



# UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

## UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE

General Faculties Council  
Committee on the Documentation of Indigeneity  
Approved Closed Session Minutes

Thursday, January 27, 2022  
Remote meeting by Zoom  
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

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### **ATTENDEES:**

Florence Glanfield, Co-Chair  
Melissa Padfield, Co-Chair  
Chris Andersen  
Vaughn Beaulieu-Mercredi  
Jacqueline Bellerose  
Jenna Broomfield  
Shana Dion

Elsey Gauthier  
Nadia Green  
Trevor Phillips  
Harold Robinson  
Evelyn Steinhauer  
Francis Whiskeyjack  
Brian Wildcat

Non-Voting  
Brett Buchanan (on behalf of  
Fiona Halbert)  
Mary Golab  
Jax Oltean  
Kate Peters  
**REGRETS**  
Fiona Halbert  
Norma Dunning

### **CEREMONY**

The Co-Chair invited Francis Whiskeyjack to begin the meeting with ceremony.

1. Comments from the Co-Chair  
- Questions from Orientation

*Presenter(s):* Florence Glanfield, Vice-Provost (Indigenous Programs and Research) and Co-Chair, Committee on the Documentation of Indigeneity (CDI).

*Discussion:* The Co-Chair invited the members to share any questions or thoughts they had since the Orientation on January 12, 2022 and members shared questions and thoughts on the work of the committee.

2. Approval of the Agenda

*Presenter(s):* Florence Glanfield, Vice-Provost (Indigenous Programs and Research) and Co-Chair, CDI

*Discussion:* The Co-Chair suggested that the committee work through consensus rather than having recourse to voting. She referred to the agenda as distributed and asked for members to indicate whether they had additional items to add to the agenda.

3. Review of CDI Documents

Terms of Reference  
Membership  
Draft letter of agreement

*Presenter(s):* Florence Glanfield, Vice-Provost (Indigenous Programs and Research) and Co-Chair, CDI

*Discussion:* The Co-Chair asked for feedback on the Terms of Reference and the Draft Letter of Agreement. She noted that the CDI Terms of Reference had been approved by GFC, but that she was interested in questions or comments of the committee members on them.

Members discussed the possibility of changing the name of the committee to the Committee on the Documentation of Citizenship. Members asked about the Draft Letter of Agreement, how it had been developed, and who was responsible for the administrative legal process. In relation to this, the Co-Chair noted that typically, members' names are identified on the membership list which is public on the University Governance website and invited members to reflect on this.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### 4. Draft Principles for CDI Committee

*Presenter(s):* Florence Glanfield, Vice-Provost (Indigenous Programs and Research) and Co-Chair, CDI

*Discussion:* The Co-Chair invited members to provide feedback on the principles documents and members discussed and provided feedback on the document.

Members discussed the need for certified copies and discussed what makes a document "uncertifiable". The committee agreed on need to be more instructive to students about the format of documentation. Members discussed "registration" for example in the Indian Register, as a form of documentation and a naming systems in Inuity communities.

In addition, members discussed potential conflicts with use of documentation including Article 33 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) that states:

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to determine their own identity or membership in accordance with their customs and traditions. This does not impair the right of indigenous individuals to obtain citizenship of the States in which they live.
2. Indigenous peoples have the right to determine the structures and to select the membership of their institutions in accordance with their own procedures. is the clearest one.

In addition, Principle 2 from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) states:

First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples, as the original peoples of this country and as self-determining peoples, have Treaty, constitutional, and human rights that must be recognized and respected.

Members also noted that the first principle from the TRC incorporates UNDRIP into the reconciliation framework.

## **PROPOSALS FOR CONSIDERATION**

### 5. Proposals for Documentation for First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Awards and bursaries

*Presenter(s):* Melissa Padfield, Vice-Provost and Registrar, Office of the Registrar, Co-Chair, CDI

*Discussion:* The Co-Chair invited Ms Padfield to present on the rationale for this item and she explained how the list of forms of proof is used by the RO in formulating their offers to applicants and students.

She introduced Brett Buchanan who explained timelines for adjudication of documents, and how the documents were collected and used.

There was no discussion.

### 6. Territorial Métis Representative Organization Update

*Presenter(s):* Melissa Padfield, Vice-Provost and Registrar, Office of the Registrar, Co-Chair, CDI

*Discussion:* The Co-Chair invited Ms Padfield and Mr Phillips to present on the proposal to add the Territorial Métis Representative Organization to the list of acceptable forms of documentation.

T Phillips noted the importance of this change for recruitment in the NWT and the ability to communicate eligibility. Members discussed and provided feedback including revised language for both the new addition and the existing references to the Métis Settlement General Council.

The precedent set by this change was discussed and the committee discussed the importance of recognition by other Nations. Specifically, that by securing a key component of representative government, the federal or provincial recognition of self-determination, the North-West Territories Métis could be accepted by the University of Alberta. The idea that there may need to be an inclusion of other authorities that recognise them was discussed the Committee observed that the criteria may be:

1. Does the Crown recognize them?
2. Do other Indigenous Communities recognize them?
3. How does the representative organization manage their membership list?

This two-pronged approach means that the Committee may make the update today with the recognition of the Crown and that we may want to make more expansive definitions of eligibility, for example, Fort Mckay Métis Nation's eligibility. There was a discussion on when that may be made public by the University of Alberta.

The members were asked if they were comfortable with the proposed amendment as set out in the documents, and they responded with some proposed changes:

"Membership Card from the Métis Settlements General Council showing membership in a Métis Settlement of Alberta."

The Co-Chair asked whether there were any objections to the proposed amendments. There were none.

The next steps were explained including updating the website and informing stakeholders across campus on any changes that may need to be made including to Student Financial Supports.

## **CLOSING SESSION**

11. Adjournment
  - Next meeting: March 27, 2022
  - Next meeting of GFC: January 31, 2022

**The meeting was adjourned at 12:07**