

LAMBTON COLLEGE COUNCIL ON INDIGENOUS EDUCATION
MINUTES of 2023-04-13
Flex Meeting (Room C1-211 OR via Microsoft Teams)

PRESENT in person:

Phyllis George, Chair, Tecumseh Community Development Corporation
Kurtis Gray, Associate VP, Student Success, Lambton College
Mary Vaughan, Senior VP, Academic & Student Success, Lambton College
Jane Manning, Director, Indigenous Education, Lambton College
Debbie Dolson, Post Secondary Counsellor, Chippewas of the Thames First Nation
Melissa Ellis, Co-President, Indigenous Student Council
Ky Nahmabin, Indigenous Student Success Coordinator, Lambton College
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
Jarvis Nahdee, Director of Lifelong Learning, Walpole Island First Nation Education
Jody Noah, Post Secondary Manager, Southern First Nations Secretariat
Madisson Mesko, Co-President, Indigenous Student Council

EXCUSED:

Vicki Ware, Education Coordinator, Aamjiwnaang First Nation
Leela Thomas, Program Manager, Walpole Island Employment & Training

Copies to:

Chris Plain, Chief, Aamjiwnaang First Nation
Daniel Miskokomon, Chief, Walpole Island First Nation
Kimberly Bressette, Chief, Chippewas of Kettle & Stony Point First Nation
Todd Cornelius, Chief, Oneida Nation of the Thames
Justin Logan, Chief, Delaware Nation
Joe Miskokomon, 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

Phyllis opened the meeting at 11:10 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 December 8, 2022

Kurtis sent the Mental Health report to Holly earlier this week.

ACTION ITEM: Holly will email it to IEC members after the meeting today.

MOTION: To accept the Minutes of December 8, 2022, as presented.

Moved by: D. Dolson

Seconded by: M. Ellis

CARRIED

5. Observers at IEC Meetings

Jane reported back on action item regarding draft wording for 'Observers.'

Draft wording:

- Observer must identify/request attendance in advance of meeting date
- Observer does not contribute to discussion, decisions etc.
- Observer does not have voting rights
- Observer must step away from table for in-camera discussions

If considering this as revision to the Terms of Reference, may need to define 'Observer.'

Example: Can the 'Observer' be anyone or does the observer need to be recommended by an IEC member?

Jane inquired at last IPEC meeting if anyone had 'Observers' as part of their Terms of Reference. Not all 24 colleges were there, but many indicated that they were not aware of 'Observers' in their Terms of Reference.

Table to the next meeting.

ACTION ITEM: Jane to do scan of college's IEC Terms of Reference as it relates to Observers.

6. Lambton College Updates

- New academic structuring to ensure that efforts are being made to implement Calls to Action.
- Jane is now Director of Indigenous Education.
- Andrea and new faculty member will be reporting to Jane.
- New "School of Nursing" will be launched. The Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree program will be introduced this Fall 2023.
- The "School of Fire Sciences" is the only school that does live fire operations.
- Have established a "Centre for Academic Excellence and Teaching Innovation" which will have a Centre for Experiential Learning & Co-operative Education component.
- Currently establishing a "Centre of Access" which will include the CICE (Community Integration through Cooperative Education) program, SCWI (School to College Work Initiative), SWAC (School Within a College), and Academic Upgrading.
- Commitment to AODA (Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act) which was legislated in 2005 for colleges to be compliant by 2025.
- Working on Academic & Student Success Plans.
- On April 11, Lambton College became a Military-connected college which involves a seamless PLR (prior learning assessment) for military personnel and families.
- Held two, in-person, Academic Awards Ceremonies
- Wonderful Pow Wow
- Formed a Sustainability Committee involving social, environmental, and economic components.
- Held a "Sustainability Week" and acknowledged "International Women's Day."
- Project 3000: With a decline in domestic enrollment and a focus on direct out-of-high school, the focus will now be on the non-direct. The current average age of students in college is 24.
- For Project 3000, will be looking at physical space.

- RFP (Request for Proposals) closes on Monday for the new Residence building. It will have 300 – 350 beds with an Opening for Sept. 2027.
- April 26 is Administrative Professional Day
- New International Students Centre opening in May.
- New campus Shop opening in June.
- Creating a Student Life environment with an Outdoor Recreation Fitness Centre.
- RFP (Request for Proposals) closes April 18 for a new Food Provider.
- Athletics Banquet is tonight. Lambton had two basketball teams in the Final Four.
- May 30 is the Indigenous Student Success Celebration.
- June 7 is Convocation.
- Summer Catt has been hired at the Indigenous Student Navigator.
It was asked about the different hiring categories and contracts. It was identified that there are reoccurring parttime, and regular parttime contracts, Faculty are fulltime or parttime, and administrative contracts are non-reoccurring kind.
- The Indigenous Student Navigator position is a permanent RPT (Regular Part Time) position.

