

LAMBTON COLLEGE COUNCIL ON INDIGENOUS EDUCATION
MINUTES of 2024-06-26
Aamjiwnaang First Nation Community Centre

PRESENT:

Phyllis George, Chair, General Manager, Tecumseh Community Development Corporation
Kurtis Gray, Associate VP, Student Success, Lambton College
Jane Manning, Director, Indigenous Education, Lambton College
Vicki Ware, Education Coordinator, Aamjiwnaang First Nation
Leela Thomas, Program Manager, Walpole Island Employment & Training
Jarvis Nahdee, Lambton College Board of Governors and Community Member
Ky Nahmabin, Indigenous Student Success Coordinator, Lambton College
Robyn Gray, President, Indigenous Student Council
Andrea Auger, Indigenous Professor, Lambton College (Recorder in Holly's absence)

REGRETS:

Bernita Bringham-Jacobs, Vice-Chair, Coordinator, Walpole Island Post Secondary Program
Holly Altman, Administrative Assistant, Indigenous Student Centre, Lambton College
Dave Machacek, Senior Vice President, Academic & Student Success, Lambton College
Debbie Dolson, Post Secondary Counsellor, Chippewas of the Thames First Nation
Jody Noah, Post Secondary Manager, Southern First Nations Secretariat
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
Jacqueline French, 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 9:59 am.

Change Jarvis Nahdee's title to Lambton College Board of Governors and Community Member

1. Welcome & Minute of Silence

Phyllis welcomed the attendees to the meeting followed by one minute of silence.

2. Land Acknowledgment

Kurtis Gray provided the land acknowledgement.

3. Minutes of December 7, 2023

ACTION ITEMS:

- #4 – information brief from Andrea Hands was provided
- #6 – will work on the letter with the Chair and send to IEC members
- #9 – campus tour and tour of Indigenous Outdoor Space postponed
- #15 – Kurtis sent out the section of the draft Lambton College Academic Plan as it relates to Indigenous education – two members gave their acknowledgements/approval.

MOTION: To approve the meeting minutes of December 7, 2023.

Moved by: V. Ware

Seconded by: L. Thomas

CARRIED

4. Lambton College Update (Kurtis)

- 2700 graduates this year with 1800 attending one of three ceremonies for Convocation.
- Domestic enrolment is at 5%, last year it was 7%, confirmations are also up 15%
- International enrolment has decreased.
- Dave Machacek is the new Senior Vice President of Academics & Student Success.
- Indigenous Education now reports to Dave Machacek.
- reorganization within Academics; three Deans to oversee the faculties with Associate Deans
- Expressed appreciation for Kurtis' involvement with the IEC and the trust built; hoping he will continue as a member of the IEC.
- Kurtis agreed to remain a member of the IEC.
- will be starting construction on the new Residence in fall 2025

5. Indigenous Academic & Student Success Plan – Tracking (Kurtis & Jane)

- gap in timing due to Covid, so the plan reflects 2021-2024.
- Jane provided high level comments and updates on the status of each item on the Indigenous Academic & Student Success Plan.

Discussion:

- Expressed the importance of art programs for Indigenous community members including youth.
- How many students are leaving our catchment area because there is not an arts program
- Opportunity to gauge interest in art programs with survey.
- Mentorship: Mentoring happens naturally between staff and the Indigenous Student Council, and students naturally mentor others through their leadership role. Suggestion for alumni providing mentorship opportunities. Can explore formal mentoring approaches.
- Employment opportunities & training: Explore collaboration opportunities with local First Nations for Career Conversation series & events.
- Reach out to further First Nations like Caldwell, Nawash etc, economic developers
- Educational resources needed for local employers for retaining Indigenous employees
- It was expressed that there may be placement opportunities at Walpole Employment and Training.
- Collaboration happening with Human Resources to promote employment at Lambton.
- Language: Virtual reality (VR) opportunities for learning language. Different schools using VR to support language. Lambton may have infrastructure to do VR.
- Lambton research project with Aamjiwnaang - using technology to support language & culture.

Kurtis recognized the Indigenous Education team for the work done.

