



University of Alberta Students' Union

**FINANCE
COMMITTEE**

**October 11th, 2022
4:00 pm MST
Juniper Room**

The University of Alberta and the University of Alberta Students' Union occupy Indigenous land in amiskwacîswâskahikan (Beaver Hills House), on Treaty 6 territory. From time immemorial, the banks along the river valley have been known as the Pehonan, a meeting place for the nêhiyawak (Cree), the Niitsitapi (Blackfoot), Métis, Dènesųłíné (Dene), Ojibway/Saulteaux/Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee and others. The University, the Students' Union and much of the city are located on the unlawfully stolen land of the forcibly removed Papaschase Cree.

We acknowledge that sharing this land gives each of us the responsibility to research the historic contexts of Treaty 6, to reflect on our personal relationships to the land, the Nations we've named, and to our roles in upholding justice on this territory. Since they began, the Students' Union and the University have benefited from historic and ongoing dispossession of land and resources from Indigenous Peoples. As a result, it is our responsibility to seek the restitution of this land and its resources. Finally, we seek to do better by working to make our learning, research, and governance align with the histories, languages, teachings, and cultures of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Peoples in the land presently occupied by the Canadian state.

We encourage critical reflection by asking the following question. In relation to the territory on which you are situated, what role do you play in strengthening the resistance and resurgence of Indigenous students within your communities?

ATTENDANCE

NAME	PROXY	PRESENT
Julia Villosio, chair		Y
Joannie Fogue		Y
Daniela Carbajal Velez		N
Haruun Ali		Y
Lionel Liu		Y
Milan Regmi		N
David Lee		Y
Simran Dhillon		Y
Abner Monteiro		N/A
Levi Flaman		N/A
Marc Dumouchel		N/A

Courtney Graham		N/A
Tanisha Sahu		N/A

MINUTES(FC-2022-08)

2022-08/1 INTRODUCTION

2022-08/1a Call to Order
 VILLOSO: Called the meeting to order at 4:15 PM.

2022-08/1b Approval of Agenda
 TABLED

2022-08/1c Approval of Minutes
 TABLED

2022-08/1d Chair’s Business

2022-08/2 QUESTION/DISCUSSION PERIOD

FLAMAN: Points out that DFUs are currently re-evaluated every five years. If a DFU wants to hold a referendum early, then it triggers the “5-year period” renewal early.

VILLOSO: Confirms this fact. States that the SU is aiming to have all their fees on a 5-year timeline. But some SRA’s are on a 2-year period and some are on a 3-year period. The Bylaw only specifies that they can run no more than a maximum of 4 years.

ALI: Questions about the Gateway. The Gateway ran a fee successfully and came back in year 3 of their fee period to ask for more money, which led to them running their first referendum.

DUMOUCHEL: Points out that FLAMAN said that DFUs are forced to run a renewal referendum the following year to establish their initial fee. The Gateway received a second chance.

ALI: Thinks that this idea is questionable.

DHILLON: States that, if DFUs get the opportunity to run a referendum every single year, it makes no sense in terms of resources. So giving them 2 chances to run in a 4-year cycle means that there might be the same student body voting “no” in a consecutive 2 year period for one 4 year cycle of a fee. It comes down to if that option prioritizes resources, it then must prioritize student voices.

VILLOSO: Clarifies that to go to referendum, Council’s approval is not necessarily needed.

DUMOUCHEL: Adds that the 4-year vs 5-year debate should be based on the consideration of crowded ballots. Too many referendums on any one election ballot will lead to referendum failure. Hence, it comes down to compressing the number of questions per ballot, which makes it harder for good causes to be funded.

ALI: Thinks that 4 years is too long for many organizations to run their fees, and doesn't see the need for an arbitrary deadline. Suggests that, instead of running 2 referendums in a 4-year cycle, Council should be able to decide if referendums need to happen

DHILLON: Adds that the 4-year cycle would also solve spacing issues, as COVID took away fee continuity, which resulted in having five SRA fees up for review in 1 year. The 4-year period would recalibrate the different cycles that fees are currently running on.

FLAMAN: Suggests that adding a "Letter of Intent" in the renewal process could be another useful tool.

DHILLON: Explains that everyone has to provide the Letter of Intent if they are coming for renewal.

VILLOSO: Clarifies that having a Letter of Intent for a renewal ensures that each DFU is up to date with all their finances.

DHILLON: Suggests that there should be a notification for renewal sent to the DFUs because a lot of them are not aware that their fees may be expiring.

2022-08/3

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

2022-08/3a

Definition of a Type C Fee

- General
- Operational + Granting

ALI: Questions the difference between an Operational and Granting Fee.

VILLOSO: States that Operational Fees are fees used by DFUs that don't use 100% of their money for granting purposes. A Granting Fee is 100% for granting purposes, as used by the DFU.

- Purpose/Mandate
- Eligibility

VILLOSO: Informs that currently only registered student groups, Students' Union services and operations and registered societies are eligible to initiate a referendum to become an operational Dedicated Fee Unit (DFU).

FLAMAN: Points out that if a referendum is run and it fails, then it is a lot of effort that goes wasted. Thinks that the current fee structure is fine and no changes are required.

DHILLON: Suggests that a student group is required to transition into a society in order to receive their funds.

DUMOUCHEL: Points that there could be a middle ground to the system where any student group can run and then receive a certain grace period to become a society.

ALI: Suggests returning the money to students in the next year if a referendum fails.

DUMOUCHEL: Answers ALI by stating that this will complicate processes further, and they have to setup contracts with the student group, where if things go wrong then legal action can be taken to hold them accountable. Because the money doesn't belong to the SU, but to the students.

COMMITTEE: Decides that the DFUs will not get any money until they become a society.

