



**ABORIGINAL RELATIONS AND
RECONCILIATION
COMMITTEE**

**Tuesday, June 25, 2019
5:00pm
SUB 0-48**

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)
Permanent Members			
Nathan Sunday (chair)		Y	
Juan Vargas Alba		Y	
Kathrine Belcourt		Y	
Jocelyn Proulx		Y	
Tahra Haddouche		Y	
Yiming Chen		N	
Luke Statt		Y	
Joel Agarwal		Y	
Mohamad Jamaledine		Y	
Members			
Adam Brown		Y	
Akanksha Bhatnagar		Y	
Jared Larsen		Y	

MINUTES (ARRC-2019-03)

2019-03/1 INTRODUCTION

2019-03/1a Call to Order

SUNDAY: Called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.

2019-03/1b Approval of Agenda

STATT/AGARWAL MOVED to approve the agenda with the addition of 10/0/0 - CARRIED

2019-03/1c Approval of Minutes

STATT/BELCOURT MOVED to approve the agenda of *ARRC-2019-02-M* 7/0/2 - CARRIED
Brown, Bhatnagar abstain.

2019-03/1d Chair's Business

SUNDAY: Noted that he is consolidating the University Graduate Survey Report and the Identity Matters report for councillors to read. Noted that the Committee will need to read and approve the consolidated package prior to its release to Council as a whole.

2019-03/2 QUESTION/DISCUSSION PERIOD

2019-03/2a ARRC Budget

DUMOUCHEL: Proposed that ARRC submit an estimate to create its budget.

SUNDAY: Expressed concern that it is unclear how much money is in the ARRC budget and who can use these funds for what purpose.

DUMOUCHEL: Reaffirmed the need for more guidance in how the Committee intends to use its budget.

SUNDAY: Proposed that ARRC have a reoccurring standard budget like Council Administration Committee.

2019-03/2b Recommendations Clarification

DUMOUCHEL: Outlined that an internal working group tasked with implementing the ARRC Recommendations requires further clarification as to the content of recommendations. Expressed concern that it is unclear how math and sciences focused academic supports could offer Indigenous tailored service. Noted that this recommendation for Indigenous focused service is sensible in the context of a support such as counselling. Inquired into whether the Committee intended that the SU only advocate for Indigenous focused services where reasonable.

SUNDAY: Responded in the affirmative.

DUMOUCHEL: Expressed concern that the Indigenous Partnership Development Program, which the Recommendations direct the Executive to take, per individual and occurs at the end of an executive's term. Proposed subsisting this Program with the Indigenous Canada Massive Open Online Course. Determined to attend the Program workshop to assess whether it would be valuable for other internal managers, who also take other Indigenous courses.

STATT: Expressed concern at spending student's money to develop skills for end-of-term executives who will not have the chance to use the skills in service of students.

VARGAS ALBA: Noted that the MOOC option is possible for no cost.

BELCOURT: Expressed concern that the MOOC would not be sufficient to engage and educate participants. Proposed finding an alternative training opportunity.

BHATNAGAR: Requested Belcourt offer suggestions as to an alternative training course.

DUMOUCHEL: Expressed concern that the Recommendations request an internal audit but do not clarify its bounds. Inquired into whether the audit would be programming, staffing, process, or structure review. Confirmed that the newly hired FNMI Coordinator will complete an internal review with or without an external Indigenous audit.

SUNDAY: Responded that the review was directed at hiring and programming. Expressed concern that Aboriginal students are underrepresented in the Students' Union staff.

DUMOUCHEL: Noted that, according to his understanding, the internal hiring matches with the student population.

SUNDAY: Cited the 2018 Undergraduate Survey outcomes as indicating that there is a need to improve Indigenous recruitment.

BELCOURT: Noted that, for example, an Inuit cultural aversion to looking strangers in the eyes may speak in reference to individual achievement may affect the population's interview performance.

DUMOUCHEL: Inquired into whether the Committee intends for the internal review to be an assessment of barriers affecting Aboriginal job applicants.

BELCOURT: Responded in the affirmative.

DUMOUCHEL: Inquired into whether the audit should look at how friendly the Students' Union is to Indigenous applicants.

BELCOURT: Expressed concern that the term 'friendly' is diminishing as the review may find that there is a toxic environment internally. Suggested that disinterested external auditors would best be able to complete the review.

DUMOUCHEL: Noted that there is no time within new student orientation to add new content, as proposed in the Recommendations.