Action: Jane will send out the Indigenous Academic & Student Success Plan to the IEC following the meeting for questions and feedback. IEC discussed the approval/acknowledgement of Indigenous Academic & Student Success Plan at the next meeting. Also, ad hoc to be established at the next meeting.

6. Indigenous Outdoor Space (Kurtis & Jane)

- Updates captured in the Indigenous Academic & Student Success Plan.
- Completion will be December 2024. Soft launch in winter semester. There are responsibilities and ceremonial protocols that need to take place. Indigenous people will have opportunity to utilize space. Grand opening expected to happen in June 2025.

7. Truth & Reconciliation Taskforce (Kurtis & Jane)

- Updates are captured in the Indigenous Academic & Student Success Plan

8. Indigenous Peoples Education Circle (IPEC) Update

- Tabled to the next meeting due to time constraints

9. Indigenous Professor Update (Andrea)

- Winter 2024, 2 courses: Impacts of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission - 17 students; First Nations, Metis, and Inuit Perspectives - 14 students.
- Fall 2024, 2 courses: Indigenous Connections to the Land; Indigenous Peoples Evolving Media and Artistic Images
- Significant delay starting the research project to interview faculty for the Truth and Reconciliation Task Force, but 14 have been completed in May/June.
- Employee recognition is in the draft stage – hope to launch in fall.
- Started drafting ideas for the replacement 4 Seasons course.

10. Indigenous Student Council Update (Robyn)

- Low attendance at student social – recruitment strategy needed for Indigenous Student Council.
- Successful event - Indigenous Student Success Celebration –Ky was emcee.
- Lambton Employee Interaction week: Indigenous Education Lunch & Learn; Impacts of colonization on Indigenous foods & health; 35 employees.

NOTE: All attendees took a lunch break. The meeting resumed at 11:49am.

NOTE: Jane requested to add an addition to Other Business to discuss the support staff bargaining agreement Indigenous commitment.

MOTION: To approve the meeting Agenda for June 26, 2024, with addition to Other Business – Support Staff Bargaining Agreement Indigenous Commitment.

Moved by: V. Ware

Seconded by: J. Nahdee

CARRIED

11. Indigenous Student Centre Update (Ky)

- Providing support with college applications, OCAS
- Providing campus tours
- Created recruitment plan - pow wows, community events, high school, employment & training
- Set up at Walpole, Aamjiwnaang, St Clair College Pow wows.

- Supporting incoming students.
- Engagement plan for fall semester

12. Other Business

Support staff bargaining agreement – Indigenous Commitment (Jane).

- In January, Kurtis and Jane met with Lambton's OPSEU (Ontario Public Service Employees Union) support staff and Human Resource office.
- Indigenous commitment statement was read
- Jane asked the IEC their thoughts on this statement included in the bargaining agreement.

Discussion:

- How are Indigenous people ever going to break through employment barrier.
- Union could remove barrier by allowing Indigenous people to apply alongside internal applicants
- Ensure there are no internal barriers – Indigenous positions are for Indigenous peoples and should not follow the same process.
- Not just limited to Indigenous positions.
- Make it clear on who is Indigenous – push back against the definitions that are not clear (e.g. 'ancestry', 'Indigenous').
- Shifting to the word Indigenous has created problems at the College
- Need to recognize sovereign rights.
- Union is foreign to us
- Other post-secondary starting to use Indigenous identification processes (i.e. Sask. University: status card and community letter)
- Useful to have recommendations from IEC to advance conversation on identity.
- Can bring the conversation back if IEC wants a change to the word 'Indigenous'.
- It was mentioned that IPEC could bring forward recommendations to OPSEU - one overarching policy - would need consensus.

Action: Draft recommendations for approval at next meeting – Send to IEC.

13. Next Meeting

Wednesday, October 2, 2024, 11:00am – 1:00pm with a caucus at 10:00am – 11:00am.

MOTION: Caucus Meetings to be requested in advance and to occur if requested.

Moved by: V. Ware

Seconded by: L. Thomas

CARRIED

14. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 12:37 p.m.

Moved by: J. Nahdee

Seconded by: L. Thomas

CARRIED