



University of Alberta Students' Union

**ABORIGINAL
RELATIONS &
RECONCILIATION
COMMITTEE
(ARRC)**

**13 January 2022
3:00pm
Google Meet**

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.

ATTENDANCE

NAME	PROXY	PRESENT
Simran Dhillon		Y
Christopher Beasley		Y
Serena Manansala Yabut		N
Latiya Northwest		Y
Shailley Peacock		N
Danielle Lapatack		N
Talia Dixon		N
Malijha Moyan		Y
Vaughn Beaulieu-Mercredi, Chair		Y
Andrew Batyicki		N
Emily Kimani		Y
Courtney Graham		N/A
Ethan Hunter		N/A

MINUTES (ARRC 2021-08-M)

2021-08/1

INTRODUCTION

- 2021-08/1a** **Call to Order**
BEAULIEU-MERCREDI: Called the meeting to order at 3:03 P.M.
- 2021-08/1b** **Approval of Agenda**
MOYAN/KIMANI MOVE TO approve the agenda.
CARRIED
- 2021-08/1c** **Approval of Minutes**
BEAULIEU-MERCREDI/BEASLEY MOVE TO approve the minutes from the last meeting.
CARRIED
- 2021-08/1d** **Chair's Business**
Adoption of Standing Orders

BEAULIEU-MERCREDI/KIMANI MOVE TO approve the adoption of the standing orders.
CARRIED
- 2021-08/2** **QUESTION/DISCUSSION PERIOD**

BEASLEY: Questions if there can be any amendments to the standing orders.

GRAHAM: Believes that it is a procedural process.
- 2021-08/2a** **Discussion of Indigenous Celebration Week**

BEAULIEU-MERCREDI: Indigenous Celebration Week has been moved from January to March due to the continuing rise of Omicron cases.

NORTHWEST: Questions how the planning committee for Indigenous Celebration Week was created.

BEAULIEU-MERCREDI: States that the committee was created by the SU but populated by indigenous students.
- 2021-08/2b** **Discussion on the UASU Land Acknowledgement**

BEASLEY: Tried to bring the land acknowledgement to the attention of CAC, but there were not enough councillors present to make the conversation relevant.
- 2021-08/2c** **Discussion on the KAIROS Blanket Exercise for Students' Council**

BEASLEY: CAC is the committee that is currently organizing the KAIROS Blanket Exercise. Currently, KAIROS is only offering an in-person exercise, which would take place either in February or March. The cost would be 1400 dollars, with an additional 300 dollars if an elder were to be present. This does not include the cost of transportation or food. CAC's budget is currently 1100 dollars and is requesting if ARRC could contribute to the budget for the KAIROS Blanket Exercise. CAC would also like to know the opinion of ARRC in

regards to whether the exercise should take place in person and, if so, how to engage councillors who can only attend virtually.

BEAULIEU-MERCREDI: Committee budgets do not carry over from year to year, which is why Julia, the CAC Chair, would like to use the entire remaining budget of CAC for the blanket exercise. It would also be beneficial for ARRC to use the remainder of its budget.

KIMANI: Questions if ARRC is supposed to match the budget coverage of CAC or if they are donating an as yet to be specified amount.

BEAULIEU-MERCREDI: Assumes that everybody would like to have an elder present at the blanket exercise. Believes that having an elder at the exercise is the most beneficial for Students' Council, but is also cognizant that including an elder at the blanket exercise will cost more.

NORTHWEST: States that the exercise is most beneficial if it is done in-person and with an elder present.

BEAULIEU-MERCREDI: Is uncertain how much is currently left in the ARRC budget, but will look into current budget amounts and update the committee on the figures at the next meeting.

BEASLEY: Questions what could be provided for settler learning opportunities for those that cannot attend an in-person event.

BEAULIEU-MERCREDI: States that the hope is to host the blanket exercise on a non-Council Tuesday, as councillors already have Tuesday's blocked off for Council. A general resource list could be provided to those that cannot attend. KAIROS may already have a resource list available or the committee could compose one.

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

2021-08/3b

Standing Orders Review

BEAULIEU-MERCREDI: ARRC Standing Orders have not been updated since June of 2020. Would like to look more into the possibility of changing the name of the ARRC committee.

Further states that, in section 2.7 of the Standing Orders, there is a bylaw which acknowledges that an ARRC Meeting cannot take place unless an elder is present. Suggests that an amendment should be included to stipulate that an elder is encouraged to attend ARRC meetings, but does not necessarily need to be present at each meeting. It is very difficult to find elders to consistently attend ARRC meetings and, to find an elder, one needs connections. Looking at this year's meetings, an elder was not present at any of them which, according to the bylaws, would make all ARRC meetings null this year. Acknowledges that it is important to have an elder on the committee but also states that not having an elder present should not impede the work of the committee.

DHILLON: Notes that in Section 3 of the Standing Orders that an elder is determined as a non-voting member. Questions if this would change also.

BEAULIEU-MERCREDI: Reiterates that an elder should be included on the committee, but it should not be essential, which means that they would remain as a non-voting member.

NORTHWEST: Agrees. Further states that all ARRC meetings should start off with an indigenous organized prayer.

BEAULIEU-MERCREDI: Agrees and notes that that is already present within the Standing Orders. The indigenous organized prayer also traditionally included sage burning, when meetings were more consistently in person. Believes that this is something that should continue to be a part of the Standing Orders.

BEAULIEU-MERCREDI: Has already updated the Standing Orders to reflect more indigenous, rather than settler colonial, wordings.

DHILLON: States that up to 41 self-identifying aboriginal undergraduate students can be on the committee and present at Students' Council. Questions why that was written as it was.

BEAULIEU-MERCREDI: The philosophy was that, with 41 aboriginal undergraduate students, there would always be more aboriginal students present at council than councillors (which are currently numbered at 40).

MOYAN: Questions if Aboriginal Students' Centre is what is now known as First People's House.

BEAULIEU-MERCREDI: States that it is and updates that in the Standing Orders.

Questions how to move forward in regards to the elder. Believes that appendices need to be added to the Standing Orders. Suggests again that the committee needs to be able to move forward without having an elder present at every meeting. Notes that an elder is important for the committee, but also acknowledges that the committee needs to get work done without even when an elder is not present.

Discusses whether the term "indigenous" or "aboriginal" should be used in the Standing Orders, as both word choices have pros and cons. Declares that the language needs to become consistent both for the committee as well as across the SU, as vocabulary changes drastically between documents.

KIMANI: Questions what date the standing order update should be completed by.

BEAULIEU-MERCREDI: The last ARRC meeting of this year is on April 7th, so it has to be completed before then.

States that, by January 25th, there will be a report regarding aboriginal representation on Students' Council presented at Students' Council. February, currently, is the most likely month in which the KAIROS Blanket Exercise will be hosted. March will see the completion of ICW, the land acknowledgement and a comprehensive update regarding ARRC recommendations (such as the name changes of many SUB rooms). April is largely focused on transition preparation. The Aboriginal Priorities report is due to Students' Council on April 19th. Looking at all of this, Standing Orders should be finalized by the end of March.

KIMANI: Questions if Standing Orders need to be brought to Students' Council.

BEAULIEU-MERCREDI: Clarifies that both ARRC and Council need to vote on Standing Orders.

BEASLEY: Questions if GSA should be included in the appendix.

BEAULIEU-MERCREDI: The ARRC mandate is only for undergraduate students, but will add the GSA to the appendix anyways.

2021-08/4

ADJOURNMENT

BEAULIEU-MERCREDI: Adjourned the meeting at 3:36 P.M.