



University of Alberta Students' Union

**ABORIGINAL
RELATIONS &
RECONCILIATION
COMMITTEE
(ARRC)**

**7 August 2020
3:00pm
Google Hangout**

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
Simran Dhillon (CHAIR)		Y
Talia Dixon	Y	N
Eric Einarson		Y
Alana Krahn		N
Katie Kidd		Y
Elizabeth Blanchette		Y
Christian Fotang		Y
Vaughn Beaulieu-Mercredi		Y

MINUTES (ARRC 2020-03)

2020-03/1

INTRODUCTION

2020-03/1a

Call to Order

DHILLON: Called the meeting to order at 3:07pm.

2020-03/2

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

2020-03/2a

Student-at-Large Position

DHILLON: For today, I just wanted to give you an update on the student-at-large position, and some additional ideas on how we can move forward too. In regards to the student-at-large positions, we once again have not received any application, unfortunately. So I did reach out to the First Peoples' House, but they never got back to me, so I'm not sure if they got my email or there was an issue in my sending the email. I can try sending them a follow-up email to that. As a little bit of an intermediate, there's no deadline again, it's just going to be an ongoing deadline until applications are handed in, and in September we can reassess the situation. If anyone has any personal connections to anyone at the First Peoples' House that they can reach out to, that would be really helpful as well. Does anyone have any comments about that?

BLANCHETTE: I'll just say right now that if we can talk to the First Peoples' House, I think it's entirely possible they just didn't understand why they needed to share it, or they have so many other emails that they get backed up. But if we let them know that they should be looking for it and that we feel it's important that they share it, that should probably help. They also tend to repost things when we post them on Facebook, and I actually can't remember if we posted this on Facebook, I know we did on Instagram.

DHILLON: Yeah that would be really helpful. I just don't want to bombard them with more emails if the communication wasn't there in the first place, so if you guys could do that. I could also send them a follow-up email just to keep the line open. But for sure Beth, if you can do that, that would be really awesome. Also, I don't know how it works, but if we could get a Facebook post up... There was one on the SU Instagram page, but was there one on the Facebook page as well?

KIDD: I think there was one on the general SU page. There's one on the exec page, but the normal one has way more reach than we do anyway. We also shared it on the normal one on Instagram.

DHILLON: Okay, so I guess we can wait until the end of August to consider reassessing the deadline in September again, and if we haven't gotten anything, we can start ramping the social media stuff for SU. But if we can get a Facebook page on your guys' social media, that would be really helpful. It might be something to consider. Does anyone else have any comment on that? Okay, awesome, I will just go forward then. I guess the biggest thing that leads is that I don't want the work for ARRC to get delayed for much more. Just as a disclaimer, I'm more than happy to still be interim chair until we get student-at-large positions open, but I think it's definitely worth a discussion if we want to keep me as interim chair, or if we want to elect someone else as the chair, because we do have enough individuals to elect a chair now, and if so, we can talk about the future trajectory for what we want

to do. Does anyone have any comments?

BLANCHETTE: I'll just say right now, this is my personal thought, but I think we've at least made an effort to get it out to students and let students at large know that they can have this position. At this point, I think it's more counterproductive to wait for more people to vote for a chair. I originally really wanted to have those students to have more indigenous representation, but at this point, I think we need to have someone in charge and make sure stuff gets running. Of course Simran, you're doing amazing, but I think having a chair would help things get more streamlined.

DHILLON: I totally agree. Does anyone else have any comments about it?

KIDD: Yeah, I think we could start on work that maybe the student-at-large wouldn't personally have a larger stake in, so like making an ARRC vs. ASC document for Council. I think those boundaries might be a little confusing to someone who hasn't been involved in ASC or ARRC or the SU before, so we can start on that, it's not like we're starting a huge project without more indigenous representation. The other thing I was going to say is that I believe we're holding a welcome workshop, which is like the clubs fair and it's all online. I could probably ask them to include something about ARRC and that we're still looking for students-at-large, just for more advertising, and see if we get any responses that way. Also finally, I'm in a teaching indigenous education class, so a lot of students in this program are indigenous, so I could probably try to talk to a lot of them.

