



University of Alberta Students' Union

BYLAW COMMITTEE

Wednesday, September 4, 2019

4:00 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.

AGENDA (BC 2019-09)

- 2019-09/1 INTRODUCTION**
- 2019-09/1a Call to Order**
- 2019-09/1b Approval of Agenda**
- 2019-09/1c Approval of Minutes**
- 2019-09/1d Chair's Business**
- 2019-09/2 QUESTION/DISCUSSION PERIOD**
- 2019-09/2a Bylaw 1500, Second Principles**
- 2019-09/2b Bylaw 2500, Second Principles**
- 2019-09/2c Bylaw 2200, 2300 and 2400, First Principles**
- 2019-09/3 COMMITTEE BUSINESS**
- 2019-09/4 INFORMATION ITEMS**
- 2019-09/4a Bylaw Committee Minutes (BC-2019-05-M) - Wednesday, July 10, 2019.**

See BC-2019-09.01.
- 2019-09/4b Bylaw Committee Minutes (BC-2019-06-M) - Wednesday, July 24, 2019.**

See BC-2019-08.02.
- 2019-09/5 ADJOURNMENT**
- 2019-09/5a **Next Meeting:** Wednesday, September 18, 2019 @ 4:00PM in SUB 6-06.**



University of Alberta Students' Union

BYLAW COMMITTEE

Wednesday, July 10, 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		N	
Luke Statt		Y	
Stephanie McKenzie		Y	
Adarsh Badesha		Y	
Ayman Adwan		N	
Talia Dixon		Y	

MINUTES (BC 2019-05)

2019-05/1 INTRODUCTION

2019-05/1a Call to Order

DRAPER: Called the meeting to order at 5:37pm.

2019-05/1b Approval of Agenda

DIXON/DRAPER MOVED to approve the agenda.
CARRIED

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 Election Bylaw Review

DRAPER: Established that the Committee will review proposals and questions sent by the Chief Returning Officer. Identified that a suggestion of the CRO is to amend Bylaw 2100 Section 5(3) to allow future CRO's greater influence in selecting Deputy Returning Officers. Clarified that, at present, two members of the Discipline, Interpretation, and Enforcement Board vote on the selection of the DRO with the CRO votes only in the event of a tie.

MCKENIZE: Inquired into the difference between the CRO and DRO.

DRAPER: Responded that the CRO organizes elections and oversees DRO's who primary responsibilities are administrative and supportive.

DIXON: Expressed concern that allowing the CRO a regular vote in selecting DRO's may create abuses of preferential hiring. Suggested, however, that CRO's should have a vote as it is they who will be working and leading the DRO's.

BADESHA: Suggested that it would be unnecessary to allow CRO's the ability to vote as there are capable recruitment staff who handle the hiring of DRO's. Expressed concern that allowing CRO's to vote could introduce bias into the election staff.

DRAPER: Supported the current bylaw. Identified that the CRO inquired into why Bylaw 2100 6(1) prohibits CRO's from concurrently holding another job within the Students' Union.

DIXON: Inquired into how much the CRO is paid and for how long they are employed.

STATT: Responded that the CRO serves for one-year but that he is unsure as to their pay.

DIXON: Inquired into the rationale for Bylaw 2100 6(1).

STATT: Responded that the provision is designed to separate the CRO from all other SU operations such that they are independent and impartial.

DIXON: Suggested that no individual should be able to concurrently have in two jobs within the SU.

DRAPER: Identified that a suggestion of the CRO is to amend Bylaw 2100 7(2) to change the DRO term of service in order to accommodate byelections. Considered that the Committee could change the provision to start DRO terms in mid-September.

STATT: Expressed concern that calling byelections in September would create confusion and disorganization.

DRAPER: Identified that the CRO requested 2200 6(1b) better differentiate between the nature of a plebiscite as opposed to a referendum. Noted, however, that this is unnecessary as the definitions within the document already effect the differentiation. Identified that the CRO proposes addressing a loop-hole in Bylaw 2000 9(1) that would allow an executive-candidate to concurrently service as a side-manager of a referendum or plebiscite as, in so doing, get increased speaking turns at forums.

MCKENIZE: Proposed prohibiting individuals from serving in both as executive-candidates and side-managers.

DRAPER: Supported the change. Clarified that any change would still allow for individuals running for executives to endorse a plebiscite or referendum. Expressed concern that the dates in Bylaw 2000 10(2) and 11(1) include conflicting deadlines as to when nomination packages are released. Proposed setting a standard thirty-day submission timeline.

MCKENIZE: Proposed removing Bylaw 2000 10(2) as the provisions serve the same purpose.

DRAPER: Identified that the CRO proposes amending Bylaw 2000 11(2)(a) to reduce the size of the nomination package by using only relevant documents in the interest of saving paper and advancing sustainability.

DIXON: Proposed using only electronic nomination packages where individuals would independently print off their signature pages.

STATT: Expressed concern that using only portions of bylaw within the nomination package would take bylaw provisions out of context. Proposed, instead, including a page that summarizes bylaw content and directs individuals to an online copy.

DRAPER: Identified that the CRO proposes amending Bylaw 2000 14(1) to allow CRO's to hold additional candidate's meeting when required.

