

Aboriginal Education Articulation Committee Meeting
Tuesday November 26, 2013
12:30pm – 3:30pm
Room N420

Committee Members

Shawna Cunningham (Chair) – University of Calgary
Jeanette Villeneuve – Blue Quills First Nations College
Roy Weasel Fat – Red Crow Community College
Carla Listener – Maskwacis Cultural College
Peggy LaFleur – Nechi Institute (Teleconference)
Angela Dakota – Nechi Institute (Teleconference)
Shana Dion – University of Alberta (Teleconference)
Suzanne Butler – University of Alberta (Teleconference)
Lucinda – Northern Lakes College (Teleconference)
Valerie & Virginia – Mount Royal University
Dennis Yurkiw – Bow Valley College
Marni Fieldberg – Bow Valley College
Becky Kelley - Bow Valley College
Cherylyn Cameron – Bow Valley College
Noella Wells – Bow Valley College
Seaneen O'Rourke – Yellowhead Tribal College
Charlene - Lakeland
Jim Samide – ACAT Secretariat
Eric Dohei – ACAT Secretariat

Welcome and Committee Member Introductions

- Shawna welcomed all Aboriginal Education Articulation Committee to the meeting
- Blessing of the meeting by Elder Andy Black Water

Host Report

- Becky Kelley did a presentation on programs in the Human Services department
 - **See attached power points.**
- Noella Wells did a presentation on the Iniiikokaan Aboriginal Centre
 - **. See attached power points.**

Aboriginal Education Committee Summary Report (see submitted report and power point) (Eric and Shawna)

- Learning outcomes
 - Students should be able to move seamlessly throughout different institutions.
- Concerns about learning outcomes
 - Takes away from graduates in the program.
 - Have a much broader approach when it comes to challenges.
 - Outcomes can be identified critical thinking.
 - Outcomes should have more flexibility for other institutions.

- Outcomes can benefit different delivery model.
- Area of language is important.
- Transfers
 - Cultural programs are difficult to find transfer agreements.
- ACAT Survey Summary
 - BQ – Instructor qualification
 - 100-200 level transfer credits is MA
 - 300-400 level transfer credits is PhD.
 - BVC – Timely follow-up on transfer proposals by receiving institution.
 - MCC – Familiar with ACAT process.
 - NLC – Instructor qualifications that includes the discipline.
 - SAIT – Keep up with curriculum changes.
 - YTC – Difficulties with Native Studies and Cree courses.
- Recommendations
 - Timelines
 - Improve process (clarity in the process).
 - Following up if not heard back from proposal.
 - Guidelines, deadlines, credit evaluation, transcripts.
- Instructor guidelines
 - Communication (keep in touch).
 - Improve communication between academic departments and registrar's offices.
 - Collaborate and support relationships with other institutions.
- General Recommendation
 - Coordination – should meet at least once a year.
 - Support – support in their efforts to achieve accreditations.
 - Funding – Core funding for FN institutions.
- Other recommendations for ACAT committee
 - Do not limit your survey and committee work to agreement and proposals related to indigenous studies and indigenous language learning.

Round Table Discussion:

- Noella Wells (Bow Valley College, Aboriginal Centre)
 - Calgary is very much involving and helping Aboriginal learners.
 - The role of the centre is very critical to the college and success of our Aboriginal students.
 - Roy Weasel Fat (Red Crow Community College)
 - Incoming President.
 - Hopes to expand programs beyond upgrading and traditional programs.
 - Looking to develop MOUs with other colleges.
 - Jeanette Villeneuve (Blue Quills First Nations College)
 - **Current Student Enrollment:** 189 Students
 - **Off-Campus Program Delivery**
 - Blue Quills Level 1 & Level II ECD Program offered at YTC – 41 students
 - **Collaborative Program Offerings**
 - University of Alberta Aboriginal Teacher Education Program (ATEP) – 16 students will graduate in June 2014
 - University of Alberta MEd: Indigenous Peoples Specialization – 22 graduates
- Parchment acknowledged that the program was developed and delivered “in cooperation between the University of Alberta and Blue Quills First Nations College.”

