

**BYLAW
COMMITTEE**

**Monday, May 22, 2018
5:00 PM
SUB 0-55**

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	SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN FEEDBACK (IF ABSENT)
Michelle Kim (Chair)		YES	
Tahra Haddouche	(Kara Farris)	NO	
Rowan Ley		YES	
Stephen Raitz		YES	
Emma Ripka		NO	NO
Nathan Sunday		NO	YES
Jimmy Thibaudeau		NO	YES

MINUTES (BC-2018-01)

2018-01/1 INTRODUCTION

2018-01/1a Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 5:22PM by Chair Kim.

2018-01/1b Approval of Agenda

KIM:

There is one change to the agenda that I would suggest and that is to move the question period to the very end, after the information items because it doesn't make sense for us to go straight into question and answer before actually discussing the important topics.

FARRIS/RAITZ MOVE to approve the amended agenda.

4/0/0

CARRIED

2018-01/1c Approval of Minutes

RAITZ/LEY MOVE to approve the minutes.

3/0/1 (FARRIS abstains)

CARRIED

2018-01/1d Chair's Business

KIM:

I will go through the attendance. Councillor Raitz and Councillor Ley are here and Councillor Farris is proxying for Councillor Haddouche. VP Ripka is not here and no written submission was received. Councillor Sunday and Councillor Thibaudeau are not present but have sent in their written statements.

2018-01/2 QUESTION/DISCUSSION PERIOD

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Note: This item was pushed to the last item.

FARRIS:

About paper ballots (see item 3c discussion), I would echo that it would have less participation but also from a sustainability viewpoint, paper ballots are a massive waste of paper. We could look into digital polling stations as possible alternatives to online polling.

KIM:

I agree with that point as for SU's larger strategic goal, sustainability is a priority and we are moving towards a paperless community. However it's a different discussion if we are talking about polling stations.

RAITZ:

Yes, I would echo these points.

LEY:

Do we know why this discussion was brought up?

KIM:

I think it was the idea that the current SU voting software may be difficult to navigate through, and also the visual of a polling station might seem more appealing.

LEY:

Yes, but I don't see how a paper ballot could be made easier given they will have the same bubbles/format as the online ballot.

RAITZ:

I think it's just navigating through the system, specifically if the demographic is first year students. However, I think there are better alternatives to solve that issue than reverting to paper ballots.

KIM:

Also sometimes the ballot can be wasted.

FARRIS:

Yes, with its current system it is really easy to spoil the ballot.

LEY:

Yes I have noticed that. Is there anything that we can do as a committee.

FARRIS:

I don't think that is something under Bylaw. We may have to talk with the Elections office because that is the system they use. I'm not sure if that is delegated under the Council or under some other body.

KIM:

We could bring this up at Council to see if there are others who agree with this. Any other comments?

RAITZ:

Could you just discuss and refresh some of the consistent themes we got from our discussion and the bigger ticket items we have to work on?

KIM:

So for the process of drafting and reviewing our Bylaws, we need to pull up the section we want to review. If we need to draft it, we will assign a person in the committee to take charge of drafting it. We will have a first reading where we will have a general discussion and the second reading will go into more detail in regards to the wording. For drafting plebiscite and referendum questions, the Chair will have to assign a drafts person. For each bill that passes the first reading in Student's Council , the Chair will assign a drafts person to draft the question to appear on the ballot. This will be submitted to the Bylaw committee and will follow the invitation of Primary Proponents. As for Drafting Bills for First Reading, the general process begins with Determination of Bylaws with the Committee Mandate Upon Which to Recommend Substantive, followed by Committee to Assign Drafts person, Consultation & Feedback, Draft Format to Parallel Students' Council's First Reading Requirements and finally Recommendation of Bill to Council. I can send you all the details if you want.

RAITZ:

Can we talk about some of things we need to do this year as a Committee then, to see if there are some items that we can tackle over the Summer?

