



University of Alberta Students' Union
Audit Committee

OCT 28 2022
12:00 PM
SUB 6-06

The University of Alberta and the University of Alberta Students' Union occupy Indigenous land in amiskwaciswaskahikan (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 Niitsitapi (Blackfoot), Métis, Dênesųłinê (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 |
|-----------------------|-------|---------|
| Simran Dhillon, Chair | | Y |
| Fateh Arslan | | Y |
| Rana Thind | | Y |
| Haruun Ali | | Y |
| Milan Regmi | | Y |
| Abdul Abbasi | | Y |
| Lionel Liu | | Y |
| Marc Dumouchel | | N/A |
| Julia Villosio | | N/A |
| Abner Monteiro | | N/A |
| Christian Zukowski | | N/A |

| | | |
|--------------------------------|--|-----|
| Gurleen Kaur | | N/A |
| Lochlann Kerr (The Gateway) | | N/A |
| Kathleen Teeling (The Gateway) | | N/A |
| Brennan Murphy | | M/A |
| Chanpreet Singh | | N/A |
| Joannie Fogue | | N/A |
| Levi Flaman | | N/A |
| Courtney Graham | | N/A |
| Tanisha Sahu | | N/A |

MINUTES (AC-2022-07)

2022-07/1

INTRODUCTION

2022-07/1a

Call to Order

DHILLON: Called the meeting to order at 12:08 PM.

2022-07/1b

Approval of Agenda

ALI/LIU MOVE TO approve the agenda for the meeting.

CARRIED

2022-07/1c

Approval of Minutes

ALI/LIU MOVE TO approve the minutes (AC-2022-06-M)

CARRIED

2022-07/1d

Chair's Business

FAMF Updates
KPMG New Meeting
Updates to Drive
ASA's Audit

TABLED.

2022-07/2

QUESTION/DISCUSSION PERIOD

2022-07/3

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

2022-07/3a

Break the Record Discussion

MONTEIRO: States that the Gateway article was misworded. In reality, only about \$49000 was spent. "Spent" was the wrong term to be used, which needs to be clarified.

ALI: While funding might have come from multiple resources, ultimately, the event was run by the UASU. Students are rightfully critical of this. States that they have submitted two motions for the upcoming Students' Council meeting regarding this topic.

DUMOUCHEL: Agrees with MONTEIRO; although the event might have cost a significant amount, the SU didn't spend a fortune. The SU is still awaiting for some receipts from vendors involved in the event. Begins to present a cost analysis breakdown presentation for Break the Record.

The expenses for Break the Record were mainly for dodgeballs, T-shirts, production, rentals, marketing, and Guinness World Record Fees. The T-shirts and dodgeballs were outsourced from suppliers. The dodgeball budget was \$30 000, but the actual cost came down to about \$21 000. The budget for the T-shirts was \$50 000, but it cost the SU more than \$54 000.

These variances were due to supply chain constraints. The production, rentals, and marketing costs were close to the anticipated budget value. The world record fees cost about \$22 000, while the SU budgeted only \$10 000. Therefore, totaling all expenses, the budget was \$140 000, but it cost the SU \$144 315.

Regarding the revenue, the University contributed a total of \$80 000, as anticipated, as this was a prerequisite to proceed with our project. The SU aimed at a sponsorship value of \$50 000 but ended up with only \$15 000.

The SU expected to contribute \$10 000 to the event. However, that contribution went up to \$49 000. The increased SU contribution was mainly due to overestimating sponsorship support and the unexpected increase in the Guinness World Record Fees.

Financial control of the SU is structured as an organisation, and the SU has some ability to relocate funds mid-way through the year. Finances are managed by SU. However, for Operations, the power lies with Council.

VILLOSO: The Finance Committee is looking at ways to expand financial transparency.

DUMOUCHEL: Proposes adding a particular unit, like the Campus Food Bank, to the budget after discussing it with the Finance

Committee, but if something small in numbers has to be changed, then it makes no sense to take it to Council to approve changes that are to do with the bottom line balance.

