

**National Association of Indigenous Institutes of Higher Learning
Executive Board Meeting – May 3 & 4, 2007
First Nations University of Canada - Regina, SK**

Board Members Present:

Trevor Lewis, First Nations Technical Institute, ON
Amelia Clark, President, Old Sun Community College, AB
Larry Gauthier, First Nations University of Canada
Linda Staats, Six Nations Polytechnic Institute
Doreen Beauchamp, Director, Yellowquill College, MB

Guests: Charles Pratt, President, First Nations University of Canada

Meeting chaired by Trevor Lewis, Chairman.

Opening prayer by Tony Cote.

1. Opening remarks – Charles Pratt

President Pratt brought greetings and welcome on behalf of the First Nations University of Canada. In his opening comments, President Pratt extended assistance to NAIHHL and commented that his institution is committed to helping people. He also noted that the First Nations University of Canada has joined WINHEC as a full member and he currently sits on the editorial board for WINHEC journals. He also indicated he is willing to work with NAIHHL to bring WINHEC to Canada.

He noted that the First Nations University of Canada is experiencing some challenges with AUCC and the university is on probation and it is not clear what the expectations are of the university to AUCC. As a result, funding is being withheld by INAC and attributes this to political pressure. President Pratt indicated that it is important for First Nations to run their own institutes.

2. Agenda

Review of agenda.

Moved by Larry Gauthier and seconded by Amelia Clark to adopt the agenda as amended. Carried.

3. Opening remarks – Trevor Lewis

a) Trevor informed members of work he has done on “No Higher Priority”. A lot of letter writing and a press release was done to ensure this document gets acted on; in addition, a letter of was sent to Minister Prentice who Trevor also met with and presented him with outstanding educational issues. Trevor advised members that Minister Prentice was to take this information to the standing committee and he sent out of a letter which did not contain any new information.

- b) A final report and financial report was submitted to INAC for 2006/07 and Trevor will have the 2007/08 budget ready for submission. He has not been able to make contact with the right people at INAC. INAC is currently withholding funds from AFN as well.
- c) Trevor has had an inquiry from Julia Pegamagabo of Health Canada FNINB. She would like accreditation for courses, etc. from NAIHL for certification programs delivered. He advised that institutions may want to work with her on this. President Pratt also commented that the university was also approached by Addictions & Mental Health to look at offering more than certificate programs and consider degree programs.

4. **Review of minutes of March 23, 2007**

Moved by Larry Gauthier and seconded by Linda Staats to accept the minutes as presented. Carried.

5. **Vandermeulen Report**

Some discussion on the report that was done for the First Nations Accreditation Board and the need to work with FNAB on accreditation.

6. **Finance**

Moved by Linda Staats and seconded by Amelia Clark to adopt the financial report as presented. Carried.

Trevor advised members that he approached Peter Garrow about utilizing some space at AFN. This would be for a person who would have a background in policy analysis, education, writing and research. It would be a term position on behalf of NAIHL and suggested that this be reviewed once the budget has been approved for NAIHL.

Moved by Linda Staats and seconded by Amelia Clark to approve the NAIHL 2007/08 budget for \$100,000.00 in principle. Carried.

The contract for secretariat services was also signed.

7. **New Business:**

- a) Linda reported that to date six responses were received on the capacity research project. The questionnaire needs to be redesigned in a checklist format and a letter from the chair should be sent indicating what the questionnaire is about and why it is being sent out.
- b) The student success project will be sent out shortly. The publication was compiled by Lu Ann Hill and contains a lot of good stories.
- c) The performance indicators were reviewed and accepted as presented.

- d) *Moved by Amelia Clark and seconded by Linda Staats to accept and submit the final activity report to INAC. Carried.*
- e) Discussion on the need for representation on the NIEC. NAIHL can support AFN by being a part of NIEC. Trevor will follow up on this.
- f) Discussion on representation by NAIHL on the WINHEC board.
Moved by Amelia Clark and seconded by Larry Gauthier that the second representative on WINHEC from the NAIHL board be Doreen Beauchamp. Carried. (WINHEC meeting in Oahu from Oct. 21 – 23/07). Trevor and Doreen will attend this meeting pending available funds.
- g) A review of the strategic plan was completed. A change was made under priority #2 to add in #4 under Participation in ALKC – add: “actively participate in ALKC activities, conferences, research forums.”

Also wording should change in priority #2 – “Influence”, “Develop”, “Ensure” – should change the words.

Suggestion the plan be put in more comprehensive terms. Trevor will submit the plan with the changes; i.e. plans that can be completed within a year.

8. Next meeting dates:

Conference can be held and if necessary the next meeting would be in Winnipeg.

Annual General Meeting

September 27 & 28, 2007

Six Nations Polytechnic

Larry to send membership invoices in August.

9. Institute News/Info Sharing

- a) Six Nations Polytechnic – plans are put on hold for a Health Sciences program due to few applications. Thirteen students currently enrolled in medical school at McMaster University.
- b) First Nations Technical Institute – actively introducing a cabinet campaign with hopes of building a new campus. They will try to utilize an infrastructure trust fund.

Motion to adjourn by Amelia Clark. Carried.

Minutes by D. Beauchamp, Secretary