

**Tuesday, February 5, 2019**

**6:00PM**

**3-04 in Pavillon Lacerte, Faculty Saint Jean**

We would like to respectfully acknowledge that our University and our Students' Union are located on Treaty 6 Territory.

We are grateful to be on Cree, Dene, Saulteaux, Métis, Blackfoot, and Nakota Sioux territory; specifically the ancestral space of the Papaschase Cree. These Nations are our family, friends, faculty, staff, students, and peers. As members of the University of Alberta Students' Union we honour the nation-to-nation treaty relationship. We aspire for our learning, research, teaching, and governance to acknowledge and work towards the decolonization of Indigenous knowledges and traditions.

**CALLED TO ORDER AT 6:01PM.**

**VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS (SC-2018-20)**

**2018-20/0      SMUDGING CEREMONY**

**2018-20/1      SPEAKERS BUSINESS**

SPEAKER: Special ordered items *2018-20/2a* and *2018-20/7a* from *SC-2018-20-LA-20190202*.

**2018-20/1a**      Announcements - The next meeting of the Students' Council will take place on **Tuesday, February 12, 2019** at 6:00PM in **Council Chambers** at University Hall.

**2018-20/2      PRESENTATIONS**

**2018-20/2a**      **BROWN/HADDOUCHE MOVED** to allow the 'Campus Saint-Jean: une institution unique' Presentation.

**Presentation Title:** "Campus Saint-Jean: une institution unique"

**Presenters:**

- VP External Adam Brown
- Sympa Cesar, Association des Universitaires de la Faculté Saint-Jean

**Abstract:** Campus Saint-Jean has a unique history with the University of Alberta, western Canada, and the francophone community. This presentation will cover CSJ's history, Alberta's Francophonie, and the problems facing CSJ today.

**2018-20/3      EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT**

Adam BROWN, Vice President (External) - Report.  
Reed LARSEN, President - Report.

Andre BOURGEOIS, Vice President (Student Life) - Report.  
Emma RIPKA, Vice President (Operations and Finance) - Report.  
Akanksha BHATNAGAR, Vice President (Academic) - Report.

**2018-20/4**

**BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORT**

Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation Committee - Report  
Audit Committee - Report.  
Bylaw Committee - Report.  
Council Administration Committee - Report.  
Executive Committee - Report.  
Finance Committee - Report.  
Nominating Committee - Report.  
Policy Committee - Report.  
Board of Governors - Report.

**2018-20/5**

**OPEN FORUM**

**2018-20/6**

**QUESTION PERIOD**

**2018-20/7**

**BOARD AND COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

**LEY/BROWN MOVED**, on behalf of the Policy Committee, to approve the First Reading of the Food Policy.

SC-2018.20.07.

LEY: Established that the renewal included a number of amendments at Bylaw Committee as outlined in the attached materials. Noted that, in Second Reading, Bylaw Committee will cite statistics relevant to the facts and recognise Campus Saint-Jean and Augustana in the Policy.

BROWN: Supported the motion.

RAITZ: Supported the motion. Confirmed that the renewal process included consultations with relevant stakeholders.

BHATNAGAR: Inquired into whether the Policy addresses the need for more diverse food options.

LEY: Responded in the affirmative. Identified that Fact 5 now includes 'culturally appropriate' as a type of food not sufficiently available on Campus. Identified that Resolution 1 adds 'cultural' to religious and medical food needs.

LARSEN: Supported the motion. Expressed concern that food security is declining across Canada. Noted that Campus Food Bank in increasing and spikes during tuition increases. Noted that students who parent and international students are some of the largest FoodBank users.

LEY: Noted that the Policy adds a specific recognition of the Campus Food Bank and a commitment to work with partner organisations to reduce food inequality.

**CARRIED**

**2018-20/7a** **BROWN/BHATNAGAR MOVED** to approve the First Reading of the Student Employment Political Policy.

See SC-2018.19.05.

BROWN: Established that the renewed Policy includes provisions on skills training, Resolution 6 that supports geographically accessible bilingual employments, and now has a stronger connection to international student concerns with their work permits and study visas

BILAK: Supported the motion.

