

LAMBTON COLLEGE COUNCIL ON INDIGENOUS EDUCATION

MINUTES of 2024-12-10

Lambton College Boardroom & Virtual

PRESENT

Phyllis George, Chair, General Manager, Tecumseh Community Development Corporation
Dave Machacek, Senior Vice President, Academic & Student Success, Lambton College
Jane Manning, Director, Indigenous Education, Lambton College
Kurtis Gray, Associate VP, Student Success, Lambton College
Jarvis Nahdee, Lambton College Board of Governors and Community Member
Jeffery Blackbird, Support Worker/Life Coach, Walpole Island Employment & Training
Ian Duckworth, Post Secondary Counsellor, Southern First Nations Secretariat
Laura Spero, Post Secondary Counsellor, Aamjiwnaang First Nation (Designate)
Andrea Auger, Indigenous Professor, Lambton College
Holly Altman, Administrative Assistant, Indigenous Student Centre, Lambton College

ONLINE

Debbie Dolson, Post Secondary Counsellor, Chippewas of the Thames First Nation

REGRETS

Vicki Ware, Education Coordinator, Aamjiwnaang First Nation
Ky Nahmabin, Indigenous Student Success Coordinator, Lambton College
Summer Catt, Indigenous Student Navigator, Lambton College

COPIES TO

Janelle Nahmabin, Chief, Aamjiwnaang First Nation
Leela Thomas, 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
Nikki Van Oirschot, Chief, Caldwell First Nation
Rob Kardas, President, Lambton College

Phyllis opened the meeting at 12:14 pm.

1. Welcome & Minute of Silence

Phyllis welcomed everyone to the meeting and advised that Debbie Dolson will be joining us online. This was followed by one minute of silence.

NOTE: Debbie Dolson joined the meeting at 12:17 pm.

2. Land Acknowledgment

Dave Machacek provided the land acknowledgement.

3. Introductions

Introductions were made around the table. There have been structural changes in various First Nations organizations and Bernita Brigham-Jacobs has retired. Ian Duckworth is the new representative for Southern First Nations Secretariat. Jeffery Blackbird is the new representative for Walpole Island Employment & Training. Laura Spero is designate for Vicki Ware for Aamjiwnaang Education.

COMMENT: Addition to Other Business – Acknowledgement of Bernita and gift.

4. Approval of Agenda

MOTION: To accept the Agenda of December 10, 2024, with the addition to Other Business.

Moved by: J. Nahdee

Seconded by: I. Duckworth

CARRIED

5. Approval of Minutes – June 26, 2024

Updates on action items were provided.

- ‘Will work on letter with Chair and send to IEC members’ - Will respond to this item in IPEC updates
- ‘Jane will send out the Indigenous Academic & Student Success Plan to the IEC’ - The plan with tracking updates was emailed to IEC members.
- ‘Draft recommendations for approval at next meeting-Send to IEC’ - This action item is regarding the Support Staff, OPSEU (Ontario Public Service Employees Union) bargaining agreement as it relates to “Indigenous commitment”. Jane provided an overview of current language in bargaining agreement and recommendations for revised language.

ACTION ITEM: Jane will email the recommendations to members for review and comments.

MOTION: To accept the Minutes of June 26, 2024.

Moved by: L. Spero

Seconded by: K. Gray

CARRIED

6. Lambton College Updates (Dave/Kurtis)

- Enrollment for 2024F has decreased in International students, but an increase in domestic students.
- Study permits for International students are being rolled back.
- Capital projects include: Indigenous Outdoor Space, Greenhouse, Subway has opened, Tim Horton’s is expanding to full service
- men’s baseball team won a silver medal
- total of 220 students engaged in Varsity sports
- partnered with Saint Paul University to expand the Ottawa campus
- Lambton College Employment & Services is moving to the old Suncor building
- Funding challenges in mapping out programs
- have mapped out Federal Government Policy changes
- Academic Plan is moving forward; will launch in a couple of months
- Attended the Higher Education Summit

7. Indigenous Academic & Student Success Plan (Kurtis/Jane)

- The plan’s tracking updates were provided at the June IEC meeting at Aamjiwnaang.
- The plan’s tracking updates were sent out to members for comment after the June meeting.
- Met with new IEC members and designate before the December meeting to review tracking updates
- Request for volunteers to establish Ad hoc for developing the new Indigenous Academic & Student Success Plan. Meetings could be virtual (Volunteers: Laura & Phyllis - requesting one more)

MOTION: To acknowledge the Indigenous Academic & Student Success Plan tracking updates.

Moved by: I. Duckworth

Seconded by: L. Spero

CARRIED

MOTION: To move forward to develop the new Indigenous Academic & Student Success Plan for 2025/2027.

Moved by: I. Duckworth

Seconded by: J. Nahdee

CARRIED

ACTION ITEM: To do follow-up regarding Ad hoc coordination and provide draft plan to IEC members in advance of next IEC meeting

8. Indigenous Outdoor Space (Kurtis & Jane)

- Kurtis thanked the Indigenous Education team for the work done.
- Still moving to a March 2025 opening
- Roof is finished
- Glass is scheduled for installation in a couple of weeks.
- Took about three years with the Indigenous Outdoor Space Steering Committee of connecting and resulting in various features like two-tier fire pit, radiant heating and separate bathroom

9. Truth & Reconciliation Taskforce (Kurtis & Jane)

- Categorized the identified 24 calls to action
- recommendations have been provided
- Hope to have the report ready for the next meeting.
- To understand Lambton's starting point as it relates to curriculum, faculty interviews were held.
- Andrea led this part and completed the faculty interviews and is now analyzing the transcripts
- Goal was to get a snapshot of what is happening in classrooms
- Had a list of 22 people; 19 were interviewed
- Have 18 transcriptions to use for analysis

ACTION ITEM: Send the TRC report to the IEC prior to the next meeting.

