

Annual Report (2017-2018) – Iniskim Education Committee

Agenda item	Iniskim Education Committee Annual Report (formerly named the Aboriginal Education Committee)
Action requested	Review by General Faculties Council
Purpose	A summary of activity in the 2017-18 academic year
Date submitted	August 14, 2018

The IEC met six times in 2017-18 and there was quorum at every meeting. This stands in contrast to 2016-17 when the AEC met only once. The 2017-18 academic year was a productive year for the Committee. The accomplishments of the Committee are a testament to the engagement of its members, who participated fully and meaningfully.

During the fall, the Committee members voted to recommend a name change for the Committee from the Aboriginal Education Committee to the Iniskim Education Committee. This was subsequently approved by General Faculties Council. The new name is reflected in this report. Another change was made: Prior to 2017-18, the Committee was chaired solely by the Associate Vice President (Students). Effective 2017-2018, the Associate Vice President (Students) and the Director of the Iikaiskini Gathering Place co-chaired the meetings.

Sadly, the Elder affiliated with the committee passed away during the year. Andy Blackwater was a well-respected community member who provided the blessing at a number of the IEC meetings in 2017-18. We are grateful to have benefitted from his involvement in our work. His presence will be missed.

A summary of activities for 2017-18 follows:

Meeting dates:

October 16, 2017	December 12, 2017	March 21, 2018
November 21, 2017	January 31, 2018	April 24, 2018

- On October 16, 2017, a motion was approved to adopt two co-chairs of the Committee (Associate Vice President, Students and Director of the Iikaiskini Gathering Place)
- On November 21, 2017, a motion was approved to change the name of the Committee from the Aboriginal Education Committee to the Iniskim Education Committee.

In addition to the above changes, four key initiatives emerged from the IEC during the 2017-18:

1. Research:
 - a. With the endorsement of the IEC, Leroy Little Bear, President’s representative, and Roy Pogorzelski, Director of the Iikaiskini Gathering Place, met with all of the deans to discuss and plan for the creation of a comprehensive record of research and academic initiatives (asset mapping) pertaining to Indigenous

matters. A graduate student was hired to assist with this initiative, thanks to funding the School of Graduate Studies.

2. Indigenous Strategy (in response to the TRC):
 - a. Further to agreement of the IEC, consultation with local Indigenous communities occurred, including two key consultations with Elders and leaders (men and women separately) in spring 2018. The development of the strategy will be the primary goal of the IEC in 2018-19.
3. Inclusion: Convocation stole and Indigenous food at Convocation
 - a. Stole: The IEC approved a motion to propose the adoption of a convocation stole, with symbols representing different Indigenous groups and the University. This motion was approved by General Faculties Council in Spring 2018. This stole, designed by the team in Indigenous Student Affairs (Iikaiskini Gathering Place), replaces the Eagle feather, which was difficult to obtain, carried legal obligations for the recipient, and did not represent all Indigenous cultures.
 - b. Teddy Cakes provided Indigenous food at the convocation reception following the ceremony, for all to enjoy.
4. Inclusion: Cultural Regalia at Convocation
 - a. The IEC approved a motion to propose that Indigenous students be permitted to wear their own cultural regalia at their convocation ceremony in lieu of or with the University's regalia. This proposal was approved by General Faculties Council in Spring 2018. The Spring 2018 convocation ceremonies were the first time this was an option at the University of Lethbridge.

There was a great deal of rich and powerful discussion during meetings, with the involvement of key Elders from the community. Members had the opportunity for deep learning throughout the year.