BLANCHETTE: Could you actually ask the prof to share to the class? Talking to people individually is great on top of that to encourage people, but the prof might be willing to share.

KIDD: Yeah, for sure. Probably closer to September.

BLANCHETTE: Certainly. Also, if this deadline gets pushed to the beginning of September, I could also email my Native Studies prof to send it out, he has a mailing list, and I think that's a great way of reaching students who would want to get engaged.

KIDD: I also wonder about the MOOC. I just don't know what percentage of those people are actually U of A students, because anyone can take it, like my mom is taking it at the moment. But they have a really high enrollment number this year, I think double or triple than normal, so that might be another way. I do want to get students-at-large, and I just realized that classes might be a good way to do that.

DHILLON: Just going off of what you said Katie, for the welcome workshops, do we have to register to be advertised there, or how would that work?

KIDD: There is a student governance one being run, so if one of us wants, I could just put you in contact with it. We're just trying to do one SU student governance one, because people don't attend these anyway, so breaking them all apart we think we'll get low attendance, where if we put them all together, we'll get a broader field. However you want to proceed, I can put you in contact with the guys planning it.

DHILLON: If you could, that would be really good. Once we have a chair, we can just forward that along to them. Okay, so I guess that goes back to what we were talking about before. So here are my thoughts: We can work on small stuff in this summer, because obviously, it's a really big deal having more students-at-large present so we can get their feedback on the bigger projects. So I think that ASC vs. ARRC guidebook would be extremely helpful, because I know so many people don't understand the difference, and it's not properly communicated as it stands right now, so I think that would be a really amazing project to work on. I guess it comes down to whether we want to wait still for student-at-large positions, because I know reaching out to classes and doing the welcome workshop could gain a lot of traction, and I guess the beginning of the school year is when people commit the most rather than the summer when people kind of don't go offline. So I guess the biggest thing is how do we want to move forward. Like I said, I'm okay if I'll be interim chair until September and we work on the ASC vs. ARRC guidebook. I'm also okay if we choose not to, it's totally up to you guys, but I just want to go through both of those options, because at the moment, I do think it would be really good to have the students-at-large here to make that decision, and I think the best traction for that would be at the beginning of September. What does everyone think?

BLANCHETTE: I feel good about that, especially because the ASC/ARRC thing is really unique to SU representatives who understand where ARRC sits within SU, and what councillors might need to know. The students-at-large would be ready for the more important stuff later.

DHILLON: Yeah, I think that would be a really great idea. Either way, we can start on the ASC/ARRC guidebook, I think that would be very easy to do within this month, even without the students-at-large. But should we just hold off on chair selection until we get that beginning of school traction? Is that where we're going now? Okay, awesome. In September, we can decide on a deadline then, and we can also look if we got any applications. I can reach out to the First Peoples' House within this week, but Beth or Vaughn, if you could also reach out to them, that would be really helpful, and if we could get a Facebook post up, that would be really cool too. And just keep an eye out for profs that would be interested in sharing this information with their students, and I guess that would be the best way to gauge students-at-large at the moment. Next week we can start looking at how we want to draft the guidebook, we can all brainstorm in the meantime, and think about what we want it to look like, and how we want to distribute it as

well. Does anyone have any comments about that or anything else?

FOTANG: I agree.

BEAULIEU-MERCREDI: Yes.

DHILLON: Okay, so if we want to get started on that at our next meeting, that sounds good. Is everyone okay with that? Yup, awesome. I will continue sending updates if I hear back from any of these organizations, I will just send them on the chat.

2020-03/5

ADJOURNMENT

DIXON: Adjourned the meeting at 3:22pm.