# Acadia Community Advisory Council Minutes

October 17, 2022

6:00pm – 8:00pm – SEM 231 + Zoom

**Presen**t: Tanya Surette, Kelly Brenton, Birdie Bezanson, Erica

McGill, John Hubert, Clarence De Schiffart, Christina Toplack, Greg McKinnon, Gemma McLeod, Tara Moore, Jacqueline Greenough, Janice Graham-Migel, Patricia Wentzell, Janet Dyment, Ron Lehr, Corrine Haigh, Andrea Noylander

**Regrets**: John Moore, Alison Arthur, Charles Desmond Shepard,

Wanda McDonald, Linda Wheeldon, Ann Sylliboy, Jen Moore,

**Minutes**: Birdie Bezanson

**Welcome**

Mi’kma’ki territorial acknowledgement

Welcome to Corrine Haigh, Dean, Faculty of Professional Studies, as a new member to the Advisory Council

Janet Dyment, Director, School of Education, welcomed the council.

Greg McKinnon, Graduate Coordinator, hello and welcome.

**Updates from the Program**

1. Community-Based Cohort – Tanya, Kelly, Birdie and Corrine met with Sipekne'katik community members to start discussions (June 2022)
   * Agreement that this must be done in relationship with the community
   * Action items: To identify the following within the community
     + Is there enough interest for a full cohort? who are the elders that can support delivery of the curriculum, how can we build community, how can we recognize institutional barriers
   * Items for discussion:
     + How would it be offered (weekend, on campus or in community)? What are some of the considerations for curriculum? How can we remove barriers for acceptance?
   * Greg suggested requesting letters of interest
   * The meeting identified that there is a lot of work to do to ensure we move forward in a culturally responsive manner and that both communities are eager.
   * Suggested as resources: Kris Magnusson (Simon Fraser), Tim Black (UVic). Blythe Sheppard was also suggested as a possible resource.
   * The meeting also led to opportunities to have members of the community to contribute to our current teaching
2. Professional Seminar – Introductions to Sand Play
   * Presenter - Theresa Fraser
   * 12 participants
   * Positive feedback
   * Training was experiential
   * Recommended that we start a list that is kept with Linna for mail outs to communicate pp interested in Pro Sems
   * Suggested that Polyvagal Theory be a topic (Deb Dana virtual possibly)
3. Per-Course Faculty Information Session
   * Identified that we have had some failed searches and sometimes struggle to fill positions
   * Core faculty has picked up overload but this is not sustainable
   * We propose to offer a Q & A session to info professionals about opportunities for teaching in the program
   * We will ask the council members to spread the word to cast our net wide for this info session
4. Tenure Track Hire – Forthcoming
   * Developing job ad for 5 month Contact Limited Term position beginning Dec 15th to cover core faculty absence
   * This will help with admission season
   * The current CLT position held by Birdie Bezanson is in the fifth year and will roll into a tenure track position
   * We will ask the council members to spread the word to cast out net wide for this position
   * Tanya clarified that the accreditation committee has identified that a full complement is 4.75 core faculty
   * Corrine explained the university hiring process
   * Council noted that under resourcing has been a pattern in the program in the past 20 years
   * Noted the Director and Dean are aware of the challenges of under resourcing and are advocating to the broader university community
   * Janet suggested we begin to think about succession planning
   * CCPA local chapter may be an avenue for communicating
   * PT 2023 is dedicated to school counsellors to address need in Nova Scotia

* Council asked, how are we preparing our students for the diversity they are facing when they graduate
  + new required course Culturally Responsive Counselling

1. Accreditation update
   * Received full accreditation for the upcoming 6 years.
   * Tanya noted that the accreditation team’s response document is directed to the VP Academic Office and all reviews and changes go through VP Academic

**Community Wellness Clinic for Teaching, Research, & Counselling**

* The council was provided with a brief description of the goals for the Wellness Clinic prior to the meeting
* Core faculty visited the Dalhousie Social Work interdisciplinary clinic
* Erica noted two interdisciplinary initiatives already in progress 1) fulltime cohort are doing intakes and single (same day) session appointments at the counselling centre as part of their pre practicum course work (Erica noted students are doing 90% of intakes), 2) Kinesiology collaboration with the counselling centre is waiting on funding 3) Nutrition and Dietetics and counselling centre working with clients that have eating disorders is in the process of developing 4) Pre practicum students in collaboration with Dr Juan Carlos Lopes will provide experiential learning opportunities to 10 intro biology
* Core faculty has met with Office of Advancement to start looking for funding opportunities
* Core faculty have been researching models
* Tanya identified that the aspirational goal is to expand into the community

**Small Group Discussion – Community Needs & Involvement for Wellness Clinic**

**Whole Group Debrief & Discussion**

* Identified we need to access expertise to establish a sustainable business model– Clarence mentioned L’Arche has gone through this process successfully
* Start small and identify who we can work with to build the idea and bring new partners on as we grow
* Noted we need a “degree of separation” from the university if we are going to provide service to the community
* Identified this should be a social enterprise to ensure sustainably, funding from a number of different of sources not solely from Acadia
* A needs assessment should be initiated to help with focus– Erica identified Fall 2020 Campus Wellbeing Survey – which informed their mental health strategic plan
* Community needs –
  + psycho ed assessments which might be an area of collaboration with psych, and academic programing, ADHD assessments
  + Psychiatric services
  + Needs for wellbeing counselling for people in distress but do not full mental health disorder
  + Eating disorder treatment
* We must consider how we refer to longer term services; can we establish a relationship with other agencies for referral – Bigger question “what is the function of the clinic.”
* We need to consider the skill set of the students and the time available for service
* How will the clinic be useful to part time cohorts? Is virtual counselling opportunities a possibility?

**Date of Spring 2022 Advisory Council Meeting (Tentative)–May 29, 2022**