



University of Alberta Students' Union  
**POLICY COMMITTEE**

**June 17th, 2022**  
**5:00 P.M.**  
**Zoom**

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, Dènesųłiné (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
Haruun Ali		Y
Rebeca Avila		N
Simran Dhillon		N
Joannie Fogue		Y
Christian Fotang		Y
Gurleen Kaur		Y
Lionel Liu		N
Ibukun Ojo		Y
Vedant Vyas		N
Munira Bushra		N/A

**MINUTES (PC-2022-01)**

**2022-01/1**

**INTRODUCTION (5 minutes)**

**2022-01/1a**

**Call to Order**

**FOTANG** CALLED the meeting to order at 5:06 pm

**2022-01/1b**

**Approval of Agenda**

**KAUR/ALI MOVE** to approve the agenda  
CARRIED

**2022-01/1c**

**Approval of Minutes**

**OJO/KAUR MOVE** to approve the minutes  
CARRIED

**2022-01/1d**

**Chair's Business**

**Expectations:**

Attendance, Proxies, Zoom Etiquette, Your expectations of me etc.

FOTANG: Housekeeping stuff I wanted to go over is just attendance so just recognising that again attendance is required this is a standing committee and if you cannot make it please do notify me and if possible find a proxy so you can do this by just finding a counsellor to cover you. Send me their name and email and let me know and I'll have them up to reflect in the agenda beforehand but if for some reason there are extra excruciating circumstances and you can't find a proxy and you can't make it, it's also understandable also we won't be naturally meeting on zoom all the time we will try and keep it hybrid but we will go back to the conference room at some point

**2022-01/2**

**QUESTION/DISCUSSION PERIOD**

**2022-01/3**

**COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

**2022-01/3a**

**Approval of Standing Orders (10 minutes)**

FOTANG: In section 12 we can come back to this but basically there's a section it says on the presentations that each member of the executive committee who's named a member of the Policy Committee shall provide a basic introduction of their goals of the year by June 1st and be a comprehensive presentation of all goals relevant to the mandate of the committee by June 30th. This is my 3rd year on the Policy Committee and this is the first time I just found out about this myself and we missed the deadline for 1st. The execs have to provide their goals to all of the council anyway. We can add a later meeting where the executive committee can come talk about progress on the goals.

ALI: I do have some concerns about that once again I think there's always a reason why that has been included in the standing orders so I don't see if we're responsible for overseeing the exec advocacies because it would make more sense for us to have a discussion amongst the 9 of us then among 36 people because once again we can always point out and recommend things to ask policy

FOTANG: Agrees. This has never been followed but we have missed one deadline June 1st in terms of the June 30th I do think that is possible but there's a lot more priorities that we have to get started on as a committee and if you want we can have a deadline for section 12.1 0.2 we can say that the execs come back with a comprehensive presentation of all goals relevant to the manager of the committee by like July 30th

OJO: Agrees

FOTANG: Then lastly there's section 13 executive committee reports that says each member of the executive committee was named a member of the Policy Committee shall provide report at each meeting and may provide oral presentation to accompany this report again in 3 years even last year we were never told this it's the first time finding out about it but also recognising it we already do provide reports in our council meetings I think it's just better to make this at the end of each semester.

ALI: It makes more sense to make a report for you and Abner. These great policies stay on the bookshelf and no one ever looks them up so they are useless so I'm saying how do we actually get them to be used. My recommendation is once a month for all the execs.

OJO: Accountability is important however if we keep it at the trimester we're able to get meaningful feedback at that point. At the same time it takes effort and intention and I think it would be more beneficial as we are able to give feedback in the trimester on all of the work that's been done as opposed to expecting monthly updates when maybe partial work has been done.

FOGUE: The rationale behind having the president and vice president external is that all of our policies touch the work in advocacy that's done within their own portfolios. There's a good chunk of portfolio policies that strictly touch my Portfolio. If we are going to ask someone to give us a report it should be all executive members because all of these policies and mandates touch all executives.

