



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

Thursday, September 19, 2019

5:00pm

Aboriginal Student Council Lounge in 220 North Power Plant

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	
Tahra Haddouche		N	
Luke Statt		Y	
Adam Brown		Y	
Andrew Volk		Y	
Sean Gray		Y	
Guests			
Vaughn Beaulieu-Mercredi		Y	

MINUTES (ARRC-2019-08)

2019-08/1 INTRODUCTION

2019-08/1a Call to Order

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

2019-08/1b Approval of Agenda
BROWN/BELCOURT MOVED to approve the agenda.
CARRIED

2019-08/1c Approval of Minutes
VARGAS ALBA/STATT MOVED to approve the minutes of ARRC-2019-07-M.
CARRIED

2019-08/1d Chair's Business

2019-08/2 QUESTION/DISCUSSION PERIOD

2019-08/2a Recommendation Launch

VARGAS ALBA: Identified that the Launch will occur on Monday from 1:00pm to 3:00pm in the Students' Union Building Cascade Room. Outlined that he will act as master of ceremonies and that the event will include an Elder's prayer and teachings, remarks from Councillor Sunday as principal Recommendations drafts person, remarks from President Belcourt on behalf of the Aboriginal Student Council, and remarks from former President Larsen and President Bhatnagar on behalf of the Students' Union. Noted that the event will end with time for questions and socialising. Noted that the event planning group is, in addition, trying to identify an individual to deliver remarks on behalf of the Students' Union.

SUNDAY: Inquired into whether the order of speakers could be such that he may be among the first to speak in order that he could provide Launch attendees with an introduction and background to the Recommendations.

VARGAS ALBA: Responded in the affirmative.

BROWN: Inquired into whether Dr. Florence Glanfield, Vice-Provost (Indigenous Programming & Research), is available to speak on behalf of the University at the Launch.

BELCOURT: Responded in the negative.

VARGAS ALBA: Inquired into whether the Committee has suggestions as to which gifts could be exchanged between the Aboriginal Student Council and the Students' Union. Inquired into the number of Launch performers.

BELCOURT: Responded that there will be five dancers and two drummers. Determined to send a list of performers receiving honorariums to Vice President Statt.

VARGAS ALBA: Expressed concern that President Bhatnagar may not have sufficient time to speak given that she must attend a meeting of the General Faculties Council at 2:00pm and she could not be placed higher in the Launch speaking order. Requested

that Vice President Statt/Brown inquire into whether President Bhatnagar can arrive late to the GFC meeting in order to give her remarks at the Launch. Emphasised the importance of attending the Launch. Inquired, to Vice President Statt, as to whether he noticed if councillors picked up posters to distribute from the Students' Union offices.

STATT: Responded in the negative. Determined to place some posters inside the Students' Union elevators.

VARGAS ALBA: Inquired, to Vice President Statt, as to whether SU TV features notices of the event.

STATT: Responded that he is not yet aware and will follow-up with staff to ensure these notices are displayed.

VARGAS ALBA: Proposed sharing notice of the Launch on the Executive and Students' Union Facebook pages.

BROWN: Determined to share the event on the Executive Facebook.

STATT: Noted that the Launch is being added to the SU website banner tomorrow.

VARGAS ALBA: Expressed concern that the Committee is behind schedule on its Launch event promotion timeline.

BROWN: Determined to send an email notification, pertaining to the Launch, to Students' Union staff on Friday and Monday.

SUNDAY: Proposed printing a greater number of ARRC Recommendations paper booklets.

GRAY: Expressed concern that printing a large number of paper booklets may result in waste.

VOLK: Proposed displaying the Recommendations reusable banners.

BELCOURT: Expressed concern that, as she envisions the Recommendations evolving over time, the banners may become obsolete.

VOLK: Proposed displaying a smaller number of banners which display only those Recommendations that students can personally act on.

SUNDAY: Proposed promoting the Recommendations with a mix of canvas prints and paper booklets.

STATT: Determined to sort out the materials which the Committee will use to display the Recommendations in an informal conversation subsequent to the meeting.