- **miyawatikwan (Celebrating) Round Dance – Nov 30, 2013**
In honour of the completion of three Indigenous Peoples Education Programs
 - BQFNC Masters in Indigenous Language Program
 - BQFNC Doctorate: iyiniw pimâtisiwin kiskeyhtamowin
 - MEd: Indigenous Peoples Specialization - partnership with the U of A
- **Recent Transfer Agreements**
 - BQ HLTH 430 Thompson Rivers University FNST 2XX1
University of Calgary INDG 397
 - BQ IYIS 144 University of Calgary INDG 303
 - BQ SWK 100 Athabasca University INST 2XX
Thompson Rivers University SOCW 2061
University of Calgary SOWK 201
- **Course and Program Offerings in Development**
 - Indigenous Health Sciences Program
 - Gender Roles and Traditions
 - Indigenous Knowledge
 - Graduate Level course on Women's Studies
 - Environmental Sciences Program
 - Indigenous Bachelor of Social Work (IBSW) – developed in collaboration with FNAHEC members
 - IT Training Certificate (10-month program)
 - Office Administration Certificate (10-month program)
- **Indigenous Jurisdiction over Education**
 - As an Indigenous Institute of Higher Learning, BQFNC has been actively involved in a variety of initiatives aimed at protecting and asserting Indigenous jurisdiction over the lifelong spectrum of education
 - Forming alliances – Click on following 2 hyperlinks:
 - [Turtle Lodge Treaty: Our Indigenous Way of Life](#) and
 - [Interview with Janice Makokis and Vincent Steinhauer](#)
 - Raising Awareness of current threats to Indigenous education rights (For example, the proposed First Nations Education Act (FNEA) has been described as a “Reboot of the Residential School Era”)
 - Community Workshops
 - Use of Social Media & Web-based Resources
 See hyperlink: [Spreecast: Treaty Right to Education](#)
- Dennis Yurkiw (Bow Valley College)
 - Update of Aboriginal Addictions Services Counselling Certificate Program
 - Enrollment increased from 14 students 2012 to 32 students 2013
- Shana Dion – University of Alberta
 - January 25, 2014 event in the main gym (5:30pm – 11:00pm)
 - Fall 2013 convocation with first honor song and largest Aboriginal Education grads in U of A history.
 - Chancellor Ralph Young proposed to pilot in addition to the Welcome and Acknowledgment of the Traditional Territory at Fall Convocation to include an Honour Song. “This will be an Honour Song for all of us, reflecting our relationship with this land and honouring the ancestors, traditions and spirit of this place - home to the University of Alberta.”
 - Dean of Education Fern Snart believed that this fall 2013 held the largest First Nations, Métis and Inuit graduate cohort that the university has ever seen in the

Faculty of Education. Celebrating 26 Bachelors, 10 Masters, 2 PhD. In all 85 FNMI graduates crossed Convocation stage an increase of 24 from fall 2012.

