Task Force on Aboriginal Affairs
Tuesday, June 26, 2012
10:00am-12:00pm
Room 506, Tory Building

Present: P. Ricketts, Provost and Vice-President (Academic) (Co-Chair); J. Albert, Elder; L. Capperauld, Director, Equity Services; I. Hill, Aboriginal Cultural Liaison Officer; J. Kelly, Co-Director, CIRCLE; J. Osborne, Dean, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences; A. Proude, Dean, Faculty of Public Affairs; J. DeVries, Office of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic) (recording).

Regrets: A. Tenasco, Director of Education, Kitigan Zibi Education Sector (Co-Chair); S. Blanchard, Associate Vice-President (Students and Enrolment) and University Registrar; S. Brascoupe, Community Member; B. Gorham, Manager, Public Affairs; E. Kane, Assistant Vice-President (University Services); L. Labine, Assistant Vice-President (Human Resources); K. Matheson, Vice-President (Research and International); M. Matoush, Counsellor in Academic Training, Cree School Board; C. Mearns, Undergraduate Student; R. Nelson, Instructor, Department of Sociology and Anthropology; D. Serkoak, Instructor, Nunavut Sivuniksavut; H. Tenute, Graduate Student.

1. **Welcome and Introduction**
P. Ricketts opened the meeting at 10:15am.

2. **Elder’s Opening**
J. Albert gave the Opening Prayer. P. Ricketts recognized the Algonquin people on whose traditional territory Carleton University is situated.

3. **Approval of the Agenda**
The agenda was approved with two additions: J. Albert will speak on Indigenous knowledge; and A. Plourde will speak on the proposed Indigenous MPA.

4. **Meeting Summary of February 9, 2012**
The meeting summary of February 9, 2012 was approved as presented.

**Business Arising**

5. **Results Of Planning Session And Next Steps**
L. Capperauld provided an update on each of the four areas identified by J. Riggs as tangible areas for moving forward: preparing a map of Aboriginal activities on campus; develop a “brag book” in conjunction with the Departments of Advancement and University Communications; explore pathways for Aboriginal college students to transfer to Carleton; and have a conversation around Indigenous knowledge. With regards to the map, L. Capperauld noted that creating the map was an exercise that the Task Force could do together. She noted that she had recently met with J. Riggs on how to proceed with mapping and noted that this activity would be a good way of starting the meeting in September. There was fulsome discussion of the organization of this session and whether J. Riggs should be asked to facilitate it. It was noted by the committee that, pending a review of the first draft of the work plan, she will prepare, the Task Force will engage J. Riggs for help moving forward with the mapping exercise. P. Ricketts noted that the mapping could be linked with the launch of the new Aboriginal Centre. L. Capperauld noted that some of the activities for the map and the brag book had been compiled by CACE and University Communications, but not in detail. A. Plourde noted that the map should be organized so that it is searchable and can be updated regularly. He provided some suggestions for organizing the brag book into a web-based and appealing story of accomplishments. P. Ricketts noted that the brag book would be different than the map, in that it would highlight past accomplishments, research
activities, and alumni with ties to initiatives moving forward. J. Osborne commented that the research and conceptualization of the brag book could be a student project and suggested the first year AESP seminar, which will be taught by Rodney Nelson. It was noted that this project could be partnered with another group in computer science or engineering for the technical component. J. Albert noted the importance of the initiative being on-going, and noted the need to look at infrastructure costs on a longer term basis. P. Ricketts suggested involving journalism students, similar to their current reporting on undergraduate research projects.

With regards to college pathway programs, L. Capperauld noted that she and A. Tenasco had met with Algonquin College to discuss existing pathways and potential new ones. P. Ricketts noted that there may be additional opportunities if the articulation agreement with Fleming College moves forward.