LIU: Agrees that these facts and numbers are essential. States that he has asked Council if this information is available to the public. *The Gateway* article's financial numbers might be wrong, but the students deserve to know the information reported, and the SU is held accountable for it. Agrees with ALI that BTR was an opportunity to gather for students.

DHILLON: Questions who should be blamed for miscommunication and lack of transparency? How much money spent on the event was "students' money," and what would the cost have been if the individual cost of the event was a pay-at-the-gate system?

DUMOUCHEL: Agrees that budgeting needs to be improved. However, the SU has many revenue sources, with a big chunk coming from retail and SU businesses. If the SU had implemented a pay-at-the-gate system, it would have about \$10 per student to participate in BTR. But the SU's chunk of students' money would run about \$2 per student. The SU can only take some of its money-related decisions to the Council. For example, if the SU falls short in revenue from Dewey's and they make extra money, should that have to go to the Council for approval?

SINGH: Questions if this matter was ever shared with the Audit Committee or the SU Council? The student's concern is not that the SU paid \$50 000 for BTR but whether it was a good use of the SU's money. States that the capital expenses of BTR are not reusable. For example, the T-shirts had the year printed on them, so they cannot be reused for a future BTR event.

DUMOUCHEL: Notes that the SU didn't spend \$50 000 and that only \$10 000 that was extended and adjusted internally. To bring this kind of information to Council, it needs to be practical to do so.

VILLOSO: Information can only pass through Council sometimes, not consistently. There was no explicit change for committees because it came from alternate programming, which doesn't specify what event the allocated money was for. The Audit Committee was responsible for auditing the previous fiscal year, so this piece of information wasn't relevant to the Audit Committee.

ALI: \$10 000 is a lot of money, and for such a big event, we should know about sponsorships beforehand. Going from \$10 000 to \$50 000 in expenses is a huge increase. It's frustrating as the Council did not know about this event and everyone's first question would be to question how much the event would cost. Would like to know if MONTEIRO was aware of BTR costs beforehand.

MONTEIRO: States that he was aware of the financial numbers.

ALI/REGMI MOVE TO extend the meeting by 30 minutes.

CARRIED

DUMOUCHEL: The goal was to spend \$10 000 The Executive Team assessed that this amount could be spent without impacting other teams or departments. Is fine with reporting these information items to Council, but wants to communicate directly with department-associated managers because the budget for this big of an organisation can only sometimes be anticipated.

Suggests that people ask questions and learn more about the topic rather than jumping to conclusions. Asks that individuals talk to the Executive team to understand the budget and how and why it is being set up in the way that it is.

LIU: Right after BTR happened, the event debrief was only done internally and not with Council. The issues surrounding BTR only came up after the Gateway article was published.

MONTEIRO: The Executives were waiting for receipts and wanted to avoid taking half-complete information to Students' Council.

SINGH: Questions what the planned events' budget is? The Council can only exercise its powers or hold the SU accountable once its aware of all the facts and information. Would like to know if VILLOSO brought this financial information to Council or to other committee members, not necessarily as a matter of approval but as keeping Council informed.

VILLOSO: There are biweekly reports and financial statements expected from the Executives. It is difficult to oversee what exactly Council expects reported and everything that needs to be included within said financial reports.

MURPHY: Confirms that the extra budget envelope is for non-academic events like Campus Cup, Horror Night, Poster Sale and etc.

ARSLAN: We have to look at the other side as well. Where did the Gateway get the information about the \$145 000?

MONTEIRO: The Gateway reached out to him, and he gave an interview. The words "Spent" and "Cost" differ and is frustrated that the title of the Gateway article was misleading. Wants the Audit Committee and Finance Committee to review the budget documents and then share them with Council.

SINGH: Regarding balls and T-shirts, what is going to happen to them?

DUMOUCHEL: The T-shirts were dated to keep them for personal memory. The balls, however, can be reused as they weren't marked with any dates. They will be used in the upcoming Campus Cup and sold to student groups who might need them.

2022-7/3b

Upcoming Schedule

TABLED

2022-07/3c

Next steps for Auditing

TABLED

2022-07/4

ADJOURNMENT

DHILLON: ADJOURNED the meeting at 1:30PM.