KIM:

For May, there isn't too much on the plate. We have to create a strategic plan and goals of the year which we have started mentioning. I can start compiling them into a plan. Any other questions?

No other questions.

2018-01/3 COMMITTEE BUSINESS

2018-01/3a Welcome and Introductions

Councillor KIM introduces herself and talks about how she spent the long weekend. Others follow.

KIM:

Before moving to the next item, I would like to read out the written introductions from Councillor Thibadeau and Sunday.

THIBADEAU (from written note):

First of all, I apologize for my absence today. For introductions most people know who I am to some extent and if they don't they're welcome to ask! Also don't hesitate to ask if you have any questions about the committee itself, having been

a part of it last year, it can be confusing first and even I don't know everything, but hopefully I can help out with some things!

As for the actual committee itself, bylaw is a very unique committee where there is a lot of discussion and nitpicking to make sure the language works and that we dissect every possible scenario for a bill we are about to pass. It truly is a very fun committee and it's a lot more relaxed than any others, so if anyone has any ideas I highly encourage them to bring them forward to discuss it. If there is a better way to make council more efficient or understandable, then it's worth looking at. Some people might be concerned about bringing their idea or bringing more work to either the committee or council as a whole, but this is your job as councillor and representatives of the bylaw committee. To put it into perspective, Brandon Christensen last year wanted to get 20 bills through council and we didn't quite reach that number, so I think that this year we should try to reach 20 bills passed through council! Just to beat last year's numbers.

SUNDAY (from written note):

Hello everyone! For those Councillors who were on Council last year, it's a pleasure to work with you once again. For those of you who are new, I can't wait to work with you this year! For those of you who don't know me, my name is Nathan Sunday and I am the Native Studies Councillor on Students' Council. In addition to this, I am this year's Chair of the Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation Committee (ARRC).

2018-01/3b Confirmation of Spring/Summer Schedule

Councillor Kim read out the availabilities for both Councillor Thibadeau and Sunday from their written statements.

THIBADEAU:

Considering I work on campus every day until 4pm, and I cannot guarantee my weekends will be free throughout the summer, I would prefer either Wednesday or Monday at 5pm.

SUNDAY:

According to the e-mail sent by Chair Kim, the following short-listed options were presented as the summer Bylaw schedule:

Mondays 5PM - Works for me

Wednesdays 5PM - Works for me

Sundays 10AM - Does not work for me.

Sundays 11AM - Does not work for me.

FARRIS:

I do not think Councillor Haddouche will be here for the summer and if she wants me to be a permanent proxy for this semester, Wednesdays at 5pm is fine with me.

RAITZ:

Wednesdays at 5pm work for me and ARRC meets on Monday so Wednesday is better.

LEY: Since I work, sometimes our meetings can go till 5.00pm . So 5.30 on Wednesdays would work better for me.

KIM: For now I think we can say Wednesdays 5pm just because its works for everyone else and once we are all here we can then discuss to move it to 5.30 if we notice people are coming later.

LEY/RAITZ MOVE to approve the summer/spring schedule of the biweekly Bylaw meetings to Wednesdays 5.00 pm.

4/0/0

CARRIED

2018-01/3c Specific goals for the year and timeline

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

LEY:

All of my goals are flexible depending on how they are received, but one thing I wanted to look at is making some changes to the structure of the DIE board in that maybe it requiring some sort of a mandatory training before they start. I think that might be helpful and also maybe try to find some ways of discouraging frivolous DIE board cases, things that are not seriously intended and are just to look good or waste people's time. Obviously I am open minded as to how we should approach it.

THIBADEAU (from written note):

For specific goals, I'm sure mine will be similar. I would like to revisit the Election bylaws to find solutions to some concerns that came up during the executive campaign this year. In addition I would like to revisit the changes to committee structures to determine if there are committees under the SU umbrella that are not represented under the respective committee structure currently, or if there is a better solution than what is currently written.