7. Indigenous Outdoor Space

- RFP has closed, cost came in at a higher amount, contractor has been selected, and our decision has been approved by the Board of Governors.
- Lambton College is a crown corporation that has to adhere to Section 28 which involves a process because of the cost of the project before starting.

8. Truth & Reconciliation Taskforce

- Task Force continues to work on Action Items
- Transitioning is happening on the Taskforce – new Co-Chair is now Catharine Dishke; next meetings are on May 2 and May 25.

NOTE: Jane let the members know that Madisson Mesko, Co-President will be joining the meeting via Teams soon. She is at placement.

9. Indigenous Peoples Education Circle (IPEC) Update

- Made up of Indigenous Leads for all 24 colleges of Ontario.
- More enquiries are being made for more Indigenous representation at various committees/working groups.
- New Executive Group – 8 members are brought in by consensus for four-year term.
- Group shares best practices and challenges.
- Currently working on Action Plan with discussions on four priority areas:
 - Attracting, Hiring, Retaining & Advancing Indigenous Employees
 - Community Partnership in Learning
 - Authentic Indigenous Learning and Teaching
 - Transition & Retention of Indigenous Students
- IPEC's Terms of Reference were approved.

ACTION ITEM: Jane will have at next meeting in June.

10. Indigenous Professor Update

- Truth & Reconciliation Taskforce survey is on hold with transitioning happening at the college.

- Teaching one course this term – Global Citizenship-First Nations, Metis, and Inuit Perspectives
- 13 students are enrolled with four of them being in the Indigenous Pathways program.
- Assisting in the development of the Indigenous course for the new BSCN degree – reaching out for an Indigenous nurse from one of the surrounding First Nation communities.
- Professional Development – Book Club reading Motorcycles & Sweetgrass with 25 people participating in the six-week session. Four Seasons will be offered again in the May/June period; this may be the last year for it.
- Member of the Mental Health Advisory Committee
- Committee meets twice a semester on ways to promote mental health literacy in the college.
- looking for an Indigenous student representative.

Discussion: How many faculty have done the TRC survey so far? Would like to see more faculty participate. Faculty numbers for participation need to be higher. Will revisit the survey – look at a better way to inform and complete.

ACTION ITEM: Jane and Andrea to review the survey and make modifications.

11. Indigenous Student Council Update

Co-President – Melissa Ellis from Shawanaga First Nation

- 30 Year Celebration – met current and former students.
- Was nice to hear the history of the Centre; thankful for the Centre, staff, students.
- Former students gave her more confidence and motivation.

Co-President – Madisson Mesko from Oneida Nation of the Thames

- Had a huge turnout for the pow wow.
- Appreciated the way the Council collaborated on events.

12. Indigenous Student Centre Update

- EBAT (Employment Between Academic Terms) student, Robyn Gray, for summer position
 - Annual Round Dance held on December 3, 2022
 - Indigenous Student Council hosted a recognition dinner for volunteers at the Round Dance
 - Held Indigenous Scholarship/Bursary Sessions
 - Day 11 & 22 Reporting, check-ins and phone calls.
 - Tours: high schools & individual prospective students
 - Participated in College Information Sessions at the Kinomaagaazdaa Education Hubs in partnership with St. Clair College, Fanshawe College, and Employment Services
 - Participated in Youth Conference hosted by Walpole Island
 - Traditional Regalia-Making Workshop (ribbon skirts, yokes, wrist cuffs)
 - Presentation: Programs and Services Committee including Board of Governor reps. in February
 - 30 years of Indigenous Education at Lambton College was celebrated on March 2, 2023, with an archive exhibit and guest speakers including alumni. It was recognized that the President of the college attended the entire 30 Year Celebration event.
 - Participated in Spring Open House
 - Provided Career Conversation sessions - employment opportunities with Agriculture and Agri Food Canada's, Co-op and Careers, Lambton College Human Resources
 - 28th Annual Pow Wow held on April 6, 2023, was a success.
 - Annual Student Success Celebration held on Tuesday May 30, 2023
- Phyllis would like to commend everyone.

13. Other Business

Our next meeting could be held on a First Nation if there is anyone who would be willing to host. Jody Noah will host the next IEC meeting at the Southern First Nations Secretariat if there is no other volunteer.

It was mentioned that the program maps cannot be printed from the website. It was identified that a new website will be launched in September.

14. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 12:55 pm.

Moved by: D. Dolson

Seconded by: M. Ellis

CARRIED