FOGUE: Questions if it's SGS' job to inform student groups about the deadline for becoming a society.

FLAMAN: No.

VILLOSO: Adds that it's student groups that are supposed to reach out to SGS.

DHILLON: Adds that the deadline should be in December before the Winter closure. Bylaw states it as December 15th.

FLAMAN: Suggests having the deadline as the end of the year (December 31st) in order to avoid conflicts with Final Exams.

DHILLON: Suggests having the deadline worded as the first Tuesday of December rather than having precise numbers.

COMMITTEE: Decides to have a DFU only available for undergraduate students and change the regulation for the reporting process.

FLAMAN: Calls for decorum. Explains that the call was based on Ali's use of swear words in the discussion.

ALI: Is frustrated, as he believes that he was talking normally. It seems disrespectful that FLAMAN called for decorum against him when DUMOUCHEL was also incorporating swear words into speaking turns. Acknowledges that he swore but raises concern on how no one had issues when DUMOUCHEL swore.

FLAMAN: Points that ALI used more severe and more excessive curse words than DUMOUCHEL. Hence, the call for decorum was necessary.

ALI: Frustrated that there is an issue when a black individual speaks, without filtering themselves, but not when a white man does it. States that this is an example of blatant racism against him.

Apologises to the committee if any member felt uncomfortable with his swearing.

Asks VILLOSO for clarification of what the rules are regarding the usage of swear words.

VILLOSO: States that swearing during committee meetings has never been a problem in the past because no one has ever brought up concerns with it. However, committee members have to make sure that every single person in the meeting room is comfortable.

Adds that this room should be a safe space to express all opinions freely.

DUMOUCHEL: Apologises for his previous swearing. Understands the sentiments of ALI and offers to have mediation to resolve the conflict constructively as no one in the organization should feel that someone is acting in a racism manner against them.

ALI: States that a rule for "no-swearing" should be made.

VILLOSO: States that if any members feel uncomfortable with swearing, a rule for that could be implemented.

ALI: Walks out of the room in protest.

ALI returns back to the room, stating that it was important to come back to raise his voice above the racism that he faced.

2022-08/3b

- Restrictions

- Definition of a Type D Fee
 - General
 - General + Campus Association Transfer Payments

VILLOSO: States that, if the SU wants the Campus Association Transfer Payments and the SRA fees to be different and make them two different kinds of fees, then they will serve as DFU's

More discussion is done on this and the committee decides to look further into what can be done to make this change.

- Purpose/Mandate

VILLOSO: States that current wording says "base members pay fee", and thinks that this wording needs to be more defined. For example, in the International Students' Association (ISA), their members would be all international students.

COMMITTEE: Decides to change the wording to just "members" instead of "base members".

2022-08/3c

- Eligibility
- Restrictions

- Creation of a Type C Fee: Requirements
 - Proposal

VILLOSO: Questions if there is anything that could be added for clarity, like specifying restrictions/exemptions for off-campus students.

DUMOUCHEL: States that off-campus students originally defined students who were on their practicum or co-op terms. But now, with the hybrid learning option, the SU needs to look at what would be a more adaptable definition.

- Question

VILLOSO: Asks the committee about any suggested changes to the questions section. Points that the information currently in this section is essentially

supposed be in the proposal. Adds that the composition of the board or committee doesn't matter to the students while voting.

DHILLON: Suggests that they should be parallel to the other DFUs.

VILLOSO: Suggests making the questions shorter.

2022-08/3d

COMMITTEE: Agrees.

- Creation of a Type D Fee: Requirements
- Proposal

DHILLON: Points that the first criteria of having a 50% turnout is a recent change but thinks that that shouldn't be the reason why they fail.

FLAMAN: States that there is a lot of information and that it isn't something that we should be mandating.

ALI: Agrees. Suggest that the committee should get rid of the timelines for consultation because it depends on what exactly consultation is. But also leaving a lot of information open would bring up issues in the near future.

DHILLON: Thinks that it should be up to the faculty association.

FLAMAN: Suggests making the fee in terms of the "number of credits" taken by the student rather than on part-time or full-time status.

LIU: Agrees.

VILLOSO: Points that we will have to look into the technical aspect in order to integrate all details per student based on how many credits each course is.

DHILLON: Adds that it would further complicate things if someone drops a course and hence add/drop deadlines would be a busy period for the logistic department working on this change.

DUMOUCHEL: Points that there could be a potential communication challenge with the Registrar's Office in order to get everyone's details on time.

VILLOSO: States that with the number of credits concept, each student's budget would be very different.

COMMITTEE: Conclude to decide that the questions from the DFUs will be used for the SRAs

2022-08/3e

- **Renewal of a Type C Fee: Requirements**
 - Procedure

VILLOSO: States that the process for renewal will not be automatic anymore. The group can only renew if they are not raising their fee beyond CPI. No such proposal would be required, just questions in order to renew.

2022-08/3f

- **Renewal of a Type D Fee: Requirements**
 - Procedure

VILLOSO: Questions if we want the process to be similar to creating a proposal or simplify the existing process for renewal.

FLAMAN: Suggest not doing the process through proposals but just questions.

COMMITTEE: Decides to have the procedure for the renewal through questions to simplify the existing process.

2022-08/3g

- **Termination of a Type C Fee**
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DUMOUCHEL: Suggests that their fee should be terminated if they fail to address the mandate questions or if they have any serious financial issues.

2022-08/3h

- **Termination of a Type D Fee**

2022-08/4

INFORMATION ITEMS

2022-08/4a

[Finance Committee Year Plan](#)

2022-08/4b

2022-08/4c

[Prep Document #4: Type C and D Fees](#)

[Current Fee Governance Changes](#)

2022-08/5

ADJOURNMENT

VILLOSO: ADJOURNED the meeting at 6:59 PM