HADDOUCHE: Expressed concern that Saint-Jean science students do not have access to the Science Internship Program at North Campus. Proposed that the Policy include a provision relating to cross-facility collaboration.

**CARRIED**

**2018-20/7b** **RIPKA/FLAMAN MOVED** to approve the 2019-2020 Budget Principles.

See SC-2018.19.06.

RIPKA: Clarified that the budget principles set the foundation for the actual budget slated for March. Noted that the Students' Union should strive to create smaller departments of greater quality. Confirmed that the budget modelling takes into account the potential changes to the Students' Union fee structure. Outlined that the budget will also seek to expand non-fee based revenue sources and improve marketing and outreach.

HADDOUCHE: Inquired into whether the Students' Union would financially support the Saint-Jean Cafeteria.

LARSEN: Responded that the SU can provide assistance in creating business cases but may not fund and operate the cafeteria. Supported the motion. Identified SU TV as a potential new non-fee revenue driver. Noted that rebranding and hiring social media staff is part of their communications initiative.

RIPKA: Noted that SU hospitality businesses run deficits at present. Suggested that the Saint-Jean Association investigate liaise with potential executive candidates on the issue.

STATT: Noted that the Strategic Planning Committee recognises the need to improve Council's outreach and communication.

FLAMAN: Expressed concern that selling or licensing SU TV to other universities may change the nature of their relationship from partners into clients.

BHATNAGAR: Inquired into what has been done and what will be done to create more non-fee revenue drivers.

RIPKA: Responded that the SU may also monetise their housing, volunteer, and exam registries. Noted monetizable generators are IT related.

BILAK: Proposed having a marijuana dispensary in the outgoing Canada Post space in the Students' Union Building.

### **CARRIED**

**2018-20/8**

### **GENERAL ORDERS**

**2018-20/8a**

**BHATNAGAR MOVED** to discuss feedback for the user interface of the Universal Student Ratings of Instruction database, aligned with the *Quality Instruction Political Policy*.

BHATNAGAR: Established that the Policy addresses the accessibility and digestibility of the interface. Requested that councillors offer their suggestions as to improving the USRI database.

LARSEN: Expressed concern at (a) the absence of a search system, (b) the user interface functionality, (c) that entries are only viewable starting from program year, and (d) the readability and bolding of the text.

BOURGEOIS: Proposed restarting from web portal from a blank slate. Expressed concern that sample sizes are low, comments are limited, and there's no way to select and compare two classes side-by-side.

STATT: Considered that few students know that the USRI database is accessible to them. Noted that most students believe the database is only for internal staff promotion and awards.

BROWN: Considered that the data could be utilised for advocacy as faculty associations can push for the better training of their professors.

HADDOUCHE: Expressed concern that the database is not available in French.

BOURGEOIS: Expressed concern that the USRI web page does not have a link directly to the database and the University does not advertise its existence.

BELCOURT: Suggested that the search system allow for multi-year searches.

BOURGEOIS: Suggested that the weakness of the USRI system leads to students to less accurate forms of instructor assessment as RateMyProfessor.

LEY: Inquired into whether department chairs access the USRI data in the same form as students.

BHATNAGAR: Responded in the negative. Noted that instructors receive their own USRI data and submit it when requesting tenure or an award. Inquired into whether councillors have concerns as to questions themselves and or the use and results of mid-term course evaluations.

RIZVI: Expressed concern that the USRI questions do not relate to teaching or assessment methods.

BELCOURT: Suggested that there be multiple ways to search for courses, including an autocomplete feature.

BOURGEOIS: Suggested that the USRI unfairly ranks professors with limited English skills. Noted that some questions do not reflect the nature of the class such as a question related to receiving constructive feedback but does not account for class size.

ANDERSON: Suggest that there would have to be a disclaimer if student comments were to be made public.

LEY: Inquired into whether the new questions piloted at St Joseph's College are designed to mitigate racial and gender bias.

BHATNAGAR: Responded that the questions are designed to focus on the learning outcomes related to course objectives and not particular qualities of the professor.

