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

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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
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