

## **1.0 Preamble**

Shingwauk Kinooamaage Gamig (SKG) is committed to effective governance mechanisms and practices to ensure that it meets its mission to be a centre of excellence in postsecondary education for Anishinaabe peoples.

SKG is committed to meet the organizational and academic standards of the Indigenous Advanced Education and Skills Council concerning Indigenous Institutes in Ontario that deliver postsecondary programs.

SKG is accountable to the Anishinaabe communities in Baawaating (Sault Ste. Marie and surrounding areas), to help ensure that its programs and activities are responsive to the needs and goals of Anishinaabe students from these communities.

SKG is committed to respect approaches to decision-making that are rooted in Anishinaabe culture. SKG's legitimacy as a postsecondary institution, however, is also tied to meeting norms of universities rooted in colonial culture and law.

SKG is committed to respect the academic norms and values of universities in Ontario, adapted to SKG's mission and to Anishinaabe culture and ways of knowing. SKG recognizes the importance and value of the involvement of SKG's faculty and instructors, and the involvement of SKG's students and alumni, in the development and evaluation of its academic programs and policies. SKG also recognizes the importance and value of the involvement of Anishinaabe knowledge keepers, and individuals with academic expertise, in development and evaluation of its academic programs and policies.

## **2.0 Purpose**

This policy establishes the mechanisms and processes that will govern the academic programs of SKG and its academic policies and procedures.

This policy establishes an Academic Advisory Circle that will provide advice to SKG's board of governors.

## **3.0 Definitions**

"Academic Advisory Circle" means the group of individuals appointed by SKG's board (through the mechanisms set out in this policy) to provide guidance and advice to the board concerning SKG's academic mission and its services and supports to students.

"Academic policy" means a policy adopted by SKG's board concerning an academic program or programs that applies to students and/or faculty and instructors.

"Academic program" means a course of study delivered by SKG leading to a credential.

"Board" means the board of governors of SKG.

‘Circle’ means the Academic Advisory Circle.

“Director” means an individual appointed to SKG’s board of governors.

“Director of Academics” means the senior executive appointed by the board to administer its academic mission, regardless of the title of that position.

‘Director of Operations’ means the senior executive appointed by the board responsible for SKG’s organizational administration, regardless of the title of that position.

“Faculty” means instructors hired on a full-time, ongoing basis.

“Instructor” means an employee of SKG who is responsible for teaching, evaluation, academic supervision, and/or related activities for credit and non-credit courses, and/or responsible for evaluation of students in any other activity that is part of SKG’s academic mission. It includes all such employees, whether faculty members or contract employees.

“SKG” means Shingwauk Kinoomaage Gamig.

“SKG alumni” means graduates of programs delivered by SKG, or graduates of Anishinaabe Studies or Anishinaabemowin programs of Algoma University.

## **4.0 Academic Advisory Circle**

### **4.1 Mandate**

The Academic Advisory Circle (Circle) shall provide advice to SKG’s board concerning SKG’s academic mission and its academic programs and policies.

Without limiting this mandate, the Circle shall make recommendations to SKG’s board concerning:

- SKG’s multi-year academic plan.
- New programs.
- Cessation of programs.
- The curriculum of programs.
- Standards of admission to programs.
- Graduation requirements of programs.
- Academic policies.
  - Without limiting the scope of academic policies, policies could address, for example, academic standing, grading, academic dishonesty, and appeal procedures.
- Academic staffing required for instruction in programs and courses of study.

- Services and supports for SKG students—including but not limited to academic, cultural, social, and wellness services and supports.
- Policies concerning scholarships and financial aid to students.
- Policies concerning non-academic matters affecting students (for example, a student code of conduct).

The board may request the Circle to provide advice on other matters.

The board may delegate decision-making authority to the Circle. This delegation shall be limited and specific and shall be expressed in a policy approved by the board.

#### **4.2 Composition of the Academic Advisory Circle**

The Circle shall have no more than 15 members.

The Circle shall include representatives of:

- Directors from SKG's board of governors;
- SKG's faculty and instructors;
- SKG's students;
- SKG's alumni; and
- Algoma University.

The Circle shall also include:

- Elders and/or Anishinaabe knowledge keepers;
- Individuals with experience in teaching, research and/or administration in the university sector; and
- Individuals with experience in administration in the secondary school sector.

The Circle shall also include ex officio members that are senior administrators of SKG, and SKG's librarian or archivist (if applicable).

The board may appoint other SKG staff to the Circle.

#### **4.3 Appointment of members of the Academic Advisory Circle**

Members of the Circle must:

- Be of good standing and positive reputation in the Anishinaabe community, the wider community and SKG;
- Be committed to realizing the vision of Chief Shingwauk and the mission of SKG to be a Centre of Excellence in postsecondary education for Anishinaabe people; and
- Once appointed as a member, act in the best interests of SKG.

SKG's staff shall nominate prospective members of the Circle to the board.

- With respect to representatives of faculty and instructors, staff shall bring forward proposed representatives who have been selected by faculty and instructors through a process that faculty and staff have agreed to.<sup>1</sup>
- With respect to representatives of students, staff shall bring forward proposed representatives who have been selected by students through a process that students have agreed to.

SKG's board shall approve appointment of members of the Circle.

A member of the Circle shall normally be appointed for a term of three years.

Appointments may be renewed for an unlimited number of terms.

The board may revoke an appointment of an individual who no longer meets the criteria for membership.

#### **4.4 Leadership**

The Circle shall be chaired by a director on the SKG board, whom the board has appointed as chair.

### **5.0 Commitments of SKG's board of governors**

SKG's board shall:

- Seek advice from the Academic Advisory Circle concerning SKG's academic mission and its academic programs and policies, including but not limited to the specific matters set out above in the description of the Circle's mandate.
- Receive and consider any recommendations of the Circle to the board.
- Provide reasons for decisions taken by the board in response to recommendations of the Circle, where its decisions differ substantively from the Circle's recommendations.
- Ensure timely appointments of members to the Circle.

### **6.0 Related Policies, Procedures & Documents**

Procedure for Policy GOV 03 Academic Governance

SKG's policies and procedures can be found here. [\[hyperlink to be added\]](#)

### **7.0 Responsible Officer**

Director of Academics

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<sup>1</sup> If feasible (given the number of faculty and instructors and the balance of membership of the Circle), and if faculty and instructors agree, all of SKG's faculty and instructors could be members of the Circle.

## **8.0 Version history**

Approved by:	Board
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