



University of Alberta Students' Union
**ABORIGINAL RELATIONS
 AND RECONCILIATION
 COMMITTEE**

Monday, September 24, 2018

4:00pm

SUB 6-06

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.

| NAME | PROXY | PRESENT | SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN FEEDBACK (IF ABSENT) |
|--------------------------|-------|---------|---|
| Nathan Sunday (Chair) | | Y | |
| Deirdra Cutarm | | N | |
| Katherine Belcourt | | Y | |
| Akanksha Bhatnagar | | Y | |
| Andre Bourgeois | | Y | |
| Mpoe Mogale | | Y | |
| Ariyanna Callihoo | | Y | |
| Heather Lindsey | | N | |
| Kimberley Fraser-Airhart | | Y | |
| Reed Larsen | | N | |
| Arcand Rhiannon | | N | |
| Stephen Raitz | | N | |
| Breanna Palmer | | Y | |
| Juan Vargas Alba | | Y | |
| Tahra Haddouche | | N | |

AGENDA (ARRC-2018-10)

2018-10/1 INTRODUCTION

Introduction took place, whereby everybody mentioned their names and their roles.

Cheryl Makokis (a traditional knowledge keeper) was an invitee, who was accompanied to the meeting by her daughter, Victoria Makokis.

Adam Brown (VP External) also attended the meeting.

2018-10/1a **Call to Order**

Meeting called to order at 4. 13 pm by Chair Sunday.

2018-10/1b **Prayer/Smudging Ceremony**

MAKOKIS

Described about smudging and why it is important; Smudge will help the creator and will help people's family and children; it will clean yourself; it is good to start the meeting with it; it is in the culture to smudging;

(Bo agreed to smudge, and he smudged everybody; prayer also took place while smudging)

2018-10/1c **Approval of Agenda**

BOURGEOIS

Pointed out that Town Hall is not included in the agenda

SUNDAY

Incorporated Town Hall in Chair's Business

BOURGEOIS/BELCOURT MOVED to approve the agenda

10/0/0

CARRIED

2018-10/1d **Approval of Minutes**

BHATNAGAR/CALLIHOO MOVED to amend the minutes.

9/0/1

CARRIED (VP Brown abstained)

2018-10/1 **Chair's Business**

2018-10/1a **ARRC Town Hall**

SUNDAY

I want to mark out the schedule and what will exactly happen; there will be a greeter to greet and will clarify things; each table will be about one of the four categories in condensed version, for example, there will be a table for education;

(There were suggestions to have a White Board)

BOURGEOIS

We can print it in SUB Print; that will be cheaper than Dollarama;

CALLIHOO

Suggested sticky notes;

MAKOKIS

Agreed having sticky notes for people to use and have their answers

BELCOURT

Having paper will be better; for simplicity, we can put them on white-board; there are two white boards in the room; and we can have food in a far back corner and separate from white-board;

CALLIHOO

Suggested optional sign-up sheet;

BOURGEOIS

(Drew a diagram of the room to describe the arrangement)

FRASER-AIRHART

Suggested putting posters in the white-boards and tables in the center, and sticky notes for details;

BELCOURT

Suggested having a person for information, and having the papers written up ahead of time;

BOURGEOIS

In the flip-chart paper, we can write, for e.g. education; then can ask for their thoughts;

SUNDAY

Said he likes sticky notes;

BOURGEOIS

People get more things when they stand and that's why flip-chart paper along with Tables will be better;

(Different members give their ideas about how to place the food and Table so that attendees will be engaged and share their ideas)

MAKOKIS

What if you walk in and you are scared there and do not put anything off; I think you have to guide them and ask their feedback to specific questions;

SUNDAY

We have to have budget for things like water bottle or things; that way, in every Table we can have a draw item for people to go to; asked Fraser-Airhart for budget;

FRASER-AIRHART

If we don't have budget, we can have people do at least one question;

SUNDAY

I know that it is this Thursday and we are still planning; it is the first time we are doing it, but I have to donate a gift for this to happen;

BELCOURT

We can ask Makokis for anything, and may be, she can come, and we should probably ask her formally about this;

SUNDAY

Formally requested Makokis to come and deliver the opening prayer

MAKOKIS

Agreed to come with her great-grandson

SUNDAY

It will take about 30 minutes

BOURGEOIS

We could ask somebody to take photos and Gateway to come and take photos of the opening ceremony

CALLIHOO

Suggested that she can sing a morning song

BOURGEOIS

I do think that it is good idea that Makokis gave to tell people to what exactly to do

BELCOURT

I also agree and think that people will do that because of social pressure and obligation; that way we can have the food by the board;

SUNDAY

We can have poster paper and paste them to the board

BOURGEOIS

I can get four sheets of flip-chart paper tomorrow

SUNDAY

I think everybody is shared with our Facebook page and/or over Twitter

Suggested Makokis to meet by the parking lot at about 9.30 am

It will be role of the greeter to tell people to do; we will have a sign-up sheet; and we have people assigned for that; we will get a whole bunch of sticky notes and markers; Starting at 10.30 am, Makokis will do the opening with the smudge; Asked if people are good with the plan;

MOGALE

While doing the ceremony, do we do other things to get the meeting going?