ALI: For me when I think of advocacy I think of external advocacy. I agree with Christian and you as well that there are some internal advocacy pointers as well that are important but the reason why I'm putting it at a month cause once again if we want that I agree Christian it's redundant what you want to do as this is not the place to hold council this will be

redundant I'm saying the goal for me by doing this is breaking in a month so we can add feedback.

FOTANG: I will just also clarify something like Abner is the president of the students union so like similar to the fact that president Monteiro and Board of Governors Dorscheid were in board of the Board of Governors advocating on behalf of international students on tuition increases that is an internal advocacy which pertains to required tuition policies right so that's an example of something that need to be reported to the committee and would probably be spoken by VPs as President Monteiro is not a member of the committee.

OJO: Maybe somewhere in between the two is that we have quarterly updates and so it's every 3 months before like it's a little bit more frequent but still enough time for everybody too and it's also not going to be in collision with our schedules

Ali: Yes, adding 3 months works

FOGUE: A lot of it is introductory meetings as we don't start a lot of our work until later on in summer. We can find out when it would be appropriate to give feedback as we don't want to put execs in a position where we are not providing much and considers maybe thinking that we are not doing enough

KAUR: So for the report it will be just the people who are the members of this committee, the 3 of us having the report and not Julia right? Which means we wouldn't go give it on behalf of Julia and Abner but they are also welcome to come attend a committee.

FOTANG: The report will include all our work that relates to the mandate of the policy of what have you been doing towards the goals that you presented to counsellors, your advocacy and progress. To address your concerns Joannie even if in the summer all you have done so far is introductory meetings that are a part of the advocacy process it's just again for transparency but you can also use that as a time to communicate plans for future advocacy goals.

Like the point that Ojo just raised right now about doing it a quarterly I would love to hear your thoughts on that

ALI: I like Ojo's point about doing quarterly

FOTANG: Would you want it to be quarterly starting from May so May, June July, August and then after August September, October, November like that?

OJO: Agrees

FOTANG: I mentioned this that is basically similar to why put the last meeting of each trimester because the summer trimester is the longest one because it is from like August but the other ones are kind of already every 3 months from September to December so September, October, November December that I'm assuming 3 months and then from December starting again in January till the end of the semester which is around April that's another 3 months. It still fits in the timeline of at the last meeting of each trimester. I can make it more clear it doesn't really have to be the last meeting of each trimester, it could just be by the end of the trimester so it gives more time.

ALI: I was thinking an extra month could be used for feedback

FOTANG: Says will take what committee says

OJO: Now that you've explained the timelines (trimesters), I would say we may be best off leaving it as written// adjust for some flexibility as to when to expect reports

FOTANG: Yeah so we can just say at the end we should provide a written report before the last meeting. It is important that we're not just writing policies and leaving them on the website adding ourselves but also updating policies and also doing proper follow up and implementation of these policies so that's why I want to take these aspects of exec accountability under advocacy activity seriously

**KAUR/OJO MOVED** to approve the standing orders  
CARRIED

**2022-01/3b**

**Overview of Committee Mandate, Policy Creation Process, and other Housekeeping items (8 minutes)**

FOTANG: There is a like a review of policies so for editorial or grammatical errors but for those that are expiring need to be renewed, the committees appoint a person to work on it alongside other members of the committee and then draft first principles and your first principles consist of the policy facts then have consultation framework so make sure the relevant stakeholder groups' perspectives are reflected and recognised in the policy then those amendments are approved by the committee and sent to council for approval. If council has any issues with the first principles it is sent back to the committee to be worked on, if there are no issues that council approved then it is then sent back to the committee to be worked on for second principles and the second principles outline the resolution so these these are the solutions to the problems that were outline in the first principles which are the facts and how they SU intends to fix these issues and that is work done by the point person again in the team that we are working on it and that is sent to the committee to for approval or 2 to

recommended to council and then once that is sent to council they discuss issues and approve the policy.

