

LAURENTIAN UNIVERSITY NITAAMGAYAAJIG¹ EDUCATION COUNCIL

Terms of Reference

1. **Mandate of the Laurentian University Nitaamgayaaajig Education Council (LUNEC)**

The Laurentian University Nitaamgayaaajig Education Council (formerly Laurentian University Native Education Council) was established to act as an advisory committee to the President of Laurentian University by providing advice and recommendations on all matters related to First Nation, Inuit and Métis (FNIM) education at Laurentian University.

2. **Composition of the LUNEC**

2.1 **Voting members:**

One voting member or their alternate of the LUNEC shall be appointed by the following organizations:

- a) United Chiefs and Councils of Mnidoo Mnising (UCCMM)
- b) Mamaweswen – The North Shore Tribal Council
- c) N'Swakamok Native Friendship Centre
- d) Wiikwemkoong Board of Education
- e) Atikameksheng Anishnawbek
- f) Sagamok Anishnawbek
- g) Ontario Native Education Counselling Association
- h) Métis Nation of Ontario
- i) One Indigenous Student Circle Representative
- j) One School of Indigenous Relations Student Council Representative
- k) One Sudbury Urban Indigenous Representative
- l) Wahnapiatae First Nation

2.2 **Non-voting members:**

The following individuals from Laurentian University will also be members of the LUNEC; however, they shall not have any voting rights:

- a) President, Laurentian University
- b) Vice-President, Academic and Provost
- c) Associate Vice-President, Academic & Indigenous Programs or designate
- d) Director, Indigenous Sharing and Learning Centre or designate
- e) One representative selected by the Laurentian University Board of Governors

¹ 'Nitaamgayaaajig' meaning: the first ones here/the people original to this place.

- f) One member appointed by LUNEC to sit on Senate
- g) Director, School of Indigenous Relations or designate
- h) Maamwizing Indigenous Research Institute Director or designate
- i) Indigenous Studies Coordinator or designate
- j) Vice-President of Research or designate

3. Term

- a) All voting representatives of the LUNEC shall serve a term of three (3) years;
- b) All non-voting representatives shall serve at their leisure;
- c) In the event that a voting member is absent from two consecutive meetings without justification the chair will request clarification of the member's intent to remain on LUNEC. In the absence of a response LUNEC reserves the right to remove the voting member from LUNEC by a vote.

4. Decision Making Process

- a) LUNEC shall strive to make decisions by consensus and quorum for conducting business shall consist of five (5) voting representatives;
- b) If decisions cannot be made by consensus, then decisions may be made by a simple majority of those voting members present at meetings;
- c) LUNEC be guided in its deliberations and decision-making process by adhering to the Nishnaabe Code of Conduct attached as Appendix 1.

5. Responsibilities

Laurentian University Nitaamgayaajig Education Council has a responsibility to represent the interests and advocate on behalf of the FNIM students and their communities at all times. More specifically, these responsibilities include:

- a) provide advocacy and leadership on strategic directions related to the advancement of FNIM education at Laurentian University;
- b) monitor and evaluate the implementation of any recommendations provided;
- c) provide feedback on institutional policies and procedures that may affect FNIM staff, faculty and students;
- d) review and discuss FNIM related funding submissions from Laurentian University; and
- e) reviewing, analyzing and offering advice on services having a bearing on FNIM Education at Laurentian University

Each voting representative of LUNEC shall be responsible for sharing information with the communities or organizations they represent.

LUNEC shall appoint a representative to Senate in accordance to Senate bylaws.

The University respects the responsibilities and priorities of LUNEC and LUNEC respects the policies and procedures of the University.

6. Frequency of Meetings:

- a) The LUNEC shall meet on the second Thursday of each month or more frequently as required;
- b) Meetings may be conducted in person or by electronic means if required;
- c) Meeting packages will be distributed one week prior to the meeting and may be distributed by any means;
- d) The Chair for the meetings of LUNEC will be elected by the voting representatives at the first meeting of the year and will serve a term of three (3) years.

7. Laurentian University Administrative Support

- a) Laurentian University shall pay for travel, meal and accommodation expenses according to its established accounting practices of the institution.
- b) Laurentian University will also provide appropriate administrative support to LUNEC so that it may carry out its responsibilities.

7.1 The President shall report regularly to the Board of Governors and Senate on advice received from LUNEC and the follow-ups made by the University.

8. Amendment

These Terms of References shall be reviewed annually and any amendments to the terms of Reference may be made at any regular meeting of LUNEC.

Ratified by: LUNEC November 1998

Senate April 1999

Board of Governors February 2000

Revised and Ratified by LUNEC October 15, 2009

Board of Governors December 18, 2009

Revised with minor changes by LUNEC November 28th, 2012

Revised with the deletion of the Membership of Nipissing Band of Ojibways by LUNEC September 5, 2017

Revised and Ratified by LUNEC NOV 20th, 2020

Executive Committee Final May 25, 2021

Revised with minor change by LUNEC January 10, 2022

Revised with minor changes by LUNEC November 10, 2022

Revised membership by including Wahnapiatae First Nation as a voting member by LUNEC December 12, 2024

Revised the committee's name from *Native* to *Nitaamgayaajig*; updated the non-voting members to include the Vice-President, Research; and amended the voting members list by removing the Anishinabek Nation by LUNEC November 13, 2025.

Appendix I

Kina Wii-mno-wiijnakiind-ying That We May All Work Well Together Nishnaabe Code of Conduct

Respect & Dignity

- Let us listen to each person's ideas with respect, and accept with grace any differences of opinion and corrections.
- In expressing our views, let us be mindful that our colleagues too have many demands on their time and so do not keep them unduly.
- In discussing issues and ideas, let us keep our focus on the merits of each perspective, and not make the perceiver the issue.
- When we must seek or provide clarification, let us do so in a way that maintains the person's dignity, and neither raise our voice in anger to, nor show disrespect towards anyone, whatever his or her stance.

Sharing

- Let us all share our time, energy and talents with our leaders and peers to facilitate their and our unit.
- When success proves elusive, let us ask not "who is to blame?" but "how can we help to ensure greater success in the future?"

Honesty & Truth

Abiding by the principle of respect:

- Let us make clear how any proposal we present came about.
- Let us allow all to express their opinions honestly and to vote freely and without prejudice in accordance with their standards and conscience.

Wisdom & Love

- Let us learn the need to balance work and play, and to take the time to nurture our whole being.
- Let us neither confound an idea's popularity with its wisdom, nor construe a difference of opinion as disrespect or enmity.
- In making decisions, let us strive to think clearly and with foresight, and to avoid making promises we cannot keep.
- Let us not mistake the ideal of consensus as a sanction of coercion.
- If we must say "no", let us ensure that it is for the right reasons and when doing so, that we treat the person with dignity.

Humility

- Let us remember that we choose not the gifts we have, but only how we use those given to us by the Creator.
- When called upon to lead, let us be mindful of our humanity while striving to give the best of ourselves to the entity we serve.
- Let us consider with humility suggestions another may give us, and promptly acknowledge any misunderstandings.

Honour & Courage

- Let us deal honourably with all, those who share our ideas, and those who do not have the same history or outlook or gifts.
- Let us have the courage to say "no" when necessary, even though it is not what someone wants to hear.
- Let us have the grace to admit when we have erred, to apologize to anyone adversely affected by our mistake, to bear the consequences of our misstep without rancour, and to accept the lessons experience offers.

Only when we work in this way can we say with truth, "job well done"