

## Indigenous Advisory Circle

### Minutes of the Meeting of May 15, 2023

1:30 pm by Zoom

Present: Savannah Seaton, Eileen Antone, Jean Becker, Tracy Primeau, Rick Myers

Regrets: Brad Regehr, Grafton Antone

#### 1. Opening

Rick opened the meeting as an acting chair. He offered a welcome to Tracy Primeau, who is participating in her first meeting. Tracy is a member of Nipissing First Nation. She recently retired from Ontario Power Generation where she was both the first woman and the first Indigenous person to be Shift Manager at the Bruce Nuclear Plant.

Eileen offered an opening prayer. The group also asked the Creator to look after our dear friend Grafton during his stay in hospital.

#### 2. Agenda and Minutes

The Minutes of the January 9 meeting were approved as circulated.

#### 3. Report of the Principal

The Principal reported on five items:

- The INDENT Diploma program is moving toward a September launch with cohorts of students at Bow Valley College, Assiniboine College, Sault College and Oshki-Pimache-o-Win. There will also be a cohort here at UW.
- The College is poised to finalize an appointment with an outstanding young academic from Six Nations of the Grand River to anchor the Indigenous Studies program.
- The College has appointed five Indigenous Academics from UW to the role of Academic Fellow. These five teach UW courses that contribute to United College programming in Indigenous Studies and/or Indigenous Entrepreneurship.
- Professor John Lewis has agreed to serve on the IAC if asked.

- United College has a special award called the Friend of the College. This award is for people who are not employees or students or alumni but have made significant contributions to the College in one way or another. The recipients for 2023 are Eileen and Grafton Antone! The official presentation will take place at the Stanley Knowles Dinner in November, featuring Jody Wilson Raybould as guest speaker.

#### 4. Report of the WISC Director

- In collaboration with the students, staff developed protocols to govern use of the kitchen in the evenings. Students who wish to use the kitchen after hours have fob access to the space. To use the kitchen, they are required to do a food safety course and to sign the annual user agreement of the protocols governing use of the kitchen.
- The WISC has engaged external professionals to develop a video about the Centre.
- On April 8<sup>th</sup>, students helped build a sweat lodge at the Crow Shield Lodge Land-Based Learning site in Kitchener. For some of them, this was the first time they engaged in a sweat ceremony. We should be thinking about constructing a sweat lodge and/or teaching lodge on our own campus, possibly UTD greens.
- The Winter End-of-Term Feast, the second feast event conducted in partnership with OIR, took place in Alumni Hall in April and honoured eight Indigenous graduates.
- A WISC live-in residence assistant has been hired. She will be available to support before and after hour needs of the WISC, as well as the weekly soup lunch preparation and clean up.
- WISC hired two students through NPAAMB, each working thirty hours per week. They'll be working on reorganizing the kitchen and the office, restarting the food and medicine gardens, and updating the WISC website.
- The WISC Elder-in-House program ran well for its first pilot during the Winter term. We have had an Elder on-site for a full day once a week. Two different Elders have participated. Students value the opportunity to meet with Elders either privately or sharing circles. This program will continue for Fall and Winter terms moving forward as funding permits.

#### 5. Terms of Reference

At the January meeting, it was agreed that Savannah would draft revisions to the Terms of Reference based on the discussions at that meeting. A draft was circulated earlier in the day. Savannah provided a summary of the highlights. Several observations followed:

- With respect to membership, there was concern that we would be unable to maintain representation from all the groups listed in the draft, even considering that a single person might cover two or more categories. The consensus was that we should frame the article to say that the goal is to ensure representation from as many of the listed categories as possible.

- The current terms of reference prohibit the payment of honoraria. Jean suggested that the origin of this prohibition was likely with the Ministry of Education regarding the PEFAL funding that WISC exists upon. Rick suggested that it would not be in violation of Ministry guidelines to offer honoraria if the money is coming from the College rather than the PEFAL grant. There was support for offering modest honoraria for external members, particularly Elders who may not be employed on a full-time basis, as well as traditional knowledge keepers.
- The draft included reference to Guiding Principles. Savannah has interest in developing Guiding Principles for the WISC during the proposed strategic planning starting in the Fall. It was agreed that once those Guiding Principles have been developed, the IAC can determine whether to incorporate them into its own terms of reference or to acknowledge them in the terms of reference or to take some other course. A placeholder will remain in the draft TOR in the meantime.
- Jean suggested that we do not need to involve the UW President in appointments but there was agreement that we should leave the reference to the UW President in the opening article (“Authority”) since the PEFAL grant that funds the WISC comes through the Office of the President.

It was agreed that Savannah would revise the current draft to reflect the bullet-points above. The revised draft will be circulated ahead of the next meeting to prepare for final approval.

#### 6. Membership

Rick reported that Professor John Lewis, a member of the Metis Nation of Ontario, is willing to join the IAC. The membership endorsed the proposal. Rick will arrange for the appointment and ask Professor Lewis to join the next meeting.

#### 7. Next Meeting

As there was insufficient time to get to the New Business on the proposed agenda, it was agreed to explore the possibility of another meeting in the coming weeks.

The meeting adjourned at 3:05 with a prayer from Eileen.

Minutes by Rick