



GFC Standing Committee Report

Committee: Iniskim Education Committee (IEC)

For the Period of July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021

Members:

Committee Chair

Kathleen Massey, Associate Vice-President (Students) & Heather Mirau, Integrated Planning Director [Committee Co-Chairs], designated Co-Chairs for Erasmus Okine, Provost & Vice-President (Academic) ex-officio

Ex-Officio Members

Leroy Little Bear, Distinguished Niitsitapi Scholar designate for Mike Mahon, President & Vice-Chancellor

Lindi Shade, Manager of Iikaisskini (Gathering Place)

Charlene Bruised Head-Mountain Horse, Indigenous Student Advisor

On-Campus Elder Representative (or designate)

Frances First Charger

Indigenous Community Representatives selected by the Iniskim Education Committee

Shawn Singer, June 30, 2022

Travis Plaited Hair, June 30, 2022

Aboriginal Alumni Member (or Alternate), selected by the Iniskim Indigenous Alumni Chapter

Mike Bruised Head (Myles Bruised Head), June 30, 2021

Undergraduate Student (or Alternate) selected by the Students' Union

Toni Pashe (Richard Lee-Thai) April 30, 2021

Graduate Student (or Alternate) selected by the Graduate Students' Association

Yvonne Tiger (Lauren Zink), April 30, 2021

Academic Staff members, nominated by General Faculties Council Executive Committee

Andrea Amelinckx, June 30, 2021

Mary Greenshields, June 30, 2021

Inge Genee, June 30, 2022

Academic Staff members of Deans' Council, selected by Deans' Council

Helen Kelley, June 30, 2021

Mary Ingraham, June 30, 2022

Resource Persons (non-voting):

Jodie Gallais, Director, University Secretariat

Mike Whipple, Director, Office of the President

Roy Weasel Fat, President, Red Crow Community College

Crystal Volk, Administrative Assistant, Associate Vice-President (Students)

Meeting Overview: The IEC met 3 times during the 2020-21 academic year: November 12, 2020, January 28, 2021, and March 11, 2021.

The IEC focused on the following priorities in 2020-21:

1. Indigenous Strategic Plan
 - IEC reviewed and made edits to the plan - a governance structure, MasterCard foundation details, additional Blackfoot values, protocols and art and a statement from leaders will be added.
 - Ongoing work and consultations will continue. Extensive consultation is required.

2. Support initiatives brought forward through the Mastercard Foundation
 - Increased collaboration with Red Crow College on student opportunities.
 - Increased community communications to assist students in academic goal setting and access to post-secondary education.
 - Mike Frank, Director of Indigenous Communications and Education was hired to lead collaboration with Indigenous communities with a goal to establish increased educational goals for Indigenous youth and meaningful employment opportunities.
 - Wilma Spear Chief, Indigenous Counsellor in Counselling Services,
 - Three education navigators and three employment navigators as well as other positions to be hired to assist with in-community communications.

3. University of Lethbridge Declaration – M. Bruised Head drafted a declaration. Declaration will be reviewed by L. Little Bear and will move through appropriate channels for acceptance/approval in 2021-22.

4. Support for the planning and consultation process for the new likaisskini location

5. Ongoing discussions on how to Indigenize the campus
 - The following suggestions were brought forward: create Indigenous cohorts and create a separate Indigenous orientation. Further discussion and planning is needed in 2021-22.

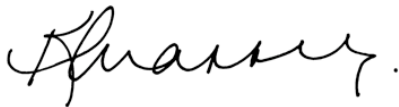
6. Introduction of new Indigenous staff members across campus - Indigenous hires were invited to attend IEC:
 - Jodie Flamand, Indigenous Student Advisor in Indigenous Student Affairs and
 - Marnie Hope, Indigenous Student Recruiter in Enrolment Services.

Special Mention and other highlights:

- Chairs reported on record enrolment numbers; In Fall 2020, there were 550 Indigenous students at the University of Lethbridge. There were 504 undergraduate and 46 graduate Canadian Indigenous students.
- IEC committee welcomed Mike Frank the new Director, Indigenous Education and Communication effective November 12, 2020. M. Frank has a deep connection with Indigenous communities in southern and northern Alberta, as well as BC. Most recently, M. Frank was the Executive Director of the Paul First Nation and previously the CEO of the Salt River First Nation, as well as other Nations. He was also the CEO of the Blood Tribe Dept. of Health. M. Frank graduated with a BA from the U of L and is a Master of Arts (Candidate) at the University of Sussex. He is very proud of his grandmother, Dr. Helen Manyfingers, who received an honorary doctorate from the U of L and inducted into the U of L Alumni Honour Society.
- The President centralized Indigenous Affairs within the Office of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic) as a strategic priority for the University.
- The President initiated an Indigenous Units Task Force to review supports, governance, Mastercard Foundation Project inclusion, program and curriculum synergies for increased collaboration and centralization; and to make recommendations for the integration of service and supports; explore methods to increase Indigenous awareness in general; remove unnecessary duplication of operations and redundancies; evaluate services and duties; and explore operational efficiencies. This Task Force submitted 38 recommendations to the President.

- The Indigenous Regional Task Force was established by the Presidents of the University of Lethbridge, Medicine Hat College and Lethbridge College with the U of L in the leadership position. The task force reviews/recommends collective efforts to better support Indigenous students to pursue their educational goals. A survey was sent to gather data on students' education and career related goals and current barriers. The task force will review data and make cross-institutional recommendations.
- All new Dhillon School of Business students are now required to take one Indigenous course during their studies at the University.
- The MasterCard initiative will create more employment pathways; and expand access to post-secondary education for Indigenous youth. A focus is also on support of ongoing programs and initiatives in likaiskini, work integrated learning and partnerships with Indigenous communities.
- Indigenous awareness week was hosted online March 1-5, 2021.
- likaiskini will be relocated to the heart of campus in September 2021 just off the Atrium in University Hall.
- An agreement with Piikani Traditional Knowledge Services was signed by the President to provide Blackfoot cultural awareness training for senior leaders at the University of Lethbridge. The first two sessions were completed and pending Covid, the remaining two sessions will be conducted in fall, 2021. Further cultural training for employees is being reviewed.
- The University of Lethbridge will observe the new National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on Thursday, Sept. 30. On June 3, 2021, the federal government passed legislation that designates September 30 of each year as a public holiday under the Canada Labour Code. The University's decision to observe this new holiday, although not required by law, is consistent with the University's commitment to Indigenization, and specifically the Truth and Reconciliation process. On September 30, 2021, orange shirt day, UofL students were planning to host a residential school tree planting ceremony on campus to acknowledge residential school survivors. Unfortunately, this event was canceled due to COVID. Several events were planned and had to be reorganized/changed due to Covid.

Submitted to General Faculties Council with respect,



Kathleen Massey
Associate Vice President (Students)
Student Affairs
Co-Chair of the Iniskim Education Committee



Heather Mirau
Integrated Planning Director
Indigenous Affairs/Provost's Office
Co-Chair of the Iniskim Education Committee