**Durham College Indigenous Advisory Circle Meeting**

**Minutes**

October 7, 2021

Zoom Meeting

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

**Present:** Melanie Martin, Brandon Carson, Tara Koski, Kevin Baker, Cecile Wagar, Krista Licsi, Julie Pigeon, James MacKinnon, Karli Robertson, Amanda Banning, Mackenzie Bodnar, Michelle Hutt, Christine Murphy, Michelle Evans, Erin Elmhurst

**Regrets:**  Angela Duckworth, Lisa George, Lacey King, Coleen McCullough, Elaine Popp, Shirley Williams

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1. | **Welcome**   * Melanie Martin welcomed the group | Melanie Martin |
| 2. | **Opening Prayer-Introductions**   * Julie provided an opening smudge and prayer for the group | Julie Pigeon |
| 3. | **Review of Agenda/Additional Items**   * Melanie asked if there were any additional agenda items | Melanie Martin |
| 4. | **Review of Previous Meeting Minutes/Actions**   * Angela reviewed previous minutes and actions with the group * Shirley to provide link to video on dealing with COVID-19 * Tara Koski confirmed she will be attending the Durham College Indigenous Advisory Circle on behalf of President Don Lovisa and will be providing him with updates * Brandon and Julie will continue to work on creating a private space for Indigenous students to meet online * Julie reported that their work study student is no longer working with them but they are hoping to hire a replacement soon who will be able to work on a Cultural Week | Angela Werner |
| 5. | **Suswaaning Endaajig Updates**  **Graduation Celebration**   * Convocation celebration was held virtually due to public health restrictions * FPIC staff worked diligently to make the event celebratory given the circumstances and presented students with custom-made graduation stoles and Smudging kits   **Family Language Program**   * Currently 20 people registered for the 2021/2022 year * Taking place via Zoom and providing an opportunity for families to learn and practice together * Julie said would be best to have someone take part in an immersive language experience in a community where Anishinaabemowin is spoken as the first language * This is a long-term goal that would require great commitment on the part of the person taking part   **Highlighted Events**   * The team provided Indigenous Transitions Programming (2 sessions at DC and 1 offered in Curve Lake * Held first day of school Smudge and Prayer * Continuing to offer monthly traditional teaching with Elder Shirley Williams and Senator Cecile Wagar * Hosting Full Moon Ceremonies * Began Get Reel series; Indigenous themed Films shown with a sharing circle to follow * First movie shown on September 30th was Indian Horse * Next movie will be “One Dead Indian” on October 20, 2021 * Durham Indigenous Voices series was a very well received collaboration between Durham College, Ontario Tech University, our student unions, Region of Durham and all Durham Region public libraries * Julie reported that the links will only be available for a short time after this meeting so please try to review soon if you haven’t already * [Reconciliation Link](https://fb.watch/8tDbIW1peO/) * [Resistance Link](https://fb.watch/8tDf2HlvIP/) * [Resilience Link](https://fb.watch/8tDhf8mS4m/) * [Resurgence Link](https://fb.watch/8tD8lF3jsr/) * There were 1556 people registered for these events and the sessions have had 6200 views * Michelle Evans thanked Julie for her encouragement in terms of her own participation on the panel and commented on the benefits of hearing from guest speakers like Pam Palmater   **Indigenous Histories and Reconciliation Modules**   * 768 people have registered for the modules to date * 200 people have completed all of the modules to date * Julie reported that after further review and revisions, they are hoping to release the modules in the new year   **Nursing Program**   * Julie reported that a new Indigenous Course is in development for the nursing program * Current nursing students will be required to take one of the following courses as one of their electives in the meantime as a requirement of graduation:   + GNED 1472 – Conflict, Colonization, and Courage: First Nations, Métis, and Inuit in Canada   + GNED 1475 – Poca-Honest: Indigenous Peoples in popular culture   + GNED 1477 – Then, Now, Forever - Indigenous resiliency in the modern era   **National Day for Truth and Reconciliation; and Orange Shirt Day**   * Amanda shared the Orange Shirt Day video with the group * Julie shared events from the day with the group including Elder Shirley Williams giving the courtyard the Anishnaabemowin name Naanaagide’endamowin which loosely translates to the Art of Thinking Courtyard * There was also a Weeping Willow Tree planted in commemoration of the Indigenous children who did not make it home from Indian Residential, Day and Industrial Schools. * Julie commented on the talk that Elder Shirley Williams gave to the crowd about the willow tree and how it loves Mother Earth and reaches to be closer her as well as the similarities between branches of the willow tree that bend but don’t break and the resiliency of Indigenous people and communities * Giveaway bags included a Leadership seed package, an “Every Child Matters” sticker, bannock with maple butter and cedar along with a recipe for making cedar tea provided by an Indigenous caterer and former DC graduate, Keri-Ann Peacock of Indigenish | Amanda Banning/Julie Pigeon |
| 6. | **Indigenization Council Update**   * **Communications Working Group**   + Enhance land acknowledgement (short and long versions; also, physical locations)   + Enhance presence on website including content and resources to support Indigenization   + Expand and update representation and presence of Indigenous community in college resources and materials including social media, website, digital resources and printed materials   + Indigenous protocol resources/guide including inviting Elders or Knowledge Keepers to events, gifts, etc. * **Staff Onboarding and Professional Development Working Group**   + One of the items being discussed at the provincial table is around recognizing skills and experience that members of the Indigenous community might bring to the table in a faculty role; may impact the new collective agreement * **Curriculum working group**   + E-campus learning project, report was submitted, all content is curated, working on developing videos for modules, reviewing from a pedagogical perspective and doing recordings, hoping to release next year.   + Reviewing the TRC report submitted to colleges Ontario, need to update the document and capture what has been going on, some schools have identified the need to look at Indigenous content in their programs as a result of comprehensive program review. * **Events Working Group​**   + Events group was asked to look at convocation and consider inviting an Indigenous drummer, Indigenous graduation celebration​   + Looking at developing a resource for the DC community that enables access to instruction, information and awareness about ways to adopt Indigenous traditions; create a digital guide book that: defines and classifies events by location, nature, size and audience; establishes an associated list of elements to consider for each type of event​   + Generate and increase awareness of an events protocol for the DC community * **Recruitment Working Group**   + Will not be able to hire an Indigenous recruiter at this time; identifying synergies where the two teams (FPIC and recruitment) can collaborate and share information, co-host events, etc.   + Share promotions, messaging for recruitment initiatives that can be sent to FPIC’S contacts to encourage more engagement with DC   + Participate in APSIP program   + Ministry binding policy prevents DC holding seats for high demand programs | Amanda Banning/Julie Pigeon |
| 7. | **Updates on Collaboration with Community Partners**   * Julie asked the group about updating membership to include Cassie-Jean Dillion, a former Durham College student as member of this group * Michelle asked whether the Terms of Reference for this group would allow for new members to be brought in throughout the year; Julie said the current Terms of Reference would allow for this | All |
| 8. | **Closing Prayer**   * Julie provided closing remarks to the group and thanked everyone for their time | Julie Pigeon |
| 9. | **Action Items**   * **Angela will send meeting the request for next meeting in February** |  |