**Academic Indigenous Health Education Committee**

Approval Authority: Senate

Reports To: Senate

Established: 2019 10 10

Amendments: 2020 10 01, 2022 12 15, 2024 11 20

1. **Purpose**

The Academic Indigenous Health Education Committee (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.

Functioning as a committee of Senate, the committee will:

1. Recommend to Senate and its committees, processes, principles, and program outcomes that support NOSM U’s education, research, and elective programs to improve the provision of healthcare 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 program committees (e.g. UME, PGME, CEPD, Graduate Studies, DPP etc.), business committees (Senate Appeal and Senate Executive), and the Academic Quality Assurance Committee (AQAC).
3. Support the inclusion of Indigenous pedagogies and healing practices in NOSM U   
   education programs.
4. **Scope**

The committee functions to advance the social accountability mandate of the university with respect to academic issues related to Indigenous health education.

1. **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 Academy[[1]](#footnote-0) and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada Report[[2]](#footnote-1).

Functions include but are not limited to:

1. Collaborating with other committees of Senate as appropriate.
2. Reviewing and making recommendations to the Senate and its committees concerning internal and external reports relevant to Indigenous health.
3. Making recommendations to the Senate and its committees with respect to the metrics and evaluation strategies for academic outcomes related to Indigenous health curriculum.
4. Reviewing and making recommendations to the terms of reference for the committee as required.
5. Performing such other duties as directed from time to time by the Senate.

**4.0 Process**

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

4.1 How items are presented to the Committee:

1. For new academic program development, the Committee will be consulted during the drafting of the Statement of Interest form and prior to the form being submitted to the New Academic Program Advisory Committee for review.
2. For the development of new content and curriculum in existing academic programs, the Committee will be consulted prior to a decision being made on moving forward with the changes and prior to documents being brought to Senate for first reading (as applicable).
3. Senate Executive Chair or a designated representative may be invited by the Committee to discuss specific items as needed.
4. For items brought to Senate for decision and where there is direct alignment with the mandate of the committee, there will be an expectation to consult with the Committee prior to the item being presented for approval at Senate (see also item b).
5. Members of the committee can bring topics to be discussed at the Committee.
6. Issues raised through Indigenous Reference Group, Indigenous Admissions Subcommittee,

or Elders and Knowledge Carriers Circle can also be brought for discussion at the committee.

4.2 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.

**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 U.

The Chair and Vice-Chair shall be elected annually by the committee and presented to Senate. Consistent with the Senate by-laws the Chair will be an *ex-officio* Senator. Additionally, the Chair must also be a NOSM U Indigenous Faculty member.

The composition of the committee will be as follows:

1) 3 NOSM U Faculty members who self-identify as First Nations, Métis or Inuit (at least one must be a Senator elected by Senate).

2) 3 Faculty members – one from each NOSM U Faculty Division (if not represented through other means and at least one must be a Senator elected by Senate).

3) 2 Indigenous community members.

4) NOSM U Director of Indigenous Affairs.

5) 2 Indigenous Elders.

6) Learners who identify as First Nations, Métis or Inuit (including UME students, residents, allied health, and graduate studies students).

7) Leadership Award winner(s).

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

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, except for learner appointments which will be a one-year term renewable up to 2 years. Appointment of members and elections (Chair and Vice-chair) should be completed before the June Senate meeting of each year. This will ensure that the committee is fully constituted and ready to operate starting July 1 of each year. The appointment of the Chair and Vice chair is renewed annually.

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 bylaws or applicable policies of Senate.

**6.0 Reporting**

The committee reports to and is accountable to the Senate. Through the Chair (or designated Vice-Chair), the committee shall provide written reports regularly to the Senate.

**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. Meetings will occur with a minimum of 5 voting members present.

Quorum shall be used for the voting and decision-making and shall be a simple majority of the voting members. Votes will occur during meetings where a quorum is present or online.

**8.0 Review and Revision History**

**Review Period:** Annual

| **Revision** | **YYYY MM DD** | **Authors/Comments** |
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| 1.0 | 2024 11 20 | Provost presented changes after the first reading. The changes were approved at the Academic Indigenous Health Education Committee meeting. |
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1. <https://www.caut.ca/about-us/caut-policy/lists/caut-policy-statements/indigenizing-the-academy> [↑](#footnote-ref-0)
2. <http://nctr.ca/reports.php> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)