

## ABORIGINAL RELATIONS AND RECONCILIATION COMMITTEE

**Thursday, December 12, 2019**  
**5:00pm SUB 6-06**  
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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)
<b>Permanent Members</b>			
Nathan Sunday (chair)		Y	
Juan Vargas Alba		Y	
Katherine Belcourt		Y	
Luke Statt		Y	
Adam Brown		Y	
Andrew Volk		Y	
Sean Gray		N	
<b>Other guests</b>			
Kelsi-Leigh Balaban		Y	
Vaughn Beaulieu-Mercredi		Y	
Chris Beasley		Y	
Charles Blondin		Y	

### **MINUTES (ARRC-2019-14)**

**2019-14/1**      **INTRODUCTION**

**2019-14/1a**    **Call to Order**

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

**2019-14/1b**    **Approval of Agenda**

**BROWN/VARGAS ALBA MOVED** to approve the agenda.

CARRIED

Balaban abstains.

**2019-14/1c**    **Approval of Minutes**

N/A

**2019-14/1d**    **Chair's Business**

**2019-14/2**      **QUESTION/DISCUSSION PERIOD**

**2019-14/2a**    Updating the UASU Traditional Territories Acknowledgement

BEASLEY: Outlined that Council Administration Committee has begun work on amending Acknowledgement as per the ARRC Recommendations stating 'The SU shall edit its Acknowledgement of Traditional Territories to recognize that the U of A is situated on unlawfully stolen and unceded Papaschase Cree territory. The SU shall amend its Acknowledgement of Traditional Territories to reflect the traditional names of the Nations mentioned in the acknowledgement. Students' Council shall create a Territory Acknowledgement Guide.' Inquired into whether the Committee could provide CAC with feedback and direction for its *Updated UASU Territory Acknowledgement*.

VARGAS ALBA: Expressed concern that the phrase "It is the moral responsibility of people on this land to challenge colonialism by confronting everyday acts of this injustice and by empowering Indigenous ways, knowledges, formations, and values so that these are included in our colonial institutions with respect and significance." implies reforming rather than abolishing colonial institutions.

BALABAN: Proposed that the Acknowledgement (a) include bracketed reference to the Métis traditional names, (b) note that the Papaschase Cree being displaced and disempowered as a result of their land being unlawfully stolen, (c) outline the history and presence of Métis in Edmonton in relation to their system of river-lots, and (d) replacing the phrase 'river flows' with the phrase 'waters flow' as it is more in keeping with the Métis oral tradition.

BEASLEY: Noted that CAC may reach out to the University professoriate for further consultation.

BALABAN: Clarified that just because an Aboriginal nation was not a part of a treaty does not mean that the territory is not theirs.

SUNDAY: Proposed not using the phrase 'gathering place' as it does not imply ownership or stewardship.

BELCOURT: Proposed that the Acknowledgement provide readers assistance to pronounce non-english terms and set out who should read it. Inquired into the circumstances in which the short version of the Acknowledgement would be used instead of the long version and vice versa. Expressed concern that the sheer length of the long version may limit its use. Proposed maintaining the phrase "We aspire for our learning, research, teaching, and governance to acknowledge and work towards the decolonization of Indigenous knowledges and traditions." in the new version of the Acknowledgement.

SUNDAY: Proposed that the Acknowledgement clarify that Aboriginals should not read the Acknowledgement because they need not recognise their own territory.

BEASLEY: Noted that the Territory Acknowledgement Guide could set out how the Acknowledgement is supposed to be read.

BROWN: Proposed that the Guide also set out when to use the long or short version of the Acknowledgement.

SUNDAY: Proposed having a singular, short version of the Acknowledgement that is supplemented by a guidebook. Proposed replacing the term 'millennia' with the phrase 'since time immemorial'.

VARGAS ALBA: Considered that there could be a French translation of the Acknowledgement in use as well.

BALABAN: Inquired into whether the Acknowledgement is used at all Students' Union events.

BROWN: Responded in the affirmative.

KIDD: Clarified that the Acknowledgement is not used at some events such as CampusCup and Antifreeze.

BALABAN: Emphasised that the Acknowledgement should be used in both formal and informal settings. Proposed allowing the Council Speaker to personalise the Acknowledgement in delivering it.

VARGAS ALBA: Emphasised that the Acknowledgement should make people feel uncomfortable to be effective.

SUNDAY: Proposed establishing the Acknowledgement within Students' Union legislation. Expressed concern that the Discipline, Interpretation, and Enforcement Board cannot now use the Acknowledgement in making rulings.

SUNDAY: Expressed concern individuals may disengage if the Acknowledgement makes them overly uncomfortable.

BALABAN: Proposed replacing the phrase 'return of the land' with 'repatriation of the land' as part of the sentence reading 'We acknowledge the dishonest ways in which the land has been made to be ceded and surrendered, and reaffirm that in naming these concessions as unjust, we must also name the return of the land as the ultimate remedy to this injustice.'

BROWN: Proposed that the guidebook set out a historical context for reading an Acknowledgement.

BEASLEY: Determined to report back to ARRC after developing the guidebook, refining the Acknowledgement, and completing additional consultation.

SUNDAY: Noted that Beasley could consult the Native Studies Students' Association and the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry Aboriginal Students' Association. Proposed that Beasley define the term 'settler'. Noted, for example, persons brought to North America as part of the Atlantic slave trade are not settlers.

STATT: Inquired into whether it is better to use the term Aboriginal or the term Indigenous.

SUNDAY: Suggested that the term Aboriginal is better as it is distinctly Canadian.

**2019-14/2b** Policy in the New Year

VARGAS ALBA: Proposed that Policy and ARRC meet to restructure the developing Indigenous Students Policy. Proposed that Policy and ARRC host a town hall consultation with elders to inform the Climate Action Policy.

SUNDAY: Inquired into whether Policy has funds set aside for hosting a town hall.

STATT: Responded in the negative. Noted that ARRC has funds set aside for consultation.

SUNDAY: Proposed hosting a talking circle with Aboriginal students.

STATT: Inquired into whether ARRC is willing to financially support consultation.

SUNDAY: Responded that he is unaware of the current state of the ARRC budget. Proposed that Policy send ARRC a request for funds. Determined to add this item to the next agenda. Requested that Brown and Statt send the Committee the 2019 Student Survey data involving Aboriginal students.

**2019-14/3** **COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

**2019-14/4**      **INFORMATION ITEMS**

**2019-14/4a**      ARRC Minutes (ARRC-2019-13-A) - Thursday, November 28, 2019.  
*Recording was not provided to Administrative Clerk.*

**2019-14/5**      **ADJOURNMENT**

SUNDAY: Adjourned the meeting at 5:57pm.

**2019-14/5a**      **Next Meeting:** N/A.