SUNDAY: Proposed, alternatively, having the Aboriginal Student Council President speak at Presidents' Address during Orientation.

DUMOUCHEL: Considered that new content could be added to the existing programming focused on challenging ideas and stereotypes.

SUNDAY: Determined to discuss this issue in greater detail at the next meeting.

BHATNAGAR: Expressed concern that permitting the ASC President to speak as part of President's Address will seem unfair to the other faculty and residence associations. Clarified that the UASU Executives are permitted to speak because the SU, in part, pays for Orientation. Noted that residence associations are not even permitted to deliver remarks to their primary constituency at Basecamp.

SUNDAY: Expressed concern at equating Aboriginal Student Council with other faculty associations.

DUMOUCHEL: Proposed that the Committee create a content map for Indigenous inclusion.

BELCOURT: Proposed integrating ASC messaging into the remarks of executives.

SUNDAY: Suggested that Bhatnagar's slippery slope argument was used in an attempt to deny the creation of ARRC on the basis that other groups would want their individual committees.

2019-03/3 **COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

2019-03/3a **BHATNAGAR MOVED** to allow a Presentation titled 2019/20 Students' Union Update on the Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation Recommendations.

Presenters:

- President Akanksha Bhatnagar
- VP Operations & Finance Luke Statt
- VP Student Life Jared Larsen
- VP External Adam Brown
- VP Academic Joel Agarwal
- General Manager Marc Dumouchel

See ARRC-2019-03.02.

BHATNAGAR: Outlined that this review focused on four ARRC priority areas (advocacy, education, operation, and Council) since the Recommendations were formalized.

LARSEN: Outlined that, in Advocacy, there is 1 complete, substantial progress on 20, and research and planning on all those remaining.

BROWN: Noted that the ARRC Recommendations were received well by CASA. Noted that CASA is contacting its membership to develop the relationship between students associations and their students as part of an Indigenous student representative pilot project. Noted that CASA will host a conference for Indigenous student leaders.

SUNDAY/BROWN MOVED to extend the meeting by fifteen minutes.
CARRIED

LARSEN: Confirmed that the Executive met with many stakeholders on advocating for childcare support.

AGARWAL: Noted that Maskwa House of Learning will not be constructed immediately due to the limited funds for capital spending.

BHATNAGAR: Noted that the FNMI Coordinator is co-developing a framework for training executives and staff within the Students' Union.

STATT: Outlined that, for operational recommendations, there are 22 total, 8-10 with significant progress, 3 complete, and research and planning on most others.

BHATNAGAR: Confirmed that a FNMI Initiatives Coordinator was hired to do the groundwork on the position and work on programming initiatives for SU training and FNMI leadership. Confirmed that the SU completed a study on Aboriginal leadership in the Identity Matters 2: Ancestral Diversity and Aboriginality Report. Noted that there were 12 Recommendations for Council with progress on 3 and preliminary planning on all others.

PROUX: Inquired into what recommendations have not made progress.

BHATNAGAR: Responded that one example is the creation of a Campus Saint Jean Indigenous Learning Space (where there are only 17 FNMI students) as it is uncertain they want the space. Noted that research occurred on all Recommendations.

BROWN: Proposed that an executive permanent member do monthly or semi-annually progress update to the Committee. Noted that the website tracker will be live shortly.

BHATNAGAR: Noted that she cannot share the internal tracking spreadsheet as it does not accurately represent the progress being made on the project and includes personnel details.

BROWN: Reaffirmed that these Recommendation implementation progress updates can be communicated by the executive.

PROUX: Inquired into whether there could be a redacted version of the spreadsheet shared with the Committee.

BHATNAGAR: Responded that the website will be launched in the next two weeks. Noted that the Executive can share a redacted version if the website cannot be launched by this time.

SUNDAY/BELCOURT MOVED to enter the meeting in camera.
10/0/0 - CARRIED

2019-03/4 **INFORMATION ITEMS**

2019-03/4a ARRC Minutes (ARRC-2019-02-M) - Tuesday, June 11, 2019.

See ARRC-2019-03.01.

2019-03/4b ARRC Progress Overview - Presentation.

See ARRC-2019-03.02.

2019-03/5 **ADJOURNMENT**

SUNDAY: Adjourned the meeting at 6:30pm.

2019-03/5a **Next Meeting:** Tuesday, July 9, 2019 at 5:00PM in SUB 0-48.