



**BYLAW
COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, July 24, 2019

5:30 PM

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, 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)
David Draper (Chair)		Y	
Amlan Bose		Y	
Luke Statt		Y	
Stephanie McKenzie		N	
Adarsh Badesha		N	
Samir Esmail	Chris Beasley	Y	
Talia Dixon		Y	
Mark Dumouchel, GM		Y	

MINUTES (BC 2019-05)

2019-05/1 INTRODUCTION

2019-05/1a Call to Order

DRAPER: Called the meeting to order at 5:33pm.

2019-05/1b Approval of Agenda

STATT/DIXON MOVED to approve the agenda.

Beasley abstains.

2019-05/1c Approval of Minutes

N/A

2019-05/1d **Chair's Business**

2019-05/2 **QUESTION/DISCUSSION PERIOD**

2019-05/3 **COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

2019-05/3a Presentation from the Students' Union, General Manager

DUMOUCHEL: Outlined that the SU commissioned a report offered possible suggestions as to how to improve the distribution and framing of referendum questions. Noted that, in years prior, 25% of students opening the ballot did not complete it where the changes of last year cut the number of non completers in half. Outlined recommendations for improving the ballot include simplification, adding clearer headings and selection options, combining the ballot into multiple sections for each election type, adding drop down menus, presenting questions individually in series, using a mobile card swiping function, simplifying referendum and plebiscite questions by linking or having drop-down for detailed information but removing it from the question itself (expressed concern that Bylaw 6100 3(10) precludes this).

DIXON: Inquired into whether the proposed changes take into account perceptual disabilities.

DUMOUCHEL: Responded in the affirmative.

STATT: Suggested that it may be unnecessary to include so much detail within plebiscites and referenda as they should be informed as a result of the campaign period.

DUMOUCHEL: Noted that the Students' Union will collect detailed metrics to assess the impact of any changes to the ballot format.

BEASLEY: Proposed allowing people to stop voting after one section.

DUMOUCHEL: Noted that an alternative is to create a skipping function. Considered allowing consultative plebiscites with ranked ballots.

STATT: Supported this proposal.

DUMOUCHEL: Noted that another future option is creating review plebiscites for referenda.

DRAPER: Noted that he will receive a set of recommendations related to balloting from individuals who receive DFU's.

DUMOUCHEL: Proposed creating legal contracts, in future, between the Students' Union and recipients of Council collected fees to ensure transparency and good use of money. Noted that the role of Council representatives as DFU board representatives

has not always functioned as intended.

2019-05/3b Election Bylaw Review (2200, 2300, 2400, 2500)

DRAPER: Determined that the Committee will continue their review of bylaw into August.

DRAPER/STATT MOVED to update the proposed amendments to Bylaw 1500 in 2(1) reading "The Board is the organ of the Students' Union responsible for the interpretation and enforcement of Students' Union legislation, as well as advising council on the scope and constitutionality of legislation." and 3(2) reading "The board can provide expert opinions on the constitutionality or the scope of legislation without the need for a dispute brought to the board"

CARRIED

DRAPER/BOSE MOVED to update the proposed amendments to Bylaw 2400 8(11) changes the process for tie-breaking such that "the Chief Returning Officer, if a member of the Students' Union, will cast a sealed ballot to be opened in the event of a first-place tie. If the CRO is not a member of the Students' Union then one Deputy Returning Officer shall cast a sealed ballot to be counted."

CARRIED

BOSE: Inquired into whether the Committee should make special provisions for ties between none of the above and a candidate.

DRAPER: Suggested what is proposed is sufficient. Noted that new changes are required for Bylaw 2500 to reflect the current state of provincial statute.

DRAPER/STATT MOVED to update the proposed amendments of Bylaw 2500 5(2)(a) to read "vote to support or reject the proposal; or"

CARRIED

DRAPER: Determined to discuss voting at Augustana at the next meeting.

2019-05/4 **INFORMATION ITEMS**

2019-05/4a Bylaw Committee Minutes (BC-2019-05-M) - Wednesday, July 10, 2019.

Minutes are not available at this time.

2019-05/5 **ADJOURNMENT**

DRAPER: Adjourned the meeting at 6:25pm

2019-05/5a **Next Meeting:** Wednesday, August 7, 2019 @ 5:30PM in SUB 6-06.

SUMMARY OF MOTIONS

MOTION	VOTES
STATT/DIXON MOVED to approve the agenda.	CARRIED
DRAPER/STATT MOVED to update the proposed amendments to Bylaw 1500 in 2(1) reading “The Board is the organ of the Students’ Union responsible for the interpretation and enforcement of Students’ Union legislation, as well as advising council on the scope and constitutionality of legislation.” and 3(2) reading “The board can provide expert opinions on the constitutionality or the scope of legislation without the need for a dispute brought to the board”	CARRIED
DRAPER/BOSE MOVED to update the proposed amendments to Bylaw 2400 8(11) changes the process for tie-breaking such that “the Chief Returning Officer, if a member of the Students’ Union, will cast a sealed ballot to be opened in the event of a first-place tie. If the CRO is not a member of the Students’ Union then one Deputy Returning Officer shall cast a sealed ballot to be counted.”	CARRIED
DRAPER/STATT MOVED to update the proposed amendments of Bylaw 2500 5(2)(a) to read “vote to support or reject the proposal; or”	CARRIED