



University of Alberta Students' Union

ABORIGINAL RELATIONS AND RECONCILIATION COMMITTEE

Tuesday, August 20, 2019

5:00pm

SUB 0-48

We would like to respectfully acknowledge that our University and our Students' Union are located on Treaty 6 Territory. We are grateful to be on Cree, Dene, Saulteaux, Métis, Blackfoot, and Nakota Sioux territory; specifically the ancestral space of the Papaschase Cree. These Nations are our family, friends, faculty, staff, students, and peers. As members of the University of Alberta Students' Union we honour the nation-to-nation treaty relationship. We aspire for our learning, research, teaching, and governance to acknowledge and work towards the decolonization of Indigenous knowledges and traditions.

AGENDA (ARRC-2019-07)

2019-07/1 INTRODUCTION

2019-07/1a Call to Order

2019-07/1b Approval of Agenda

2019-07/1c Approval of Minutes

2019-07/1d Chair's Business

2019-07/2 QUESTION/DISCUSSION PERIOD

2019-07/2a Recommendation Launch

2019-07/2b Indigenizing Political Policy

2019-07/3 COMMITTEE BUSINESS

2019-07/4 INFORMATION ITEMS

2019-07/4a ARRC Minutes (ARRC-2019-06-M) - Tuesday, August 6, 2019.

See ARRC-2019-07.01.

2019-07/5 ADJOURNMENT

2019-07/5a Next Meeting: N/A.



University of Alberta Students' Union

**ABORIGINAL RELATIONS AND
RECONCILIATION
COMMITTEE**

Tuesday, August 6, 2019

5:00pm

SUB 0-48

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ATTENDANCE

NAME	PROXY	PRESENT	SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN FEEDBACK (IF ABSENT)
Permanent Members			
Nathan Sunday (chair)		Y	
Juan Vargas Alba		Y	
Kathrine Belcourt		Y	
Tahra Haddouche		Y	
Luke Statt		Y	
Adam Brown		Y	
Sean Gray		N	

MINUTES (ARRC-2019-06)

2019-06/1 INTRODUCTION

2019-06/1a Call to Order

SUNDAY: Called the meeting to order at 5:22pm.

2019-06/1b Approval of Agenda

SUNDAY/BROWN MOVED to approve the agenda.

CARRIED

SUNDAY/BROWN MOVED to amend Standing Orders 2(1) to read that read “Quorum of the Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation Committee shall be five (5) permanent voting members.”

CARRIED

2019-06/1c Approval of Minutes

SUNDAY/BROWN MOVED to approve the minutes of ARRC-2019-03-M.

CARRIED

2019-06/1d Chair's Business

SUNDAY: Noted that he now possesses sage with which to smudge at future meetings.

2019-06/2 QUESTION/DISCUSSION PERIOD

2019-06/2a CASA Indigenous Sponsorship Program

SUNDAY: Expressed concern that the Program has been postponed for a second year. Inquired into the rationale for delaying the Program.

BROWN: Responded that the delay occurred as (1) not all CASA 23 member associations felt sufficiently connected to their Indigenous students to recruit for the Program, (2) the CASA executive director, who was leading the Program, left the organization, and (3) CASA staff resources were not sufficient to host the Program without first hiring some new staff. Outlined that, as a new component of the Program, CASA members will be equipped with tools and resources that will allow them to better reach their Indigenous students. Noted that there is an upcoming online town hall session in which CASA members will discuss the Program’s future and planning.

SUNDAY: Expressed concern that the Program as deferred indefinitely and that the deferral occurred notwithstanding that CASA released a public statement which noted the Program would occur in summer 2019. Inquired into what assurances there are that the Program will occur given that CASA’s members are unbound by the decisions of their predecessors and that two deferrals have already occurred.

BROWN: Noted that CASA’s membership only approved motions to approve the Program but did not set a timeline within which for it to occur.

