

Academic Indigenous Health Education Committee

Approval Authority: Senate

Reports To: Senate

Established: 2019 10 10

Amendments: 2020 10 01, 2022 12 15

1.0 Purpose

The role of Senate is to provide strategic academic governance for all NOSM University academic programs, and make recommendations upon academic matters related to said programs within the context of:

- the university's social accountability mandate
- commitment to innovation.
- vision and mission and values.
- the key academic principles agreed upon by Senate

Functioning as a Committee of Senate, the Academic Indigenous Health Education Committee will:

1. Recommend to Senate and its committees, processes, principles, and program outcomes that support NOSM U's education and research programs improving the health of the Indigenous Peoples and communities of Northern Ontario.
2. Advise Senate on academic matters related to Indigenous Health Education at NOSM U by making recommendations for the consideration of Senate Committees and their subcommittees (e.g. UME Committee, UME Curriculum Committee, Postgraduate Education Committee)

2.0 Scope

The committee functions in collaboration with other committees of Senate to advance the social accountability mandate of the university with respect to academic issues related to Indigenous Health Education.

3.0 Academic Indigenous Health Education Committee Function

The Committee shall further the goals and objectives of NOSM U's social accountability mandate including but not limited to, consideration of the Expert Panel on Indigenous Relations Report (September 11, 2018), the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT) Policy on Indigenizing the Academy¹ and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada Report².

¹ <https://www.caut.ca/about-us/caut-policy/lists/caut-policy-statements/indigenizing-the-academy>

² <http://nctr.ca/reports.php>

Functions include but are not limited to:

- a) Oversee and facilitate the creation of an Indigenous Health Academic Network across Northern Ontario.
- b) Collaborate with other committees of Senate as appropriate.
- c) Reviews and makes recommendations to Senate and its committees concerning internal and external reports relevant to Indigenous health.
- d) Make recommendations to the Senate and its committees with respect to the metrics and evaluation strategies for academic outcomes related to Indigenous Health.
- e) Review and make recommendations to the Terms of Reference for the Committee as required.
- f) Perform such other duties as directed from time to time by Senate.

4.0 Process for Indigenous Health Education Committee

In collaboration with Senate committees, develop and recommend academic policies and processes related to the following aspects of Indigenous Health at NOSM University:

4.1 Honouring Traditional Knowledge Systems and Practices³

- (a) Opportunities for health professional learners to participate in land-based and ceremonial experiences under the guidance of Knowledge Keepers, including credentialed electives or electives.
- (b) A policy environment that supports the ability to follow Indigenous protocols.
- (c) Appointment policies or processes to formally recognize Knowledge Keepers.

4.2 Indigenous Student and Resident Support, Mentorship and Retention¹

- (a) Regular environmental scans to understand the strengths and gaps in NOSM University programs.
- (b) Understand and supplement previous student needs assessments with new information as necessary to assess unmet student support needs.
- (c) Build on current student support programs and expand opportunities for mentorship and community connections.

4.3 Education across the Spectrum¹

Partner with diverse Indigenous communities in discussing the outcomes for university-wide curricula in Indigenous health to assist the Committee in making recommendations to Senate Committees and their subcommittees.

³ http://www.umanitoba.ca/faculties/health_sciences/indigenous/media/AppendixD-IndigenousImplementationCommittee-approvedTOR-Dec12-2017.pdf

4.4 Closing the Gap in Admissions⁴

In collaboration with the Admissions Committee, oversee and make recommendations related to:

- (a) Working in partnership with Indigenous education authorities, Indigenous educators, and other faculty members to develop programs to enhance opportunities for First Nations, Métis and Inuit learners to complete high school with adequate math and science skills for university entrance into pre-requisite courses for the health professional programs.
- (b) Developing and distributing outreach materials that highlight the contributions of Indigenous peoples to math, science, human science, and health.
- (c) The review and strengthening of criteria and admissions processes to facilitate entrance of qualified Indigenous learners.

5.0 Membership

The Senate strives to achieve membership on its committees that is reflective of its commitment to diversity and inclusion. This should be considered in the appointment of Committee members, including but not limited to various skillsets, disciplines, divisions, and programs within NOSM University.

The Chair (must be a NOSM University Indigenous Faculty member) and Vice-Chair shall be elected annually by the committee. The Chair shall be a member of the Senate by virtue of this appointment.

The composition of the committee will be as follows:

- 3 NOSM U Faculty members who self-identify as First Nations, Métis or Inuit
- 3 Faculty members – one from each NOSM U faculty Division
- 2 Indigenous Community members
- NOSM U Director of Indigenous Affairs
- 2 Indigenous Elders
- Minimum of 3 learners who self-identify as First Nations Métis or Inuit: one recommended by the NOSM University Student Council, one a medical resident and one a health sciences learner.

The Committee may also invite non-voting participants who bring expertise in relevant areas to the meetings.

⁴ http://www.umanitoba.ca/faculties/health_sciences/indigenous/media/AppendixD-IndigenousImplementationCommittee-approvedTOR-Dec12-2017.pdf

Members are selected for a 3-year term, at which point their membership may be renewed in 2-year increments to ensure continuity of membership, with the exception of learner appointments which will be a one-year term renewable up to 2 years.

The membership will be requested through a general “request for interest” through each of the constituencies. Should there be more interest than vacancies, the Committee will follow the election procedures as outlined in the Nominations and Elections Policy of the Senate.

6.0 Reporting

The Committee reports to and is accountable to the Senate. Through the Chair, the Committee shall provide a written report to the Senate, as required.

7.0 Meetings and Quorum

Meetings will take place quarterly, at 5pm EST on the 3rd Wednesday of October, January, March, and May or more frequently at the call of the Chair. Meetings will be held in person, or via video or teleconferencing.

Quorum for the meetings shall be a simple majority of the voting members.

Members absent or unable to participate for three consecutive meetings will be asked to resign from the Committee.

Review Period: Annually or as required

Next Review: 2025 01 01