



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

**Friday, November 23, 2018
 12:00pm
 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, Sauleaux, 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	
Katherine Belcourt		Y	
Akanksha Bhatnagar		Y	
Andre Bourgeois		Y	
Mpoe Mogale		Y	
Ariyanna Callihoo		Y	
Shuaa Rizvi		Y	

MINUTES (ARRC-2018-15)

2018-15/1 INTRODUCTION

2018-15/1a Call to Order
 SUNDAY: Called the meeting to order at 12:11pm.

2018-15/1b Prayer/Smudging Ceremony

2018-15/1c Approval of Agenda
BOURGEAIS/RIZVI MOVED to approve the agenda.
 5/0/0 - CARRIED

2018-15/1d Approval of Minutes
N/A

2018-15/1e Chair's Business

SUNDAY: Considered that the Treaty acknowledgement requires redrafting as it is not the role of the Students' Union to decolonise Indigenous traditions. Proposed that permanent members exist under a separate heading in the meeting minute attendance tracker in order to improve its clarity.

2018-15/2 QUESTION/DISCUSSION PERIOD

2018-15/3 COMMITTEE BUSINESS

2018-15/3a ARRC Recommendations

BELCOURT: Established that Advocacy §15 reads that "the Students' Union shall advocate for institutional commitments at every level of the University to develop financial, housing, and job opportunities for Aboriginal students". Affirmed the importance of job experience and experiential learning. Identified that, based on a meeting with Kirsten Lindquist, she discovered the Federal Student Work Experience Program which includes an Aboriginal component. Suggested integrating Aboriginal work experience programmes into an existing information structure to effectively advertise Indigenous-specific job, mentorship, and volunteering opportunities. Emphasised the need to reduce barriers to accessing programmes and opportunities. Identified an Aboriginal survey and Campus wide co-op programme as actionable items.

SUNDAY: Established that Point 7 read that "the Students' Union shall mandate that a KAIROS Blanket Exercise be an official, recurring part of GovCamp and that, moreover, a KAIROS Blanket Exercise shall also be performed after by-elections."

BOURGEOIS: Supported Point 7.

BELCOURT: Considered mandating members attend at least one exercise. Expressed concern that those who enter Council in the by-elections would be less inclined to participate due to their busy schedules.

MOGALE: Proposed only holding one exercise for all members after the conclusion of by-elections.

SUNDAY: Noted that councillors arrive in April with the by-elections in September.

BOURGEOIS: Considered that an exercise should be hosted near the start of the year.

BHATNAGAR: Proposed mandating attendance at an exercise via the Attendance

Policy.

SUNDAY: Expressed concern that those who do not wish to participate in the exercise, but are compelled, would not gain anything from the experience.

BELCOURT: Considered that all participants gain something from attending an exercise. Noted that she has never attended a KAIROS exercise.

BOURGEOIS: Proposed including the exercise as part of a Council meeting.

SUNDAY: Clarified that mandating participation in the exercise means, in practice, councillors who do not attend would not get credit for their attendance at the meeting.

MOGALE: Expressed concern at GovCamp attendance.

CALLIHOO: Noted that mandating attendance does not obligate councillors to participate but only to observe.

BOURGEOIS: Noted that a member could, if unwilling to attend, leave and re-enter the room for roll call but not engage with the exercise.

SUNDAY: Suggested that Council invite faculty associations to partake in the exercise.

BOURGEOIS: Expressed concern in doubling the exercise as part of both a Council meeting and GovCamp.

BELCOURT: Supported having at least one member of each faculty association attend the exercise.

BHATNAGAR: Proposed including an exercise as part of a Council of Faculty Associations meeting in order to provide for broad representation.

SUNDAY: Established that Point 8 reads “the Students’ Union, in partnership, with the Council Administration Committee and Aboriginal students groups, shall host a Town Hall to update the Campus on advocacy efforts with special emphasis on Aboriginal student advocacy”.

BHATNAGAR: Inquired into how funds would be allocated for this project. Supported a standing budget model for ARRC.

SUNDAY: Responded that ARRC had a \$5000 total budget of which \$4000 was used for an incrementally disbursed elder’s honorarium and \$1000 was used for the Town Hall.

BELCOURT: Expressed concern that, under the current proposal, it is illogical for

the Town Hall organised by CAC to rely on funds from the ARRC budget.

SUNDAY: Noted that this provision promotes a CAC and ARRC partnership to host the Town Hall.

BHATNAGAR: Proposed including the costs as part of the CAC budget line for Indigenous initiatives.

BOURGEOIS: Inquired into whether this proposal involves ARRC requesting funds from CAC.

BHATNAGAR: Responded in the affirmative. Noted that the request for funds could occur once at the beginning of the term. Noted that her proposal provides for a mix of the ARRC standing budget model and a budget line in the CAC budget.

SUNDAY: Determined to include, as a recommendation, that the Town Hall will be paid for by CAC and the Elder by ARRC.

BOURGEOIS: Proposed that Point 8 read “that the Students’ Union will create two budget models for Indigenous initiatives. One budget line will go to the Aboriginal Relations & Reconciliation Committee. One budget line will go to Council Administration Committee” with a sub point recognising “part of the Council Administration Committee budget will be used for a Town Hall to update the Campus on advocacy efforts with special emphasis on Aboriginal student advocacy”.