BADESHA: Supported the change.

STATT: Supported the change.

MCKENIZE: Suggested that this change is unnecessary as Bylaw 2000 15(6) already provides for exceptions of 15(5).

DIXON: Agreed with McKenize.

MCKENIZE: Proposed adding a section that the CRO will individually contact or meet with new candidates subject to rules stated in Section 15 in the event of an extension.

DRAPER: Identified that the CRO proposes changes to Bylaw 2000 15(7) to add a clause to allow non-nominated individuals to campaign during the standard prohibited period.

MCKENIZE: Supported the change.

DRAPER: Noted that the Committee already addressed CRO's suggestions for Bylaw 2000 17(1). Identified that the CRO inquired into whether Bylaw 2000 21(1) should be amended to prohibit campaigning before the nomination deadline

MCKENIZE: Responded in the negative.

BADESHA: Responded in the negative.

STATT: Expressed concern that it would be unclear what constitutes pre-campaigning and that the workload to ensure compliance is unreasonably large.

DRAPER: Identified that the CRO proposed amending Bylaw 2000 25(1) as daily campaign meetings are mandated but do not occur in practice as they are all cancelled.

MCKENIZE: Clarified that the expectation to attend the meetings must be set out in the first instance even if it is a convention to later cancel the meetings for good reason.

DRAPER: Identified the CRO proposed amending Bylaw 2000 29(1) to improve its phrasing.

MCKENIZE: Proposed including the phrases "such as" and "exception of" in order to make it clearer.

DRAPER: Identified that the CRO noticed that Bylaw 2000 33(4) references an internal operating policy that does not exist.

STATT: Determined to address this issue and make the relevant changes to operating policy at Executive Committee.

DRAPER: Identified that the CRO proposed amending Bylaw 2000 32(1) and 32(2) to allow candidates to purchase and budget for items prior to having cost estimates approved.

MCKENIZE: Rejected the suggestion.

STATT: Rejected the suggestion.

DIXON: Rejected the suggestion on the basis that this proposal could justify the use of

items that are later not approved.

DRAPER: Identified that the CRO proposes amending Bylaw 2000 43(1) to reduce the budget size of plebiscites and referenda to that of the executives.

STATT: Suggested concern that plebiscites and referenda are highly important and affect a large number of people and, therefore, require greater funds. Noted that their higher budgets are not problematic as they are not running against other elected representatives.

DRAPER: Proposed removing Bylaw 2000 43(2) on joke candidates.

STATT: Expressed concern that allowing joke referendums could create confusion.

MCKENIZE: Suggested that joke referenda have no role, unlike that of joke candidates.

DRAPER: Identified that the CRO proposed amending Bylaw 2000 43(2) to allow the CRO less discretion in setting the deadline for the date of submitting campaign budget reports.

BADESHA: Expressed concern that setting the date too early does not allow councillors to add last minute campaign expenses to their budget.

DRAPER: Suggested that candidates should have 12 hours minimum. Proposed amending Bylaw 2000 47(4)(b) to remove a redundant term as there is no such thing as election slates. Identified that Bylaw 2300 4(1) includes too few days for council elections to occur after the general election for executives. Determined to allow for 14 or 21 day increases.

MCKENIZE: Proposed doing further research as to the best date for the Augustana elections to accommodate the 3/11 academic schedule on which they operate.

DRAPER: Established that previously discussed changes carry over and apply to Bylaw 2300 5, 6, 11, 9(1), 12(1), and 17.

DRAPER/STATT MOVED to approve the working document containing all changes rendered on July 10, 2019.

5/0/0 - CARRIED

2019-05/4 **INFORMATION ITEMS**

2019-05/4a Bylaw Committee Minutes (BC-2019-04-M) - Wednesday, July 4, 2019.

See BC-2019-05.01.

2019-05/5 **ADJOURNMENT**

DRAPER: Adjourned the meeting at 6:25pm.

2019-05/5a **Next Meeting:** Wednesday, July 24, 2019 @ 5:30PM in SUB 6-06.

SUMMARY OF MOTIONS

MOTION	VOTES
DIXON/DRAPER MOVED to approve the agenda.	5/0/0 - CARRIED
DRAPER/STATT MOVED to approve the working document containing all changes rendered on July 10, 2019.	5/0/0 - CARRIED



University of Alberta Students' Union

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, 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	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 2019-06)**2019-06/1 INTRODUCTION****2019-06/1a Call to Order**

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

2019-06/1b Approval of Agenda**STATT/DIXON MOVED** to approve the agenda.

Beasley abstains.

2019-06/1c Approval of Minutes

N/A

2019-06/1d **Chair's Business**

2019-06/2 **QUESTION/DISCUSSION PERIOD**

2019-06/3 **COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

2019-06/3a 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.

2019-06/3b 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.

2019-06/4 **INFORMATION ITEMS**

2019-06/4a Bylaw Committee Minutes (BC-2019-05-M) - Wednesday, July 10, 2019.

Minutes are not available at this time.

2019-06/5 **ADJOURNMENT**

DRAPER: Adjourned the meeting at 6:25pm

2019-06/5a **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. Beasley abstains.
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