



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

**Thursday, October 3, 2019  
 5:00pm  
 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.

**ATTENDANCE**

NAME	PROXY	PRESENT	SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN FEEDBACK (IF ABSENT)
Permanent Members			
Nathan Sunday (chair)		Y	
Juan Vargas Alba		Y	
Katherine Belcourt		Y	
Tahra Haddouche		N	
Luke Statt		Y	
Adam Brown		Y	
Andrew Volk		Y	
Sean Gray		N	
Vaughn Beaulieu-Mercredi		Y	

**MINUTES (ARRC-2019-09)**

**2019-09/1     INTRODUCTION**

**2019-09/1a    Call to Order**

SUNDAY: Called the meeting to order at 5:03pm.

- 2019-09/1b Approval of Agenda**  
**STATT/VARGAS ALBA MOVED** to approve the agenda.  
CARRIED
- 2019-09/1c Approval of Minutes**  
**VARGAS ALBA/STATT MOVED** to approve the minutes of ARRC-2019-08-M.  
CARRIED
- 2019-09/1d Chair's Business**
- 2019-09/2 QUESTION/DISCUSSION PERIOD**
- 2019-09/3 COMMITTEE BUSINESS**
- 2019-09/3a VARGAS ALBA MOVED** to bring the Indigenous Students Policy to the ARRC for approval.  
See ARRC-2019-09.02.

VARGAS ALBA: Established that Policy Committee approved the Indigenous Students Policy but wanted also for ARRC to review and approve it. Noted that most of the work on the Policy occurred in the last year but that there are a few amendments.

SUNDAY: Proposed using Indigenous or FNMI (First Nations, Métis, and Inuit) consistency throughout the Policy, capitalizing uses of the term "Peoples", clarifying that the Policy refers to the Indian residential schools, and noting that there were also day schools.

BELCOURT: Proposed using the term "Indigenous" throughout the document.

VARGAS ALBA: Proposed deleting, if there is no opposition, Facts 12 (ii) to (vi) as the resolutions they cover are supported by other facts:

"According to the medium-growth scenario, in comparing the Canadian population to the Indigenous population, the Indigenous population was projected to increase from 3.4% in 2001 to 4.1% by 2017. The Indigenous population is much younger than the total Canadian population yet a trend toward aging is evident during the projection period. The median age of the Indigenous people in Canada was projected to increase from 24.7 years in 2001 to 27.8 years by 2017 while that of the total Canadian population was projected to increase from 37.1 years to 41.3 years by 2017. In 2001, children under the age of 15 years represented one-third of the total Indigenous population (32.9%). If fertility continues to decline moderately, the proportion of children will decrease to 28.6% by 2017. By 2017, it is possible that Alberta succeed British Columbia in having the second largest Aboriginal population in the province; Ontario having the largest Indigenous population in the province"

Proposed deleting, if there is no opposition, Fact 12(b)(vi) as it is outdated and incomplete:

"The population of First Nations people living in a house requiring major repair increased from 26% in 1996 to 29% in ----. Métis people were the only identity group to see a reduction in the past decade."

SUNDAY: Proposed that the Policy could include a fact specific to Indigenous housing at the University of Alberta.

BROWN: Considered that a fact of this type would better reside in the Residence Policy.

VARGAS ALBA: Proposed deleting, if there is no opposition, Fact 13(e)i and ii they are outdated and replicates the information provided by other facts:

“Statistics Canada uses the concept of low income cut-off (LICO) to estimate an income threshold at which families are expected to spend 20 percentage points more than the average family on food, shelter, and clothing. In Edmonton of 2005, almost one third (32%) of Indigenous people were living under the LICO, compared to 13% of non-Indigenous people. In addition, about four in 10 (42%) Indigenous children (aged 14 years and under) were living under the LICO, compared to 16% of non-Indigenous children. These data are based on the before-tax LICO.

The median total income of the Indigenous population aged 25 to 54 in 2005 was just over \$22,000, compared to over \$33,000 for the non-Indigenous population in the same age group. Across the Indigenous identity groups, the Métis had the highest median income at nearly \$28,000, followed by the Inuit with a little less than \$25,000 and First Nations people with a median income of approximately \$19,000 in 2005. For First Nations people living off reserve, the median income was about \$22,500, compared to just over \$14,000 for First Nations people living on reserve.”

