



Bylaw Committee

June 21, 2022
17:00 MDT
SUB 6-06

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 | Attendance |
|--|--------------|-------------------|
| Voting Members | | |
| Levi Flaman (Chair) | | Y |
| Daniela Carbajal Velez | | N |
| Simran Dhillon | | N |
| Jaida Han | | N |
| David Lee | | Y |
| Abner Monteiro | | Y |
| Adrian Wattamaniuk | | Y |
| Non-Voting Members & Guests | | |
| Courtney Graham | | |
| Munira Bushra | | |
| | | |
| | | |

MINUTES (BC-2022-02-M)

2022-02/1 **INTRODUCTION (4 min)**

2022-02/1a **Call to Order**

FLAMAN CALLED the meeting to order at 5:10 pm

2022-02/1b **Approval of Agenda**

WATTAMANIUK/MONTEIRO MOVE to approve the agenda
CARRIED

2022-02/1c **Approval of Minutes**

FLAMAN/MONTEIRO MOVE to approve the minutes
TABLED

2022-02/1d **Chair's Business**

2022-02/2 **QUESTION/DISCUSSION PERIOD**

2022-02/2a [Simplifying and Clarifying Governance Documents](#)

FLAMAN: Governance documents are scattered everywhere so one thing on the admin work which would be to consolidate some of the bylaws, shorten them and also split the bylaws into regulations. Have to go through 2 meetings for a bunch of things which I came to find out recently when trying to do our standing order amendments, when all of this stuff is rooted in bylaw just doing a minor change is really cumbersome but if we split into sections that still requires 2 readings and regulation which might only need one if done differently to make it easier but still maintaining the rigidity that having rules like this means.

MONTEIRO: Last year Mark started to go through the process of identifying possible structures and found this particular discussion paper that can be used for better structure about rules. Generally, the number of things that are identified here are issues that we've identified. There is an inconsistency between bylaws and standing orders but also by laws are meant to be principles to guide us and to be interpreted and then we have a structure that is process and process is meant to be talking about regulations and the challenge that we see with the current structure is that essentially combine these things together. We've created principles that are within our bylaws but have also embedded the process and that results in having multiple processes in different places for things that could be very similar and one example could be SRAs creating a fee and how that would be created and presented to the student council. Counsellors have the opportunity to go through bylaw a few times before we make a significant change for in case they are busy.

MONTEIRO: One of the things that we talked about in GRTF is how demanding it can be sometimes to do this work and how do you find ways by offloading certain works we are doing although we have a lot more experience and expertise we should take care of but also freeing up council time to be able to focus on other strategic things for future guidance and planning as opposed to doing the work of student council and brought in legislation right. We can also work to see where there is too much work that doesn't need to be done by counsellors and take that back in moving in other areas of governance.

WATTAMANIUK: Delegating regulations is a good idea. You can write a regulation that has less bylaw as well and more of a procedure which is just easier to follow for everyone like if you take elections for example for the CRO to be able to follow kind of a step by step procedure for how things should be running as well as you like you said to make those editorial changes a little bit easier we just have to be really careful. I do think there is an important role for D.I.E board to make sure this system isn't being abused. the other thing I was gonna say with regard to committees I'm sure you know a part of CAC duties is to review the goals of the committees throughout the year so, a proposal from my end that I could offer is to incorporate as part of that just a more general review of committee function and seeing what types of work the committees are actually doing today and that could potentially lead to some sort of report or set of recommendations near the end of the year.

MONTEIRO: If I think about GFC and BOG it is important for us to be able to see what different committees are doing like what should counsellors be drafting and what should counsellors be reviewing, interpreting and providing feedback on and bodies like GFC the Board of Governors they don't really draft a lot of the work but currently doing too much should be a choice getting counsellors chance to be able to reduce that to make sure they can give feedback on things that need to be changed is supposed to making the changes themselves right.

