



University of Alberta Students' Union

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

**January 29, 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, 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
Malijha Moyan (chair)		Y
Talia Dixon		Y
Eric Einarson		Y
Alana Krahn		N
Katie Kidd		Y
Elizabeth Blanchette		Y
Daniela Carbajal		Y
Vaughn Beaulieu-Mercredi		Y
Simran Dhillon		N

MINUTES (ARRC 2020-11)

2020-11/1

INTRODUCTION

2020-11/1a

Call to Order

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

2020-11/1b

Chair's Business

2020-11/2

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

2020-11/2a

Land Acknowledgement and Land Acknowledgement Guide

KONRAD: Noted that ARRC's contact information will be on the Acknowledgement for readers intending to learn more. Proposed that the Committee identify a point of contact that can provide information and interpretative assistance related to the Land Acknowledgement.

BLANCHETTE: Proposed opening a dialogue with the chair of CAC to establish a working relationship.

KONRAD: Inquired as to whether the CAC-ARRC collaboration on the Acknowledgement formalised or part of a transition report.

BLANCHETTE: Noted that the collaboration is formalised as the creation of the Acknowledgement and Acknowledgement Guide is an ARRC Recommendation.

KIDD: Determined to address the ARRC-CAC Acknowledgement collaboration as a member of CAC.

BLANCHETTE: Clarified that the current Acknowledgement represents the work of considerable collaboration between CAC and ARRC. Agreed that collaboration can continue to be refined moving forward.

CARBAJAL: Noted that she consulted other students on the Acknowledgment. Expressed concern that the Acknowledgment is not specific to Aboriginal people and that they may be uncomfortable reading it.

MOYAN: Agreed with Carbajal. Expressed concern that the Acknowledgement represents Aboriginal people as victims. Expressed concern that the Acknowledgement, in referring to 'stolen land', implies that Aboriginal people subscribe to the colonial view that land can be owned.

BLANCHETTE: Agreed that traditional acknowledgments should be personal. Noted that Aboriginal students do not have to give the Acknowledgement if they are uncomfortable.

KIDD: Agreed that the Acknowledgement requires further revision and updating before approval. Proposed, as per CAC 2020-17/3b, revising the Acknowledgement based on a seminar provided by Dr Matthew Wildcat. Noted that the Acknowledgement is not a mandatory part of SU events.

CARBAJAL: Noted that she has connected with Wildcat since Kidd proposed using his services at CAC 2020-17/3b. Noted that Wildcat supports holding a seminar with Council to refine the Acknowledgement. Clarified, however,

that Wildcat suggested Council first expand its cultural awareness via a blanket exercise or related activity.

BLANCHETTE: Noted that ARRC should be consulted with changes being made to the Acknowledgement.

KIDD: Suggested that it is not necessary for Council to complete the blanket exercise prior to the Acknowledgement development seminar given that Council has base cultural awareness from GovCamp instruction.

KONRAD: Proposed as a process for reviewing the Acknowledgement that it be reviewed by ARRC, then Elders, and then Council via a Wildcat seminar occurring after the scheduled blanket exercise which Council must complete starting in the 2021-2022 session as per CAC 2020-17/3a.

BLANCHETTE: Agreed with Kidd that the blanket exercise need not precede the Acknowledgement seminar. Proposed consulting Aboriginal Student Council in addition to the groups identified by Konrad.

KONRAD: Noted that Council could also do a workshop concerning interacting with Aboriginal students. Inquired as to when the Committee will review the Acknowledgement.

MOYAN: Responded that the Committee will review the Acknowledgement within its next two meetings. Proposed that the Committee schedule a special meeting to address the Acknowledgement.

DIXON: Proposed that, instead of calling a special meeting, members of the Committee independently review the Acknowledgement and come prepared to discuss its content.

BLANCHETTE: Supported calling a special Committee meeting and inviting members of ASC to attend.

KIDD: Noted that the ASC-ARRC Navigation Guide will be complete by Sunday.

MOYAN: Determined to discuss the Committee's support for implementing a mandatory Aboriginal course requirement at its next meeting.

2020-11/3

ADJOURNMENT

MOYAN: Adjourned the meeting at 4:57pm.