

Tuesday, November 30, 2021

5:00 p.m.

SUB 0-31 & Google Meet (online)

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
Julia Villoso, Chair		Y
Vaughn Beaulieu-Mercredi		Y
Chris Beasley		Y
Rowan Morris		Y
Rebeca Avila		Y
Aadhavya Sivakumaran		N/A
Emily Kimani		N/A
Talia Dixon		N/A
Andrew Batycki		N/A
Christian Fotang		N/A
Abner Monteiro		N/A
Nathan Brandwein		N/A
Courtney Graham		N/A

MINUTES (CAC 2021-15-M)

2020-15/1 INTRODUCTION

2020-15/1a Call to Order

VILLOSO: CALLED the meeting to order at 5:07 P.M.

2020-15/1b Approval of Agenda MORRIS/BEAULIEU-MERCREDI MOVE TO approve the agenda.

CARRIED

Approval of minutes

BATYCKI/BEAULIEU-MERCREDI MOVE TO approve the minutes from the last meeting. CARRIED

2020-15/1d Chair's Business

VILLOSO: States that the Residential Memorial was a success. However, someone on Instagram commented that people were throwing flags or otherwise harming the memorial and engaging people to do more of it. No action was taken to confirm the validity of the Instagram comment. Otherwise, received plenty of compliments about the memorial.

Updates that the Council Office is currently non-existent as the university has no space for it but is trying to work out interim measures. An email regarding the Council Office will be sent either late this week or next week with updates.

2020-15/2 QUESTION/DISCUSSION PERIOD

2020-15/3 COMMITTEE BUSINESS

2020-15/3a Updates on the Land Acknowledgement

BEASLEY: Has been working on a land acknowledgement for the SU with DIXON. Feedback and consultation is welcome regarding this. At the next ARRC meeting, a list of consultation questions will be presented which will be further utilized in the consultation process.

MORRIS: States that, with Residence Services, there was a bit of a situation when, at an event, Indigenous student staff wanted to present their own land acknowledgements but the university wanted them to use the university approved land acknowledgement.

DIXON: Clarifies that the university will have no say over this specific land acknowledgement as it is being specifically designed for use within the SU.

VILLOSO: Questions if there will there be any other indigenous student groups on campus consulted regarding the SU land acknowledgement.

BEASLEY: Will explore that.

Further states that more work needs to be done to get Students' Council more involved with indigenous or other socially relevant events on campus, such as Trans Remembrance Day. Wonders why engagement with indigenous events is such an issue for councillors/Students' Council?

MORRIS: States that attendance at events isn't the only thing that matters.

BATYCKI: Suggests that councillors may not know if they are welcome to certain events and may not have any friends at that event, which may make them less likely to go.

DIXON: States that some councillors may be too busy and burnt out to go to everything or actively support every movement. The topics may also be hard to engage with and some councillors may not be emotionally capable of doing so on weekends after spending the week involved with everything else. Creating an EDI centered space for councillors is cultivating the understanding that not everyone can attend everything.

VILLOSO: Argues that having a presence at Council is important and is the minimum requirement for being on Council. Everybody should have enough time to attend at least one event per semester.

MONTEIRO: Raises the concern that councillors do not necessarily identify with the roots and responsibilities of being on Council. Many councillors only assume that being a councillor involves just attending Students' Council. An anonymous survey could be sent out to ascertain why councillors do not attend specific events. Reiterates that there are other ways to support besides attendance.

MORRIS: States that they, personally, were unaware of committees and the role of a councillor when first joining student governance.

VILLOSO: Acknowledges that many people on campus don't know what Students' Council does.

MORRIS: Describes that a lack of information is a big accessibility barrier for Council.

VILLOSO: States that there are a lot of resources for Council, but they are not accessible.

DIXON: An expectation of Council is to not demand all of a councillor's time. Some councillors, such as those who work or have children, simply do not have time to attend everything. Demanding a lot of time from councillors further makes council inaccessible.

BATYCKI: If there aren't guidelines for Council workloads, councillors will sign up for too many things and then, inevitably, drop out.

MONTEIRO: It is essential to maximize opportunities for councillors and ensure that everyone wants to participate as much as they want and are capable of participating. GFC submits a calendar for the whole year as a means to provide members with an idea of how much time they must commit for the year. This could be something that Council does in the future.

MORRIS: There is a lot of work and simply not enough bodies to do it all. If we had more councillor positions, that would help rectify the problem.

VILLOSO: Notes that only a small group of current councillors participate in the committees.

FOTANG: Suggests that the discussion is beginning to conflate two different ideas. While the conversation started with councillor event attendance, it has since turned towards identifying councillor expectations and duties. In terms of attendance, it's important to understand what people's capabilities are and what their geographical barriers are.

DIXON: The councillors in this room are very engaged, so it's not fair to talk about engagement when it pertains to the councillors not currently in attendance. Declares that Council is not worth someone's mental health.

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2020-15/4 INFORMATION ITEMS
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Land Acknowledgement

2020-15/5 ADJOURNMENT

VILLOSO: Adjourned the meeting at 5:43 P.M.

2020-15/5a Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 11, 2022