



University of Alberta Students' Union
**STUDENT GROUP
 COMMITTEE (SGC)**

**September 28th, 2022
 4:00 P.M.
 Zoom/SUB 0-33**

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, Dënesųłiné (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
Jayden Brooks, Chair		Y
Mackenzie Burnstick		Y
Joannie Fogue		Y
Gurleen Kaur		Y
Polina Reisbig		N
Mikael Schmidtke		Y
Bin Ge Yang		N
Selen Erkut (Non-voting member)		N/A
Michelle Kim (Non-voting member)		N/A
Tanisha Sahu		N/A

MINUTES (SGC-2022-01-M)

2022-01/1

INTRODUCTION

2022-01/1a

Call to Order

BROOKS: CALLED the meeting to order at 4:11 PM

2022-01/1b

Approval of Agenda

KAUR/FOGUE MOVE TO approve the agenda
CARRIED

2022-01/1c

Approval of Minutes

TABLED

2022-01/1d

Chair's Business

BROOKS: Suggests that the committee should have a shared drive to store the committee's files all in place and to make these files more accessible to all members.

ERKUT: States that members can "star" the SGC Committee folder on the UASU Google Drive for easier access to the files, without having to create a new filing system.

BROOKS: Adds that members can email him for any items to be added on the agenda beforehand.

2022-01/2

QUESTION/DISCUSSION PERIOD

2022-01/3

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

2022-01/3a

Presentation Regarding Investigation

ERKUT: Shares a presentation on the investigation process for the Student Group Committee.

When SGS receives a complaint regarding a student group with a conflict/issue, SGS notifies all the parties involved within a week. The particular student group continues to function even if the complaint is still in process. There are two major ways to deal with student group complaint: mediation or investigation.

An SGS staff member will reach out to contact the relevant parties and then set up interviews for the relevant investigation. Furthermore, witnesses and other stakeholders are interviewed. A compiled report is then sent to the involved parties, as well as the SGC. The Student Group Committee then makes a final decision based on that report. SGS adds their recommendation to the report but the SGC committee need not follow those recommendations and are free to discuss and decide the outcome.

Shares previous investigation outcomes - UPA, Therapeutic Music and the Alpha Psi Sorority complaints.

States that the Alpha Psi Sorority report will be sent to SGC in order to make final recommendations for a resolution of the complaint.

BROOKS: Asks if there is any advertisement done about this process for student groups to be aware of.

ERKUT: States that SGS mentions this process on the website, but there's no official advertising done as such.

KIM: Adds that conflict is very common in all student groups. We don't want to advertise conflict processes, as there is expected conflict in student groups. We don't help with interpersonal problems because we have a process and an approach as an outside party and do not want the conflict resolution process abused for minor issues that do not necessarily need oversight from an outside group.

SCHMIDTKE: Questions if the committee is allowed to do outside research on the situation based on the report.

ERKUT: Answers that the committee should make a decision with the proper facts given in the report as presented to the committee.

KIM: Adds that there is a lot of confidential information involved in the entire process but the major complexity is that most of those who had trauma regarding the particular situation might have already graduated and might not want to remember the exact details of the situation. But as whole, the SGS can make only recommendations to SGC; it is not required for the committee to follow them

SCHMIDTKE: Questions what if there's a conflict of interest involving any one member of the committee.

ERKUT: Answers that if there's an issue in the committee, the member can recuse themselves from the entire discussion. For example, there was an issue between the Students' Union and the International Student Association. Some members in this case were closely involved with both the parties, and hence chose to opt out of voting, whilst remaining present at the meeting, as they weren't able to make an unbiased decision.

BROOKS: Asks if the information will be released publicly.

ERKUT: States that the discussions happening in these meetings are noted down in the minutes, so if the minutes go out to the public, then yes. But the

committee can choose to go in-camera while discussing confidential sensitive topics.

BROOKS: Questions if the name of the person involved is mentioned in the report or in our meetings.

ERKUT: Yes

KIM: Adds further that, as a chair, BROOKS can discuss with the committee if they don't want names to be revealed and recommend that to SGS accordingly, as it could have an impact on the individual involved.

BROOKS: Agrees and will have a discussion with the committee in order to ensure confidentiality.

ERKUT: States that it is important to keep the student group's name involved in the report, but the name of the individual complainant can be taken off if required by the committee.

KIM: Adds that the people involved with the incident sign a consent form before the whole process begins.

BROOKS: States that since the discussion is confidential, it would be better to have the documents without their names and refer to the person involved with general terms.

KAUR: Questions on what if the chair has conflict of interest within the committee.

KIM: States that the chair should inform the committee and a temporary chair will be appointed until the issue is resolved.

KAUR: Questions if the committee doesn't have quorum, excluding the person involved with the issue.

ERKUT: Suggests that proxies could be assigned for that meeting.

KAUR: Points out that a proxy would be on the side of the person having the conflict.

KIM: States that proxies cannot be involved in the process so the better option would be to assign SU Councillors.

BROOKS: Suggests talking to the Speaker of the Student's Union.

ERKUT: Clarifies that the things that the committee can do should be within the reach of the UASU, meaning the committee can't decide to kick out a

specific student group from campus because that falls under the purview of the Dean of Students. SGS wants to give the involved student group another chance to hear their complaint heard. The student group can still operate and function normally but will not be applicable for the granting process whilst their complaint is ongoing.

BROOKS: Questions if voting will be taking place in the next meeting.

ERKUT: States that that is up to the committee as they can table it or discuss it. It depends from case to case.

BROOKS: Requests the committee to keep the information on the report confidential and states that confidential matters can be discussed in-camera if required.

States that a NDA can be signed before the next meeting if there is a need to do so.

2022-01/4

ADJOURNMENT

Next Meeting: TBD

2022-01/4a

BROOKS: ADJOURNED the meeting at 5:03 PM