

AGENDA ITEM NO:

**UNIVERSITY COUNCIL
TEACHING, LEARNING, AND ACADEMIC RESOURCES COMMITTEE
FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

PRESENTED BY: Jay Wilson, Chair, Teaching, Learning, and Academic Resources Committee

DATE OF MEETING: February 16, 2017

SUBJECT: **Definition of “Indigenizing”**

COUNCIL ACTION: For information only

CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND:

The teaching, learning, and academic resources committee (TLARC) invited representatives from the Indigenous faculty group, an *ad hoc* group that has been meeting over the last year, to present a definition of Indigenization that they have developed.

At its January 26, 2017 meeting, TLARC voted unanimously to support the definition of Indigenization that was developed by the Indigenous faculty group.

DISCUSSION SUMMARY:

The definition as developed by the *ad hoc* Indigenous faculty group was presented to TLARC at its November 17, 2016 and January 26, 2017 meetings.

This definition was developed to help the campus community to come to a common understanding of what Indigenous and Indigenizing mean. Using the term “Indigenizing” captures the idea that what is happening is a process, not a mandate and that there is no clear endpoint for this process. The Indigenous faculty group focused their definition on ensuring valuing the Indigenous knowledge and practices of the peoples of Saskatchewan and beyond; engaging in critical reflection of colonial history and its effects; operationalizing the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission; and promoting and supporting Indigenous visions and aspirations of self-determination.

The committee was extremely supportive of the definition and appreciated the hard work undertaken by the Indigenous faculty to define Indigenization and Indigenizing in the context of our institution.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Definition of Indigenization

A number of Indigenous faculty members came together to discuss what Indigenization could look like at the University of Saskatchewan. After a review of other universities, no satisfactory explanation or definition was found that would suffice at this University, so this group developed the following definition to help guide faculty, staff, and students in building their indigenization efforts:

Indigenizing within the University of Saskatchewan is a proactive and dynamic process for engaging faculty, staff and students to:

- strengthen inclusive communities and partnerships that respect and understand the value and importance of Indigenous¹ knowledges and practices (e.g. histories, teachings, languages, traditions, ceremonies, protocols, creative expressions, etc.) belonging to the diverse peoples of Saskatchewan and beyond, and that recognize that academia benefits by valuing and including pluralistic ways of knowing, thinking, and doing;
- engage in critical reflection of the colonial history and systemic effects on Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples, including Treaty relationships and Métis and Inuit land rights;
- operationalize the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and to enact a transformative reconciliation of the University of Saskatchewan's commitment to inclusion and authentic voice and engagement of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples in Saskatchewan and beyond; and
- promote and support Indigenous visions and aspirations for self-determination through transformative education for Indigenous well-being, growth and prosperity.

¹ Indigenous peoples is inclusive of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples of Canada and their unique perspectives.