



University of Alberta Students' Union

ABORIGINAL RELATIONS AND RECONCILIATION COMMITTEE

Thursday, November 28, 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	
Luke Statt		Y	
Adam Brown		N	
Andrew Volk		Y	
Sean Gray		N	
Other guests			
Jared Larsen		Y	
Rowan Ley		Y	

MINUTES (ARRC-2019-13)

2019-13/1 INTRODUCTION

2019-13/1a Call to Order

SUNDAY: Called the meeting to order at 5:05pm.

2019-13/1b Approval of Agenda

N/A

2019-13/1c Approval of Minutes

N/A

2019-13/1d Chair's Business

2019-13/2 QUESTION/DISCUSSION PERIOD

2019-13/2e Study: Métis Albertan's Barriers to Entering Healthcare Professions

VOLK: Outlined that the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry and the Métis Nation of Alberta are collaborating to survey Métis persons in order to identify the barriers that prevent them from entering the healthcare profession. Suggested that the University's admissions criteria are one barrier preventing Métis people from entering the medical profession. Considered, however, that there are other barriers yet to be identified. Identified that this study advances Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action #23 (calls on all levels of government to increase the number of Métis physicians).

SUNDAY: Inquired into whether a submitter can later withdraw their data.

VOLK: Responded in the negative. Clarified that once a student submits their data it becomes anonymised and, therefore, is impossible to withdraw. Inquired into whether the Students' Union could release the study survey as part of its monthly newsletters.

STATT: Determined liaise with the Students' Union Research Department in regard to this question.

SUNDAY: Inquired into whether Volk has met with the Métis General Council as part of this project.

VOLK: Responded in the negative. Clarified, however, that the Métis Nation of Alberta sent the survey proposal to the Provincial Council and Settlement Council.

SUNDAY: Proposed that the survey include 'elders' as a group as part of Social Support: Question 2.

LARSEN: Proposed sending the survey as a whole to the Research Department for review.

BELCOURT: Proposed using the term 'socio-economic' instead of 'financial' as part of Financial Barriers: Question 5. Proposed asking a question to determine whether submitters live in dual, single, or multiple income homes. Proposed asking a question

to determine the age of a submitters children, if any. Expressed some questions appear to be repetitive.

VARGAS ALBA: Inquired into the number of survey responses Volk intends to receive.

VOLK: Responded that he expects 100 submitters.

VARGAS ALBA: Proposed reducing the number of short answer questions and increasing the number of multiple choice questions.

2019-13/2a

Consultation Surrounding the Creation of a New Category Of Student Representative Associations Under Bylaw 6100

STATT: Proposed, on behalf of Bylaw Committee, creating a new categorisation for Aboriginal Student Council within Bylaw 6100. Noted that ASC does not now fall within the existing categories of faculty or residence association. Considered that possible category titles include 'student socio-demographic association' 'student political community associations', and 'student ethnic association'. Proposed defining the association category, whatever its title, as 'an association that has a definable consistency and has demonstrated to Council that they have unique representational and advocacy needs which Council has failed to meet'.

LARSEN: Expressed concern at the use of the term 'failed'.

SUNDAY: Proposed using the term 'inadequately' alternatively.

VARGAS ALBA: Proposed that Bylaw Committee provide ASC with a unique and singular category in Bylaw 6100 to recognise their special status.

VOLK: Expressed concern that the proposed titles are overbroad.

SUNDAY: Inquired into, as regards the definition of the proposed category, the nature of the evidence a group would have to provide to Council to receive recognition as part of Bylaw 6100.

STATT: Responded that the group would have to provide Council with evidence sufficient to convince them that the group has unique representational and advocacy that have not been met.

BELCOURT: Expressed concern that it is contradictory to require a group to come before Council to receive approval for their creation when the whole reason for their creation is that Council has not met their representational and advocacy needs.

LARSEN: Considered that Council may be unwilling to recognise a group if doing so requires admitting inadequacy.

SUNDAY: Proposed that Bylaw 6100 state that all student representative associations,

irrespective of their category, are to receive the same support and recognition from the Students' Union. Proposed forming independent special commissions to approve the creation of certain student representative associations with only ratification of their decisions occurring at Council.

LARSEN: Proposed that Student Group Committee, instead of Council or a special commission, serve in this role.

BELCOURT: Proposed not creating a new category for groups as defined by Statt. Proposed classifying these groups simply as student representative associations.

SUNDAY: Proposed that Bylaw 6100 outline the privileges student representative associations receive as part of the delegated authority the Students' Union provides them.

2019-13/2b

Indigenous Representation on the Board of Governors Proposal
See ARRC-2019-13.02.

LEY: Indicated that, after speaking with members of the Board, he is confident that they will support the creation of a new seat held by an Indigenous representative as part of the Board Learning, Research, & Student Experience Committee. Identified that the Graduate Students' Association expressed concern that the seat would not represent graduate students if its holder were appointed by the Students' Union.

SUNDAY: Noted that the GSA's concerns would not obtain if the seat were filled by the Aboriginal Student Council which serves both undergraduate and graduate students.

BELCOURT: Proposed that Ley advocate that the Board add two additional seats for Indigenous representatives (one for undergraduates and one for graduates).

LEY: Expressed concern that requesting that the Board add two seats to the Committee is reaching and may cause the proposal as a whole to be rejected.

SUNDAY: Proposed that, if not the Aboriginal Student Council, the Committee (ARRC) could assist in appointing a student to serve as Indigenous representative.

LEY: Inquired into whether other members of the Committee will commit to assisting him in presenting to the Board the proposal to create an additional seat for an Indigenous representative.

SUNDAY: Determined to support Ley.

BELCOURT: Determined to support Ley.

LEY: Anticipated presenting to the Board in February and appointing a student Indigenous representative in September.

- 2019-13/2c** Aboriginal Consultation/Engagement Bylaw
See ARRC-2019-13.03.
- 2019-13/3** **COMMITTEE BUSINESS**
- 2019-13/4** **INFORMATION ITEMS**
- 2019-13/4a** ARRC Minutes (ARRC-2019-14-A) - Thursday, December 12, 2019.
See ARRC-2019-13.01.
- 2019-13/4b** Indigenous Representation on the Board of Governors Proposal.
See ARRC-2019-13.02.
- 2019-13/4c** Aboriginal Consultation/Engagement Bylaw
See ARRC-2019-13.03.
- 2019-13/5** **ADJOURNMENT**
SUNDAY: Adjourned the meeting at 6:00pm.
- 2019-13/5a** **Next Meeting:** Thursday, December 12, 2019 @ 5:00PM in SUB 6-06.