With regards to the conversation on Indigenous knowledge, J. Albert circulated a handout. He noted that there are many things going on with respect to Indigenous knowledge on campus. He commented on three issues connected to how the institution has this conversation so that there is an effect on the institution itself: strategy on reconciliation; discussion on world views; and awareness of different learning styles. J. Kelly noted the importance of talking about the past in a manner that brings healing. A. Plourde commented on the possibility of having a speaker’s series in conjunction with high schools. He further noted the need to look at the first steps and strategies taken by other institutions to integrate Indigenous knowledge. J. Osborne noted that some of these steps may be outlined in a report prepared by the Academic and Research sub-committee. L. Capperauld commented on an upcoming conference on Indigenizing the Academy. It was noted that Marie Battiste may be contacted to be a resource on facilitating Indigenous knowledge within the University.

6. New Aboriginal Centre – Update
I. Hill noted that the plans for the new Aboriginal Centre are moving forward. He noted that the collaboration with the architecture students on the design of the Centre was successful and it also provided those students with a rewarding experience to receive feedback from clients. He noted that the Centre has received funding to complete the renovations of the space. At the request of facilities management, they provided the name of Douglas Cardinal as the architect who could potentially be hired to work on the Centre. He noted that the opening of the Centre coincides with the 20th anniversary of CACE and that this celebration, along with a naming ceremony, could be incorporated in the grand opening of the Centre. In response to a question on timing, he noted that the anticipated opening is in December 2012 or January 2013. He noted that Advancement is working to get supplies for the Centre. In response to a question, L. Capperauld noted that no response had been received from the request for funding from Roberta Jamieson.

New Business

7. Aboriginal-Themed Research “Conference”
L. Capperauld noted that there is a working group, led by Katherine Graham, to plan an Aboriginal-themed conference in October. She noted that the conference would bring together Carleton faculty and students doing research on Aboriginal issues. She noted that the conference is being sponsored by the Offices of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and the Vice-President (Research and International).

8. Review of Ontario’s PSE Aboriginal Education Councils
L. Capperauld noted the Ministry of Training, Colleges, and Universities (MTCU) commissioned a review of Aboriginal Education Councils (AECs) in post-secondary institutions. She noted that the MTCU is reviewing how AECs function and will potentially change the funding provided. She reviewed some of the recommendations made in the report. She noted that there is an expectation that the MTCU
will require institutions to show a demonstrated commitment of resources to their AECs, rather than relying solely on MTCU funding. She noted that without MTCU funding, CACE would lose two of its three staff members and recruitment and retention activities would cease. I. Hill noted that there is concern that funding will be dependent on the number of Aboriginal students who self-identify and that funding may fluctuate with the number of students.

9. **Review of Draft MTCU Performance Measures and Possible New Funding Criteria**
L. Capperauld noted that the draft is telling of what the MTCU may be considering for funding in the future. She noted the theme throughout the document of institutional commitment. In response to a question regarding a potential requirement by the MTCU to change university charters to include Aboriginal representation on the Senate and Board of Governors, L. Capperauld noted that it may not be as complicated as that, but the expectation would be to have representation on these groups. In response to a question, L. Capperauld noted that the Task Force on Aboriginal Affairs currently meets the requirement as an Aboriginal Education Council. She noted that the proposed funding changes could be discussed at the October meeting as there is an assumption that the MTCU will issue a call for funding proposals before March 2013 with the new criteria. **L. Capperauld will circulate the MTCU documents to the President and Vice-Presidents for review and discussion.**

10. **Input from Members on 2012-2013 Meeting Schedule**
P. Ricketts noted the difficulties in meeting this year. There was fulsome discussion on the meeting schedule and format for 2012-2013. It was noted that the meetings should be held monthly for two hours each. A day other than Wednesday will be explored as it was noted that this is a heavy teaching day. It was suggested that updates be circulated in advance of the meeting and that the meetings be reserved for more active agendas and fulsome discussions on particular issues. **Options for meeting dates for 2012-2013 will be circulated to the Task Force members.**

11. **Other Business**
Under other business, A. Plourde noted that the MTCU had issued a call for proposals for a Master’s of Aboriginal Public Administration. He noted that the School of Public Policy and Administration is preparing a proposal and is exploring the potential for delivering the program alone or in partnership with Queen’s University. He noted that the School has been in contact with AFN and Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development. He commented on the funding proposed by the Ministry for program delivery. P. Ricketts noted the potential of this program in terms of existing strengths and opportunities for building a national profile and linking to national Aboriginal organizations.

The meeting adjourned at 12:10pm.