

LAMBTON COLLEGE COUNCIL ON INDIGENOUS EDUCATION

MINUTES of 2022-08-17

Flex Meeting (Room E1-209 OR via Microsoft Teams)

PRESENT in person:

Phyllis George, Chair, Tecumseh Community Development Corporation
Mary Vaughan, Senior VP, Academic & Student Success, Lambton College
Kurtis Gray, Associate VP, Student Success, Lambton College
Jane Manning, Manager, Indigenous Education, Lambton College
Debbie Dolson, Post Secondary Counsellor, Chippewas of the Thames First Nation
Summer Catt, President, Lambton College Indigenous Students' Council
Jody Noah, Post Secondary Manager, Southern First Nations Secretariat
Andrea Auger, Indigenous Professor, Lambton College
Holly Altman, Administrative Assistant, Indigenous Student Centre, Lambton College

PRESENT via Teams:

Bernita Brigham-Jacobs, Vice-Chair, Walpole Island Post Secondary Program
Vicki Ware, Education Coordinator, Aamjiwnaang First Nation

Regrets:

Jarvis Nahdee, Director of Lifelong Learning, Walpole Island First Nation Education
Mike Jackson, Band Councillor (Portfolio – Education), Aamjiwnaang First Nation

Copies to:

Chris Plain, Chief, Aamjiwnaang First Nation
Charles Sampson, Chief, Walpole Island First Nation
Jason Henry, Chief, Chippewas of Kettle & Stony Point First Nation
Adrian Chrisjohn, Chief, Oneida Nation of the Thames
Denise Stonefish, Chief, Delaware Nation
Jacqueline French, Chief, Chippewas of the Thames First Nation
Roger Thomas, Chief, Munsee-Delaware First Nation
Mary Duckworth, Chief, Caldwell First Nation
Rob Kardas, President, Lambton College
Ava Hill, Chief, Six Nations of the Grand River

Phyllis opened the meeting at 10:20 am.

1. Welcome & Minute of Silence

Phyllis welcomed everyone to the meeting. We then observed one minute of silence.

2. Land Acknowledgment

Mary Vaughan provided the land acknowledgement.

3. Introductions

Introductions were made.

4. Minutes of May 3, 2022

MOTION: To accept the Minutes of May 3, 2022, as presented.

Moved by: D. Dolson

Seconded by: J. Noah

CARRIED

5. Lambton College Updates

- Looking forward to in-person learning
- just under 3000 International students enrolled
- around 2000 domestic students enrolled – this number is down
- School of Technology and Trades enrollment is down
- Beginning September 2023, BSCN will be acknowledged as a degree program at Lambton.
- Will be hiring a total of 14 faculty to teach in the BSCN program; currently have hired four
- Campus Connection is an orientation opportunity for all students and their supports; August 31 session will be offered hyflex, while September 1 will be online
- School starts on September 6 with classes scheduled in-person, hyflex or online
- Will be hiring two new student navigators, currently have two
- Student navigators will be the primary point of contact for students throughout their studies
- Hiring three new positions in Co-Op. 70% of students will have a co-op, the largest percentage in Ontario
- Piloting Student Success Teams streamlined by school (School of Health, School of Technology, etc.) These teams will consist of a counsellor, student navigator, accessibility support.
- Over the past six months, have completed a mental health audit (surveyed the student population twice) – have hired a counsellor – have offered training for staff and faculty – have worked with Marketing to make students aware of what is available to them

Question: Is there a report available for this group?

ACTION ITEM: Kurtis to send the report to IEC once it is available to the public.

- Student Residence is full
- Currently in the process of assessing our food service options
- Three new varsity sports programs (cross country, women's softball, badminton)
- Completed the interview process for the Indigenous Student Success Coordinator position
- Housing strategy was put in place for a homestay for International students

Question: Is there any housing or residence-in-place for Indigenous students?

The college is looking at building a new Residence – hosted consultation sessions with college staff and discussed other post secondary's designated rooms/wings for Indigenous students; smudging; allowing family and supports to visit. Discussion on Indigenous students' compatibility based on shared programs, home stays for Indigenous students, housing strategies

6. Indigenous Outdoor Space

- Met with the City of Sarnia – had concerns about an open fire
- Plan is going to tender in the next few weeks
- Next steps before breaking ground – soil sampling, ceremonies, press release
- Media story for the Observer and CBC Radio was done

7. Truth & Reconciliation Taskforce

- Did not meet over the summer
- A survey for faculty was created to determine what Indigenous elements are in curriculum
- Survey was sent out in June
- There were 20 responses from faculty
- There are 200 plus, full-time faculty; will resend the survey because of low response

- Suggestion for Nicole Domonchuk & Andrea to go to the School Team Meetings
- Re-visit the survey and make emphasis on how important this is to the college overall
- Comment: It is important for classes to learn about Doctrine of Discovery

8. Indigenous Peoples Education Circle (IPEC) Update

- Met at the end of May with Indigenous Leads
- Presentation by Colleges Libraries Ontario about Indigenous portal work; Provided updates identifying four main sections: 1.) Discover, becoming aware 2) Inquire, researchers 3) Inspire, educators 4) Empower, getting involved; it was discussed that Indigenous knowledge must be protected
- IPEC Terms of Reference – waiting to be approved

9. Indigenous Academic & Student Success Plan

- Discussion about objective, “Develop mentoring opportunities for student to develop cultural identity such as Fire Keepers, cultural helpers and elder helpers.”
- There was concern about the culture and our practices coming into our schools. Traditions have always been informally taught
- Agreed to remove this objective from the plan

MOTION: To accept the Indigenous Academic & Student Success Plan with noted change.

Moved by: B. Brigham-Jacobs

Seconded by: S. Catt

CARRIED

10. Indigenous Professor Update

- Students are enrolling in “Indigenous Connections to the Land” and “Indigenous Peoples Media & Art”
- Teaching & Learning Commons will be promoting Indigenous Day in June
- Looking for connections to local histories

11. Indigenous Student Council Update

- Looking at a Co-Presidency this term with a current Council member, and a new student
- Discussions on a possible trip to Canada’s Wonderland, or an overnight camping trip & inviting a knowledge keeper like Joseph Pitawanakwat to talk about natural medicines
- Set up an Information Booth at the Open Doors event sponsored by the college on May 14

12. Indigenous Student Centre Update

- Participated in the Open Doors event
- Convocation was held in-person on Wednesday, June 8 – we had 50 Indigenous graduates last year – Blue Wolf singers
- Held an in-person Indigenous Student Success Celebration on June 23 for 2020 & 22 graduates
- Did a tour for youth from Aamjiwnaang and Walpole Island
- Will be hosting a Welcome Lunch for our students, their families and supports
- For Orange Shirt Day, now known as the Day of Truth & Reconciliation, we are having a Sunrise Ceremony, hosting an Indigenous Student Panel and inviting Indigenous-owned businesses to participate in the day

13. Other Business

Observer status at an IEC meeting. This is different from a Designate as designates are given voter privilege. Put on next Agenda

Tecumseh Development Corp. is holding a Tourism Event on Saturday, October 1. The event is free and open to the public. Phyllis will send over a flyer once it is ready.

14. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 12:36 pm.

Moved by: V. Ware

Seconded by: J. Noah

CARRIED