ALI: I was just thinking if we do this in the next meeting when we have more members present.

FOTANG: I'll be happy to review it again but at the same time I have to recognise we only have 6 meetings this trimester and our meetings are only an hour so I'm reluctant to do so.

For other housekeeping items you can also see I just put time limits here next to the agenda items it's not meant to limit debate, it's just to keep us on track but if the conversation is being fruitful we will keep going but it's just recognising sometimes to help keep stay within that hour range.

**2022-01/3c**

### **Committee Strat Plan ( 5 minutes)**

FOTANG: Helps give us structure and help break our work into chunks. Committee gets very busy and doesn't complete the work at times so, we need to keep things short and relevant to the mandate and obviously reviewing the policies set to expire in April of 2023. And making changes to current policies based on whatever consultation committee gets. So what are going to be some issues that we will have been trying to work on updating these policies. It's going to be a consultation thing is it going to be like well there's not a lot of students on campus in the summer so we need other ways to engage students is it going to be that there's a lack of research whatever you name it and then resources are just like what do you need from me the committee

ALI: I noticed earlier that you said that you wanted to review policies that expire by April I would actually put that February and the reason why I'm saying February is last year we had issue of the exec elections happening and then people trying to finish up winter semester so things became little bit stressful so I'm saying it makes more sense we just do it at the end of February 1st and review all policies, that way we will not be rushing

FOTANG: Agrees and adds but if we want to have professional development exercises recognising the basic Policy Committee I'm happy to also find one policy experts for people within field of policy in a topic the committees are interested about to come speak before the committee and you guys have that opportunity to do something else aside from always updating policies and looking at advocacy activities and this probably have to be done outside of committee meeting time but I think if you're interested it would be just a nice way to just have a fun interaction giving us that professional development that we are here for

OJO: I personally would be on board for professional development and I would also want to gauge the interest of other members of course but I think that could be a lovely thing to at least try

FOTANG: I have a table of the agenda and syllabus for the meeting trimester. We have to finish a lot of work outside of committee time. We'll reschedule meeting of July 1st as it's Canada Day

**2022-01/3d**

**Assign Policies for People to Make Editorial Reviews (4 minutes)**

FOTANG: So for this one we need to quickly go over existing policies there were 19 policies not expiring this year

We can take 2 policies each and have everyone send their edits by the next meeting. Can only do grammatical errors, nothing else as we can't do anything that changes the policy. You cannot change the meaning or intent of what was behind the policy or the policy resolution and fact. So here we have academic materials assessment in grading campus safety and security and capital projects. I am happy to let those in the room right now kind of pick but they want to work on quick and then will distribute the rest of those not present here.

**2022-01/3e**

**Overview of Policies Set to Expire (5 minutes)**

FOTANG: Ones that are written in purple so they are public transit quality instruction residents indigenous students to Augustana sexual violence student space and tuition policies. If you want any just glance through it and have some quick comments for us on why you're wanting to work on that policy this year.

**2022-01/3f**

**Discussion of New Policies that members wish to create (5 minutes)**

FOTANG: Counsellor Dylan had some stuff to talk about in regards to the student addiction policy being worked on last year but they never got to a first principles just doing a more fact finding of the topic that she is interested in like continuing that work this issue with that and I was also interested in working on affordable housing policy so to my knowledge that they are 2 policies that are going to be new Lee created this year. Is there anyone else having particular policies that they're hoping to also work on that are going to be new?

ALI: I wanted to modify the active transportation to make it more broad. Does that have to be separate from active transportation like a little bit more broad besides public transport.

FOTANG: It is public transit and will fall within the scope

**2022-01/4**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**2022-01/4a**

FOTANG adjourned the meeting at 5:59 pm

Next Meeting: TBD

Outstanding Action Items:

Date	Topic	Action	Completed (yes or no)
	Meeting Time	Find a next meeting time	
	Edits	Review and approve edits to policy	
	Strat Plan	Approve strat plan	