



University of Alberta Students' Union

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

**26 March 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		N
Vaughn Beaulieu-Mercredi		Y
Simran Dhillon		Y
Marc Dumouchel, GM		Y
Anshita Jamlesh Patel, Undergraduate SGO		Y
Chanpreet Singh, ISA President		Y
Warren Leung Kam Tsang, ISA VP Internal		Y

MINUTES (ARRC 2020-15)

2020-15/1 INTRODUCTION

2020-15/1a Call to Order

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

2020-15/1b Approval of Minutes

BLANCHETTE/MOYAN MOVED to approve the minutes of ARRC-2020-14-M
CARRIED

2020-15/1c Chair's Business

2020-15/2 QUESTION/DISCUSSION PERIOD

2020-15/3 COMMITTEE BUSINESS

2020-15/3a International Student Association Concerns Re: ARRC Recommendations

SINGH: Expressed concern that the fulfillment of the ARRC Recommendation 'The SU shall increase advocacy for the implementation of mandatory Aboriginal course content' would require international students to pay 2500-3000 for a mandatory course. Clarified that the ISA supports the Recommendation only if it does not put a financial burden on international students.

BLANCHETTE: Responded that there is a potential that the Recommendation could be fulfilled without any financial burden if the University offered the Indigenous Canada Massive Open Online Course at no cost.

DRAPER: Noted that Florence Glanfield Vice-Provost (Indigenous Programming and Research) is proposing the implementation of a way to search for all courses that involve indigenous content within Beartracks.

SINGH: Inquired as to how the Committee envisions the implementation of a mandatory course requirement.

BLANCHETTE: Agreed with Singh that students should not be forced to take a course that they have no desire to enrol within. Recognised that forcing students to take a course can produce resentment. Suggested that the implementation of the requirement may provide that students must present evidence that they completed the free (non-credit) Indigenous MOOC. Noted that exceptions would also exist.

DIXON: Suggested that the fact students believe the course is not relevant to their degrees is proof of the need for the course. Recognised that the Committee cannot guarantee that the course is free. Urged ISA to support the implementation of a course requirement irrespective of any cost given the importance of reconciliation.

TSANG: Proposed, as a temporary measure, providing Indigenous information on eClass for students to access.

KIDD: Clarified that the implementation of a course requirement would be decided by the University Administration and not the Committee. Proposed that ARRC and ISA enter discussions in order to arrive at a solution.

BLANCHETTE: Agreed with Kidd.

SINGH: Agreed with Kidd. Requested that ARRC engage ISA before taking any action in relation to fulfilling the Recommendation.

MOYAN: Thanked the ISA for attending the meeting. Invited the Committee to provide feedback regarding their discussions with the ISA.

DRAPER: Noted that it is encouraging that the ISA support the promotion of Indigenous learning in principle. Noted that the ISA argument is flawed in that introducing a new course requirement would only change what courses one takes, not raise the total cost of one's degree.

BLANCHETTE: Noted that there is potential for the implementation of a course requirement to disrupt people's plans to fulfil their degree requirements, especially those in the sciences and engineering.

DIXON: Invited the Committee to provide feedback on the Sustainability Committee [Recommendations](#).

2020-15/4

ADJOURNMENT

MOYAN: Adjourned the meeting at 4:55pm.