

**DRAFT Minutes for the
University of the Fraser Valley
INDIGENIZATION COMMITTEE OF SENATE**

December 8, 2020

3 pm to 5 pm

via ZOOM virtual meeting

Attendees: Dianna Kay (Chair), Vandy Britton, Louis DeJaeger, Shirley Hardman, Gilmour Jope, Mark Point, Lauren Couture, Terry Prest, Sophemia Prest, Kaylee Vogelar, Mary Saudelli, Peter Geller, Eric Davis, Stan Manu, Christine Elsey, Sonny McHalsie, Betty Peters, Cheryl Gabriel, Lorna Andrews, Angie Bailey, Gary Williams

Regrets: Judy Swakum, Kris Erickson, Bibiana Norris

Note taker: Carol Dickson

1. Welcome and Opening

Elder Terry Prest started us out in a good way.

2. Approval of Agenda - the agenda was approved as presented.

3. Appointment of Chair & Vice Chair for 2021-22 Academic Year

As the selection of a Chair and Vice Chair must be formally completed each year, the committee endorsed Dianna Kay as Chair (nominated by Shirley Hardman, seconded by Betty Peters) and Shirley Hardman as Vice Chair (nominated by Betty Peters, seconded by Vandy Britton) for the 2021-22 academic year.

4. Roundtable Update

Question: How is COVID-19 affecting your communities?

- Vandy Britton – instances of COVID have been low to date and the Teacher Education program is pivoting to accommodate learning.
- Betty Peters – the Indigenous Student Center tutors, peer mentors and elders are available virtually for Indigenous students. While there were originally staff members on campus one day per week, this has now shifted to remote only. Staff have been working to source laptops, webcams and other infrastructures to allow Indigenous students to continue their education. Staff have been trying to connect with each student on our list at least once per week.
- Lorna Andrews – has moved to working remotely from Shxwowhamel due to the lockdown, with security set up at the gate to protect our community.
- Mark Point – currently active on ZOOM; instances of COVID in the community.

- Sonny McHalsie – Currently working remotely, also participating on the treaty negotiating team for the SXTA Constitution process.
- Kaylee Vogelar – Has not been affected by COVID directly, but notes others have had it.
- Eric Davis – currently working remotely.
 - Has completed interviews with approximately 23 Indigenous faculty and staff and has been able to identify a number of challenges encountered by these employees.
 - Currently working with a group to Indigenize the hiring process.
 - Working with a group that includes Betty Peters to complete UfV's Human Rights application to the Labour Relations Board to allow Indigenous-focussed hiring.
- Mary Saudelli – currently working remotely. Working to find ways to support students and faculty to get through this COVID period.
- Christine Elsey – Seeing a lot of stress on students and faculty with respect to teaching and learning remotely. Trying to find ways to offer support to this population. Faculty are quite diverse in their approaches to the online environment – their work to bring people together has been inspiring.
- Cheryl Gabriel – We are warriors against COVID. Our community has been locked down since March 13, therefore all of our meetings are done virtually, either through ZOOM or MS Teams.
- Sophemia Prest – We have been staying home for months and months now, and recently started having meetings on the iPad. It's great to see everyone again.
- Terry Prest – It's hard to stay in touch with people and to feel connected.
- Gary Williams – there are many lessons that we can learn from the Spanish Flu. Our Elders went through it, and it seems like they were very bad, with many deaths. All the young people that are going away, seems like there are more than just COVID...being punished for being sick. Look after your health, without your health you don't have anything. We are rich: rich with culture and with surviving. If we don't teach about this, then we've failed.
- Louis DeJaeger
 - Has been busy supporting the community with their health and wellness, elder support, food and shelter. We are also providing support to businesses.
 - Hosted a flu clinic
 - Cooperating with the Aboriginal Health Steering Committee, Chilliwack Healthy Communities
 - Working to connect people who might be outside of our area and not already connected to their communities.

- o Teaching FNST 101 and definitely noticing a lot of stress with the students. Trying to check in on everyone, with a number of assignment extensions.
- 5. Angie Bailey –
 - o In April/May the community created a COVID bylaw with limits to gatherings, activities, etc.
 - o In October, with regard to mental health, drug and alcohol use, some in the community have suffered.
 - o After 25 years of having no new on-reserve housing, in the last couple of years we have added 4 duplexes. Accommodations have had to be made to allow some families to overcome obstacles and allow our community members to be safe and secure.
- Dianna Kay
 - o At Seabird Island Community School, we have created primary (12 students per classroom), intermediate (14 per pod) and high school (20 per pod) pods, where teachers stay within their pods (except Halq'eméylem teachers). We have been able to hire another language teacher, and are offering language classes every day.
 - o Ceremonies are limited to with the distinct pods.
 - o All high touch areas are cleaned every hour.
- 2. Gilmour Jope – appreciate everyone's time today and their dedication to sharing.
- 3. Stan Manu – appreciate being part of the sharing and learning more about what is happening in the community.
- 4. Peter Geller – working remotely, and have been filling the role of Acting Dean of Applied and Technical Studies since September.
- 5. Shirley Harman
 - o Grateful to be part of the circle this afternoon. So often we don't get enough community engagement. If there is anything you need or anything that we can do to help the community, please let us know.
 - o Acknowledged the participation of the two Chiefs who attended the Federal Chiefs meeting today, which they put on hold for us so that they could share with us today.
 - o We will be hosting UFV's first virtual ceremony in January, to unveil Jonny (Williams) Shaw's carving installation in the renovated Indigenous Affairs Office.

Elder Terry Pulsemet Prest brought the meeting to a close in a good way with a suggestion that we learn to listen so we can listen to learn.

Upcoming meetings:

- o February 23, 2021
- o April 13, 2021
- o June 15, 2021