**Durham College Indigenous Advisory Circle Meeting**

**Minutes**

January 27, 2022 Zoom Meeting

9:00a.m.-11:00 p.m.

**Present:** Melanie Martin, Brandon Carson, Tara Koski, Kevin Baker, Krista Licsi, Karli Robertson, Amanda Banning, Christine Murphy, Michelle Evans, Colleen McCullough, Shirley Williams, Gary Paulin, Elaine Popp, Cecile Wagar, Mackenzie Bodnar

**Regrets:**  Erin Elmhurst, James MacKinnon, Angela Duckworth, Lisa George, Lacey King, Julie Pigeon

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| 1. | **Opening Remarks and Introductions** * Amanda welcomed the group
* All group members introduced themselves
 | Amanda Banning |
| 2. | **Review of Agenda & Additional Items*** There were no additional items added
 | Amanda Banning |
| 3.  | **Review of Minutes*** No action items
 | Angela Werner |
| 4. | **Co-Chair Position*** Melanie is stepping down as our external Co-Chair
* Amanda thanked Melanie for taking on the role for almost four years and asked the group if there was any interest in becoming the next chair
* **Angela will send out the Terms of Reference that outlines the role and expectations of the external Co-Chair for the group to review**
* **If group members are interested in the Co-Chair position, they may email Amanda or Angela before March 1st**
 | Amanda Banning |
| 5. | **Social Impact Hub*** Teresa spoke to the group about the Social Impact Hub and their plans a half/full day event on May 19 or May 20, 2022
* The purpose of the event is to celebrate projects that are innovating solutions to problems in the community
* Wanted to start a conversation before the event and ensure social innovation in Indigenous communities is recognized
* Michelle asked if there was already a sub group in place for this larger group
* Teresa said they do have a Steering Committee that meets and suggested that a member of the Advisory Circle would be welcomed to join
* Michelle said this may align well with some of the work she is already doing
* **Angela to send out briefing to the group and individuals may respond directly to Teresa**
 | Teresa Goff |
| 6. | Indigenization Council Updates* Communications Working Group
	+ Working on revised Land Acknowledgement
	+ Tara and Claudia will be meeting to speak about Land Acknowledgement launch tomorrow
	+ Communication & Marketing team also helped to streamline the FPIC website
* Staff Onboarding and Professional Development Working Group
	+ Kelly Doyle is new Chair for this working group
* Curriculum working group
	+ Two additional Indigenous courses added
	+ School of Justice and Emergency Services updating content in four additional courses
	+ School of Health and Community services beginning a pilot program in seven programs where students will be required to take an Indigenous course as one of their General Education courses
	+ A panel will be held for faculty to help them Indigenize course content
	+ Ontario Tech University has also agreed to share resources with DC employees
	+ Indigenous Histories and Reconciliation modules are ready to launch in E-campus at the end of the month
* Events Working Group​
	+ Group have put together an inventory of all events that happen on campus
	+ Events have been shared with community members to look for opportunities to Indigenize proceedings
	+ Looking at ways to engage and celebrate Indigenous graduates
	+ Hoping to have a handbook to identify processes for including Indigenous traditions in events (eg. Inviting an Elder to provide greetings)
	+ This group will plan September 30th events for next year
* Recruitment Working Group
	+ Amanda has done some training with the Recruiters, sharing information with Recruiters to ensure it’s included in Recruiter presentations (Eg. Land Acknowledgement has been added to all presentations)
	+ Amanda’s role will include participation in APSIP and recruitment efforts
* Roxanne Miller commented that the Chairs of the Working group should be at the Advisory Circles to provide updates and receive feedback; changemakers need to be the Chairs of the Committee
* Roxanne raised a concern about the lack of funding for recruiting Indigenous students to Durham College
* Tara suggested the Chairs be invited all together so they can delve deeper into the conversation about what they have done
* Roxanne asked for the Chairs to be invited two at a time to provide their updates
* Group consensus that two Chairs from the working groups will be invited to the DCIAC meetings going forward
* Michelle Evans commented on the use of the word “decolonization” and suggested this was not appropriate unless it was referring to a return of land to Indigenous peoples
* Michelle Evans said she would like to move beyond land acknowledgment and move toward the goals of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)
* Michelle asked if the Recruitment Working Group would be able to investigate how many Indigenous students apply to Durham College, how many are accepted and how many choose to come and graduate from Durham College in order to get a sense of the numbers
* Michelle suggested that Admission Departments are capable of Acts of Reconciliation
* Roxanne asked about the possibility of holding seats for Indigenous students
* Roxanne suggested that the Recruitment Chair should be an individual who has control of the budget for the department or no change will be possible
