



University of Alberta Students' Union
**ABORIGINAL RELATIONS &
 RECONCILIATION
 COMMITTEE**

**Thursday, March 24, 2022
 3:00 PM
 Zoom**

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	Julia Villosio	Y
Christopher Beasley		Y
Serena Manansala Yabut		N
Latiya Northwest		N
Shailley Peacock		N
Danielle Lapatack		N
Talia Dixon		Y
Malijha Moyan	Shauna Tânsi	Y
Vaughn Beaulieu-Mercredi, Chair		Y
Andrew Batyicki		N
Emily Kimani		Y
Tracy		N/A
Courtney Graham		N/A
Ethan Hunter		N/A

MINUTES (ARRC 2021-12-M)

2021-12/1 INTRODUCTION

2021-12/1a Call to Order

BEAULIEU-MERCREDI: Called meeting to order at 3:10 P.M.

2021-12/1b Approval of Minutes

DIXON / KIMANI MOVED TO approve the minutes from the last meeting

CARRIED

2021-12/1c Approval of Agenda

DIXON / KIMANI MOVED TO approve the agenda

CARRIED

2021-12/1d Chair's Business

BEAULIEU-MERCREDI: Second last meeting of the year. Next meeting will come back with revised standing order changes for next year.

2021-12/2 QUESTION/DISCUSSION PERIOD

2021-12/2a Process of joining ARRC

TÂNISI: Inquires to how ARRC is joined

BEAULIEU-MERCREDI: Committee would send the nomination to Council and Council will assign an ASC representative.

TÂNISI: Inquires if meetings are generally at the same time

BEAULIEU-MERCREDI: Everyone submits their available times and will be figured out with everyone's schedule

2021-12/3

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

BEAULIEU-MERCREDI: Discussed land acknowledgement and read through it.

DIXON: Through consultation, thinks it is always best if one writes a land acknowledgement on their own if they are a settler as it will encourage critical reflection.

TÂNISI: Expresses how those having an active role in reconciliation and decolonizing education is essential and should be pointed out in the beginning of the acknowledgement

BEAULIEU-MERCREDI: Was sent to indigenous law students association on Feb. 8 and gave feedback. They claimed that all the recommendations are their own. They agree it's well written, it is a little bit longer and one of the members claimed that it can come off as preachy if it is too long, and one member suggests that they should personalize it connecting it to a reflection or personal story.

DIXON: The first line should be people acknowledging where they're from to indicate whether they are a settler or indigenous.

BEAULIEU-MERCREDI: They also suggested that the land acknowledgement should be personalized.

TÂNISI: Asks for the restitution text to be read over. Wonders on what if there is push back from those who oppose

BEAULIEU-MERCREDI: If one doesn't like what is being discussed, they can be present to discuss it. Hoping people will unlearn certain ideas of colonization. Acknowledges lots of these discussions will make many people uncomfortable

TÂNISI: When it comes to the word restitution and possession of land, it can come off as a hand-out and worries about pushback from those who oppose

BEAULIEU-MERCREDI: People can unlearn certain experiences and much of these discussions will make people uncomfortable

DIXON: Agrees pushback is a real concern. Wonders if one is a first-year student presenting the land acknowledgement that it might be intimidating for those who are not aware of various reconciliation ideas

BEASLEY: Agrees with personalization of land acknowledgement. OASIS land acknowledgement has a section on describing how the land is seen today.

Acknowledges indigenous speakers may get blowback and agrees the concern is valid. Most land acknowledgements are most likely going to be presented by UASU staff members so it minimizes risk

BEAULIEU-MERCREDI: There might be various pushbacks by some such as topics on global warming. Asks about the length of the land acknowledgement and if there is anything missing

DIXON: Wants to state that the acknowledgement is written through a settler. Should be no pushback against it but could always be revised. If one is a first-year student presenting the land acknowledgement, one could lack knowledge if one doesn't have knowledge in the background

BEASLEY: Raised that the land acknowledgement isn't Council specific but UASU specific. Has been chatting with CSJ as they want to use the land acknowledgement as well so should not be Council-specific

BEAULIEU-MERCREDI: Could be copied and pasted on the order papers and Inquires if they want to add in the personal identity before stating the full land acknowledgement

DIXON: Agrees. Could use 'honoured' and 'privileged' when presenting

BEAULIEU-MERCREDI: Agrees with using the terms 'honoured' and 'privileged' Will include all 9 nations in the acknowledgement and will include others as well. Other comments from the consultation include how they make a personal connection to the land and will note it at the beginning. In the future, it will translate to French for CSJ. Inquires Chris if they met with AFSJ

BEASLEY: Confirms but has not followed up with anybody

BEAULIEU-MERCREDI: Has met with ARRC, ASC, NSSA, AUFSJ. Has gone over various nations to be included in the acknowledgement. Also went over the appendix section of land acknowledgement and claims there are still a few remaining groups that need to be consulted with. There are still a couple of people that wanted to consult with but was not possible. Met with First People's House and a few others. If ARRC approves the current version, then will send to Council for a vote.

BEASLEY: Missed meeting with Augustana

DIXON: Doesn't think it applies to Augustana so might need to ask to make their own.

BEAULIEU-MERCREDI: Might have to ask Augustana to make their own. If changes are wanted by those who are being consulted with they can bring the land acknowledgement back and revise it, but if not, it can go through to Council. Wants to get done on finishing the process in the next while. Thinks a political policy can be constructed in the future for when people search through SU bylaws. Will go in the next standing orders in council next time.

BEAULIEU-MERCREDI / DIXON MOVES TO approve Land Acknowledgement
CARRIED

6/0/0

BEAULIEU-MERCREDI: Will bring it to First People's house to get feedback for land acknowledgement

2021-12/4

INFORMATION ITEMS

2021-12/4a

 **2022 Land Acknowledgement**

[Land Acknowledgement Consultation Form](#)

2021-12/5

ADJOURNMENT

BEAULIEU-MERCREDI: Adjourned the meeting at 3:46 PM

2021-12/5a

Next Meeting: April 7th, 2022, 3-4 PM