

Meeting Notes

Guests

Brenda Brouwer	Vice-Provost and Dean, School of Graduate Studies
Marta Straznicky	Associate Dean, School of Graduate Studies

The Aboriginal Caucus of Council met prior to the Council meeting.

1. Opening Prayer

Mishiikenh (Vernon Altman) shared Opening Words from the Anishinaabe tradition.

2. Co-Chairs' Remarks

Ann Tierney, Vice-Provost and Dean of Student Affairs, provided an update on the expansion of Four Directions Aboriginal Student Centre. Construction will begin in early spring and it is anticipated that renovations will be completed by August 2018. Various stakeholders have been consulted on the design of the new space, which will incorporate both Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee traditions.

Ann welcomed Kandice Baptiste, the new Director of Four Directions Aboriginal Student Centre, to the meeting. Kandice most recently worked as Manager, Indigenous Initiatives, at Wilfrid Laurier University, where her responsibilities included managing the Indigenous Student Centre and its staff at the Brantford campus. Ann had the chance to work with Kandice when she was a senior project coordinator at the Council of Ontario Universities in Toronto.

Marlene Brant-Castellano advised Council that Aboriginal

respectful research partnerships with Indigenous communities. The session will build on the highly successful workshop held in October that attracted more than 80 participants.

3. Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted as circulated.

4. Report from Provost

Provost Benoit-Antoine Bacon noted that good progress is being made on implementing the TRC Task Force recommendations, and that steps are being taken to create lasting change on campus.

Irène Bujara has retired from her position as University Advisor on Equity and Human Rights as of January 31, 2018. In lieu of a celebration, Irène requested that the university make a donation to the Wabano Centre for Aboriginal Health in honor of her. The university has agreed to make a donation of \$10,000 to the Wabano Centre for Aboriginal Health in honor of Irène Bujara. The donation was made in September 2017. Stephanie Simpson, who previously served as the Director of the Human Rights Office, has accepted the appointment of Executive Director (Human Rights and Equity Offices) and University Advisor on Equity and Human Rights. In this role, Stephanie will play a key role in implementing diversity and inclusion initiatives, and guiding the

The aim of the collective is to develop bridging and pathway initiatives to support the mobilization of Indigenous post-secondary learners across the sector (i.e. diploma to degree, certificate to diploma, degree to degree, etc.)

Participating universities, colleges, and Aboriginal Institutes will also ensure they have the capacity to assist in the seamless transition of Indigenous learners, such as financial support, academic advising, access to Elders, housing assistance, etc.

The collective has led to the establishment of several partnerships among Ontario

SGS is also working to enhance support resources like the Supporting Aboriginal Graduate Enhancement (SAGE) Nest, workshop offerings, and strategies to support and showcase research by Indigenous students or focused on Indigenous communities.

SGS is also working to enhance awareness of Indigenous histories and knowledge systems through intercultural awareness training and program offerings.

An important priority for SGS is to enhance awareness of what equitable research means in the context of research with Indigenous communities.

It was noted that student and faculty researchers

