



University of Alberta Students' Union

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

**January 15, 2021**

**4:00pm**

**Google Meet**

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, Sauleaux, 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
Malijha Moyan (chair)		Y
Talia Dixon		Y
Eric Einarson		Y
Alana Krahn		Y
Katie Kidd		Y
Elizabeth Blanchette		Y
Christian Fotang		N
Vaughn Beaulieu-Mercredi		Y
Simran Dhillon		Y

**MINUTES (ARRC 2020-10)**

**2020-10/1**

**INTRODUCTION**

**2020-10/1a**

**Call to Order**

MOYAN: Called the meeting to order at 4:00pm.

**2020-10/1b**

**Chair's Business**

MOYAN: Noted that the ARRC website requires updating.

**2020-10/2**

**COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

**2020-10/2a**

**Navigation Guide**

KIDD: Anticipated that the Guide be complete by the next meeting of the Committee. Noted that the SU Marketing Team advised that the Guide remain a package instead of an Instagram post given its complexity.

**2020-10/2b**

**ARRC Recommendations**

MOYAN: Proposed that the Committee pursue hiring Senator Murray Sinclair to fulfil the Recommendation 'The SU shall hire an expert to conduct an organizational review and provide recommendations for reconciliatory actions.'

KIDD: Noted that the SU has also hired an equity, diversity, and inclusion specialist for similar purposes.

MOYAN: Suggested that the Committee evaluate SU finances to determine if it can afford to pay a specialist to conduct the review

DIXON: Noted that Council Administration Committee is requesting to use a portion of the ARRC budget to fund a blanket exercise for Council and pay for the translation of Bylaw 100 into Plains Cree. Expressed concern that smudging ceremonies are not longer part of Council meetings and that CAC is making slow progress on updating the Council Treaty Acknowledgement.

MOYAN: Expressed concern that a translation of Plains Cree is an unjustifiable cost given the small number of students who can read Plains Cree. Suggested that it would be more worthwhile to use these funds to advance the Recommendations in another area. Expressed concern that the blanket exercise cannot be done with real blankets.

KIDD: Proposed that the Committee work on advancing the Recommendations 'The SU shall make an informal agreement with Aboriginal students outlining the SU's promise to represent them' and 'The SU shall name a portion of rooms in SUB to acknowledge the ancestral space on which it sits.' Noted that she is working to organise a group to promote Aboriginal art in SUB.

DHILLON: Proposed that the Committee work on advancing the Recommendations 'The SU shall raise awareness of positive Aboriginal student experiences.' and 'The SU shall provide students the opportunity to learn about Aboriginal Peoples in Canada through presentations, plaques, advertising initiatives, etc.'

KIDD: Proposed profiling Indigenous Leadership Program participants and members of Aboriginal Student Council.

BLANCHETTE: Suggested that the Committee first needs to promote more Aboriginals in leadership before showcasing their positive experiences.

DIXON: Clarified that the intent of the Recommendation is to profile positive student experiences in general and not just those in SU governance. Considered showcasing students via an SU feature or on the University student feature account.

MOYAN: Noted that the Committee could use the student profiles to drive higher enrolment at the University.

DHILLON: Inquired as to whether it is possible to rename the meeting rooms in the basement of SUB to be Aboriginal.

KRAHN: Responded in the affirmative. Noted that, given the cost of renaming, the Committee needs to be clear about what aspects of Aboriginal history are represented in the name names. Determined to arrange a meeting with the General Manager.

BLANCHETTE: Proposed that the Committee work on advancing the Recommendation 'The SU shall increase advocacy for the implementation of mandatory Aboriginal course content.' Considered that it is an opportune moment to pursue this advocacy as the UAlberta Indigenous Canada course is receiving positive national attention due to celebrity endorsement. Proposed that the Committee identify short and long term goals for its work on the fulfillment of the Recommendations.

MOYAN: Agreed with Blanchette.

**2020-10/3**

**ADJOURNMENT**

MOYAN: Adjourned the meeting at 4:58pm.