

Academic Standards Curriculum and Pedagogy Committee of Senate Special Sub-Committee on New Faculty Curriculum

Record of Consultation

Date Tuesday, June 18, 2019

Attendees Ruth Koleszar-Green, Co-Chair, Indigenous Council
 Bonita Lawrence, Chair of the Department of Equity Studies
 Coordinator of the Indigenous Studies Program

Sub-Committee Members Kim Michasiw, Chair of ASCP, Chair
 Liette Gilbert, Co-Coordinator (FES)
 Alice Hovorka, Dean, Environmental Studies
 Joseph Mensah, Chair, Geography
 Alice Pitt, Vice-Provost Academic
 Tarmo Remmel, Co-Coordinator (Geography)
 Robert Everett, Secretary

Nature of the Consultation

This consultation was preliminary in nature, and provided the Sub-Committee with an opportunity to learn about the landscape for Indigenization, Indigenous Studies program in LA&PS, and processes as the new Faculty's proponents develop curriculum. There had been no formal consultations to date, but those designing the new Faculty have explicitly stated their intentions to advance Indigenization in partnership with others.

Process

An animating question turned on how to proceed mindfully, systematically, collaboratively and respectfully. To this it was answered that Indigenous people should not be tokenized or segmented. A well-rounded curriculum should enmesh given the responsibility of citizen-scholars to comprehend political, cultural and economic aspects in a deep engagement. A thoughtful approach is essential, and the conversation will necessarily be a lengthy and inclusive one. The Indigenous Council is taking up a proposal to have a curriculum sub-committee which, if established, would be a valuable aid. The Council itself is also a key resource, and will be able to provide ongoing advice.

Curriculum

Participants addressed many themes:

- the benefits that could flow from cooperation between the new Faculty and Indigenous Studies (but the importance of ensuring that Indigenous Studies thrives)
- land-based education
- an academic year that accommodates students who wish to participate in ceremonies
- the possibility of field schools and the desirability of a living lab on the Keele campus as part of working with the Indigenous Studies program
- the value of curriculum that focuses on the lived experiences of Indigenous peoples in urban settings (e.g. AP/INDG 3650 3.00 Urban Native Communities)
- placement opportunities for students and the opportunity to share resources
- individualized students with knowledge keepers and other ways of learning beyond the traditional university pedagogy
- the flexible Cross-Disciplinary Certificate in Indigenous Studies and its potential attractiveness to the new Faculty's students along with the other programs (Indigenous Studies offers a three-year BA, a minor, major minor, double major and Specialized Honours) – explicit linkages should be considered between the new Faculty and Indigenous Studies
- promotion of AP/ INDG 1050.6.0 Introduction to Indigenous Studies throughout the University

Outcomes and Next Steps

It was agreed that the new Faculty must not have a negative impact on Indigenous Studies. Opportunities for collaboration should be pursued.

The FES-Geography curriculum working group is preparing two-page overviews of innovative curriculum that will be highlighted in the proposal to establish the new Faculty that goes to Senate and the Board of Governors. These will be forwarded to Professor Ruth Koleszar-Green and Professor Lawrence for comment.

Proponents expressed their desire to connect with the Indigenous Council for ongoing advice and suggestions regarding curriculum and pedagogy.

The Sub-Committee is planning a second phase of consultations in September and will include the Indigenous Council in its canvassing.