2019-08/2b Reviewing the Executive's Advocacy Progress Report.

SUNDAY: Outlined that he intends to author, alongside interested members, a progress report whose goal is to audit the effectivity of the Executive's advocacy for Aboriginal students. Inquired into whether the report should comprehensively cover all student issues or profile only those advocacy issues explicitly related to Aboriginal students.

VARGAS ALBA: Responded that all issues affect Aboriginal students and, therefore, that the report should be comprehensive.

SUNDAY: Clarified that he decided to write this report after, during consultations for the ARRC Recommendations, many Aboriginal students were not aware of the value they received from the Students Union.

VOLK: Proposed that the report profile both general student issues as well as those specific to Aboriginal students.

GRAY: Concurred with Volk.

BROWN: Expressed concern that, without a narrower focus, the report would be unreasonably long.

STATT: Concurred with Brown.

SUNDAY: Proposed covering both topics but releasing them as two distinct volumes.

BELCOURT: Proposed that the report focus on issues specific to Aboriginal students.

BROWN: Inquired into what problem writing and publishing this report intends to solve.

VARGAS ALBA: Proposed that the report also profile the executive goals as they relate to Aboriginal issues.

SUNDAY: Determined to discuss this report again at the next meeting of the Committee. Inquired into whether the Committee, given that the report's intent is to audit executive performance, believes that the involvement of Vice Presidents Statt and Larsen creates a conflict of interest.

VARGAS ALBA: Responded in the affirmative.

BELCOURT: Responded in the affirmative. Expressed concern, however, that the Executive members provide an important perspective that would improve the strength of the report. Suggested, therefore, that they remain on the Committee.

BROWN: Proposed that the Executive would not partake in authoring the initial draft of their performance review but that the Executive could receive a copy of its final draft to provide commentary.

STATT: Suggested that Executives are able to act in an unbiased manner, as evidenced by his service on the Executive Compensation Committee.

SUNDAY: Proposed providing the Executive only a copy of the report's facts section. Inquired into how the Committee imagines consulting students for the purposes of writing the report.

VARGAS ALBA: Proposed establishing a focus group.

BELCOURT: Proposed that the focus group include interested persons, such as staff and graduate students, in addition to undergraduate students.

BROWN: Noted that the report's consultation work will become increasingly lengthy as more individuals and interests are represented to the focus group.

STATT: Expressed concern at including non-undergraduates in a focus group designed to assess the performance of the Students' Union Executive when this body exclusively serves undergraduates.

VARGAS ALBA: Inquired into whether focus group participants would receive honoraria.

SUNDAY: Supported disbursing honoraria.

VARGAS ALBA: Inquired as to what level of support staff can provide to the Committee in authoring this report.

BROWN: Responded that there may be little staff support available for this project given that responsibilities for assisting in the creation of this report extend beyond the job descriptions of current staff. Determined to investigate and report back as to what support staff can provide. Expressed concern that, as the Executive is in a leadership role, involving staff in this process may create a conflict of interest.

SUNDAY: Considered that the Committee could draw upon the support of staff without receiving direction from them.

2019-08/2c **SUNDAY/VARGAS ALBA MOVED** to approve the expenditure of \$250.00 on an Elder's honorarium.
CARRIED

STATT/BROWN MOVED to approve the expenditure of an undefined amount of money from the ARRC budget to cover the cost of up to four parking stalls for the duration of the event.
CARRIED

SUNDAY: Clarified that these parking stalls will be used by individuals performing at the Launch.

2019-08/3 **COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

2019-08/4 **INFORMATION ITEMS**

2019-08/4a ARRC Minutes (ARRC-2019-07-M) - Tuesday, August 20, 2019.

See ARRC-2019-08.01.

2019-08/5 **ADJOURNMENT**

SUNDAY: Adjourned the meeting at 5:59pm.

2019-08/5a **Next Meeting:** Thursday, October 3, 2019 @ 5:00PM in SUB 6-06.

SUMMARY OF MOTIONS

MOTION	VOTES