



University of Alberta Students' Union

**FINANCE  
COMMITTEE**

**September 8th, 2022  
4:00 pm MST  
Kihiw Room**

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 Niitsitapi (Blackfoot), Métis, Dènesųłíné (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
Julia Villosio, Chair		Y
Joannie Fogue		Y
Daniela Carbajal		N
Haruun Ali		Y
Lionel Liu		Y
Milan Regmi		Y
David Lee		N
Simran Dhillon		Y
Christian Fotang		N/A
Abner Monteiro		N/A
Gurleen Kaur		N/A

## MINUTES (FC-2022-07)

### **2022-07/1                    INTRODUCTION**

#### **2022-07/1a                 Call to Order**

VILLOSO called the meeting to order at 4:06 PM

#### **2022-07/1b                 Approval of Agenda**

**REGMI/ FOGUE MOVE TO** approve the agenda.

CARRIED

#### **2022-07/1c                 Approval of Minutes**

**DHILLON/REGMI MOVE TO** approve the minutes from the last meeting.

CARRIED

#### **2022-07/1d                 Chair's Business**

### **2022-07/2                    QUESTION/DISCUSSION PERIOD**

#### **2022-07/3                    COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

##### **2022-07/3a                 Discussion on Type C Fees**

VILLOSO: States that majority of the meeting will focus on creation, renewal, review process, disbursement and oversight of the DFUs and SRAs.

Mentions that the creation of DFUs can be done in two ways: petition and council proposal.

Petition can be initiated by any student and will require 15% of the total members of the SU to sign it and it does not need to go to council for approval. Adds that approval from the CRO is needed to confirm its validity. Bylaw Committee will then take over to draft a question. The question will then need approval from council.

Discusses the second way a DFU can be created which is through a Student's Council Proposal. Proposals will be forwarded to Bylaw Committee to draft the question which will then be forwarded to Council for approval.

Adds that SRAs, on the other hand, are created differently. First it will go to council with the intent of the creation of a fee followed by a proposal to council for approval. Once approved, Bylaw committee then takes over, who will then draft the question which will then be forwarded back to council afterwards.

Mentions that initial proposals go to the VPOF. Will then be sent to Bylaw committee to create a question which will then be forwarded to Council for approval of the question. Will then be forwarded to the elections office.

Clarifies that the VPOF is in charge of the plebiscites and referendums.

VILLOSO: Discusses her second proposal. Instead of going through VPOF, proposals will go to council for approval which will then be forwarded to Bylaw to make a question. Adds that this is similar to the current model being used.

Adds that a third model can look like the current SRA model but combined with the DFU model where the initial proposal is given to council which will then be given to Bylaw Committee for the question.

Adds that with the first two models, the DFU and SRA fees are the same.

DHILLON: Comments that she prefers the second model proposal.

ALI: Suggests keeping initial proposals sent to VPOF before going to council.

VILLOSO: Mentions that according to Bylaw, proposals are currently given to the SU Office which does not specify to which it is directly handed over to.

ALI: Comments that he is worried about the time wasted with how the model is structured.

VILLOSO: States that it is not mandatory for DFUs to present to council, however, it needs council votes for approval.

Further discussion happened here.

DHILLON: Suggests having the VPA continue being the faculty associations touch point and the VPA Operations of Finance continue being the operations touchpoint.

VILLOSO: Agrees with DHILLON's suggestion. Mentions that there were a number of proposals received last year and are heavy for one person to read through.

Adds that DFUs charges every single student and SRAs only charge their constituents..

DHILLON: States that Bylaw will draft the question and will touch base on the proposal as it will also do a consultation on that.

Discusses possible changes on the creation of DFUS and SRA fee opens.

VILLOSO: For the SRAs and DFUs following the DFU Council model, approval is 30 days before the election starts, getting rid of SRA intent and the initial proposal going to the VPOF which goes to Bylaw committee for a question which will then go to Council for approval then goes to the Elections Office afterwards.

Adds that the initial proposal does not go through Council, goes to VPOF instead.

For SRAs and DFU proposals following the SRA model, approval requires 30 days before elections starts, getting rid of SRA intent and the initial proposal going to Council, when approved, goes to Bylaw Committee where Bylaw Committee for the question then goes back to Council for the approval of the question then goes to the Election office afterwards.

