



**FINANCE
COMMITTEE**

**Wednesday, February 27, 2019
4:00 PM
SUB 0-33**

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)
Emma Ripka (Chair)		Y	
Lane Anderson		Y	
Amlan Bose		Y	
Steven Lin		Y	
Nathan Sunday		N	Y
Robert Bilak		N	
John Hussein		Y	
Eric, Students' Union Awards		Y	

MINUTES (FC 2018-12)

2018-12/1 INTRODUCTION

2018-12/1a Call to Order
N/A

2018-12/1b Approval of Agenda
N/A

2018-12/1c **Approval of Minutes**
N/A

2018-12/1d **Chair's Business**

2018-12/2 **QUESTION/DISCUSSION PERIOD**

2018-12/2a Students' Union Awards Presentation

ERIC: Established that SU Awards received 510 applications of which 349 were valid. Noted that there were twelve hours of adjudication meetings, not including the time spent reading the applications. Identified that there were 117 recipients who received \$118,950 in total. Confirmed that all of the money available was disbursed.

RIPKA: Inquired into why, in past, not all Awards funds were disbursed.

ERIC: Responded complete disbursement did not occur if there were not a sufficient number of qualified candidates or that, in past, there were not enough persons in financial need as 50% of the available awards require that criterion. Noted that, next year, Awards will launch one month earlier to increase the number of applications. Identified that March 10 is the expected 2019 public launch. Noted that the responsibility for the Awards programme is transferring the Student Group Services. Clarified that applications close on June 30 for 2019. Forecasted that the adjudication meetings will occur August 23-25 with the adjudicators having received the application materials three or four weeks in advance. Noted that the Awards will be presented on Nov 29.

HUSSEIN: Expressed concern as to the SU Awards timeline.

ERIC: Responded that the SU Awards open at the end of the academic year to recognise applicants' achievements in the previous 2018-19 year. Noted that the Awards team finished the submission form and increased the amount of training for adjudicators. Noted that the SUB building tenants are not changing which allows for stability in the current awards on offer. Proposed, in years where there are new tenants, either adding new awards after the application process concludes or increasing the number of awards offered in the following year. Recognised that that Finance Committee can select the amount of money in Awards allotments.

RIPKA: Confirmed that tenants give donations as part of their leasing within the Students' Union Building. Considered that their funding of Awards also serves as a marketing tactic.

ERIC: Considered that tenants provide near \$15,000 for the Awards annually. Noted that the adjudicator position is about 75 to 80 hours of work over two or three weeks. Expressed concern that some adjudicators do not complete their

assigned work. Expressed concern at the variation in the questions used to assess financial need. Expressed concern that there is a narrative that the Awards is exclusive and intended only for hyper-achievers.

HUSSEIN: Expressed concern that the financial need declaration would not account for the fact that loans are not savings but repayable and temporary funds.

ERIC: Responded that the application process does not consider loans as an applicants' money and does take into consideration one's potential debt on leaving university. Noted that the application will take into account one's revenue in relation to their expenditure. Emphasised that the Awards application is relatively generous in its financial need calculation. Noted that there are awards for governance, social justice, outstanding achievement, international students, research, and academic achievement.

RIPKA: Commended the awards as being encompassing.

HUSSEIN: Inquired into how service as a research assistant would be represented in the application process.

ERIC: Responded that research may be defined as an applicant contributing to their academic field which may or may not include publications.

RIPKA: Proposed re-wording the description for the BMO undergraduate research award to broadly recognise academic involvement.

ERIC: Noted Standing Orders 3(d) accounts for an applicant becoming a member of the Students' Union permanent staff after applying for an award. Noted that 4(d) provides for confidently in the process of assessing an applicants' financial need. Suggested that councillors need not participate as adjudicators as there are enough interested persons. Outlined that 8, 9, 10(a) are structural changes to the Standing Orders. Identified that 12(c)2 sets out how to respond to applicants who submit more than one application. Noted that 13(b) clarifies who is responsible for retaining the awards records.

RIPKA MOVED to approve the Students' Union Awards Committee Standing Order amendments as presented by Leadership and Recognition.
5/0/0 - CARRIED

2018-12/3 **COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

2018-12/3a **RIPKA/HUSSEIN MOVED** to recommend the Bylaw changes to Bylaw 6000 Section 4 as follows:

4 Reporting

1. All Operational Dedicated Fee Units shall provide an annual report

of their finances to the Finance Committee within six months of the end of their fiscal year.

2. This report shall include:
 - a. A budget illustrating how funds received from the Students' Union reserve will be spent during the coming year;
 - b. Its audited financial statements from the previous fiscal year;
 - c. Evidence of compliance with all contracts with the Students' Union such as but not limited to;
 - i. Lease agreements with the Students' Union
 - ii. Operating Agreements with the Students' Union
 - iii. Loan agreements with the Student's Union
 - d. Evidence that they are fulfilling their mandate as described under this bylaw such as; and
 - i. An annual report
 - ii. A strategic plan
 - iii. Minutes from an Annual General Meeting ; and
 - e. Such other information as may be required by the Finance Committee to determine whether it is fulfilling its mandate under this bylaw.

RIPKA: Established that Dedicated Fee Unit recipients expressed concern at the vagary of the reporting process. Noted that the proposed changes provide examples as to the types of information recipients should provide in their reporting.

5/0/0 - CARRIED

2018-12/4 **INFORMATION ITEMS**

2018-12/4a FC-2018-11, January 23, 2019 - Minutes

See FC-2018-12.01.

2018-12/4b Standing Order Review(s)

See FC-2018-12.02.

2018-12/5 **ADJOURNMENT**

N/A

2018-12/5a **Next Meeting:** Wednesday, March 13, 2019 @ 4:00PM in SUB 6-06.

SUMMARY OF MOTIONS:

MOTION	VOTES
RIPKA MOVED to approve the Students' Union Awards Committee Standing Order amendments as presented by Leadership and Recognition.	5/0/0 - CARRIED
RIPKA/HUSSEIN MOVED to recommend the Bylaw changes to Bylaw 6000 Section 4 as follows:	5/0/0 - CARRIED