MAKOKIS

Suggested the prayer first and then morning song and thereafter the speech by Sunday;

SUNDAY

Agreed with Makokis;

BOURGEOIS

Are we expecting this to be a drop-in event?

MAKOKIS

Whenever when we do anything we start with a prayer; the morning song is a prayer for the day and the ceremony and also people's high energy;

SUNDAY

We can have it in our agenda that we will have the prayer exactly at 10 am; I will put that in the events page; from 10 to 10 am, there will be prayer, morning song and my introductory speech; thereafter people can go and do where they want; they is our first time and we wish to it as good as we want; everybody watch for Gateway tonight, there will be an article about Town Hall;

2018-10/2

QUESTION/DISCUSSION PERIOD

2018-10/2a

PSE Facts on Indigenous Peoples

BOURGEOIS

There are 27 facts that we want to inform in the new policy; Katherine and I met about it last Friday; We wanted to see what happened in a partnership - that was in QUAD; it is where we want to expand and grow and seek recommendation; Political policy is where the SU is advocating for affordable and predictable tuition for all students

Breaching Political policy are legally binding documents
SU offered course contents on multiple aboriginal languages, and we are looking forward to broaden it and have our advocacy resolutions on;
If you have anything, please let us know if the facts are correct, and if you want to propose something please let us know and we can bring them up in the policy;

BELCOURT

We will work on it; we have not done a lot of policies like these;

SUNDAY

Broadly speaking what would we like to see in it?
We would like to have a broad discussion on what we wish to see

MOGALE

I think it is recruitment and the transition of students into the job market; I would like to see recruitment and things like that;

BELCOURT

We were doing resolutions and there we are doing internationalization policy; International students pay more tuition than domestic students - it is a fact; We want to collect facts and stats like these and I think it will be help doing that;

BHATNAGAR

It is a misconception that First Principles are policies; there are any general statement like facts on policies; so it is kind of confusing;

BOURGEOIS

We can do bullet points, for e.g. people in Canada do such and such things;
We can also say that resolutions tie to facts; We can say that U of A is trying to recruit more indigenous students; we can also say that it is trying increase even, and we can state facts and relate them to policies;

PALMER

Are students self-identified as aboriginals? I did not read anything about specific place and having advice from elders;

SUNDAY

Initially one of the things that I was talking about is having services available for people who need it; we can say something along the lines of "self-determination" kind of thing;

BELCOURT

By analyzing academic papers, can we pull items from there to determine policy?

SUNDAY

Yes, it will be better that way and we can be well balanced

PALMER

By "academic" we call it peer-review; if there is an indigenous scholar, it will be helpful to get his/her opinion

BELCOURT

I mean there is a lot of value in literature that may or may not be peer-reviewed

SUNDAY

It is not only important to include academic journals and things like that but students' experience is more important because people's stories is more important

BROWN

Having TRC in context, will be the best; saying like "TRC is this" and keeping it as relevant as possible will give it more legitimacy to the policy;

BOURGEOIS

Things that come out of the mouths of students will be really useful; We can projects involving surveys and have qualitative data that will have actual experience of people; it is important to involve things that come from non-academic sources that can be incorporated in code of students behavior for disciplinary measures, I know that because I took NS343; however, I don't know what we should be advocating;

PALMER

I did a project where people came up put their stories and it got peer reviewed and it became an artistic academic work; thing like that we may use;

BELCOURT

I know people feel a certain way, and I want to bring like what if indigenous people pay the same amount of tuition as non-indigenous people?

