



February 13, 2024 OIEC Advisors Committee Meeting Summary

In Attendance: James Aldridge; Denise Baxter; Dr. Kristin Burnett; Daniel Cox; Christopher Glover; Lisa Harris (Chair); Mercedes Jacko; Dr. Rhonda Koster; Keira Loukes; Heather Moynihan; Sheryl O'Reilly; Jerri-Lynn Orr; Stacey Pawluk; Rachelle Pelletier; Lisa Primavesi (Vice-Chair); Dr. Todd Randall; Dr. David Richards; Dr. Chander Shahi; Robin Sutherland; Dr. Juan Sanchez Martinez; Larissa Speak; Andrea Tarsitano; Yolanda Twance

Not in Attendance: Brandon Chevrier; Dr. Glenda Bonifacio; Dr. Paul Cormier; Dr. Jula Hughes; Dr. Brigitte Leblon; Dr. Wayne Melville; Dr. Christopher Mushquash; Dr. Lana Ray; Dr. Michelle-Marie Spadoni; Dr. Sharla Mskokii Peltier; Dr. Mirella Stroink; Dr. Anita Valliancourt

Administrative Resources in Attendance: Trudy McKinnon (Recording Secretary); Marcie Morrison (Secretary)

Welcome and Introduction of New Members

Stacey Pawluk, Indigenous Initiatives, Administrative and Programs Officer

Rachelle Pelletier, Indigenous Transition Year Program Coordinator

Round Table Discussion - Advisors Committee Terms of Reference Review, continued

By consensus, the Committee approved the final draft of the proposed revised OIEC Advisors Committee Terms of Reference. The proposed revisions are scheduled to go to the OIEC on February 26, 2024 for consideration. If approved, the effective date will be July 1, 2024 to align with the start of 2024-25 term.

Round Table Discussion - National Day for Truth & Reconciliation, continued

It was reported that during the February 12, 2024 Senate meeting this topic was addressed. The Senate Academic Committee will be reviewing the Academic Schedules of Dates to ensure that effective 2024, to acknowledge, recognize and honour the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, classes will not be scheduled on September 30, 2024. The decision to close the University on this date is still to be determined by the President.

Round Table Discussion - Ontario Tuition Waiver Initiatives, continued

It was reported that at a future meeting, the Administration has been invited to provide an update on this topic.

Round Table Discussion - University Wide Policy Consultations

In alignment with the University's Policy Governance Framework, as part of the policy review process for University wide policies, the OIEC and the OIEC Advisors Committee will be consulted during the review process, with the intention of decolonizing University policies and procedures by

having them reviewed through an Indigenous lens. Members were asked to think about the questions below when reviewing each policy.

1. Can you identify any barriers that exist in the current policy for Indigenous faculty and/or staff?
2. Does the current policy appropriately support Indigenous faculty and/or staff in ways that are aligned with traditional and cultural practices?
3. Does the current policy conflict with Lakehead's commitment to truth and reconciliation in any way?

A feedback document was circulated with the meeting package for each policy, and members were invited to provide feedback prior to and following the meeting. These policies will then go to the OIEC for consultation before making their way to Administration for review. The final date to provide feedback is February 25, 2024.

- a. Trust Account Management Policy and Feedback Document
- b. Approval Authority Policy and Feedback Document

Round Table Discussion - Official Credential Development for Indigenous Access Program

Administration shared a presentation that provided an overview of the proposed changes to accreditation for the Indigenous Access Programs:

- Indigenous Transition Year Program (ITYP)
- Indigenous Science Technology Engineering Math (ISTEM)
- Indigenous Nursing Entry Program (INEP)

Members were asked to provide feedback on the proposed changes and the following questions were used to initiate the conversation:

1. What would be the advantages of having formal recognition for the successful completion of an Indigenous access program?
2. Are there any disadvantages of celebrating these one year programs?
3. From a funder's perspective, are there any concerns about the students 'completing' this certificate and being funded the next year?
4. Any possible repercussions to existing academic bylaws or processes

The key points of the discussion that followed included:

- Importance of credentials for students, even if they don't graduate
- Approval process should align with the Senate's approval process
- Credits earned in Access Programs must remain "usable" in degree programs
- Transferability of credentials to other universities
- Concerns with allowing students to move into a degree program without completing their Indigenous Access Program
- Importance of skill set over GPA for success in university

Round Table Discussion - Strategic Enrolment Management (SEM), continued

As follow up from the presentation that was provided at the November 2023 meeting, Administration shared additional data, requested by the Committee, from the 2022 National Student Engagement Survey. This included the number of survey respondents who self-declared Indigenous status.

Round Table Discussion - Indigenous Student Mobility

An overview of the Global Skills Opportunity grant was provided. The overview included a breakdown of how the funds are allocated and the different opportunities that are available to Lakeheads Indigenous students through the program. Faculty involvement in leading trips was discussed.

Sharing Circle

Details to the following upcoming events were shared:

- World Water Day "Protecting our Waters",
<https://www.lakeheadu.ca/indigenous/events/event-archive/2023/node/159943>
- Thunder Bay R&I Week Event - Trapping as Methodology: The Impacts of Climate Change and Development on the Land,
<https://www.lakeheadu.ca/indigenous/events/event-archive/2023/node/159874>
- 34th ANNUAL Indigenous Cultural Traditions Club Powwow,
<https://www.lakeheadu.ca/indigenous/events/event-archive/2023/node/159726>
- Orillia R&I Week Event - Indigenous Craft Market (March 5, 10am-3pm)
- Indigenous Preview Day - hold the date - Tuesday April 30, 2024

Updates, Reports and Items for Information Received

- Report from the Office of Indigenous Initiatives
- Report from the Chair on Truth and Reconciliation

The next Advisors Committee meeting is scheduled to take place on March 25, 2024, from 10:00am to 12:00pm (ET).