



1. Mandate and Role of the Committee

The Committee on the Documentation of Indigeneity (CDI) is a standing committee with delegated authority from GFC to determine the standards, and approve policy and calendar language respecting the documentation of Indigeneity in Canada for Indian, Métis and Inuit peoples, as outlined in Section 35 of the Constitution Act (1982). These documents are presented by students of and applicants to the University to determine eligibility for admissions, awards and financial support that are specifically reserved for Indigenous students and applicants.

Given the specific responsibilities to respond to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action, GFC has delegated authority to the Committee on the Documentation of Indigeneity (CDI) in order to ensure that decision-making on the documentation of Indigeneity is informed by Indigenous perspectives and the specific Indigenous knowledge regarding questions of Indigeneity.

2. Areas of Responsibility

- 2.2 Where no authority or process exists to obtain documentation of Indigeneity in Canada, determine the eligibility of students and applicants for Indigenous admissions, awards and financial supports specifically reserved for Indigenous students of, and applicants to, the university.

This includes, but is not limited to, determining standards and policy respecting the kinds of information which students or applicants could present in support of a finding of eligibility for admissions, awards and financial support specifically reserved for Indigenous students of, and applicants to, the university. This is to be distinguished from the case of a student or applicant who could obtain documentation of Indigeneity but who has not done so.

- 2.3 Committee members will comply with the university's policies and procedures regarding both ethical conduct and conflict of interest. Members must declare conflicts when they arise and shall maintain confidentiality of all information included in closed session meetings.

3. Composition

Membership shall respect the need for majority Indigenous voices at the table. Because GFC may not have sufficient Indigenous membership to allow for principles of composition to be respected, the four Indigenous faculty or staff members are not required to be members of GFC. The membership will be reviewed annually when the Committee's terms of reference are reviewed.

Members (14)

Ex-officio (5)

- Vice-Provost Indigenous Programming and Research, co-Chair
- Vice-Provost & University Registrar (or designate), co-Chair (member of GFC)
- Dean, Faculty of Native Studies (or designate) (member of GFC)
- Assistant Dean, First Nations, Métis and Inuit Students (or Director of First Peoples' House)
- Manager, Indigenous Recruitment

Appointed (9)

-Three Indigenous community members:

- One First Nations representative
- One Métis representative
- One Inuit representative

These individuals should be suggested by the Indigenous representatives on the committee; and agreed upon by consensus of the whole committee.

Individuals will be asked to serve 3-year terms

-Three Indigenous faculty and/or staff from Faculties with admissions pathways specifically reserved for Indigenous applicants

-One Indigenous faculty and/or staff member nominated by the Vice-Provost & Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies & Research

-One eligible First Nations, Métis or Inuit undergraduate student with documentation of Indigeneity in Canada selected by the Aboriginal Student Council

-One eligible First Nations, Métis or Inuit graduate student with documentation of Indigeneity in Canada selected by the Indigenous Graduate Students' Association

Individuals will serve a 1-year term

Each year the Committee Co-Chairs will invite the Executives of the Aboriginal Student Council and the Indigenous Graduate Students' Association to nominate the individuals.

Non-voting Members

- Assistant Registrar, Student Financial Support (Resource Member)
- Representative from Legal Counsel (Resource Member)
- Representative from University Governance (Resource Member)
- Representative from Information and Privacy Office (Resource Member)

4. Delegated Authority from General Faculties Council

Should be reviewed at least every three years and reported to GFC.

4.1 Under the PSLA, the General Faculties Council (GFC) has the authority to:

“determine standards and policies respecting the admission of persons to the university as students” s. 26(1)(n),

“make rules and regulations respecting academic awards” s. 26(1)(m), and

“delegate any of its powers, duties and functions under [the PSLA]” s. 26(3).

Specifically, the GFC CDI has delegated authority from the GFC to determine the standards and policy respecting the documentation of Indigeneity in Canada; or, only where no process exists to obtain documentation of Indigeneity in Canada, respecting other information supporting documentation of Indigeneity in Canada that students / applicants will need to present in order to be eligible for admissions, awards and financial support specifically reserved for Indigenous students of, and applicants to, the university.

5. Responsibilities Additional to Delegated Authority

5.1 Document Identification:

In relation to section 2.1, the CDI will have the responsibility to:

Each academic year:

Prepare a list of the Documents of Indigeneity in Canada that students and applicants will need to present in order to be eligible for admissions, awards and financial support at the university which are specifically reserved for its Indigenous students and applicants.

Submit the list of Documents of Indigeneity in Canada to the GFC as an annual report and to be distributed to academic and academic service units, that administer, manage or determine Indigenous admissions, awards and financial supports, to ensure all such units across the university determine eligibility for Indigenous admissions, awards and financial support in a consistent manner across the university.

As needed, approve changes to the University Calendar as it relates to the Documents of Indigeneity in Canada that must be produced by students or applicants in order to be eligible for admissions, awards and financial supports specifically reserved for Indigenous students / applicants at the university.

Determine Eligibility When There is No Authority that Issues Documents of Indigeneity in Canada. In relation to section 2.2, the CDI will have the responsibility to report to GFC annually on the Committee review process, on cases that were submitted and reviewed.

6. Reporting to GFC

The committee should regularly report to GFC with respect to its activities and decisions.

7. Definitions

Academic Units - include Faculties, Departments, and Schools. Faculties are defined as academic units with authority over student programs.

Academic Service Units - administrative units, excluding ancillary units, that have academic impact

Indigenous Applicant - For the purpose of application and admission to the University of Alberta, and consistent with the Constitution Act, 1982, Section 35(2), an Indigenous applicant is an Indian, Inuit, or Métis person of Canada.

Formal Documentation of Indigeneity in Canada - Indigenous applicants who wish to be considered for admissions, awards, and financial support reserved for Indigenous students will be required to provide documentation of Indigeneity in Canada.

8. Links

[Calendar Section](#)

[Admissions Policy](#)

[Student Financial Supports Policy](#)

Approved by General Faculties Council:

June 6, 2021