



University of Alberta Students' Union

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

December 8th, 2022

4:00 P.M.

Location: SUB 0-33 (Juniper Room) OR Zoom

The University of Alberta and the University of Alberta Students' Union occupy Indigenous land in amiskwacîswâskahikan (Beaver Hills House), on Treaty 6 territory. From time immemorial, the banks along the river valley have been known as the Pehonan, a meeting place for the nêhiyawak (Cree), the Niitsítapi (Blackfoot), Métis, Dënesųłíné (Dene), Ojibway/Saulteaux/Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee and others. The University, the Students' Union and much of the city are located on the unlawfully stolen land of the forcibly removed Papaschase Cree.

We acknowledge that sharing this land gives each of us the responsibility to research the historic contexts of Treaty 6, to reflect on our personal relationships to the land, the Nations we've named, and to our roles in upholding justice on this territory. Since they began, the Students' Union and the University have benefited from historic and ongoing dispossession of land and resources from Indigenous Peoples. As a result, it is our responsibility to seek the restitution of this land and its resources. Finally, we seek to do better by working to make our learning, research, and governance align with the histories, languages, teachings, and cultures of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Peoples in the land presently occupied by the Canadian state.

We encourage critical reflection by asking the following question. In relation to the territory on which you are situated, what role do you play in strengthening the resistance and resurgence of Indigenous students within your communities?

ATTENDANCE

NAME	PROXY	PRESENT
Chantel Akinneah		Y
Rebeca Avila		N
Daniela Carbajal Velez		Y
Susana Dokiburra (SAL)		N
Ayanna Fata (SAL)		N
Joannie Fogue		Y
Gloria K annumkulabil (SAL)		N
Malijha Moyan	Levi Wolfe	Y
Julia Villosio		Y

Courtney Graham		N/A
Collette Cullen		N

MINUTES (ARRC-2022-05-M)

2022-05/1

INTRODUCTION

2022-05/1a

Call to Order

AKINNEAH: Called the meeting to order at 4:10 P.M.

2022-05/1b

Approval of Agenda

AKINNEAH/FOGUE MOVE TO approve the agenda.
CARRIED with amendments

2022-05/1c

Approval of Minutes

TABLED

2022-05/1d

Chair's Business

AKINNEAH: Will hand in the ARRC November Report for the December 13th Students' Council meeting.

2022-05/2

QUESTION/DISCUSSION PERIOD

2022-05/3

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

2022-05/3a

ARRC Member Updates

AKINNEAH: States that MOYAN changed their recommendation to ensure funding for elders in providing support for Maskwa House.

CARBAJAL VELEZ: Will compile a presentation when their recommendation consultation is completed. Has reached out to community members and senior SU staff members. Will present this presentation at Students' Council.

FOGUE: Asks to confirm what the recommendation CARBAJAL VELEZ'S recommendation is and what senior staff members at the SU have been consulted with.

CARBAJAL VELEZ: Confirms that their recommendation regards enforcing mandatory FNMI training amongst SU staff, volunteers and councillors. Will not provide what staff members have been spoken to and raises concern

that the executives might lobby against the staff members who have been spoken to.

VILLOSO: Raises concern that the correct SU staff members have not been consulted with.

CARBAJAL VELEZ: States that they have reached out to senior staff members and has received support on this recommendation. Has not had official meetings but has discussed the recommendation casually. Does not want the discussions to be performative and prefers individually reaching out to relevant staff members.

AKINNEAH: Questions when the presentation will be given.

CARBAJAL VELEZ: States that the presentation will be given sometime in January.

AKINNEAH: Asks if ARRC could review the presentation before it is given to Council.

CARBAJAL VELEZ: Will present to ARRC before Students' Council.

FOGUE: Has worked with CSJ to create an Indigenous student gathering space. Has visited the Faculty of Native Studies to help ensure that Indigenous spaces stay consistent across campus. Has invited staff from CSJ to speak to the ISU to ensure community support and other appropriate supports are given to the gathering space.

Has talked to the Campus Services senior leadership team to ensure FNMI training at Residence Base Camp. Will set up further meetings with Residence to discuss what this training/education will look like and whether it will differ per residence (particularly in regards to International House).

VILLOSO: Has worked with AKINNEAH and all professors on campus who teach Cree, to discuss renaming the SUB basement conference rooms. Is currently waiting for email responses from one of these professors. Currently has 7 responses for those who want to join the committee to help rename SU conference rooms. Asks WOLFE if they would like to join the committee as well. Would like to establish timelines and a work schedule by the end of the year or by the beginning of January.

All SUB basement conference rooms and common areas are potentially available for renaming. The Campus Food Bank has also asked for their

space to be renamed as well or to somehow be involved in the renaming process.

Has also been working on getting a mural set up in SUB. Has reached out to the SU Building Manager and the ART Club about possible directions for this project. Would like the Indigenous Art Wall mural to be on the wall where SubPhoto is currently located. Each art project would be featured for a year and the winner of the art project would also win a prize.

WOLFE: Suggests shortening the amount of time that each piece of art is displayed to provide more opportunities for students to display their art. Also accepts the invitation to join the committee for setting up the Art Wall.

VILLOSO: Rooms could be named after specific people or based on how the room looks. Room names could also be translated directly into Cree, but this might not be as meaningful.

2022-05/3b

Indigenous Students' Policy Consultation

- **Collecting feedback for Gurleen Kaur**
- **Focus on the facts, not the resolutions**

CARBAJAL VELEZ: Questions if KAUR could present on the policy.

AKINNEAH: Found KAUR's report to be an improvement over the previous report.

CARBAJAL VELEZ: Wonders about the consistency of using Aboriginal vs Indigenous in the policy. Would like to see more consistency in terminology.

AKINNEAH: Suggests including definitions of Indigenous, Aboriginal and First Nation.

CARBAJAL VELEZ: States that FNMI is defined in the policy.

WOLFE: Notes that Indigenous is an umbrella term for FNMI.

CARBAJAL VELEZ: Wants to ensure that all Indigenous people are included in the definitions.

AKINNEAH: Suggests that ARRC could help in defining the term Indigenous. Aboriginal people see the Indigenous term as different than non-Indigenous people do.

CARBAJAL VELEZ: Wants to ensure that all Indigenous students are served, including those that are not Canadian or Treaty Status.

AKINNEAH: Questions if there should be a term for Canadian Indigenous students which differentiates them from non-Canadian Indigenous students.

CARBAJAL VELEZ: Also talks about non-status Indigenous students from BC (who are not represented by Treaties).

WOLFE: Further states that most Indigenous people wouldn't identify themselves as Canadian or non-Canadian. Based on their upbringing, Indigenous is an umbrella which typically covers everyone, but understands that that might not be the case in this situation.

VILLOSO: Suggests that KAUR is needed for this conversation to help determine the goal of the policy and what feedback was being looked for from ARRC.

WOLFE: Suggests keeping Indigenous for now. Does not think that this complex issue will get solved at ARRC. Notes the importance of including everyone and ensuring representation for all groups.

AKINNEAH: Agrees that KAUR is needed to further discuss the policy.

2022-05/3c

Guiding Questions:

- **Are the definitions and terminology right?**
- **Do you think all the demographics within indigenous communities are represented?**
- **What other information would you like to be added? etc.**

2022-05/4

Information Items

2022-05/4a

[Indigenous Students' Policy Consultation \(Draft\)](#)

2022-05/4b

[Indigenous Student Success Survey \(2021\) Report](#)

ADJOURNMENT

2022-05/5

Next Meeting: TBD

2022-05/5a

AKINNEAH adjourned the meeting at 4:50 P.M.