WATTAMANIUK: For as part of a bylaw review how do we structure once done but what I think would be good would be to have whoever is putting together this year's GRTF discussion to include a procedure for how committees can get things drafted. I think what would be a more efficient way is by law committee sits down one of the meetings for an hour, discuss the general principles that they want to see reviewed in the election policy then that goes over to staff, staff does a draft based on those principles that come from bylaw then eventually we can move that forward to council on things for general approval because what I've heard from my brief understanding of a lot of the work with committee chairs is you end up with the process for getting things done externally is so arduous that people just end up doing it themselves.

MONTEIRO: Where consultation happens, who is responsible for and how we expand it more and more over the years ensuring that we talked to as many people as possible and a big part of the response goes to the councillors to take on. Then there's a lot of work that counsellors are doing that they probably shouldn't have to be doing but drafting documents but also changes are still the way we do things because that is lead to students being wondering consultation with groups across campus having somebody in a staff member doing this stuff does that mean that they are now doing consultation and how that works.

WATTAMANIUK: This is where you need to have a good structure for how information is transmitted cause I do think it does need to be counselled doing the consultation that when it comes down to providing our own thoughts and opinions as elected representatives of students but also to be engaging with the groups around us. So, a discussion at Bylaw committee about the things that need to be changed through a starting mechanism like through minutes or through someone writing a brief document prepares the general principles of what changes we

want to see and then counsellors go and talk to the SRAs as they have these discussions, we do the consolidation of student council again making kind of brief notes on principles and things that need to be changed and taken into consideration and then all of that information goes over to someone in governance. Basically I think it's a lot easier for me to go and sit down read 500 words on the principles of election policy that we want to see implemented and a reasonable government staff member would be able to interpret that in and turn that into physical Bylaw text then it is for me to go and write the whole thing myself.

MONTEIRO: It's also about consistency. 10 people writing bylaws where everyone writes policies differently some policies are short some are longer and it just gets approved the way it is.

FLAMAN: I was just going through the the list of SRAs that we currently have it's important us as like it represented as a student counsellors to go out to consultation but I also feel like we could and should be relying on the SRAS to help us out with that we got many of the association's many campus associations, department associations which should know their constituents far better than we do cause they interact at the moment probably on a regular basis so we simply give them certain purpose and benefits but I think that works both ways as there should be a give and take.

MONTEIRO: last year I got credit policies to go for that I was working on and one way of doing this is it's one of circumstances where policy or any changes requires to be consulting with a group that's outside the structure like if you can do one consultation feedback in some other corner but for the most part of them are covered under SRAs. So, utilising a space like COFA to be able to put forward certain things and its written changes that we want in structural bit but I think having a staff member doing this kind of stuff will make a much more consistent on the work gets done as opposed to know a student who has mentioned coming up and but can't make it as you never know when something is going to be finished as they're busy with school assignments, exams etc. that they just can't find time hence some people take months to get them done.

WATTAMANIUK: That's probably a very strong case for a Senate where we have one group that we can consult with every SRA instantly. I know counsellors in electric representatives dealing with principles more than direct drafting of text really comes into play. this is when you come with a general principle like this is what we need to change what are your thoughts and if you go about it that way then you know send everyone out an email looks like he hears the drafting of the text if you want to read over it go ahead and you can let us know if any changes you want made but I think that principle based discussion at the beginning before the text is drafted is way more important and all you need to do really is call for meeting get the general thoughts on what is being discussed and incorporate them when the bylaw being drafted by the member of staff. I think using COFA for that process would be quite good and realistically that if you do it that way gives the sras and CORA almost equal standing.

MONTEIRO: I think one thing that Mark may have mentioned is know if you see for any very specific things here in drafting how can you stop number of delegating each staff member depending on what they work. So, like having another specialist able to do this work and in some ways to make it more consistent we have another individual reaching you or somebody else.

