

FACULTY SENATE ACADEMIC PLANNING & ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE

CAS TO FORM A DEPARTMENT OF INDIGENOUS STUDIES RESOLUTION

To: Faculty Senate Executive Committee

From: Academic Planning and Assessment Committee

Approved by the Faculty Senate Executive Committee, February 3, 2021

Approved by the Faculty Senate, March 16, 2021

Whereas the Committee received the proposal and met with Dean Schulze, Associate Professor Theresa McCarthy, and Associate Dean Bennett on December 18th, 2020.

Whereas the Committee was impressed with the Mellon grant of 3.2 million dollars toward the formation of the Department and impressed also with the very ambitious vision for this new department. It is bold, even ideal in scope and built on a stunning but now gone UB history. The difficulty of starting with only one faculty member and building the department by hiring seemed to the Committee not only daunting but perhaps undoable. The proposal did not voice any difficulty about the enterprise. The Committee sought some specific information both about the scope of the envisioned department (for example, would it extend only to local indigenous concerns, how could hiring be accomplished, what involvement of indigenous communities did it have, what outreach to other departments could it offer).

Whereas the Committee's concern about building such a department was allayed by the discussion with Dean Schulze, Professor McCarthy and Associate Dean Bennett. The Dean, who was lead PI for the Mellon Grant, has been involved in and is wholly supportive of the project and we view this as key to its success. (In the past, development of Indigenous programming has had sometimes halting and erratic administrative backing.) Professor McCarthy, a member of the Beaver Clan, has a comprehensive and disciplined vision of the program and answered many of our concerns about hiring, research programming, and student recruitment, all challenging and difficult elements. She answered as well our queries about best practices and approaches at differing universities, Princeton in particular. The development of the project is years long and they have brought in visiting scholars and specialists and conducted university outreach for hiring to help create a vital home/hub model for the Department. In their updated proposal, which is attached, they describe this model and attach impressive faculty and decanal letters of support and collaboration.

Therefore be it resolved that, we are happy to strongly and unanimously recommend the approval of the CAS proposal for a Department of Indigenous Studies to the Faculty Senate Executive Committee and the Senate.

UB Distinguished Professor Paschalis Alexandridis

Assistant Professor Julia Jamrozik
Dr. Howard Lippes
Professor William Menasco
Associate Professor Natalie Simpson
Professor Satpal Singh
Professor Dagobert Soergel
SUNY Distinguished Professor Lois Weis
SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professor Diane Christian, Chair

Reviewed and Accepted by APA Committee: 29 January 2021
Reviewed and Accepted by Faculty Senate Executive Committee: 02/03/2021
First Reading Faculty Senate: 02/16/2021
Second Reading Faculty Senate: 03/16/2021
Promulgated by President: