



ABORIGINAL ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

19 March 2013

3:35 p.m. in The Dr Roger Epp Conference Room, 2-004

PRESENT: Jerome Melancon (Chair) Allen Berger Glynnis Hood
Mike Clermont Brittany Lehman Michael Swampy
Petra Cegiely Mary-Anne Falk (Recorder)

REGRETS: Trina Harrison

1. **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 3:39 p.m.

2. **Agenda**

The agenda was accepted as presented.

MOTION: CLERMONT/HOOD

Carried

3. **Approval of Previous meeting minutes**

The minutes of the 5 March 2013 meeting were approved as presented.

MOTION: LEHMAN/SWAMPY

Carried

4. **Remarks from Committee Members**

- Petra: Thank you to everyone who attended Dr. Littlechild's talk on Tuesday.
- Jerome: Thank you Petra for arranging the above lecture.
What can we do that will not cost anything? Before we proceed too far in one direction we should ensure there will be funding backing us. Shoot for the moon but also be considerate to what we can do without funding in consideration of the current budget situation.
- Allen: We will try hard to maintain discretionary funds in the budget because it is important to pursue good ideas and investments. What kinds of expenditures will get us the biggest bang for our buck?

5. **Business**

a. **Traditional Territory acknowledgement statement (Jerome)**

Jerome shared the Council on Aboriginal Initiatives acknowledgement statement. Allen is awaiting response from the Chancellor's office to obtain the statement the Chancellor will use at Convocation ceremonies. Obtaining statements from other institutions will guide the creation of our own statement. Build on that foundation to reflect what we think is of particular value and also distinctively our own. Petra feels that we have to be very respectful to the peoples on whose territory Augustana resides. We could familiarize ourselves with the history through Hobbema elders and incorporate their words into our statement. This is an opportunity to engage elders with the campus. Allen noted that we are the only geographically separate faculty of the university. While we are in the same region, there are unique historical differences that would be stated and are specific to our local history. For us we think that it would be more sincere to do something that reflects our unique circumstances and unique history. For this statement to be authentic it needs to be broadly supported and adopted by our campus.

ACTION: Petra will speak with John Crier about this project, and work to gather statements from other universities. Allen will work to obtain the statement from the Chancellor's office.

b. **Drawing out plans for the space for Aboriginal students to gather (Mike)**

While we are waiting to hear from north campus Facilities and Operations to assess the gathering space, Mike suggested we begin decorating the space to keep the momentum and interest we have gained. This will speak to people to let them know that we are listening and moving forward. Allen suggested that since the school year is almost over we should strive to have things in place before the fall term begins in September. The Building Committee has to approve space changes so it is important to involve them in the process before we get started.

Petra suggested university archives may have paintings we could access on a temporary basis.

ACTION: Allen will contact Facilities & Operations to obtain a fixed date to meet with them on campus.

c. **Making the committee's work public** (Petra)

How are we going to share and engage with people? Jerome suggested a website dedicated to our work which could have a mechanism to add news. People could subscribe to the RSS feed and we could promote it at events.

ACTION: Jerome will work with Dylan to write the page and give access to Petra for updates to events. Jerome will create and maintain a Twitter account.

d. **Building our relationship with MCC** (Jerome)

ACTION: Bring forward at future meeting.

6. **Next Meeting Date**

TBC. We will time our next meeting to coincide with the visit from Facilities and Operations.

7. The meeting adjourned at 4:43 p.m.

MOTION: CLERMONT/CEGIELNY

Carried