

The University of Winnipeg Board of Regents Indigenous Advisory Circle Policy

Title: Indigenous Advisory Circle Policy

Effective Date: November 28, 2011

Review Date: five years after effective date

Authority: The Board of Regents

Purpose:

The University recognizes that it is on Treaty One land in the heart of the Métis Nation.

The University chooses to operate with respect for all Indigenous Peoples.

This policy will provide an institutional framework for an Indigenous Advisory Circle to contribute Indigenous perspectives to the University's governance, programs, and services.

Scope:

This Policy applies to the University's Indigenous Advisory Circle at The University of Winnipeg.

Responsibilities

The President is responsible for the maintenance and administration of this Policy, and the communication and promotion of the Policy, both within and outside the University, and will report on the work of the University's Indigenous Advisory Circle at timely intervals.

Accountability

In consultation with the Indigenous Advisory Circle, the University will set and review Circle objectives from time to time, and audit progress against these objectives.

Goal

To ensure the inclusion of Indigenous Peoples' perspectives in the governance of The University of Winnipeg through an Indigenous Advisory Circle to the President.

Policy Review

This Policy is to be reviewed in accordance with University policy review practice.

Indigenous Advisory Circle

Background and Context

The University of Winnipeg Indigenous Advisory Circle evolves from the successful Master's of Development Practice Indigenous Advisory Circle constituted in September, 2010 to guide the development of the MDP program.

The Indigenous Advisory Circle will advise the President and Vice-Chancellor, the Associate Vice-President Indigenous, Government and Community Affairs, Senior Administrators, and the University community.

Structure:

The Advisory Circle will normally be composed of no fewer than eight Indigenous people: five Canadian, including at least one each from the Inuit and Métis communities; and three international Indigenous representatives, including one American; representing a broad range of Indigenous peoples.

The Advisory Circle will be appointed by the President and Vice-Chancellor of the University. A Chair will also be named by the President and Vice-Chancellor, and the Advisory Circle will be supported by the University's Associate Vice-President of Indigenous, Government and Community Affairs who will act as secretariat.

The Advisory's Circle's membership will be representative of urban, rural and northern Indigenous peoples in Canada and other international Indigenous communities. Members will have expertise and experience in a range of areas of concern to Indigenous peoples, but particularly education and development.

The term of members of the Advisory Circle will be for three years, with a potential for re-appointment for an additional three years.

Powers and Duties:

The Advisory Circle will be a visionary and advisory body, working together to bring the issues and experiences, expertise and perspectives of Indigenous peoples to the University. Members will consult regularly with representatives of Indigenous organizations throughout the country, and internationally, and with individuals who are working at the community level on Indigenous issues, and make recommendations to the University to achieve its objectives of Indigenous inclusion.

Meetings:

Meetings of the Advisory Circle will be held four times annually, on or around the summer and winter solstices (June 21/December 21) and spring and fall equinoxes (March 21/September 21) in Winnipeg, the centre of Turtle Island.

Remuneration:

The members of the Advisory Circle will volunteer their time and serve without remuneration, and no member will directly or indirectly receive any pecuniary benefits from serving as a member. Members may claim out of pocket expenses such as travel to quarterly meetings in Winnipeg, in accordance with University policies.

Governance:

Representatives of the Circle will be welcomed at Board of Regents' meetings as observers.

Board of Regents and Senate representatives will be welcomed in the Circle as observers.

Objectives:

- A. Guide and support initiatives, programs and services at The University of Winnipeg;
- B. Advise on matters related to local, national and international Indigenous communities;
- C. Assist in ensuring that the University and its governance, programs, and services are guided by an awareness and understanding of Indigenous peoples; and
- D. Improve access by advancing its fundraising objectives for scholarships and bursaries for Indigenous students.