



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

**Friday, November 30, 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, 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) |
|----------------------------------------------------|-------|---------|--------------------------------------------|
| Standing Committee Members | | | |
| Nathan Sunday (Chair) | | Y | |
| Katherine Belcourt | | Y | |
| Akanksha Bhatnagar | N | N | N |
| Mpoe Mogale | N | N | N |
| Ariyanna Callihoo | | 0.5 | |
| Shuaa Rizvi | | Y | |
| Andre Bourgeois | | Y | |
| Colin Mulholland (Vice-President (External), NSSA) | | Y | |
| Student-at-large Committee Members | | | |
| | | | |

MINUTES (ARRC-2018-16)

2018-16/1 INTRODUCTION

2018-16/1a Call to Order
SUNDAY: Called the meeting to order at 12:07pm.

2018-16/1b Prayer/Smudging Ceremony

2018-16/1c Approval of Agenda
BOURGEOIS/RIZVI MOVED to approve the agenda.
5/0/0 - CARRIED

2018-16/1d Approval of Minutes
BOURGEOIS/MULHOLLAND MOVED to approve the minutes.
5/0/0 - CARRIED

2018-16/1e Chair's Business

SUNDAY: Notified the Committee that the Aboriginal Students' Council is hosting a "Pipe Ceremony", for which all details can be found on their Facebook page. Currently scheduled for Tuesday, December 4, 2018.

2018-16/2 QUESTION/DISCUSSION PERIOD

2018-16/2a Mission, Vision and Values

SUNDAY indicated that BOURGEOIS will now lead/facilitate the discussion.

BOURGEOIS: Suggested that a successful strategy to develop a "Mission, Vision and Values" for a group/organization, could begin with each Committee-member answering in five (5) "sticky-notes" or less, the reason they believe the Committee is making recommendations. Discussed the use of a "Guiding Question", and recommended "Why does Reconciliation matter to campus [or to the University of Alberta, or Students' Union]?". Recommends the use of "campus". As the term broader than "University of Alberta" or "Students' Union".

MULHOLLAND: Inquired as to whether the question should be more specific, and phrased to include the term "TRC [Truth and Reconciliation Commission]", as follows: "Why does the TRC matter to campus"?

BELCOURT: Discussed that though a large portion of ARRC's recommendations refer directly to TRC, there are also other aspects including: advocacy, education, and operations of Students' Council. Unsure about including "TRC" specifically, highlights the broad nature of recommendations.

BOURGEOIS: Agreed with BELCOURT. Recommends that the question should be kept broad, and that the "common broad themes" of Committee member's recommendations should be examined to develop the "Mission".

SUNDAY: States that the purpose of this agenda item, is to act as a "Visioning Exercise" for the Committee, to inform recommendations and "moving forward".

BHATNAGAR Inquires whether the information collected on the “whiteboard” at the ARRC Town Hall was stored, and saved by a member of the Committee. SUNDAY indicates that [he] did. Recommends that it be used in the current discussion. The question(s) asked included: “What does reconciliation mean to you?”.

BOURGEOIS: Agreed with BHATNAGAR that the aforementioned responses should be considered. Envisioned that the formal “Recommendations” released by ARRC, will be treated as a “living document” of the Committee’s work and informed by the “Mission, Vision and Values”. The latter may be used as an introduction to the report(s) released by ARRC. Believes that a preliminary “Mission” statement can be crafted by the end of the current meeting, which can be used as the “Values” and “Vision” are discussed.

”Sticky-notes” were passed out, and are to be posted to the board, as they are completed.

BOURGEOIS: Recommends that two groups of Committee member(s) be created. The first group, comprised of three (3) or four (4) individuals will initially sort the recommendations. A second group, comprised of three (3) or four (4) members will follow and either re-sort, or draw links between the themes of posts. Recommends this process at it is collaborative and less confusing.

Four (4) individuals were selected, following a period of time for Committee member(s) to write and post their notes. A second group, of an unspecified number of individuals [based on the meeting recording], completed the second portion.

BOURGEOIS: Recommended moving “Healing” to a stand-alone section. Commented that a high-degree of consensus is indicated by the lack of organizational adjustments deemed necessary by the second group. Several “general” components that should be included in the “Mission”, including: the development of education pieces, compassionate relationships and spaces. Action aimed to the general Indigenization of post-secondary education. Discussed sample “Mission” statements, with examples from the Week of Welcome [WOW], Students’ Union [based on the last Strategic Plan] and Campus Foodbank.

Asked the group for potential statements, that encompass the organized categories.

BELCOURT: Commented that “Reconciliation” is a complicated topic. Described it as a process of overlapping two separate worlds. The “Mission” statement could include the aforementioned idea as the “Purpose” of the broad themes. Questioned whether “Healing” and “Relationships” was the overall goal of the Committee.

BHATNAGAR: Does not think of this Committee as an outcome-based group. There are goals and “outcomes”; however, there is no “time-assignment” to how long Reconciliation will take. Would like the “Mission” statement to reflect an “on-going promise to students”.

SUNDAY: Suggested potentially starting the statement with “To promote on-going Reconciliation...”.