* Roxanne would like to come together four times a year
* Group consensus to keep the meetings between September and June (remove July and August)
* Meetings will be held in March, June, September and December.
 | Krista Licsi |
| 7. | **FPIC Updates*** OPG/AECON – Collaborations – creating employment opportunities
* Programming – starting February 14th, still in talks with Suzanne Smoke who is an activist for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls
* Indigenous Book Club – Highway of Tears will be the first book, will be followed by sharing circles
* Creator Garden – Inviting Joseph Pitawanakwat back for a four-part series culminating in a foraging walk in Heber Downs Conservation Area
* National Indigenous Language Day – March 22 – hoping to promote our language revitalization at DC
* Earth Day – April 22
* Moose Hide campaign – May 5 – trying to become a representative school; still hosting events and EDI is involved
* Elder Dorothy Taylor – Curve Lake first nations Mississauga woman will be joining DC as an Elder to help support students
* Indigenous Coach Position – the notice has been shared widely
* Michelle shared the post through social media
* Michelle asked about the requirement for the candidate to be Indigenous; Krista confirmed that the Human Resources form associated with the application asks candidates whether they identify as Indigenous
* Christine added the posting to the chat so it could be shared widely amongst the group’s contacts
 | Amanda Banning |
| 8. | **Indigenous Dates of Significance*** Krista shared her screen so the group could review the significant dates document
* Cecile clarified that Louis Riel Day is most often recognized in November in Ontario
* **Everyone was asked to provide any additional feedback on the dates or any events that may have been missed to Amanda**
* Shirley asked about Pink Shirt Day and Krista clarified this particular list focused on the Indigenous events but that the FPIC would also recognize other events throughout the calendar year such as Pink Shirt Day.
 | All |
| 9. | Community Updates * Bawaajigewin Aboriginal Community Circle recently had their AGM and their new President is Paul Zamiska; still looking to fill other positions with members
* Mackenzie gave updates for Trent in Durham on the new indoor Indigenous student lounge; up and running; also let the group know about a new poster exhibit up about being Indigenous Enough on February 4th
* Colleen provided an update on the Dnaagdawenmag Binnoojiiyag; still considered essential workers both in wellness and protection during Covid-19, services are still accessible, new “Care Unit has launched in an effort to combat human trafficking, partnering with Durham Regional Police and Durham Children’s Aid for a five-year pilot, one worker directly involved on the team to target 12-to-18 year-olds; they also have a liaison position to support the role
* Cecile provided the following updates after the meeting as time had run out:
	+ ODRMC is officially the new steward of the Alexandra’s Bounty Community Garden, a space of the Lakeridge Health Foundation. Our partnership with Lakeridge Health Foundation helps us stay connected to the land while fulfilling our desire to feed the community through food, education and cultural development. With this space we will be able to further our Métis community outreach and continue to engage with citizens of Oshawa and Durham Region. Last year was our learning year. We were able to recognize Orange Shirt Day by tying orange ribbons around the gazebo and placing painted rocks at the base of some of our trees. We will add to these settings and more as we plan many more of our outdoor events at our Métis garden - Spring planting, tending the garden, weekly harvest days, culture camps for children, story-telling, practices with members of All Our Relations Metis Drum Circle Métis, art showcases and special displays on May 5 for Red Dress Day and November 16 for Louis Riel Day. We look forward to offering more opportunities for DC Horticultural students to volunteer.
	+ I am looking forward to engaging more with the IAC teams of the two French language school boards in Southern Ontario. Our Chair is working on a project with Ontario Tech University and is closer to joining their Indigenous Advisory Council on our behalf.
	+ Our Council is holding our elections at the end of March this year. There is a lot of interest. We may see a lot of changes.
 | Amanda Banning |
| 10. | **Closing Remarks*** Amanda thanked the group for attending
 | Amanda Banning |
| 11. | **Action Items*** **Angela will send out the Terms of Reference that outlines the role and expectations of the external Co-Chair for the group to review**
* **If group members are interested in the Co-Chair position, they may email Amanda or Angela before March 1st**
* **Angela to send out a Social Impact Hub briefing to the group and individuals may respond directly to Teresa**
* **Everyone was asked to provide any additional feedback on the dates or any events that may have been missed to Amanda**
* **Angela will send meeting the request for next meeting in March**
* **Amanda will send out list of organizations and community members the Indigenous coach position has been posted to, Karli Robertson and Michelle Evans**
* **Amanda to share details of new DCIAC member Jeremy Kolodziej**
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