

Wednesday, March 18, 2020

6:00 PM

Google Hangout

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	
Katie Kidd		Y	
Adarsh Badesha		N	
Samir Esmail		N	
Talia Dixon		Y	
Akanksha Bhatnagar		Y	

MINUTES (BC 2019-17)

2019-17/1 INTRODUCTION

2019-17/1a Call to Order

DRAPER: Called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

2019-17/1b Approval of Agenda

STATT/DIXON MOVED to approve the agenda.

CARRIED

2019-17/1c Approval of Minutes

STATT/DIXON MOVED to approve the minutes of BC-2019-16-M.

CARRIED

2019-17/1d Chair's Business

2019-17/2 **QUESTION/DISCUSSION PERIOD**

2019-17/3 **COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

2019-17/3a Recap from Last Meeting

2019-17/3b Chief Returning Officer (CRO) Report

DRAPER: Noted that there was a high dropout rate (18.9%) on the ballot. Considered that further changes could be made to the ballot to increase the number of persons that complete it in fullness.

KIDD: Inquired into whether the ballot was changed from the previous year.

BHATNAGAR: Responded in the affirmative. Clarified that the ballot became staged in an effort to reduce voter ballot dropouts.

DRAPER: Clarified that bylaw does not preserve the arrangement of ballots.

KIDD: Inquired into whose jurisdiction the issue of ballot arrangement falls.

BHATNAGAR: Responded that the Elections Office and IT Staff are responsible for ballots.

KIDD: Proposed that the Committee mandate that staff must review the form of the ballot on an annual basis.

DRAPER: Suggested that it is best to leave organisational matters such as ballot arrangement to the staff. Noted that the CRO has requested that faculty associations be required to hold their elections on the Students' Union platform. Expressed concern, however, that some faculty associations do not want to leave their current online voting systems.

DIXON: Inquired into whether Draper knows why some faculty associations do not want to adopt the Students' Union platform.

DRAPER: Responded in the negative.

BHATNAGAR: Suggested that the Business Students' Association refused to adopt the voting system because they do not like the Students' Union. Proposed having all faculty associations use the Students' Union voting system automatically but allowing opt-outs.

KIDD: Proposed allowing faculty associations to use the Students' Union voting system at times of their own choosing.

BHATNAGAR: Suggested that, while this is possible in theory, this would put a burden on the heavy burden on the Students' Union IT team.

STATT: Concurred with Bhatnagar. Determined to draw up first principles for the faculty association voting opt-out system with Draper.

DRAPER: Identified that the CRO is requesting that Bylaw 2200 be amended to allow candidates to make electronic submissions for all documents for which, currently, the Bylaw requires written submissions. Noted that, conventionally, candidates have been allowed to make electronic submissions. Determined to effect this change. Identified that the CRO is requesting amending Bylaw 2200 Section 31 Restrictions on Campaign Activities to allow campaigning in residences.

BHATNAGAR: Inquired into whether Draper is aware as to whether the rule was established by the University or the Students' Union.

DRAPER: Responded in the negative.

KIDD: Suggested that students already do not like having campaigners speak to them. Expressed concern that it would be overly aggressive to allow campaigning in residences.

DRAPER: Suggested that allowing campaigning in residences would present logistical problems for candidates as keycard access is needed.

KIDD: Considered that it may work to allow campaigning in residence common areas as well as for invitation-only floor meetings.

DIXON: Expressed concern that residence attendants do not inform residents that Students' Union elections are occurring.

DRAPER: Concurred that allowing campaigning in residences is an invasion of personal space. Proposed only prohibiting campaigning in residences outside of common areas.

KIDD: Expressed concern that the term 'common area' is too vague as it could apply to general floor areas.

DRAPER: Proposed tabling this matter until he can determine whether the regulation originates from the University or the Students' Union.

DRAPER: Identified that the CRO has proposed requiring a regulation for a set number forums.

DIXON: Suggested that it would reduce a candidate's accountability to students if the Committee set an arbitrary cap on the total number of forums.

BHATNAGAR: Proposed having five standard forums (Residence, CAB/SUB, Myer Horowitz, Augustana, St John) but allowing one or two other forums to be created by student groups to relate to topical issues.

KIDD: Proposed abolishing the Residence Forum. Expressed concern that the Forum had poor turnout. Expressed concern that the Forum was hosted during AllStars. Expressed concern that student groups may not have the capacity to host their own candidate forums.

STATT: Proposed capping the total number of forums. Suggested that reducing the number of forums will allow candidates to dedicate their time to have more meaningful engagement with students.

DRAPER: Determined to amend Bylaw 2200 by adding Section 18(a) capping the total number of Students' Union forums, Section 18(b) allowing student groups to host special topics, and Section (19) outlining that student groups must reach out to the CRO before the commencement of voting by providing a topic and location for their forum, which will be subject to the same rules as all other forums. Noted that, where there are multiple special topic forums, the CRO will select those applications which are the best quality.

DIXON: Expressed concern that capping the total number of forums present an unneeded, extra barrier to students engaging in governance.

STATT: Proposed limiting the total number of forums to five.

DRAPER: Expressed concern that having no cap may overload Elections Staff. Proposed requiring that persons aligned to campaigns to declare their affiliations before asking questions at forums.

BHATNAGAR: Noted that Bylaw applies to Students' Union operations, not the public. Proposed, alternatively, that Bylaw require the CRO to ask speakers if they have any affiliation with a campaign before asking a question.

KIDD: Expressed concern that this requirement may discourage people from asking questions. Noted that having a large number of questioners to declare their experience may make others feel as if they are not competent enough to ask a question.

DIXON: Expressed concern that some campaigns plant questions.

DRAPER: Proposed adding a Section 18(h) to Bylaw 2200 requiring the staff controlling a forum to ask questioners to declare whether they have an affiliation they have with a campaign.

DIXON: Supported this change.

DIXON: Proposed amending Bylaw 2100 8(3)d to require that the CRO submits its election reports to Students' Council on its order paper. Determined to draw up a Bill for the First Principles relating to the issues discussed above.

BHATNAGAR: Expressed concern that campaigning wastes paper. Proposed having candidates use organic paper.

DRAPER: Noted that Bylaw 2200 includes a Section 39 Sustainable Materials.

2019-17/3c SRA Discussion

DRAPER: Determined to send the Committee's proposed changes to Bylaw 6200 (see 2019-16/3a) to the International Students Association and Aboriginal Student Council.

2019-17/3d Subcommittee On Bylaws

DRAPER: Inquired as to what Students' Union staff will serve on the Subcommittee.

STATT: Responded that Marc Dumouchel and Jonathan Olfert. Noted staff have limited free time due to COVID 19 pandemic.

2019-17/3e End Of Term Planning

DRAPER: Determined to table this item until the next meeting.

2019-17/4 **INFORMATION ITEMS**

2019-17/4a Bylaw Committee Minutes (BC-2019-16-M) - Wednesday, February 5, 2019. BC-2019-17.01.

2019-17/5 **ADJOURNMENT**

DRAPER: Adjourned the meeting at 6:56pm.

2019-17/5a **Next Meeting:** TBD.