



University of Alberta Students' Union

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

January 16th, 2022

5:00 P.M.

Location: SUB 0-06 OR Zoom

The University of Alberta and the University of Alberta Students' Union occupy Indigenous land in amiskwacîswâskahikan (Beaver Hills House), on Treaty 6 territory. From time immemorial, the banks along the river valley have been known as the Pehonan, a meeting place for the nêhiyawak (Cree), the Niitsítapi (Blackfoot), Métis, Dënesųłíné (Dene), Ojibway/Saulteaux/Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee and others. The University, the Students' Union and much of the city are located on the unlawfully stolen land of the forcibly removed Papaschase Cree.

We acknowledge that sharing this land gives each of us the responsibility to research the historic contexts of Treaty 6, to reflect on our personal relationships to the land, the Nations we've named, and to our roles in upholding justice on this territory. Since they began, the Students' Union and the University have benefited from historic and ongoing dispossession of land and resources from Indigenous Peoples. As a result, it is our responsibility to seek the restitution of this land and its resources. Finally, we seek to do better by working to make our learning, research, and governance align with the histories, languages, teachings, and cultures of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Peoples in the land presently occupied by the Canadian state.

We encourage critical reflection by asking the following question. In relation to the territory on which you are situated, what role do you play in strengthening the resistance and resurgence of Indigenous students within your communities?

ATTENDANCE

NAME	PROXY	PRESENT
Chantel Akinneah, Chair		Y
Rebeca Avila		N
Daniela Carbajal Velez		Y
Susana Dokiburra (SAL)		N
Ayanna Fata (SAL)		N
Joannie Fogue		Y
Gloria K annumkulabil (SAL)		Y
Malijha Moyan		Y

Julia Viloso		Y
Courtney Graham		N/A
Collette Cullen		N
Levi Wolfe		Y
Christian Zukowski		N/A

MINUTES (ARRC-2022-06-M)

2023-06/1

INTRODUCTION

2023-06/1a

Call to Order

AKINNEAH called the meeting to order at 5:08 P.M.

2023-06/1b

Approval of Agenda

AKINNEAH/MOYAN MOVE TO approve the agenda.
CARRIED

2023-06/1c

Approval of Minutes

AKINNEAH/VILLOSO MOVE TO approve the minutes.
CARRIED

2023-06/1d

Chair's Business

AKINNEAH: Has started reaching out to plan a KAIROS Blanket Exercise.

2023-06/2

QUESTION/DISCUSSION PERIOD

2023-06/3

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

2023-06/3a

Daniela Carbajal Velez's ARRC Report: Education Recommendations

CARBAJAL VELEZ: Presents on Education Recommendations. After getting feedback on the presentation, would like to present to senior staff and managers at the SU. Wants to approach uncomfortableness and educating outside of titles and positions within the SU. Believes that education will provide a better working/learning environment within the SU.

Recommendation 1: The Speaker should have access to training that facilitates safer spaces for Indigenous individuals in Council.

- This training should occur within the first two months of the speaker's employment.

Recommendation 2: Council should have access to training that facilitates a safer space for the council colleagues.

- Councillors should have an anti-oppression training/workshop in the first three months of their terms.

Recommendation 3: Education on how to respectfully engage with Indigenous peoples.

- Executives should have an anti-oppression training/workshop in the first three months of their terms.

Recommendation 4: Reflection and education should be ongoing rather than singular instances; these opportunities should be created for all staff.

- Staff should have opportunities arranged to learn how to pronounce the Cree language.

Recommendation 5: Blanket exercises should be carried out to educate staff, executives, and councillors on the history and ongoing realities Indigenous peoples face.

- Blanket Exercises should be conducted every two years for staff and every year for councillors and the Speaker.

Recommendation 6: The UASU should undertake and integrate more programming that caters to Indigenous students and the larger Indigenous community in Amiskwaciwaskahikan.

- SU employees should be allowed to attend Indigenous events hosted outside of the SU, such as round dances.

The recommendations were crafted upon consultation from indigenous students, staff and community members.

AKINNEAH: Likes the recommendation which outlines that the SU will pay for Indigenous led events. Further questions how the training workshops will be run.

CARBAJAL VELEZ: There is currently an e-class training for councillors. Would like to reach out more to the SU's FNMI Specialist to determine options in regards to workshop delivery.

AKINNEAH: Questions about education resources. Is concerned that most education resources are framed in the past tense and do not present Indigenous issues as current ones.

CARBAJAL VELEZ: Would like to check in with the FNMI specialist in regards to educational resources.

AKINNEAH: States that experience always teaches more than reading. As such, suggests that Council should collaborate with the ISU.

CARBAJAL VELEZ: Agrees with this suggestion.

WOLFE: As Cultural Events Director for the ISU, would like to put up a poster which explains what TRC is and why it exists.

AKINNEAH: Suggests that WOLFE is requesting that the ISU and Council become more embedded in events creation.

Questions the Speaker about having an Elder at the Council meetings.

ZUKOWSKI: States that an Elder and a smudging ceremony is meant to be present at each Council meeting. Would like the committee's opinion, not necessarily at this meeting, about how a smudging ceremony should look like at Council.

AKINNEAH: Would like to open up the smudging ceremony to not just be led by Elders, but to potentially be led by Elders' helpers (as they are younger and more of a peer to Students' Council members). A further discussion on this will occur at next week's meeting when Standing Orders are reviewed.

WOLFE: Would be interested in hosting the smudging ceremony if the Standing Orders are opened up to include Elder's helpers.

ZUKOWSKI: States that the Speaker is only paid for working Council meetings. Therefore, Speaker hours and the amount of training required needs to be carefully considered.

VILLOSO: Questions if the committee needs to approve the recommendations to then bring them for approval at Students' Council.

CARBAJAL VELEZ: Would still like to make some changes to the recommendations but suggests that approving the recommendations at ARRC and then Students' Council would make the most sense.

VILLOSO: Asks for a list of who CARBAJAL VELEZ has consulted with to help implement recommendations. Does not feel comfortable voting on the recommendations, as presented today, without having a consultation list provided. Further questions the approval method of the recommendations.

CARBAJAL VELEZ: Will talk to FLAMAN, the Bylaw Chair, about potentially implementing these recommendations in bylaw.

2023-06/3b

Discussion of Section 3.1 of the Standing Orders

TABLED

2023-06/4

Information Items

2023-06/4a

[ARRC Recommendations 2022-2023](#)

2023-06/4b

[Daniela Carbajal Velez's ARRC Report](#)

2023-06/4c

[ARRC Standing Orders](#)

2023-06/5

ADJOURNMENT

2023-06/5a

AKINNEAH adjourned the meeting at 5:58 P.M.

Next Meeting: January 30th at 5:00 P.M. in SUB 6-06.