SUNDAY: Supported this removal.

VARGAS ALBA: Proposed adding a fact and resolution related to the miscoordination that exists between the University and band Councils insofar as Indigenous students are admitted to the University before they are notified as to whether they are receiving band post-secondary funding.

BELCOURT: Inquired into whether the resolutions of a policy should address specific issues such as that outlined by Vargas Alba.

BROWN: Noted that, in the past, he has preferred more general resolutions to allow the executive flexibility in its advocacy.

SUNDAY: Expressed concern that correcting this miscoordination is not possible as it would require uniform timing between sovereign bands.

BELCOURT: Proposed advocating that the University accommodate bands in their admissions timelines.

VARGAS ALBA: Proposed adding Fact 9(e):

“The University of Alberta’s admissions timelines are often inconsistent with the timelines set by Indigenous Peoples’ communities and Indigenous-based awards, leaving Indigenous students without access to funding.”

BELCOURT: Expressed concern that this miscoordination creates a catch-22 where Indigenous students need funding to get accepted to the University but the Indigenous students also need to be accepted to get funding from their bands.

VARGAS ALBA: Proposed adding Fact 10(a):

“The inconsistencies between funding and admissions often means that Indigenous students may be left without the ability to properly enrol into their program.”

SUNDAY: Advised caution in using statutory definitions of Indigenous people as they may not be suited to the context in which they are used. Expressed concern at

mentioning the Assembly of First Nations which is eastern and unrepresentative of Alberta. Noted that some bands do not disburse their own post-secondary grants but instead rely on granting agencies to complete this task.

VOLK: Proposed citing Daniels v Canada (Indian Affairs and Northern Development) 2016 SCC 12 as part of Fact 8.

VARGAS ALBA: Proposed adding Fact 8(a):

“The 2016 Daniels Decision clarified the Crown’s fiduciary duty to all non-Status Indians and Metis people to be the same as the fiduciary duty to Status Indians.”

SUNDAY: Inquired into whether the Facts should be divided into sections whose content severally addresses the First Nations, Métis, and Inuit.

VOLK: Proposed this several approach in order not to pan-Indigenize.

SUNDAY: Proposed grouping sections of facts and relations topic and then dividing sub-sections to severally deal with First Nations, Métis, and Inuit. Considered, alternatively, having a different policy for each of these groups.

BELCOURT: Proposed adding a resolution that recognizes that there is a need to collect more data on these groups to inform policy and practice.

VARGAS ALBA: Proposed deleting, if there is no opposition, Fact 15, as it already exists within operating policy for the Students' Union.

“The University of Alberta currently has established ceremonial (smudging) guidelines that sets out parameters for smudging on campus. Since the Students’ Union Building is operated by the Students’ Union, it is not covered by these guidelines.”

BELCOURT: Proposed adding a Fact calling attention to the fact that First Nations, Métis, and Inuit should be recognized as distinct.

VARGAS ALBA: Determined to further work on the Policy with the assistance of the Committee in order to arrive at a completed version.

VOLK: Proposed that each member of the Committee review and comment on the contents of the Policy.

SUNDAY: Proposed that Vice President Larsen bring the Sexual Violence Policy before the Committee for review. Expressed concern that the Policy does not sufficiently reference sexual violence committed against Indigenous woman.

BELCOURT: Suggested that Vice President Larsen could better use the resources available to him and consult with the Committee for further direction.

**2019-09/4**     **INFORMATION ITEMS**

**2019-09/4a**     ARRC Minutes (ARRC-2019-08-M) - Tuesday, September 19, 2019.

See ARRC-2019-09.01.

**2019-09/4b** Indigenous Students Policy.

See ARRC-2019-09.02.

**2019-09/5** **ADJOURNMENT**

SUNDAY: Adjourned the meeting at 5:59pm.

**2019-09/5a** **Next Meeting:** Thursday, October 16, 2019 @ 5:00PM in SUB 6-06.