Adds that the initial proposal goes through Council.

Discussion on renewals of DFUs and SRA fees opens.

VILLOSO: States the current Bylaw requirements on the renewal process for DFUs are every five years. DFUs then need to run a plebiscite. The plebiscite question should be similar to the original question and submitted by Nov 15. If not submitted, Bylaw committee will draft the question. Students' Council needs to approve the plebiscite question by December 1. Chair of Bylaw Committee shall notify the CRO of the approved plebiscite question and cannot be raised above CPI

Adds that prior to being approved by Council all plebiscite and referendum questions must be drafted by the Bylaw Committee.

Talks about the renewal process for SRAs next.

States that only to be done when the expiry date is approaching. Adds that the renewal process is similar to the creation process, with some additions to proposals: Past budget reports, have to indicate areas of potential change or reallocation within budget reports and will need proof of successful financial controls or a plan to improve financial controls moving forward.

Committee discussion on the possible changes on the renewal of DFUs and SRA fees opens.

VILLOSO: With the current model, DFUs have the same timeline of questions by November 15th. Approval is 30 days before the election starts. Once the deadline is reached, the initial question goes to VPOF then goes to Council for approval of question then to the Elections Office afterwards. Passed the deadline, it goes to Bylaw Committee for a question then goes to

Council for approval of question then to the Elections Office afterwards.

Adds that SRAs develop the same model with the creation of SRA fees.

Discussion on combining the Referendum methods on a 4 to 5-year system opens.

VILLOSO: States that the Original referendum question is set to expire in 5 years. They can run a renewal referendum in the 4th year based on the original question. On a first failed referendum, they still have one more year of their fee, can continue to provide services for the 6th year, and can rerun another referendum the year after which does not have to follow the original question.

On a second failed referendum, the renewal fails. They cannot run another one and that group is limited to no more than 2 referendums in a six-year period.

Adds that no DFU shall have more than one fee at a time, the same model goes for SRAs.

The committee is deliberating how much SRA fees students on different Faculties should pay.

VILLOSO: Clarifies to the committee that they are not limiting SRAs on how short their term could be.

Summarizes the deliberation of the committee on the original proposal. 5 years for DFUs and SRA fees, one-year allotment on its renewal, they can't hold more than 2 referendums every four years and instead of calling it a plebiscite, it will be called a renewal of referendum.

DHILLON: Comments that because student groups need to know and prepare their presentations ahead of time, they need to know the standard threshold before the actual election.

The committee has decided on a 15% of voter turnout.

Discussion on the Review Process for DFUs and SRAs opens.

VILLOSO: The review process on DFUs is the Finance Committee's responsibility. The operational DFUs need to provide professionally audited financial statements to the Finance Committee within six months of the end of their fiscal year.

Adds that it includes evidence of compliance of all contracts to the SU And a plan on how their funds will be spent in the next school year. The

committee does not necessarily receive reports every year for the granting, However, they won't be able to release funds until the committee is informed where the money is going and for how much.

With SRA fees, they have to provide a bimester report of their finances within one month from the end of the Fall and Winter semesters.

VILLOSO: Reads the review process on DFUs and SRA fees as stated in the Bylaw. Spring and summer reports will be combined with the Fall report. The disbursement of their finances can only be achieved if their financial report is approved by the given committees.

Discussion on the disbursement of DFUs and SRAs opens.

VILLOSO: Funds are not released until the committee approve their reports.

Adds that a change in the bylaw is necessary with Finance Committee needing to disperse DFU funds by August 31st.

Discussion on the oversight of DFUs and SRAs opens.

VILLOSO: Mentions that currently, the schedule is being maintained by VPOF as per Bylaw 6100, and is looking to change that to reflect a staff member instead. And is looking to have the Governance manager in this role.

Adds that one thing that the committee does not currently do in the oversight is checking if they are actually adhering to what the question says.

DHILLON: Mentions that there will be a workshop in October that will provide the new template that includes what percentages are going into the different budgets.

**2022-07/4**

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

**2022-07/4a**

[Prep Document #3: Type C Fees](#)

**2022-07/4b**

[Print Out Document #3: Type C Fees](#)

**2022-07/5**

**ADJOURNMENT**

VILLOSO adjourns the meeting at 6:55 PM