



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

**Wednesday, February 13, 2019
 1:00pm
 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		Y	
Mpoe Mogale		Y	
Ariyanna Callihoo		Y	
Shuaa Rizvi		Y	
Andre Bourgeois		Y	
Colin Mulholland (Vice-President (External), NSSA)		Y	
Deirdra Cutarm		Y	
Jocelynn Proulx, Student at Large		Y	

MINUTES (ARRC-2018-20)

2018-20/1 **INTRODUCTION**

2018-20/1a **Call to Order**

SUNDAY: Called the meeting to order at 1:02pm.

2018-20/1b **Prayer/Smudging Ceremony**

2018-20/1c **Approval of Agenda**

SUNDAY: Special ordered items *2018-20/2b and 2018-20/3a*.

BHATNAGAR/CALLIHOO MOVED to approve the agenda.

9/0/0 - CARRIED

2018-20/1d **Approval of Minutes**

BOURGEOIS/CALLIHOO MOVED to approve the minutes of *ARRC-2018-19-M*

8/0/1 - CARRIED

2018-20/1e **Chair's Business**

2018-20/2 **QUESTION/DISCUSSION PERIOD**

2018-20/2a Per the joint Policy // ARRC meeting, the TRC policy is headed for discussion at ARRC for potential amendments and considerations before heading to Policy committee.

See ARRC-2018-20.02.

BOURGEOIS: Established that, in drafting the Policy, he completed research, met with First People's House, and consulted resources such as the University's institutional strategic plan, the Canadian Public Opinion on Aboriginal Peoples, the Fact Sheet on First Nations Post Secondary Education, the Student Success Survey, and Statistics Canada data (related to student population, residency, health and wellness, and financial assistance). Noted that he and Cutarm developed the thirteen resolutions.

SUNDAY: Confirmed that the Policy will receive further consideration at a meeting of the chairs. Proposed that Fact 8 include contextual information on the Treaty Promise for education.

BOURGEOIS: Inquired into whether there should be a Resolution related to committing the Students' Union to advancing the ARRC Recommendations.

SUNDAY: Responded in the affirmative.

BELCOURT: Inquired into whether the Policy need account for possible changes to the ARRC Recommendations in future.

BHATNAGAR: Responded that the provision could be broad so as not requiring regular updates. Proposed “that the Students’ Union shall work to implement the ARRC Recommendations”. Noted that the Committee can review the Policy at any time. Considered that the Policy could include a note that the Recommendations are a living document.

SUNDAY: Proposed that, if Resolution 2 advances that more Indigenous people should be hired within the University, then there should be a provision that binds the Students’ Union to the same goal. Noted that the Policy would be hypocritical to hold the University to a different standard than the Students’ Union.

BELCOURT: Inquired into whether persons who self-identify as Indigenous are required to present proof to confirm their claim.

SUNDAY: Responded in the negative.

BOURGEOIS: Proposed that the Policy also recognize that the Students’ Union will follow the Employment Equity Summary.

2018-20/2b ARRC Recommendations (Feedback from Students’ Council);

SUNDAY: Established that there were no substantive changes to the Recommendations since last meeting. Suggested that the Committee approve the Recommendations within an email vote in the next 24 hours.

BHATNAGAR: Confirmed that she has submit the Recommendations’ design request to Marketing. Expressed concern that there are duplicate headings within the Recommendations.

SUNDAY: Determined to correct the headings.

BROWN: Proposed that Point 16 suggest that the Students’ Union work with the Alumni Association to create an alumni network of self-identifying aboriginal students.

SUNDAY: Clarified that there is currently an association such as Brown outlines.

CUTARM: Expressed concern that the association may have collapsed.

BROWN: Noted that the Alumni Association website lists no such association.

2018-20/3 **COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

2018-20/3a **SUNDAY/CUTARM MOVED** to approve the CAUS recommendation letter.

SUNDAY: Commended the work done by Bhatnagar on the Letter.

BROWN: Proposed amending the first paragraph to read “given the delegated authority from Students’ Council to advance and promote reconciliation within the Students’ Union.” to add greater specificity. Expressed concern that paragraph two generalises when it reads “In fact, it felt tokenistic to our Students’ Council” as it seems to speak behalf of all of Council, regardless of what each member believes.