BOURGEOIS: Expressed concern that there is abstract terminology, missing information in the reference data, and not clear outlined grading schedule.

BOSE: Expressed concern that questions related to the students' attitude toward the subject are not relevant. Proposed that the Students' Union create their own rating system.

RIPKA: Proposed that the USRI's use simple pie charts and hover-definitions for technical terms.

STATT: Emphasised the need for plain language to accommodate international students.

BELCOURT: Supported the question categories available on RateMyProfessor.

BHATNAGAR: Noted that the University has the highest response rate for similar universities in Canada at 38%.

HADDOUCHE: Proposed that the USRI have questions related to the use of eClass.

LEY: Proposed that the system identify special topics courses that change from year to year.

STATT: Proposed that the database include a brief biography of the professor.

BELCOURT: Proposed that the database include a description and title of the class.

BOSE: Proposed having a system to rate academic advising staff.

BOURGEOIS: Proposed that the University also collect demographic data to cross-reference with student ratings to determine if certain groups have special difficulties.

**2018-20/8b** **RIPKA/LARSEN MOVED** to establish an ad-hoc committee on Executive Compensation.

RIPKA: Noted that the Compensation Committee would meet two or three times to compare the benefits and compensation packages from different universities across Canada.

**RIPKA MOVED** to amend 3(1)(a) to render the Vice-President Finance and Operations as a non-voting member.

FLAMAN: Proposed, alternatively, that the duties of the proposed Committee be undertaken by the Audit, Finance, or CAC Committees.

BOURGEOIS: Inquired into why Flaman did not suggest this in his three years of service on the CAC Committee.

BOSE: Supported Flaman. Suggested that the Audit Committee should review the compensation as no member of the executive sits on the Audit Committee.

FLAMAN: Responded that many of his suggestions as a member of the CAC Committee were not approved or considered.

STATT: Noted that the Audit Committee cannot take on additional responsibility in the present year.

BOURGEOIS: Expressed concern that members of Audit or Finance could intend to run for executive positions and that there are limited safeguards to ensure fair increases or decreases and a conflict of interest could arise.

BELCOURT: Inquired into how the proposal would eliminate potential conflict of interest situations.

LARSEN: Expressed concern that executive compensation does not increase along inflation. Noted that gaps can be addressed to make executive positions more accessible to students.

**SUNDAY MOVED** to amend Section 2.2 to read “three members” instead of “members”  
Carried as friendly.

RIPKA: Responded that there is no way to prevent members of Compensation Committee from later running as executives. Noted, however, that they may complete conflict of interest declarations and are bound by a principle of good faith. Noted that any changes to executive compensation will proceed through the General Manager to Council.

HADDOUCHE: Expressed concern that executive members do not get scholarships, parking, or benefits.

SPEAKER: Noted that Bylaw 100 provides that ad-hoc committees have open membership.

**SUNDAY MOVED** to amend Section 2.1 to read “the permanent membership of the committee shall consist of”  
Carried as friendly.

STATT: Proposed including one or two students at large as members of the Compensation Committee.

RIPKA: Noted that there are no confidentiality concerns, as executive compensation is public, but that students may not wish to serve on a committee with such a limited role and narrow focus.

**STATT MOVED** to amend 3(1)(c) to read “one student at large” as a voting position.  
Carried as friendly.

**17/1/0 - CARRIED**

**LARSEN/FLAMAN MOVED** to enter in camera to discuss political strategy.  
**CARRIED**

**2018-20/9**      **INFORMATION ITEMS**

**2018-20/9a**      Vice-President, Academic - Report.

See SC-2018.20.01.

**2018-20/9b**      Vice-President, External - Report.

See SC-2018.20.02.

**2018-20/9c**      Vice-President, Operations and Finance - Report.

See SC-2018.20.03.

**2018-20/9h**      Terms of Reference - Ad Hoc Committee on Executive Compensation

See SC-2018.20.04.

**2018-20/9i**      First Reading - Student Employment Policy

See SC-2018.19.05.

**2018-20/9j**      2019-2020 Budget Principles

See SC-2018.19.06.

**MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:15.**