment records. Re-connecting our Indigenous alumni will help us better serve
current students. The project will give our own Indigenous students some valuable
research experience.
• UW Bookstore reached out for advice on Indigenous authors and topics
• We are in discussions with Renison University College about the development of a
Mohawk language course offered on campus.

5. Principal’s Report

Rick reported that STP staff have engaged in a discussion of how to Indigenize the College. The
collection focused on two questions. How can we make St. Paul’s more welcoming to
Indigenous students and staff? What steps can we take to ensure that our staff have a good
appreciation of the realities and challenges facing Indigenous peoples in Canada? Many great
suggestions emerged, including staff training, wall exhibits, mural with territorial
acknowledgement, flags, signage in Indigenous languages.

The search for a new Chancellor is coming close to a conclusion. The chances are very high that
our next Chancellor will be an Indigenous person.

The Ceremonial Fireground project is moving forward. Final modifications to drawings have
been completed and we expect to go to tender in a couple of weeks. Objective is to have the
project complete for September.

6. Terms of Reference

There was consensus that the new, more concise text was good.

It was agreed that the IAC should include a representative from the student association, but
there was consensus that we should not link seats to particular organizations or communities.

Possible sources of members: Nations Uniting, Six Nations Polytechnic, Brantford Housing.

It’s important to have local people on the IAC, but also important to include people who have a
national or even international perspective on educational and related matters.

There should be explicit reference to higher education, to traditional knowledge, and perhaps
to traditional governance.
It will be important to stagger the terms of appointment.
Perhaps the IAC members should develop an ongoing list of potential nominees for appointment by the President and Principal.

7. **PEFAL Report**

Lori presented the PEFAL report for consideration by members. The report was approved.

8. **Staffing Question**

Members were asked for their opinion on whether it should be a matter of policy to stipulate that employees of the Centre be Indigenous people. There was consensus that we should seek out Indigenous employees but we should not be exclusionary.

The meeting concluded at 3:30 pm.

R. Myers