

Aboriginal Education Council

Minutes

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2020

Time: 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

1. Land acknowledgement
2. Welcome & Introductions – (M-E. Burnett)
3. LW – expresses support for Indigenous relations, feels good about where Brock is headed, refers to Robyn Bourgeois, great work/energy, importance of building capacity for Indigenous faculty.
4. GF - Importance of role of VPIE to spearhead action of Brock, good place to look forward, work of AEC very influential for Brock's actions/outcomes.
5. Reports
 - a. Co-Chairs Report (M-E Burnett/M.Owen)
 1. New AEC Membership
 1. Melissa to send out Contact List for recruitment, see who is active, who can help?
 2. Finance Committee – Sandra, Michele-Elise
 1. Judith Knight has stepped down, seat open on Finance Committee. Get in touch with M-E or Michael if interested.
 3. Terms of Executive Committee
 1. Held Executive meeting discussing AEC action plan, role of AEC regarding Pillar 4, AEC Retreat, Robyn IRA. Sandra points out other committees like recruitment. AbSS is completely funded by ministry, suggests Brock to take on some of the dollars. GF says VPIE position was created with healthy budget to address some of the work for AbSS. VPIE is now attending PVP meetings to address these issues and navigating resources/priorities. Lynn agrees, keeping Sandra's comments in mind while assessing budgets. Discussion ensues regarding climate survey and appropriate language. GF says efforts now are in reaction to the survey.
 4. Catherine and Bobby Henry participated in workshop two weeks ago about reconciliation, colonialism, oppression. Bobby also had workshop focussing on treaties.
 5. Tecumseh Centre for Indigenous Research & Education (P. Vietgen)

1. 18 Ind. Studies courses getting more popular, Oshki Winjak taking 2nd intake next year, working on two statements of intent, trying to extend the minor to a major in Ind. Studies and expanding degrees, discussions around micro credentials.

b. Aboriginal Student Services (S. Wong)

1. Two new hires, would like them to be on agenda next meeting.
2. Promoted Orange Shirt day in September, sent out keychains and earrings.
3. Nov. 8 was National Indigenous Vet Day, sent out messaging, promoted, Inuit Day
4. Working with PACHRED
5. Mental Health Opportunity
6. M-E asks about Recruitment and Retention-self identified students only, working on gaining trust. Around 400 students, up from last year, working with Office of Registrar for one form to collect all information. Sometimes more Ind. Students graduate than identify.

c. Vice-Provost, Indigenous Engagement (R. Bourgeois)

1. Faculty Positions-Importance of recruitment for programming, Curriculum Specialist, staff. Indigenous presence in HR, programming (microcredentials). Other faculties are trying to incorporate Indigenous credentials/programming
2. Performance Indicators-eager to explore how to collect that data. Will be working with Sandra on her Asset Map. Need to look at indicators from an Indigenous perspective. Bobby Henry doing this now.
3. Student support is huge. Asked students if they thought of leaving Brock 37% have seriously thought of leaving in the last year. Support for Sandra. Need a voice at the table for retention. Funding agreement around mental health for much needed mental health support-culturally safe/sound. Working on Indigenous data from climate survey to present to different groups. Create a bimonthly meeting with VPIE and students. Safe place for students to reflect. Received a spirit bear, needs clothing, purpose using that to build on Orange Shirt day. Several events for the next year. DRC still up and running with Fallon Faranocci. Bringing in Indigenous authors/filmmakers.
4. Micro credits/Certificate/Context credits

6. Indigenous Research Grant (R. Bourgeois)

- a. Shares results from research presented over the summer. Wants community driven research to be priority. Jenn offers help of information of research OFIFC. Make sure ownership remains in community. Suggest Queens University doing research for diabetes initiative.

- b. Robyn will check if someone needs a Phd to oversee research.
- 7. Round Table
 - a. AEC Workplan report-created after workshop with Rick Hill. University was consulting with community while creating five-year plan. Framework to put some actionable item and tracking progress. Created timelines/benchmarks. Michael suggests adding column to track where we are/how far we've come. Michael suggests using it as a basis for the AEC retreat. Sandra agrees. Jenn agrees where possible there is alignment with Brock but does not want to restrict to just Brock's strategic plan. Catherine asks how can instructors be a part of that plan. Sandra suggests maybe adding a referral check box to track how students are coming to AbSS.
- 8. Closing

Attending:

Sandra Wong, Michele-Elise Burnett, Peter Vietgen, Catherine Longboat, Gervan Fearon, Lynn Wells, Michael Owen, Katie McLellan, Robyn Bourgeois, Louise Hickey, Jamie Groat, Jolene John, Jessica Winger, Jenn Dockstader, Gary Parker, Claudette Cort, Melissa Burton