

Nibi and Manoomin: Bridging Worldviews Committee

October 6, 2011

10:30 am-12:00 pm

220 Coffey Hall

Present: Paul Bloom, Jill Doerfler, Craig Hassel, Alex Kahler, Adam Kokotovich, Teresa Konechne, Joe LaGarde, Karl Lorenz, Louis Mendoza, and Emily Ehlinger.

Nibi and Manoomin: Bridging Worldviews Website

The group discussed changes that will need to be made to the Nibi and Manoomin Symposium page; particularly whether or not to keep the page on the static site or move it to the CFANS Diversity and Inclusion Forum. The Forum allows people to make comments, ask questions, and post information. The group decided that the page will stay on the regular website for now; however, once other working groups come together, there may be pieces that will require interactivity and will be moved to the Forum. An announcement will be sent to the White Earth paper once the website is ready to go. The site may also connect to the White Earth Tribal College website so that resources may eventually be shared. Emily and Jill will continue to update the page and add new content as it becomes available.

Renaming the Wild Rice Working Group

The group discussed creating a new name for the working group, which will be reflected in the header image of the former Nibi and Manoomin Symposium page. Options included Nibi and Manoomin Symposium Group and Bridging Worldviews Working Group. Some members felt that using the words Bridging Worldviews could leave the door open for other work outside of the two symposiums. Others felt the words Nibi and Manoomin should be used because they are what originally catalyzed the work of the group. Ultimately the group decided on Nibi and Manoomin: Bridging Worldviews Committee.

Future of the White Paper

The White Paper was given to Robert Jones and is now in the hands of the University of Minnesota to issue a formal response. A subcommittee, including Robert Jones and people from the Office for Equity and Diversity, will be formed to discuss and work on a response to the document. The Nibi and Manoomin Committee will be putting together recommendations to forward to the subcommittee. This will help guide more actionable items and ensure that the White Paper does not just elicit yes or no responses, but also opens a dialog. The group discussed what some sort of agreement might look like. Many members agreed that an acknowledgement of the history of the University's relationship with the community should be required, as it would be helpful in the healing process.

Future Committee Work

The group discussed possibly applying for research grants to continue scholarship and building on previous work of the committee. The suggestion was made that a proposal could be a model of what a research relationship would look like between the University and the community. Extra funding may also

be useful for the group to be able to help pay for participation of community members on the committee. Karl will ask about a budget for travel. The group will look into grant funding and will continue to think about the possibility of having another symposium in 2013.

The group decided that Emi Ito from the Manoomin Project and Faye Sleeper from the Water Resources Center should be invited to participate in future meetings. Paul Bloom will invite both Emi and Faye to the next meeting. The group also discussed the possibility of finding more community members to join the committee. Vikki was mentioned as a possible community member who could be invited to participate. Again, money would be an issue in enabling the community members to participate. Some group members mentioned connecting with the university elder's council or members of the urban Native American community. The group also briefly discussed the possibility of forming a subgroup, ideally comprised of community and university members, to continue working on the creation of the Nibi Center.

Upcoming Items

A meeting will be scheduled within the next few weeks for anyone who is interested to look at the White Paper and begin thinking through recommendations for the response from the University. Al Levine will be invited to attend this meeting. A large group meeting will be scheduled further out.

Since there was no formal debrief from the symposium, Adam will be drafting questions about the event for committee members to reflect on. Adam will also be compiling a summary report of evaluation responses from the symposium which will eventually be posted on the website. Teresa will be working to put together video footage from the symposium which will also be added to the website.