10. Indigenous Peoples Education Circle (IPEC) Update (Jane)

- IPEC meetings in September and December
- Maamwi hub – IPEC representative continues to sit at this table, they will be adding Metis content
- IPEC representatives were asked to meet with College Employer Council (CEC) – it was thought it was to discuss the Faculty OPSEU bargaining agreement regarding Indigenous Knowledge, but it was identified that CEC was looking to discuss the support staff bargaining agreement.
- A discussion around a position paper regarding faculty bargaining agreement and Indigenous knowledge that identifies key areas of concern from a collective voice
- Discussions continue around Indigenous identity/citizenship and policies
- IPEC/*CCVPA Environmental scan of colleges, scan is directly related to IPEC action plan, Nüibiin Advisory Services provided a presentation on the results of scan *(Coordinating Committee of Vice-Presidents Academics)
- Indigenous Student Bursary: Ministry/Indigenous Education Branch will be reviewing

ACTION ITEM: To send out the PowerPoint that was presented at the IPEC meeting.

NOTE: D. Dolson left the meeting at 1:34 pm.

11. Indigenous Professor Update (Andrea)

- Starting in the 2025F term, will be the Coordinator of the Indigenous Studies (LIBI) program
- Increasing program enrolment: five new students/two returning students that will be graduating in 2025
- Two courses are offered every semester as part of the LIBI program and as general electives
- 2024F Indigenous Connections to the Land: 19 registered/13 identifying as Indigenous
- 2024F Indigenous Peoples Evolving Media & Arts: 13 registered/8 identifying as Indigenous
- 2025W – Global Citizenship-FNMI Perspectives
- 2025W – First Nations Languages-Resilience and Reclamation
- Curriculum coaching support - Ministry mandates include Social Service Worker, Early Childhood Education, Child & Youth Care, Pharmacy and Nursing
- Meeting with perspective instructor to plan curriculum for the BSCN
- Helped with Language Conference, Indigenous Upskilling Event, Open House, APSIP & Round Dance
- On the Mental Health Advisory Committee which meets once a semester.

12. Indigenous Student Council Update (Jane/Holly)

- Indigenous Student Council President stepped down; engaging current Vice-President re: position.
- Students created new design for Orange Shirt Day
- First meeting of the year was on September 6
- Student Social at Stokes Inland on September 13
- Student Social in the Indigenous Student Centre with pizza and games on September 19
- Volunteers for National Day for Truth & Reconciliation Day/Orange Shirt Day
- Reapers Realm student social on October 18
- Halloween lunch and Costume contest
- Information Table for Treaties Recognition Week in November
- preparations for Round Dance included seeking out donations from local businesses
- Bake Sale on December 4
- Round Dance was a success – December 7

13. Indigenous Student Centre Update (Jane/Holly)

- Providing support with scholarship/bursary applications
- Anishinaabemowin & Art Community Engagement Forum on August 23
- Indigenous Orientation Day last week of August
- Dolleen Manning, Queens University, keynote speaker at the All Schools Day on August 27
- Campus Connection on August 28
- Welcome Lunch on September 12
- Birthday celebration for new student who is a far distance from her family/home
- Course Load Management workshop on September 24
- Hosted weekly Indigenous PD sessions for employees in September and October
- National Day for Truth & Reconciliation/Orange Shirt Day on September 30; 300 t-shirts for student giveaway; panel moderated by Andrea; documentary, Indigenous Business showcase
- Offered traditional counselling one-to-one sessions October 1 and November 19
- Held monthly student lunches
- Students accessing math tutor regularly
- Visiting elder once a month

- Lambton College Community & Employment Services information session in Centre
- Hosted with Enactus Upskilling Indigenous Excellence-Wholistic Development on November 15
- APSIP Tour event held at Lambton on November 20
- Legacy of Hope, health-related exhibits on campus. Cruel & Unethical & Peter Henderson Bryce
- Round Dance on December 7 was well attended

14. Community Needs Discussion/Roundtable

- It was requested at the June meeting for an opportunity for IEC members to discuss community needs, for example programs to be held in the communities.
- It was identified that a standing agenda item will be added to discuss ideas/needs for First Nations/Indigenous organizations, so added “Community Needs Discussion/Roundtable”
- Mental health and safety issues were discussed. There was a request for a policy around privacy issues/school safety
- Lambton has a “Responding to a student in distress” policy; training available for Lambton employees called “More feet on the ground”; LKDSB has policies with SWAC program.
- Tecumseh Community Development Corp. has secured more funding from both the provincial and federal governments for the 16-35 age group; financial planning, life skills development
- They work with 10 First Nations in Ontario and currently offer a free Website Development course

ACTION ITEM: Kurtis will share mental health & safety information

15. Other Business

- Bernita has retired; she was the Vice Chair of the IEC for many years; would like to acknowledge her with a gift
- Jane will connect with Kurtis for a gift
- Discussed filling the Vice-Chair position

ACTION ITEM: To send out a request for Vice Chair.

16. Next Meeting

- Holly to send out options for next meeting date

17. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 2:45 p.m.

Moved by: L. Spero

Seconded by: I. Duckworth

CARRIED