SUNDAY (from written note):

For myself, the biggest goal I have for this year is re-writing Bylaw 100. As many

of you know, the re-write to Bylaw 100 last year was very controversial and I want to take the criticism it received from students and re-create it to meet students needs. Councillor Belcourt and I are currently in the process of re-writing Bylaw 100, so once we are done we will bring it to the Bylaw Committee. Hopefully, Bylaw and ARRC can work together on this re-write in the future. In addition, another goal I have is for Bylaw Committee to look at DIE Board and possibly broadening its mandate.

RAITZ:

I would echo a lot of what is being said here. I am ready to be a member that is here to support the committee. I will be pretty involved with Policy committee and direct a lot of what is going on there, so I would like to be a supportive member for this committee and not necessarily take a lead with things. Also I would be interested to manage changes, if any, for Student groups at UoA related to their Policy or Bylaw. Additionally, I would be ready to support the work Councillor Sunday intends to do with the Bylaw 100 which I think is very important.

KIM:

First thing that come up for me as a person who also ran for elections was regarding few of the election Bylaws which have to be gone over and rewritten. Secondly, when it comes to Student Association Bylaws, whether it be, Faculty associations, Departmental Associations or Residence Associations, we need to go over them. I have a few notes from my predecessor that mentioned a few recommendations. Of Course, we have to look into Bylaw 100 because it is a big project that we have to give a lot of support to. But following up on the recommendations for Bylaw 2018-19, one of them was following up on the implementation of Bylaw 600 which mandates all Bylaws to be available in French by April 30th 2018, which has passed and it hasn't been done. According to my predecessor, this implementation was encouraged but little progress has been made. So this is something we will definitely have to act on. The second recommendation the previous committee had was in regards to bringing back paper ballots, which is something we can totally ignore or carry on discussing. It seems like with the paper ballots, which happened in 2013-14, there was minimal contribution. Next one, was to change the turnaround time for DFU renewals. Currently, DFUs need to be renewed every 5 years. One idea was to extend the renewal period from 5 years to 7-10 years. In addition, an automatic renewal process would be mandated if a DFU forgot to submit any documents. Again, this is something the last Chair disagreed with because they thought that current 5 year renewal process was sufficient as it allowed for essentially every undergrad completing a 4-year degree to vote on each fee they are expected to pay at least once. However, they found the automatic renewal requirement if proper documents are not submitted quite appealing. And the last recommendation was continuing to formalize committees under the new committee structure defined in the Bylaw 100 Schedule B.

Any questions at this point?

LEY:

As for Bilingualism, would we hire a translator or are we expected to write it in French as well.

KIM:

Yes, the Bylaw translation will be provided with a translator but I will double check on that, and what is the role of the Bylaw Committee in that.

RAITZ:

Yeah and it's a Policy piece which suggests that we should do these things and so hopefully the policy that will be created this year will legitimize some of the motives for these to be translated.

2018-01/4 INFORMATION ITEMS

2018-01/4a

KIM:

Just as a blurb, generally Bylaw meets once every two weeks and during Summer usually on non-council weeks which we have already decided. Then the meetings decrease during the school year and we meet more when it comes to building up the referendum questions and renewal items. And based on the past practices, most of the first readings are done within the Bylaw.

2018-01/5 ADJOURNMENT

2018-01/5a

Meeting adjourned at 5.51pm

2018-01/5a

Next Meeting: 6th June, Wednesday, 5.00 pm

SUMMARY OF MOTIONS

MOTION	VOTES
FARRIS/RAITZ MOVE to approve the amended agenda.	4/0/0 CARRIED
RAITZ/LEY MOVE to approve the minutes.	3/0/1 (Councillor FARRIS abstains) CARRIED

LEY/RAITZ MOVE to approve the summer/spring schedule of the biweekly Bylaw meetings to Wednesdays 5.00 pm.	4/0/0 CARRIED