FRASER-AIRHART

It is a good point to talk about why we bring our facts; it is because our facts are agenda; we are stating our facts; it is like starting what we have and what our resolutions are looking like;

Policy restricts people and there are barriers in policy and we should have some measures that should help them overcome those barriers as they have the knowledge and capabilities;

BOURGEOIS

About Kath's point, if there will some points like sexual violence; there will things like this is trash; it will be everybody on campus will say that it is nice;

SUNDAY

Maybe if there is an executive that does not like the points they may express them

BOURGEOIS

My beliefs are relevant

I am thinking of next steps for this; I thinking of including things TRC in the policy; I don't know what facts to include from academics - if somebody can help with that it will be helpful for Kath and I and we will bring those facts within First Principles; These facts are going to policy and First Principle will come when Kath and I finish them up and depends on our schedule;

(BHATNAGAR and BROWN left at this point, the time was 4.54 pm)

SUNDAY

Asked if anyone wanted to say anything about the policy

Asked whether to keep "aboriginal" and to keep "indigenous"

FRASER-AIRHART

Indigenous is the correct Canadian word now and we can keep it for consistency

MAKOKIS

On terminology, on our status-card, it is called "Indian"

Aboriginal is refused by a huge number of people in our communities;

SUNDAY

Terminology is something to think about carefully;

2018-10/2b

Trevor Phillips presentation on Indigenous recruitment

BOURGEOIS

Trevor Phillips is the Manager of Indigenous Recruitment; they are going to communities in the province and they already went to 28 or so of them; there they heard things like we don't want to hear about you and about university, and they are working on it; we are thinking about what role students can play in things about it because they don't like students getting involved and telling stories; there can be indigenous students' open-house; I thought about ARRC and could invite them to our meeting;

SUNDAY

Agreed with Bourgeois

FRASER-AIRHART

Mention Frida in addition to Trevor

SUNDAY

It can be in a regular meeting but can be an additional item with their presentation

BOURGEOIS

I described about ARRC and who shows up here;

SUNDAY

We should tell how aboriginal organizations on-campus get involved;
I know the Native Studies were involved last; and likewise we can involve the
Aboriginal Students' Association to get involved;

MAKOKIS

We used to talk to our high school students; and it shows that it will work;
Students talk to kids and they get the taste of it is like to be in an university;
things like that help our native kids motivated;

BOURGEOIS

The team under Trevor has a specific person who is a student, who is he
mentioned is going to a central location with surrounding communities; that way
they reach out to many communities for promoting post-secondary education;
do we invite him:

SUNDAY

Agreed with Bourgeois on the invitation

FRASER-AIRHART

In previous strategies, I know they were coming to open-house; and I didn't
know what they were planning to do; they had relationships with alumni and
they already know who to speak with, rather than we going to teaching them; I
met a lot of people who had that experience in McEwan; he supported his friends
there and made their connections; in this one they get a condensed version and
taste in which they can envision themselves;

SUNDAY

In my experience I am the first one to go to university; and I came to learn what
it is like to take lecture notes and I taught that to others.

CALLIHOO

I want to ask about what our strategies should be and which communities to
reach out to.

MAKOKIS

I was listening to you; In cities, urban Indians, it is scary for urban Indians
because it is scary for them; First Nations who got so much trauma in their like ,
it is a scary step to come to the universities; That's is why they find it hard to
graduate; they find hard to think like you do; Creating an environment in which
our students do not feel scared but feel confident is what you should strive for;
Many of our students know that they are struggling; Some of girls who end up in
the universities get their children and own families as well, so they are pulled in
so many direction; bringing those moms and dads and aunties and uncles and

creating environment for them to adapt is what must be done; we leave our families behind us and we do for our future generations;

BOURGEOIS

I just now sent an invite to Trevor; I was going through our Standing Orders and wanted to see if it is up-to-date;

SUNDAY

We have a newer version of Standing Orders

BOURGEOIS

Belcourt and I will work on the policy and come back if something else is needed

SUNDAY

If you have a draft ready, you can send it to me; then it will go to Policy Committee

BELCOURT

If we will reach out to people, I think it is better to do like one-on-one, which will be in a more personable manner; it might take a bit longer though;

BOURGEOIS

That's what I think as well; however, it is a matter time, and will take a long time and it also depends on whoever comes next;

SUNDAY

If you want to meet in-person then you can schedule individual meetings

BELCOURT

I think it is much better to do that in-person

2018-10/3 **COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

2018-10/4 **INFORMATION ITEMS**

SUNDAY

October 8 is Thanksgiving Day, and therefore we need to reschedule the meeting.

2018-10/5 **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting was adjourned at 5.55 pm.

2018-10/5a Next meeting date TBD.

SUMMARY OF MOTIONS

| MOTION | VOTES |
|---|------------------------------------|
| BOURGEOIS/BELCOURT MOVED to approve the agenda | 10/0/0 CARRIED |
| BHATNAGAR/CALLIHOO MOVED to amend the minutes | 9/0/1 CARRIED (VP Brown abstained) |