SUNDAY: Inquired into why, if this is true, CASA released a statement which suggested that the Program would occur in summer 2019 when this was false.

BROWN: Responded that the withdrawal of the CASA executive director responsible for leading the Program strained resources. Emphasised that the CASA membership was unanimously in favour of advancing the Program but had reservations as to its schedule.

BELCOURT: Suggested that CASA cannot wait until all its members develop networks with their Indigenous students to host the Program. Suggested that CASA should

proceed with hosting the Program even if it is not perfect. Expressed concern that issuing a statement which later proves to be false undermines the credibility of an organization. Inquired into whether CASA consulted Indigenous peoples in the planning of the Program so far.

BROWN: Responded that the CASA Office is consulting an elder and has, in past, consulted with other Indigenous peoples on other issues. Clarified that there is no intention to wait to host the Program until all members have developed networks with their Indigenous students.

SUNDAY: Inquired into when CASA decided to defer the Program.

BROWN: Responded that CASA made the decision mid to late July at an e-plenary in the form of a motion to complete more consultation on hosting the Program in an online town hall format. Outlined that some members expressed concern that hosting the Program in summer 2019 was tokenistic or, a thought shared by President Bhatnagar, not feasible. Noted that there is a plan to consult specifically with those members who expressed these reservations. Clarified that CASA cannot direct any of its constituent members to perform a certain action. Suggested that CASA members should be consulting their students and be prepared to share feedback in the online town hall.

SUNDAY: Inquired into the nature of the reservations President Bhatnagar expressed.

BROWN: Responded that her concerns may have related to the timing of the Program. Suggested that Sunday reach out to Bhatnagar for a more detailed description.

SUNDAY: Suggested that, in future, the Students' Union should reach out more proactively to Aboriginal Student Council in making decisions at CASA, such as deferring this Program.

BROWN: Clarified that he cannot serve as an advocate for the Studnet's Union at CASA as he serves as chair. Clarified that President Bhatnagar serves as the UASU representative.

BELCOURT: Inquired into the projects that CASA is now perusing.

BROWN: Responded that CASA is working on the federal Get out the Vote campaign and planning and advancing advocacy and research priorities.

2019-06/2b Recommendation Launch Event

STATT: Updated the Committee that it is highly unlikely that there will be space available within SUB during the Week of Welcome to host the Recommendation launch. Noted that there is a slight possibility but that there is a risk the Event would be lost in the other activities occurring in that week.

SUNDAY: Inquired into whether there is a member of the Committee who can take

responsibility for planning the Event.

BROWN: Inquired into the vision for the Event.

SUNDAY: Clarified that the Event is intended to be a press release/celebration.

STATT: Inquired into whether the Committee settled on a location.

BELCOURT: Expressed concern that the Faculty Club, one proposed location, would not draw attendees due to its separation from the rest of Campus life.

BROWN: Considered that Quad could be a low cost option for hosting the Event.

STATT: Proposed Hosting the event in the Cascade Room.

BROWN: Determined to discuss hosting the event with the Executive.

SUNDAY: Proposed delegating the responsibility for hosting the event to the First Nations, Métis and Inuit Coordinator.

BROWN: Determined to follow-up with the Committee on this issue.

2019-06/3 COMMITTEE BUSINESS

2019-06/4 INFORMATION ITEMS

2019-06/4a ARRC Minutes (ARRC-2019-03-M) - Tuesday, June 25, 2019.

See ARRC-2019-06.01.

2019-06/5 ADJOURNMENT

SUNDAY: Adjourned the meeting at 5:59pm.

2019-06/5a **Next Meeting:** Tuesday, August 20, 2019 at 5:00PM in SUB 0-48.

SUMMARY OF MOTIONS

MOTION	VOTES
SUNDAY/BROWN MOVED to amend Standing Orders 2(1) to read that read “Quorum of the Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation Committee shall be five (5) permanent voting members.”	CARRIED