General Faculties Council
University of Alberta’s
Response to the TRC

April 30th, 2018
Indigenous Initiatives Team

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Broad Outline for today

1. Before the TRC
2. The TRC in a university context
3. the UofA TRC response in *For the Public Good*
4. Major categories of initiatives
   a. Communication/gathering advice
   b. Capacity building
   c. Student support
   d. Looking forward
Before the TRC

- Faculty of Native Studies (formerly the School of Native Studies), est. 1984
- First Peoples’ House (formerly Aboriginal Student Services Centre)
  - Transition Year Program
- the Faculty of Education Indigenous Education Council
  - Aboriginal Teacher Education Program
- Canadian Indigenous Languages and Literacy Development Institute (CILLDI)
- Council on Aboriginal Initiatives (more on that below)
- Wahkohtowin Lodge (Augustana Campus)
The TRC in a university context

- Several of the TRC’s Calls to Action relate directly to the university’s ability to demonstrate leadership on reconciliation
  - “The goal is to ensure that the University of Alberta is a welcoming and safe environment for Indigenous students, staff, faculty and community members and that programs and strategies reflect the institutional commitment to incorporating Indigenous perspectives.”
  - An Indigenous Initiatives portfolio has been established in the Office of the Provost & Vice-President (Academic) to facilitate institutional collaboration and communication to support the development and implementation of programs, services and initiatives related to Indigenous engagement at the University of Alberta.

- https://www.ualberta.ca/provost/our-initiatives/indigenous-initiatives
For the Public Good in Indigenous Initiatives

- **OBJECTIVE 4**: Develop...a thoughtful, respectful, meaningful, and sustainable response to the report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada.
- **OBJECTIVE 1**: Build a diverse, inclusive community
- **OBJECTIVE 2**: Create a faculty renewal program
- **OBJECTIVE 8**: Create and facilitate co-curricular and extracurricular learning experiences for undergraduate and graduate students.
- **OBJECTIVE 16**: Enhance, increase, and sustain reciprocal, mutually beneficial community relations, community engagement, and community-engaged research and scholarship
Communications/Advice

- Online: Indigenous Initiatives website
  - Currently being revamped
- Town halls
  - Communication and conversation vehicles (3-4/year)
  - E.g. Territorial acknowledgment statements came out of these
- Annual Networking Events
  - Faculty-specific initiatives
- Council of Indigenous alumni
  - First event took place June, 2017
- Annual “Big” Events
  - Building Reconciliation Forum
  - MOU with the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation
  - MOU with Gwitch’in Tribal Council
- Communications hire: Erin Prefontaine
Capacity building

- Emphasis on structural change
- Emphasis on hiring people (Obj. 2(ii))
  - 40+ hires, 30+ Indigenous hires
  - 24 faculty positions, 8 Faculties
- Support positions in:
  - Provost’s Office
  - Dean of Students (Obj. 1(ii))
  - Registrar’s Office (Obj. 1(ii))
  - Centre for Teaching and Learning

- Also focused on revamping existing policies and procedures
  - Community Collaboration and Research Guidelines (in concert with REB and VP (Research)) (Obj. 4(i); Obj. 16)
  - Ceremonial Policy
Student Support

- Multiple positions, including the Indigenous Student Recruitment Manager (RO); Assistant Dean (First Nations, Métis and Inuit Students), O-DoS
- First Peoples’ House
  - Dedicated student housing (family, from 2-10 units; single, from 10-28 units, including HUB spaces) (Obj. 23(iii))
  - Student tutoring (Obj. 8(ii))
  - Writing mentors (FN & Métis grad students mentoring undergrads) (Obj. 8(ii)).
- FGSR: Inspiring Possibilities (Obj. 1(i)).
- Registrar’s Office: removed barriers to emergency funding (Obj. 1(iv))
Ceremonial Guidelines

- F&O staff are knowledgeable
- Almost 70 rooms are approved
- New spaces can be assessed and added upon request to the Fire Safety Advisor
- We still have work to do on helping to bring our neighbours along, please let us know if we can assist

Ceremonial (Smudging) Guidelines

GUIDELINES
This guideline document has been created to ensure that Indigenous Peoples on this campus feel comfortable practicing ceremony, and also to provide guidance and cross-cultural learning opportunities across Campus. Cleansing ceremonies (prayer/smudging) are welcome on all University of Alberta campuses. Several rooms have been pre-approved as recommended spaces for ceremony to provide and improve accessibility, and to mitigate the potential of fire and false fire alarms.

All University of Alberta campuses follow these guidelines, with the exception of Augustana Campus.

Spaces recommended for cleansing ceremonies (prayer/smudging) can be used by faculty, students, or staff of the University of Alberta. Please note that there may be a charge for booking space.

Recommended spaces can be used at any time for ceremonies. Rooms must be booked ahead of time, and signs must be posted outside of the room while the ceremony is taking place. Signage is available from the Aboriginal Student Services Centre (SUB 2-402), or the signage can be downloaded.

If a room is not listed below, please follow the instructions under #4.

1. RECOMMENDED CLASSROOMS

The spaces listed below have been identified as recommended classrooms for ceremonial practices.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Classroom Name</th>
<th>Room Code</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Athabasca Hall</td>
<td>AT 227</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Academic Building (CAB)</td>
<td>CAB 365</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Council Chambers</td>
<td>2-100 University Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edmonton Clinic Health Academy (ECHA)</td>
<td>1-190, 2-150, 2-420, 2-430, 2-490</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education North</td>
<td>Kiva Room (ED N2 103)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humanities Centre</td>
<td>2-34</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For the classrooms listed above, please follow Classroom Booking Procedures at [http://www.registraroffice.ualberta.ca/Classroom-Bookings/Procedures.aspx](http://www.registraroffice.ualberta.ca/Classroom-Bookings/Procedures.aspx)
Looking forward: 2018/19 priorities, and beyond

1. Communication: New Website, Town Halls
2. Indigenous Community Engagement (2 parts): (1) Research ethics process; (2) Financial administrative processes for elder/community engagement
3. Move toward Vice Provost-Indigenous Initiatives model:
   a. Revamp the Council on Aboriginal Initiatives to make it more comprehensive, representative, and transparent
   b. Continue our work to build an Indigenous alumni council
Questions?