



*University of Alberta Students' Union*  
**ABORIGINAL RELATIONS  
 AND RECONCILIATION  
 AD HOC COMMITTEE**

**Wednesday, July 26, 2017  
 6:00pm  
 SUB 6-06**

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	PRESENT	PROXY	SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN FEEDBACK (IF ABSENT)
Nathan Sunday (Chair)	Y		
Ilya Ushakov	Y		
Shane Scott	Y		
Haley Lefferson	Y		
James Thibaudeau	Y		
Mike Sandare	Y		
Emily Howell	Y		
Deirdra Cutarm (ASC Representative)	N	Chauntelle Atcheynum	N
Katherine Belcourt (ASC Representative)	Y		

**MINUTES (ARRC-2017-05)**

**2017-05/1     INTRODUCTION**

**2017-05/1a    Call to Order**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 6:00PM.

**2017-05/1b    Approval of Agenda**

**SCOTT/LEFFERSON MOVE** to approve the agenda as amended.

**9/0/0. CARRIED.**

**2017-05/1c Approval of Minutes**

The minutes from the previous meeting were not available, but will be sent out in the following weeks.

**2017-05/1d Chair's Business**

**SUNDAY** withdraws item 2017-05/2a to conduct an ARRC Standing Order Review to replace with a discussion regarding the *General Motion* item SC-2017/8b, from the last Students' Council meeting regarding the practice of allowing *Students' at Large* on any committees of Council.

**2017-05/2 QUESTION/DISCUSSION PERIOD**

**2017-05/2a** Discussion of Students' Council Item 2017-05/8b as follows;

**CHRISTENSEN/HOWIE MOVE** to change Students' Council practice, precedent and custom by allowing students-at-larges and other non-Students' Councillors/Executives/Proxies/Designates to serve as voting members of Students' Council's standing committees.

**Main Points of Discussion:**

- Neither Councillor **HOWIE** or **CHRISTENSEN** made the committee aware of their position (against this motion). This potentially devalues the collaborative work both individuals have provided to the Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation Committee during this Summer, in establishing their Standing Orders.
  - Last year, the Students' Union agreed both explicitly and in the spirit of *reconciliation*, that there would be Aboriginal student voting rights within the ARRC.
- Despite the motion working to change *precedent*, that it was technically changed last year during the creation of this committee, because it was mandated that the committee would include two (2) members of the Aboriginal Students' Council (ASC).
  - A question arises regarding whether the motion was out of order, because precedent has already been changed.
- In discussions with the Manager of Discover Governance (DG), **SUNDAY** noted that changing *precedent* was not a move that was backed by any formal Bylaws or Policy. If this motion did pass, it would have no weight/bearing on the ARRC; however, the spirit of it should be discussed. **SUNDAY** is exploring options to have the motion invalidated.

- A potential reason this motion may have been proposed is because of a perceived “domino effect” amongst individuals voting against this motion. Should Students’ at Large be allowed to vote on the ARRC, it may become force other committees to allow non-elected individuals to make decisions.
  - Each committee should be examined as an individual entity, with the ARRC being in a unique position. Additionally, there could be formal breakdown provided to Council (as it pertains to the ARRC), regarding where members will come from (e.g. 60% must be Councillors).
- The Government of Canada states special rights, including that of self-governance and self-determination, for Aboriginal Peoples. This motion technically negates this point.
  - This emphasizes the idea non-Aboriginal Peoples are better equipped to address issues of *reconciliation* and reinforces unfair practices and a “one-sided relationship”.
- A prominent argument during the discussion of the motion at the previous Students’ Council meeting was on conducting better consultations with the Aboriginal student population. The notion that a voice is equal to a vote, is reason for concern.
- The outcome of this motion will affect other minority groups on campus including (but not limited to) international students.
- Another prominent argument from yesterday was that this motion violates the principles of a “Representative Democracy”. Instead of focussing on maintaining a rigid boundaries and crossing a perceived line, that the Students’ Council look at the benefits of the increased diversity in voices/perspectives.
  - Criticism of this motion could draw from the number of committees impacted. One method of reaching resolution would be to make this motion specific to ARRC; however, **HOWIE** stated that policies typically do not “cherry-pick” in this way.
- Compromising on this motion may potentially give Council more power and create an imbalance. Additionally, by forcing Aboriginal students to become Councillors before being allowed voting rights, Council will become inaccessible as many Aboriginal students live far from campus or may be parents.
- Perpetuating the idea of Students’ at Large “taking over” other Standing Committees, is fear-mongering.
- Actions of *reconciliation* include two communities coming together for codevelopment; however, in terms of non-Councillors voting and

increasing the numbers there is more to deal with and potential for confusion.

- **ATCHEYNUM:** Allowing Aboriginal students to relay their voices to Aboriginal Student Council Representatives, or directly to the committee, may be more effective in executing committee business.
- **USHAKOV:** Non-elected representatives are not expected to act in bad faith; however, Councillor-elects are potentially held to a higher-degree of accountability.
- Prior to **SUNDAY** being elected the Native Studies' Councillor,

**2017-05/3**      **COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

**2017-05/4**      **INFORMATION ITEMS**

**2017-05/5**      **ADJOURNMENT**

**2017-05/5a**      **Next Meeting:** Wednesday, August 9, 2017 at 6:00PM in SUB 6-06.