Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, Aboriginal Advisory Council
Terms of Reference

Approved May, 2012

Name: OISE Aboriginal Advisory Council

Background:

On June 1, 2010 members of the Association of Canadian Deans of Education (ACDE) signed the Accord on Indigenous Education. The Accord was developed to create a respectful and inclusive education curriculum that reflects the needs of Aboriginal people, and emphasizes a strong framework for its signatories to work together to advance Indigenous education in Canada.

All institutions which signed the Accord on Indigenous Education are expected to aspire to its vision, principles, and goals in their education programs and research initiatives. Signatories will use the Accord to guide program review and transformation, working collaboratively to prioritize the educational purposes and values of Aboriginal communities and people. The ACDE encourages its signatories to share their progress, challenges, and successes in implementing the Accord in order to learn from, and to help each other.

As a signatory to the Accord, OISE has appointed a Special Advisor to the Dean on Aboriginal Education and established the Aboriginal Advisory Council to advise on institutional policies, procedures, practices and programs to ensure they reflect and respect the interests and needs of Aboriginal communities.

Purpose:

To advise on institutional policies, procedures, practices and programs to ensure they reflect and respect the interests and needs of Aboriginal communities.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Aboriginal Advisory Council will advise and support OISE as it strives to achieve the following goals as detailed in the Accord on Indigenous Education:

- To create and sustain respectful and welcoming learning environments that instill a sense of belonging for all learners.
- To create respectful and inclusive curricula, including the promotion and development of culturally responsive curricula and to infuse Indigenous content and ways of knowing into all curricula at all levels.
- To promote culturally responsive pedagogies and improve the quality of knowledge, understanding, and pedagogic skills that all educators gain about Indigenous education and Indigenous knowledge systems.
- To value the study of Indigenous knowledge as scholarly activity.
- To promote assessment practices that support socially just relations within and beyond the classroom for Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples.
• To fulfill a leadership role in supporting Aboriginal communities and involving other faculties in the promotion, reclamation, restoration, revitalization, and teaching of Indigenous languages.
• To support the development and extension of Aboriginal leadership in education.
• To foster all education candidates’ political commitment to Indigenous education, such that they move beyond awareness and act within their particular sphere of influence.
• To create and mobilize research knowledge, including Indigenous epistemologies, in order to transform Aboriginal education, teacher education, continuing professional education, and graduate programs.

**Reporting Structure/Governance**

The Council is chaired by Dr. Suzanne L. Stewart, Special Advisor to the Dean of OISE on Aboriginal Education and Research. The Council advises the Dean of OISE through the Council Chair.

**Members**

The Council is an open-membership group that is comprised of Permanent Members and Observer persons. Observers have the right to speak at and participate in meetings, but not to vote on substantive matters.

All members of the Council are individuals who have knowledge, experience and understanding of Aboriginal peoples, their values, histories, current issues and cultures, and who have knowledge and interests relevant to OISE’s mission and goals.

Membership may be periodically adjusted to ensure the appropriate representation of expertise and experience. A variety of perspectives within the Council will be sought to ensure that the advice OISE receives is comprehensive.

Council members serve as individuals on the basis of their expertise, but can also represent their respective organizations.

**Meetings**

Calling of Meetings: The Council shall meet bi-monthly, or as considered to be appropriate and necessary by the Chairperson.

Quorum: Quorum shall be necessary for approval on voting matters. Quorum shall consist of at least fifty percent plus one (50% +1) of the Permanent Members.

Decision-Making: Decisions may need to be made by the Council from time to time on questions relating to the Council’s fulfillment of its role and other matters. Each of the Permanent Members shall be able to express their views at Council meetings. The Council will make every effort to make decisions based on consensus. Where a consensus cannot be reached, the majority shall prevail.
Travel and Expenses

Members will be reimbursed for expenses incurred during their work on the Council, such as travel accommodation and out-of-pocket expenses, according to the University of Toronto policies and guidelines regarding travel and other reimbursable expenses.