



Indigenous Food Systems Diploma or Certificate Program Zoom Meeting Minutes

September 04, 2020, from 10.30 AM to 12:00 PM.

Attended:

Chief Deborah Smith- Brokenhead Ojibway Nation,
Bruce Hardy- Myera Group,
Marla Robson- Faculty of Environment, Earth and Resources, University of Manitoba,
Dr. Kyle Bobiwash, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Manitoba,
Dr. Shawn Bailey, Faculty of Architecture/Engineering University of Manitoba,
Dr. Myrle Ballard, Faculty of Science, University of Manitoba,
Dr. Shailesh Shukla – University of Winnipeg,
Dr Randy Herrmann, Faculty of Engineering, University of Manitoba,
Dr. Dan Henhawk, Kinesiology and Recreation, University of Manitoba,
Keshab Thapa- Natural Resources Institute, University of Manitoba,
James Queskekapow – Arthur Mauro Centre for Peace and Justice, University of Manitoba,
Dr. Uche Nwankwo- Natural Resources Institute, University of Manitoba,
A M Rezwanul Hoque- Natural Resources Institute, University of Manitoba.
Dr. Shirley Thompson – Natural Resources Institute, University of Manitoba.

1. Review of previous minutes: Approved and all in favor

First- Dr. Myrle Ballard

Second- Dr. Uche Nwankwo

2. Review of draft Indigenous food systems description

- **Existing courses:** This food diploma program will look at existing U of M courses (such as Agr 3030 and 3040) and revise them to align with Myera's education program. Faculty of Agriculture offered First Nation agriculture diploma back with a partnership with Manitoba Agriculture back in the 1990s. The program ran for a few years but discontinued due to a lack of interested students. There are some documents available from the program that can be used in this program with revisions. Faculty of Agriculture also has a particular stream for Indigenous students -Kyle will look for more information for further discussions.
- **Experiential learning courses at Glenlea field station:** is a program to get students out in the field to provide them ideas about how farming is done now (ex- introduction to animal husbandry, new farming technologies, working experiences in the barn, etc.). The program does not provide holistic agricultural, ecological and Indigenous experiences to the students. Still, it provides foundational learnings and skills to allow students of the program to learn about new technologies and give the basics to think about how they can modify and utilize them and knowledge of farming in land management.

Myera has a fish station, which Glenlea field station is missing. Students can get agricultural and animal husbandry experience in Glenlea and then come to Myera to work on fish and water. Following Glenlea's work model/curriculum and use that model in fish and water at Myera is an option.

- **Land Based curriculum and other courses:** The Department of Kinesiology has three courses available at the undergraduate level:
 - a) Introduction to traditional outwalk & land-based education (second year)
 - b) Land-based education and food cultivation in the Whitemouth area (Second year)
 - c) Indigenous health and wellbeing (fourth year)

Brian Rice and Dan Henhawk are developing a Land-based curriculum to see the linkage between community engagement in food systems, agriculture, community gardening etc. the Department of Kinesiology also has some outdoor courses available. Brian and Dan are conversing with the Faculty of Agriculture for a space on the university campus to run these outdoor courses. They ran a certificate program last year on sport, recreation and physical activities named SPARK, where 20 youths got various training around sports, leadership, coaching training for recreational activities. Due to COVID-19, it postponed this year and moved to next year. Director of Indigenous Engagement, Faculty of Kinesiology and Recreation Management, Dr. Heather Mcrae, put the certificate program together. Dan will gather some information about the certificate program from her.

Another two partnerships are in progress with Fort White Alive and Forks to develop various programs such as urban land-based education, urban leisure and recreation etc. from the aspects of cultures and integrated them in the studies.



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Myrle Ballard is developing a course name Indigenous Science for Fall 2021 based on Anishinaabemowin's management and western management practices. She wants to include traditional food systems and indigenous agriculture in the course.

- **Suggestions:** The inclusion of-
 - a) knowledge keepers/Elders (Marla Robson),
 - b) Conservation aspects (Marla Robson),
 - c) Historical policies and their implications (Myrle Ballard),
 - d) Companion planting¹, indigenous agriculture worldview (Randy Herrmann),

- **Further Action:**
 - a) Last year's native study's summer institute Marca Debourm focused on health, nutrition, food security and food policy. She will be an interesting person to contact to get more information on the topic and see what she is developing.
 - b) Shirley and Myrle will revise the description of the program and send to Kyle and Dan for their input.
 - c) As a start, the program should begin with Agr 3030 and 3040, where students will work 4 days a week at the farm as interns and gather experiential learning. And the other day, they will be at the Glenlea class facility to learn theory.

3. Adjourn.

Attachments:

1. FRCN Indigenous Foods Course UW 2016 (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F8pwbyoE8WM>)
2. Agenda
3. Indigenous Food Systems outline-draft
4. Video link of the whole meeting (<https://youtu.be/5GnVOAE19bQ>)

(Please note that the video is unlisted and not available for public. Only with the above link you can access to the video.)

¹ the close planting of different plants that enhance each other's growth or protect each other from pests.