BHATNAGAR: Suggested that every councillor did and should have felt concerned at the tokenism of the CAUS presentation. Suggested not removing the sentence.

SUNDAY: Supported Bhatnagar. Considered that all councillors were able to attend meetings of the Committee to provide feedback on the Letter and that, because they did not, the Committee may present a view of a unified Council.

BELCOURT: Expressed concern that using the phrase ‘some members’ to prevent this generalisation would weaken the paragraph.

BOURGEOIS: Supported Bhatnagar.

BHATNAGAR: Proposed using the phrase ‘excessively’ instead of ‘to death’ in ‘Indigenous Peoples globally have been researched to death’ in the fourth paragraph.

SUNDAY: Expressed concern that the fourth paragraph implies that non-indigenous people cannot understand the lived experiences of Indigenous people. Proposed that the sentence read ‘only Indigenous peoples understand their own lived experiences.’

MULHOLLAND: Proposed that the sentence read ‘only Indigenous peoples fully understand their own lived experiences.’

RIZVI: Proposed that the sentence read “CAUS should strive to hire a self-identifying Indigenous person” in the fourth paragraph.

BROWN: Noted that the Letter can support having preference given to an Indigenous researcher but that one cannot hire someone or reject someone on only that basis.

BOURGEOIS: Proposed that the sentence end with “Indigenous research and policy creations and should demonstrate intentionality in their recruitment for the position”

BROWN: Considered that CAUS can engage in active and targeted recruitment. Emphasised that CAUS has limited resources and does not currently have an executive director.

SUNDAY: Suggested that CAUS should not attempt the Indigenisation Initiative if

it cannot fund the researcher position. Supported compensating those involved in the research process.

BROWN: Suggested that, rather than the organisation itself, CAUS's members would be the ones to undertake engagement and consultation.

BHATNAGAR: Clarified that the researcher would be an official of CAUS.

BELCOURT: Emphasised that the engagement as part of the Indigenisation Initiative must remain respectful.

BROWN: Clarified that CAUS cannot bind its members to the manner in which they complete consultations.

BELCOURT: Inquired into how the organisations composing CAUS are held accountable for their consultations.

BROWN: Responded that the students that compose the different CAUS students' unions will keep their executives accountable.

BHATNAGAR: Inquired into what is meant by "CAUS should de-centre its power over Indigenous students as a provincial organization and allow for the centring of Indigenous understandings and experiences" in the sixth paragraph. Proposed using the term 'decentralise'.

SUNDAY: Determined to use 'de-centre'. Expressed concern that Resolution 3 is hypocritical insofar as it advances that CAUS offer mandatory training programmes when the Students' Union does not itself require its researchers and executive members to undergo such training.

BHATNAGAR: Suggested not amending the Resolution as the UASU is striving to change. Proposed including a recognition of the LGBTQ2S+ community and historically disadvantaged groups in Resolution 3.

SUNDAY: Proposed adding the sentence "moreover, to compensate Indigenous students for their time and in exchange for the sharing of their knowledge, an honorarium of some sort must be given." to Resolution 4.

BROWN MOVED to amend the motion to read that the Committee moves to "approve the CAUS recommendation letter and direct the UASU Vice-President External to present its content to the CAUS membership.
Carried as friendly.

10/0/0 - CARRIED

2018-20/4a *ARRC-2018-19, Meeting Minutes - February 6, 2019.*

See ARRC-2018-20.01.

2018-20/4b Indigenous Policy - First Principles.

See ARRC-2018-20.02.

2018-19/5 **ADJOURNMENT**

SUNDAY: Adjourned the meeting at 1:58pm.

2018-19/5a **Next Meeting:** Wednesday, February 20, 2019 @ 1:00PM in SUB 6-06.

SUMMARY OF MOTIONS

MOTION	VOTES
BHATNAGAR/CALLIHOO MOVED to approve the agenda.	9/0/0 - CARRIED
BOURGEOIS/CALLIHOO MOVED to approve the minutes of <i>ARRC-2018-19-M</i>	8/0/1 - CARRIED
SUNDAY/CUTARM MOVED to approve the CAUS recommendation letter and direct the UASU Vice-President External to present its content to the CAUS membership.	10/0/0 - CARRIED