FLAMAN: If there is somebody under research and advocacy who could do it as there's too much detachment from who initiated it to who is doing it and there's a lot of information that could be changed in the 2 minute.

MONTEIRO: Someone similar to Courtney or the speaker where they report back directly 2 months yeah for example if you have coordinated government support specialists it would be kind of similar in line with their work.

MONTEIRO: I think the first question to be answered honestly for council is what do we see is the way forward. We see it as us being interpreting principles and providing feedback and then somebody else doing this work then I bring that to the executive committee and we talk about what are some options and you can bring. Our fees are extremely important and we need to make sure that those in concern find it easy to understand because it's extremely complex right now and there's different bylaws that refer to different things and need to be consolidated. Student council finances and elections are the kind of the 3 that we talked about.

FLAMAN: And it's kind it going along that that's the way and then it's not final by it's just something like off the top of my head grouping the mentioned like the big categories the governance operations elections and finances.

MONTERIO: incorporates DFUs and SRA fees. so do you want similar structures for both of those things there are 3 different way it is right now that you could be initiated and there is 2 for DFUs and one for SRAs, do we think it needs to be standardised and someone asks they want to create a fee for something can you not just have one process and sending that. So, what are things that need to be cleaned up I think it's a good start

WATTAMANIUK: These things are all important. Bylaw 100 is a good thing to start. It's important to know how the fees that I'm paying are being legislated and mandated. Currently people only read bylaws if they think someone did something wrong and they have to bring to the D.I.E board

MONTEIRO: What do you think within bylaws is the most critical piece? And are you talking about SRA fees or are you talking about some different fees?

WATTAMANIUK: I think fees are pretty important as they not only affects SRAs directly but that also affects everybody who's paying the fees but using Bylaw 100 as a whole to discuss like the roles of SRAs and execs can actually read this to understand what's going on as well especially what authority is delegated to them which is currently quite unclear and bylaw is done being aware of the recognition information

processes as well as having clear governance structure these are the things that I think are are are generally quite important time for people to know about.

MONTEIRO: One issue last year was around fees in just how complicated everything is like bylaw's responsibilities for order in finance and it's just like everything is kind of all over the place but I'm that we work on Bylaw's mandate transfer just want to make some of those changes required in standing orders.

FLAMAN: For the next meeting in two weeks from today today if we can all go through bylaw 100 and see how we can restructure that into separate regulations like what can be consolidated, what can be split out how we do that and that is kind of a framework to go on to the next one.

Basically preview bylaw 100 and come up with ideas of removing sections of it and split it into different regulations

MONTEIRO: Mark has a copy that we can look into.

FLAMAN: Comments for those who couldn't make it. The way I have in this working document is something similar to Ualberta's policies and procedures repository each bylaw would mimic each of their policies high level directions such as the assess and grading policy which then rolls down into specific such as the access to evaluate a course material procedure or grading procedure the route level bylaw focus on what and why describing what should be the contained within the regulations with the regulations themselves containing the when and how that bylaw with then apply any given situation this will make for easier cross referencing for bylaw regulation and between regulations and might help with word of references from being broken as often if one regulations change without changing other is required. WATTAMANIUK asked in the governing documents about standing orders. I figured standing orders maybe a misnumber anyway and they take how meetings should run and not what happens outside of meetings

MONTEIRO: One of the issues is that there is conflicting information in multiple places. We need to get all information in one place so we don't make changes somewhere in one place then again in somewhere else that was missing.

FLAMAN: According to bylaw where there's a conflict that takes precedence over anything else.

Is there a way to add links within SU docs? Is there a way like I see there is some like the revision number 3 last updated is there a way to check how what previous versions were similar to do that with the old one. I feel any member should be able to edit know it's for any member could go check to see changes that have been made over and I feel like something any member of the unit should be able to do

2022-02/3

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

2022-02/4

ADJOURNMENT (1 min)

FLAMAN adjourned the meeting at 5:54 pm