- The Faculty of Native Studies offers four degree programs, a Master of Arts and two certificate programs: <http://nativestudies.ualberta.ca/programs>
 - UofA was the host University for the "Soaring: Indigenous Youth Career Conference" held in Edmonton on November 6, 2013; where there was over 800 highly energetic Aboriginal high school students (grades 9 to 12) from across the Province of Alberta and surrounding provinces and territories in attendance. This was a truly awesome opportunity for the UofA to connect with a large group of our youth in a positive well organized environment.
 - University of Alberta Annual Round Dance will be held on January 26, 2014 in the MAIN GYM at the UofA.
- Lucinda Jenkins – Northern Lakes College
 - Northern Lakes College is a comprehensive community institution serving rural and northern communities in north-western Alberta. We have 5 main campuses with numerous smaller campuses where various trades, career preparation, diploma, and certificate programs are offered. University Studies offers two years of course work for transfer into various university degree programs and offers the first two years of a Bachelor of Education (elementary) which students can complete in selected college campuses when the Aboriginal Teacher Education Program offers the 3rd and 4th years the NLC region. The next ATEP offering begins in September 2014.
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 - All university studies courses at Northern Lakes are encouraged to consider and address aboriginally and FNMI perspectives and contexts. To that end sociology, anthropology, political science, history, Earth Science, Forestry, and English literature courses consider the local context and use and address specific aboriginal content. University Studies courses also contribute to both the Social Work and Practical Nurse diploma programs and address current and local aboriginal content and contexts.
 - Currently the following courses are offered that have mainly aboriginal studies content are offered:
 - **Aboriginal Studies 1000**-Introduction to Aboriginal Studies
 - **Aboriginal Studies 2500**-Deconstructing Images of Aboriginal People in Canada
 - **Political Science 1200**-Introduction to Aboriginal Politics and Government
 - **English 2070**-Survey of Native-Canadian Literature
 - Under development are three new courses required for the revised University of Alberta B.Ed., two which contain material on aboriginal perspectives and one which is tentatively titled: Aboriginal Education and the Contexts for Professional Engagement.
- Peggy LaFleur – Nechi Institution
 - Delivering Introduction to Addictions program in January 2014.
- Valerie / Virginia – Mount Royal University
 - 1 out of 5 pillars at MRU is Aboriginal Strategies.
 - Native Center is located in Student Association.
 - 486 students self-identified as Aboriginals.
 - 83.3% success rate.
 - 1 new program (Aboriginal Science Technology). Identifying barriers for students to go to science.
 - Would like to host a science symposium, summer science camp all across the treaty.

- Creating indigenous studies minor in technology.
- Institutional level... the Institutional Plan focuses on 5 pillars, one of which is to build an Aboriginal Strategy that will serve to inform the institution.
- Academic level... the Faculty of Arts continues to work on the development of an Indigenous minor and currently delivers four courses
- Iniskim Centre...the Academic Resource center for Aboriginal students has been moved from the Academic division to the Student Affairs & Campus Life division (the center reports directly to the VP) / the center currently runs without a Director as she is on leave / we are running one new program, Aboriginal Science & Technology Program (ASTEP) and the Administrator of that program, Virginia Deschenes is the newest member of the programming team.

Fall 2013 demographics are attached for your reference. (**See Attached FALL 2013Snapshot**)

- Marni Fieldberg (Bow Valley College)
 - Business program making changes to their curriculums.
 - 10% increase to the Fall Admission.
- Seaneen O'Rourke – Yellowhead Tribal College
 - Offering an indigenous Social Work program. Hoping to offer a degree program.
 - Converting Management Studies to online offering.
- Becky Kelley (Bow Valley College)
 - Looking forward to future collaborations
- Cherylyn Cameron (Bow Valley College)
 - Practical Nurse program has a regional and on-reserve offering. We are looking on revitalizing the Aboriginal PN.
- Carla Listener (Maskwacis Cultural College)
 - Gender specific language program.
 - Working on science programs. Sharing the creation story.
 - The following is Maskwacis Cultural College's update:
 - In terms of ACAT - we are planning an internal review of our ACAT courses. We will be then revising courses that have to be up dated and also writing 5 new courses which will then go into the ACAT system after allocating the institutions where they will be transferable.
 - Culturally, we are revising the Cree Language Instructor Training program to ensure that it is current and includes pedagogy and technology.
 - We have an all men's literacy program which is being conducted currently, next will be an all women's literacy program. The reason being that we feel that it is easier to handle gender specific roles in the culture and to ensure that all the learners' needs are being met.
 - We have a wait list of 70 for our Adult Education Program, which streams into our college programs. This is going well but find that we lack the space to fill the education needs of the community of Maskwacis.
 - We are happy to announce that in 2014 the community name of Hobbema, will officially be changed to Maskwacis. This is not a MCC driven initiative but the entire 4 band leadership.
 - Our Indigenous Social Work program has been accredited for 7 years. We deliver the program to Yellowhead Tribal College and Old Sun Community College.