SUNDAY: Expressed concern that this model provides only for ARRC to have a budget for the elder honorarium.

MOGALE: Suggested that the budget line for the smudging materials exist in the ARRC budget.

BOURGEOIS: Expressed concern at Mogale’s suggestions insofar as other committees of Council may want to smudge or utilise the elder and, thus, require the use of the funds. Proposed, therefore, including a divided budget line between ARRC and CAC.

SUNDAY: Suggested that CAC could request the use of the ARRC budget for these resources and receive clarificatory information on cultural practices. Supported the CAC budget being responsible for tabling, TAWOW, and the Town Hall.

BELCOURT: Inquired into whether there are other items that the Committee would like to see including the ARRC budget.

BHATNAGAR: Recommended consulting Discover Governance on budgetary allocations.

BELCOURT: Emphasised that ARRC should be included in the activities which relate to Indigenous students.

SUNDAY: Emphasised that relations with Indigenous culture must be respectful and not appropriative. Established that Point 9 reads “the Students’ Union shall edit its acknowledgement of traditional territory to recognise that the University of Alberta is situated on unlawfully stolen and unceded Papaschase Cree territory”.

BOURGEOIS: Supported Point 9.

SUNDAY: Determined to bring a motion to CAC to effect this change in the recognition.

MOGALE: Suggested that the acknowledgement also include information as to why the territory is termed unlawful and stolen.

SUNDAY: Established that Point 10 reads “that the Students’ Union shall amend its acknowledgement of traditional territory to reflect the traditional names of the nations mentioned in its acknowledgement”.

BOURGEOIS: Inquired into the character of traditional names.

SUNDAY: Responded that, for example, the Cree nation is traditionally referred to as Néhinaw. Noted that the present names for the Indigenous peoples came from settlers.

MOGALE: Supported speaking the traditional names as part of the acknowledgement.

SUNDAY: Established that Point 11 reads “the Students’ Council shall, in collaboration with the Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation Committee, create a Treaty Acknowledgement Guide to help inform committees of the importance of the acknowledgement”. Identified the sub-point (a) as “Committees of Students’ Council are encouraged to speak the territorial acknowledgement at the opening of every meeting”.

BELCOURT: Emphasised understanding the acknowledgement in addition to speaking it.

MOGALE: Suggested that Committees should contextualise the acknowledgement with their particular mandates and objectives. Considered that ARRC should be consulted in changes to the acknowledgement at the Committee level.

SUNDAY: Established that Point 12 reads “the Students’ Union shall, extend an invitation for the chair of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation Committee at any meetings discussing Aboriginal students”.

BHATNAGAR: Proposed that the provision also permit for a representative of ARRC to attend and be invited to meetings in the event that the chair is unavailable.

BELCOURT: Expressed concern that the provision only provides for the extension of an invitation but carries with it no obligation.

BHATNAGAR: Proposed allowing for delegates from Aboriginal Student Council to attend meetings as representatives.

SUNDAY: Suggested that ARRC encompasses all Aboriginal student groups and organisations and, therefore, it is not necessary to recognise them individually and specifically.

MOGALE: Suggested explaining the importance of Aboriginal student representation as part of the provision.

BELCOURT: Emphasised that Aboriginal students should be consulted in the decision making process.

SUNDAY: Established that Point 13 reads "Students' Council shall amend Bylaw 1300 so as to broaden the mandate of DIE Board to include reference abstract questions and to allow the board to provide advisory opinions." Identified that President Larsen expressed concern as to why this provision should be included as a recommendation as opposed to an independent item brought to Bylaw Committee. Explained that this provision originates out of the difficulty the then ad-hoc committee had in securing votes for its non-Council members wherein it could not seek a remedy from the DIE Board.

BOURGOIS: Proposed removing the provision from the Recommendations and submitting it as an independent item at Bylaw Committee. Expressed concern that the provision neither specifically relates to ARRC nor Aboriginal students.

MOGALE: Suggested that the provision relates to Indigenous students to the extent that as it seeks to correct a problem which affected them.

BOURGOIS: Recommended consulting DIE Board itself before taking action in relation to this provision.

SUNDAY: Determined to follow Bourgeois's recommendation.

SUNDAY: Established that Point 14 reads "the Students' Council shall create a Parenting Policy". Noted that the Students' Union should leverage its statistical information in this Policy.

SUNDAY: Anticipated approving the Recommendations at the next meeting.

Determined to work on the mission, vision, and values thereafter.

BOURGEOIS: Determined to facilitate the mission, vision, and values work.

2018-15/4 INFORMATION ITEMS

2018-15/4a *ARRC-2018-14, Meeting Minutes - November 14, 2018.*

See ARRC-2018-15.01.

2018-15/5 ADJOURNMENT

SUNDAY: Adjourned the meeting at 1:05pm.

2018-15/5a **Next Meeting:** Friday, November 30, 2018 @ 12:00PM in SUB 6-06.

SUMMARY OF MOTIONS

MOTION	VOTES
BOURGEOIS/RIZVI MOVED to approve the agenda.	5/0/0 - CARRIED