

ABORIGINAL RELATIONS AND RECONCILIATION COMMITTEE

Tuesday, June 11, 2019 5:00pm SUB 0-77

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.

ATTENDANCE

NAME	PROXY	PRESENT	SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN FEEDBACK (IF ABSENT)
Nathan Sunday (chair)		Y	
Juan Vargas Alba		Y	
Kathrine Belcourt		Y	
Jocelyn Proux		N	Y
Tahra Haddouche		Y	
Yiming Chen		Y	
Luke Statt		Y	
Joel Agarwal		N	
Mohamad Jamaleddine		Y	

MINUTES (ARRC-2019-02)

2019-02/1 INTRODUCTION

2019-02/1a Call to Order

SUNDAY: Called the meeting to order at 5:02pm.

2019-02/1b Approval of Agenda

BELCOURT/STATT MOVED to approve the agenda.

6/0/0 - CARRIED

2019-02/1c Approval of Minutes

VARGAS ALBA/STATT MOVED to approve the minutes with two semantic corrections.

5/0/1 - CARRIED Belcourt abstains.

2019-02/1d Chair's Business

SUNDAY: Confirmed that, on the advice of the Committee, he is investigating opportunities for policy training with the Faculty of Native Studies.

2019-02/2 QUESTION/DISCUSSION PERIOD

2019-02/2a Treaty Acknowledgement Workshop

See ARRC-2019-02.02.

BELCOURT: Requested that the Committee provide input on the content of the Treaty Acknowledgement Session presentation.

ARCAND: Inquired into what members think of in relation to the term "relations".

STATT: Responded by identifying a reciprocal relationship between individuals.

CHEN: Responded by identifying the presence of a positive relationship between people.

BELCOURT: Agreed with Chen.

SUNDAY: Responded by identifying relations between members of an extended communal family.

VARGAS ALBA: Responded by identifying interconnectivity and relationality between people.

JAMALEDDINE: Responded by identifying honesty.

ARCAND: Clarified that treaty acknowledgements only apply in land subject to the making of a treaty while territorial acknowledgments apply in all places inhabited by indigenous peoples. Considered that these recognitions occur mostly in privileged places such as universities and hospitals. Emphasised that gratitude and respect should flow through one's actions as one stands in relation to the past, present, and future. Encouraged members listening to treaty acknowledgements to personalize them.

VARGAS ALBA: Inquired into whether the concept of all my relations extends to acknowledgements of other territories other than the Métis.

ARCAND: Responded that the notion of connection between people and with the past exists generally.

STATT: Proposed that Arcand include examples of personalized acknowledgments including the All my Relations ideology in future presentations.

BELCOURT: Suggested that All my Relations can effectively bridge gaps and connect people.

ARCAND: Expressed concern that the presentation materials use Indigenous language to refer to Indigenous groups when, as true reconciliation yet achieved, Indigenous people may not know their native language.

STATT: Expressed concern that the video had a lack of specificity as to the relation of the land and the observance of respect.

ARCAND: Expressed concern that the video lists Indigenous groups that are not extant.

VARGAS ALBA: Expressed concern that the video is revisionist and erases a history of settler complicity in indigenous genocide in not mentioning the beothuk.

CHEN: Expressed concern that the video did not have enough factual content and that its setting is not traditional being in an office, rather than nature.

SUNDAY: Suggested that there needs to be a more dynamic and compelling recognition of the dichotomous relationship between the Indigenous and settlers.

BELCOURT: Expressed concern that many people do not understand the context of reconciliation.

ARCAND: Inquired into whether members have views as to the all my relations ideology.

STATT: Responded that it is a good and wholesome concept that demonstrates the multiplicity of relations in even the simplest of actions. Reaffirmed the need to have specific examples to highlight the concept.

SUNDAY: Proposed that future presentations include the All my Relations concept with reference to nonhuman entities such as animals and the environment.

BELCOURT: Proposed looking into the analogous concepts to All my Relations in other Aboriginal cultures.

VARGAS ALBA: Expressed concern that some acknowledgements reproduce the settler state and those who read them do not act on acknowledgements as they do not critically reflect on history. Proposed including a call to action in treaty

acknowledgements.

2019-02/3 <u>COMMITTEE BUSINESS</u>

2019-02/4 <u>INFORMATION ITEMS</u>

2019-02/4a ARRC Minutes (ARRC-2019-01-M) - Tuesday, May 28, 2019.

See ARRC-2019-02.01.

2019-02/4b Treaty Acknowledgement Workshop - Presentation.

See ARRC-2019-02.02.

2019-02/5 ADJOURNMENT

SUNDAY: Adjourned the meeting at 6:00pm.

2019-02/5a Next Meeting: Tuesday, June 25, 2019 at 5:00PM in SUB 0-48.