- Lastly, we are working on creating Plains Cree Language assessments to ensure that learner needs are being met not only in the academic stream but also the within the traditional Plains Cree culture and language.
- Shawna Cunningham (University of Calgary)
 - Have students visit www.aboriginallinx.ca . Lots of opportunities to browse jobs and use resume tools. Employees can reach out to Aboriginal students. 77 students graduated in June.
 - **ACAT Update Learner Data** - 614 Self Identified students for 2013 Fall term
 - **Age Categories**
 - 20 & under = (27%)
 - 21-30 = (53%)
 - 31-40 = (13%)
 - 41 & Over = (7%)
 - **Gender**
 - Female = (65%)
 - Male = (35%)
 - **Graduate Enrolment Data**
 - Doctoral = 18 (Education=7; PhD=11) (24%)
 - Master's = 50 (Course=41; Thesis=9) (67%)
 - Post-Baccalaureate Certificates & Diplomas = 7 (9%)
 - **Graduate Student Initiative**

The Native Centre is working with the Graduate Student Association to gather information from Aboriginal Graduate students on identifying better ways to support Aboriginal student at the Graduate level, this may include workshops, research / peer support, and faculty mentorship.
 - **ASSERT – new**

The Native Centre has launched a new Aboriginal Student Support and Engagement program that will focus on leadership training, cultural workshops, and assisting with customized academic support service through the Student Success Centre. Students who participate ASSERT will also have the option to participate in Community Services learning program through “UCalgary Cares” at the University of Calgary research station on Kluane lake in the NWT.
 - **Aboriginal Relations Leadership Training Program**

This program is offered by The Native Centre in partnership with Career Services and funded in part by the ATCO Group. The program is offers 24 hours of Aboriginal Awareness training in a non-credit format. The program is designed for University of Calgary students and new alumni, but has received considerable attention from the corporate and non-profit professionals. The program has been offered seven times since May 2012, with over 320 participants, and has issues about 300 participatory certificates. .
 - **Other Programs: LYNX Aboriginal Student Career and Employment Program** - this program provides an online job placement and job posting site for Aboriginal and employers interested in hiring Aboriginal students for Co-op, Internships, summer employment, and FT Careers. The program has 15 PS partners and 8 corporate sponsors. The program currently has over 2300 Aboriginal student registrants.
 - **NAPI Aboriginal Youth Outreach program** – This program offers three levels of leadership training and motivation presentations designed for Aboriginal youth ages 15 – 24. Students are awarded with Participatory certificates for each level

completed. The program is offered across Alberta, NE BC, the Yukon, and the NWT.

- Charlene Bonnar (Lakeland College)
 - **Self-declared FNMI Enrolment in Fall 2013 (New and Returning Students in a variety of program areas) – 79 students**
Lloydminster Campus – 63 students
Vermilion Campus – 15 students
Fire Training – 1 student
 - Our **Department of Energy, Entrepreneurship, and Aboriginal Programming** offers specialized programming such as Employment Skills Enhancement, Tourism, and preparatory training for the Heavy Oil Operations Technology certificate. (Since these programs may not run on the regular academic schedule, these numbers may not be reflected in the enrolment numbers for Fall 2013). For the past few years, this department has hosted an annual tipi raising and other cultural events on the Lloyd Campus.
 - **University Transfer** offers two university-transferable Native Studies courses (NS 110 and NS 111). The University of Saskatchewan College of Nursing and College of Education both require 3 credits of Native Studies in their pre-professional years, so all students in those routes will take at least one of those courses. We also expect to see increased enrolment due to the changes to the U of A Elementary Education degree.

Next Meeting:

- Yellowhead Tribal College to host a meeting for the Aboriginal Colleges
- Jeanette Villeneuve will be acting Vice-Chair effective immediately
- The next meeting of this committee will be in mid-May 2014
- The next Aboriginal Indigenous Languages Sub-Committee meeting will take place on January 24, 2014 Athabasca University in Edmonton.