

Aboriginal Engagement Committee Meeting

23 July 2014

9:00 a.m. in Conference Room 2-084

PRESENT: Jérôme Melancon (Chair) Allen Berger Glynnis Hood
 Petra Cegiely Mike Clermont Christopher Thrall
 Michelle Pratt (Recorder)

REGRETS: Trina Harrison

1. **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

2. **Agenda**

The agenda was accepted as presented.

MOTION: HOOD/CLERMONT

CARRIED

3. **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

The minutes of 17 April 2014 and 25 June 2014 were approved.

MOTION: CEGIENY/BERGER

CARRIED

4. **Remarks from Committee Members** – Jérôme thanked members for attending the meeting.

5. **Business**

- a. **Territorial Acknowledgement Statement** – Jérôme confirmed, that a number of Elders have reviewed the statement and the majority liked it. Reservation is that it has been Cree territory for quite some time now, the wording and the sequence of the names of the Peoples in the statement were questioned. What is the next step? Allen requested Jérôme email two things: 1) the latest version of the statement; and 2) a summary of the consultations and process to date. The next steps include sharing the statement as an information item with Faculty Council at the August retreat, with opportunities for members to respond and offer input. The statement also needs to be approved by Executive Council and then shared externally with U of A Administration. It is to be made clear that this is in no way intended to replace or remove the statement that the Chancellor uses or other statements that are used on North Campus. It is an Augustana statement that members can adapt for their own use. It was suggested that the statement be shared with the Council of Aboriginal Initiatives as well. Chaplaincy would like to use it at the beginning of the year. It was agreed that the Committee will approve the statement by email once it has been distributed.

ACTION: Jérôme to email the statement and the summary to committee members.

- b. **Smudging in Small Prayer Room** – Mike reported that he had obtained a quote to install ventilation into the Prayer Room in the amount of \$2,745. The installation would be a large bathroom fan in the ceiling of the room that would exhaust outside through the brick wall. Petra requested that a timer be installed. Klug's Sheet Metal could do the work before school starts. Craig and Robyn are both in agreement with Robyn providing some suggestions for signage on the door. Petra to meet with John Crier to discuss traditional medicines, etc., and how to maintain it as a multi-faith space. Allen to inform the Building Committee that this is moving ahead. Alan Heyhurst and Chris Blades to be informed of what we want to do with the Dean's support and money from the Dean's Office to pay for it. If any further consultation is required from other areas of the University, Alan and Chris to provide the guidance. Mike and Allen to make it happen. It was agreed that an implementation plan is needed along with developing some kind of event once the renovation is complete, as part of generating interest in the space. Petra to provide an update at the next meeting.

ACTION: Allen to inform the Building Committee and speak with Chris and Alan. Mike to proceed with renovation once Chris and Alan confirm it's a go.

- c. **Communications Plan about the Space** – Christopher Thrall led the committee in a discussion of the communication process. He provided a structure for a communication plan for the space. A sub-committee of Allen, Petra, Hans and an Aboriginal student was struck to work on Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's) as an initial communication tool going forward. Additionally, the AEC will need to meet to discuss target audiences, timelines for communication and then meet with Christopher to develop the strategies for communication.

ACTION: Michelle to organize a meeting of the sub-committee so that the FAQ's can be finalized prior to the Executive Council Retreat on August 18th.

6. **Next Meeting Date** – mid August – Michelle to send out Doodle Poll for a meeting around the 15th August.

7. The meeting adjourned at 10:18 a.m.

MOTION: CLERMONT/BERGER

CARRIED