

COUNCIL ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Tuesday, March 24, 2020 5:00pm Council Chambers, University Hall

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)
Chris Beasley (Chair)		Y	
Amlan Bose		N	
Tahra Haddouche		N	
Nathan Sunday		Y	
Juan Vargas Alba		Y	
David Draper		Y	
Luke Statt		Y	
Akanksha Bhatnagar		Y	
Katie Kidd		Y	
Talia Dixon		Y	

MINUTES (CAC-2019-20)

2019-20/1 INTRODUCTION

2019-20/1a Call to Order

BEASLEY: Called the meeting to order at 5:13pm.

2019-20/1b Approval of Agenda

STATT/DRAPER MOVED to approve the agenda.

CARRIFD

2019-20/1c Approval of Minutes

2019-20/1d Chair's Business

BEASLEY: Outlined that Council will vote on the Committee's changes to Council Standing Orders as well as ratify and review the report of the Chief Returning Officer. Noted that the subcommittee on Land Acknowledgement Reform will soon present at Aboriginal Relations & Reconciliation Committee. Expressed concern that there have been no new applicants to the Discipline, Interpretation, and Enforcement Board and that, after losses in current membership, there is only one active serving tribune. Expressed concern that there are no remaining meets left of Council to appoint new tribunes. Requested that the Committee provide him suggestions as to how to increase applications for and interest in serving on the DIE Board.

2019-20/2 QUESTION/DISCUSSION PERIOD

2019-20/3 COMMITTEE BUSINESS

2019-20/3a Calling and Additional Meeting of Council

DRAPER: Proposed scheduling an additional meeting of Council to consider Bylaw Committee motions.

STATT: Noted that, at his extra meeting, Council will also approve the new Students' Union budget and consider specific information related to the changes occurring to the Student Care Health and Dental Plan. Clarified that the additional meeting must be called before April 21 to meet University Board Finance and Property Committee budget approval timelines.

DRAPER: Supported scheduling an additional meeting April 14.

BEASLEY: Determined to schedule the meeting.

2019-20/3b CAC Transition Planning

BEASLEY: Determined to share his transition report with the Committee once complete.

VARGAS ALBA: Proposed, in future, increasing the Committee's permanent membership by two or three councillors as well as having co-chairs.

BEASLEY: Proposed, in future, improving Council engagement using social media and accessible live streaming. Noted that the Committee chair should also serve as a support to other Committees.

SUNDAY: Proposed that Beasley include the terms of reference for the Task Force on Structural Representation in his transition report.

DRAPER: Proposed that Beasley include a guide as to how to handle underperforming staff which the Committee oversees, such as a Chief Returning Officer, in his transition report.

BEASLEY: Inquired into the status of the Students' Union hiring of new employees to support Council.

BHATNAGAR: Responded that the Governance Officer which was set to be hired will not occur due to reductions in staffing occurring from the COVID-19 Pandemic. Clarified that the Students' Union Leadership Education and Development Centre will plan GovWeek.

VARGAS ALBA: Proposed recruiting outgoing councillors to give the incoming councillors training.

DIXON: Noted that incoming councillors have expressed concern that they are unclear as to the nature of their roles prior to the first meeting of Council.

BHATNAGAR: Proposed adding a discussion item on the April 14 meeting agenda to allow outgoing councillors to give advice. Proposed inviting incoming councillors to attend the meeting.

BEASLEY: Expressed concern that there are few returning councillors and staff support of Council is spread thin.

BHATNAGAR: Concurred with Beasley. Expressed concern that audit reviews, chair reports, and other items will be left undone in the absence of governance support.

KIDD: Proposed establishing a mentorship program between incoming and outgoing/mature councillors.

BEASLEY: Noted that he could make a Google Forum for transition matching. Inquired into whether Council could direct the Students' Union to provide it with greater staff support.

BHATNAGAR: Outlined that the Executive is attempting to transfer an existing employee to take on additional Council support responsibilities. Advised against directing staffing decisions as it would create tensions between staff and Council.

STATT: Expressed concern that hiring a staff to support will appear unfair as the Students' Union has just laid-off more than a hundred staff. Noted that the financial position of the Students' Union will remain precarious in Spring-Summer.

VARGAS ALBA: Inquired into whether GovCamp has been scheduled.

BHATNAGAR: Responded that GovCamp will likely occur before June and will take place online.

BEASLEY: Proposed adding as a discussion item at the April 14 meeting Council discuss the issue of Council support staff. Inquired into whether the hiring of a Council support staff should be in the budget if Council were to direct it.

STATT: Responded in the negative. Recommended, however, that Council provide its direction before the budget is completed so planners could factor in this added cost. Suggested that specific staffing decisions are best left to the Executive and senior staff who have a greater understanding of the issue.

2019-20/5 ADJOURNMENT

BEASLEY: Adjourned the meeting at 5:30pm.