MULHOLLAND: Proposed including the idea of “effective change”, as members of the Committee have likely heard several similar statements before.

SUNDAY: Recommended the word “positive”.

BHATNAGAR: Pulled up the *Reconciliation Canada* website; their “Mission” is: “A vibrant Canada, where all peoples achieve their potential and share in prosperity”. Noted that the term “Reconciliation” is not included.

SUNDAY: Suggested beginning the Committee’s statement in a similar style, potentially as follows: “To promote a vibrant campus community...”.

BELCOURT: Proposed that the statement begin with: “To promote on-going education” or to replace the education with “Indigenization” if the Committee felt that term was more suitable and could use the broad key-terms developed by the Committee.

BOURGEOIS: Noted that the central idea of BELCOURT’S suggestion, was that the **development of relationships was contingent on action (i.e. education and the creation of space)** taken on-campus.

BELCOURT: Asked BOURGEOIS to clarify if he believed that those two statements should be reversed.

SUNDAY: Suggested the following: “To promote a vibrant campus community, rooted in positive relationships that...”.

Committee generally agreed with SUNDAY’S recommendation.

BOURGEOIS: Indicated that, though not a negative, the statement had the quality of a “Vision” statement. Advised that the themes outlined by the Committee, are the methods of reaching this “Vision”.

BELCOURT: Concurred with BOURGEOIS. Indicated that when [she] “thinks of ARRC” and the actual work of the Committee, relationships are **important**; however, asked members to consider whether it was the primary focus.

BOURGEOIS: Suggested that the work done, at [this] meeting, was important and that the discussion should continue in to the future. Asked the group to consider

what they believe the general “driving purpose” of every ARRC meeting.

MULHOLLAND: Suggested that the statement should include or begin with: “To promote progressive change.”. Believes it is critical to include dialogue regarding “action” and “moving forward”.

BHATNAGAR: Recommended, though **unclear** about where the statement(s) would be included, the idea of a “living document”. Once a recommendation is completed, it is not a finished task - Reconciliation is an on-going and updated process.

BELCOURT: Suggested the term “dynamic” to describe the “on-going process” of Reconciliation.

BOURGEOIS: Recommended saving this type of language of “Values”. For example, the “Mission” of the group is not to be dynamic; however, that is a “Value”. The easier the Committee’s statement is to understand, the more effective it would be.

MULHOLLAND: Proposed the use of the term “lead” instead of “promote”.

BOURGEOIS: Indicated that “lead” may be perceived as a **passive**, instead of **active** term.

BELCOURT: Disagreed with BOURGEOIS; indicated that “promote” suggested inaction.

BHATNAGAR: Suggested that the Committee follow the structure of the Students’ Union “Mission”; a basic statement, followed by a number of “support pillars” [four in the example provided]. Suggested that the primary statement could read: “To create space for healing, education and action.” The four pillars could be the structure of the “Recommendations” document or statements that propose an action, and desired outcome.

BOURGEOIS: Indicated that one of the pillar statements could include: “We promote relationships...”.

MULHOLLAND: Noted the high “flow” of the this style of statement.

BHATNAGAR: Believed that one of the pillars should address “empowering” individuals from all backgrounds - whether they were current or aspiring post-secondary students.

SUNDAY: Suggested “We actualize change...” as the beginning of one pillar.

CALLIHOO: Suggested the statement “To promote positive relationships and healing on-campus, through the action of education and Indigenization.”.

SUNDAY: Inquired as to whether the statement, before the pillars, was necessary, or if the statement could read: "The four pillars of ARRC are..."

BOURGEOIS: Indicated that the Committee could now take the statement in two (2) directions, to avoid repetition: the first, is to take the statement from CALLIHOO and expand or the second, is to shorten CALLIHOO'S suggestion, and to expand on those points in "pillars".

BELCOURT: Inquired what ARRC's purpose was. [Her] interest in the group was primarily because it presented as an opportunity to empower Indigenous voices" and "positively impact the lives of Indigenous students on-campus".

BOURGEOIS: Indicated that her statement sounded like a "Mission".

SUNDAY: Agreed with the idea of "empowering Indigenous voices"; however, recommended including a statement about "all students".

BELCOURT: Agreed with SUNDAY. The idea of education will be divided into at least two (2) sections: the first, is to encourage Aboriginal students to pursue their education, and to become empowered; however, the second will be to encourage non-Aboriginal students to learn about Indigenous history.

BOURGEOIS: Asked the group to "brainstorm" a synonym for the phrase "positively impact". Suggested that the idea of "Empowerment" could be a pillar; however, the first statement could include the idea of "amplifying" student voices.

Suggested that the group could pick-up the next meeting, from this point.

BELCOURT: Suggested that the group, in the meantime, think about "Why they joined ARRC."

2018-16/3 **COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

2018-16/4 **INFORMATION ITEMS**

2018-16/4a *ARRC-2018-15, Meeting Minutes - November 23, 2018.*

2018-16/5 **ADJOURNMENT**

SUNDAY: Adjourned the meeting at 12:57pm.

2018-16/5a **Next Meeting:** Friday, December 7, 2018 @ 12:00PM in SUB 6-06.

SUMMARY OF MOTIONS

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