



**FINANCE  
COMMITTEE**

**November 25th, 2022  
1:00 pm MST  
Zoom**

The University of Alberta and the University of Alberta Students' Union occupy Indigenous land in amiskwaciswaskahikan (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, Dènesųłiné (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
Haruun Ali		Y
Lionel Liu		Y
David Lee		Y
Simran Dhillon		N
Levi Flaman		Y
Fateh Arslan		N
Milan Regmi		Y
Mark Dumouchel		N/A
Nigel Brachi		N/A

Tanisha Sahu		N/A
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**MINUTES (FC-2022-12)**

**2022-12/1**                    **INTRODUCTION**

**2022-12/1a**                **Call to Order**

VILLOSO: CALLED the meeting to order at 1:02 PM.

**2022-12/1b**                **Approval of Agenda**

**FLAMAN/LEE MOVE TO** approve the agenda for the meeting.  
CARRIED.

**2022-12/1c**                **Approval of Minutes**

**LEE/FLAMAN MOVE TO** approve the meeting minutes (FC-2022-10-M).  
CARRIED.

**2022-12/1d**                **Chair’s Business**

**2022-12/2**                    **QUESTION/DISCUSSION PERIOD**

**2022-12/3**                    **COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

**2022-12/3a**                **[Annual Report: Nigel Brachi, Director of External Relations and Fundraising](#)**

BRACHI: Explains that the main responsibility of his department is to raise funds to the UASU, nurture existing donor relationships and build new ones. At the UASU, there are always programs that need funding and there are certain donors that have causes to support and funds to give away. This is where the department steps in to create a bridge between the two parties.

States that there are four major sources of funding for his UASU department - Government Grants, Corporations, Private Philanthropists, and Quasi-government Agencies.

Talks about SIEF which is the Student’s Involvement Endowment Foundation. There have been recent changes in the charter and hence SIEF can solicit funds for the Mayor Horowitz Theater renovation project.

Shares the SWOT Analysis of the department that was done in January 2022. The current strengths have been the commitment to fundraising and the involvement of the UASU VPA. The weakness is that there is a lot of competition for the available funds. In terms of opportunities, the Mayor Horowitz Theatre serves as a chance to gather more donors. The threats include competition from the University and post-COVID uncertainties.

Shares that the recent wins for the department have been the granting from agencies for the Violet King Award, the Canadian Heritage Award and the Edmonton Community Foundation funding.

Most of the funding pipeline includes the amount requested for the Meyerr Horowitz Theater renovation. Overall, there is over \$1M in potential funds in the pipeline.

LEE: Questions which entities the UASU is competing against (as mentioned in the SWOT Analysis).

BRACHI: One of the competitors for the UASU would be the University. A lot of organisations already have a theatre and a lot of them might have already applied for government grants. All the UASU can do is get all the applications well written and to the deadlines on time.

FLAMAN: Questions about the balance figure for SIEF currently. And if the funds are adequate to match the current grants.

DUMOUCHEL: Comments that the pay has substantially been increased. States that the idea was to build an access fund and, after a few years, the UASU noticed it was not growing as fast as they thought it would. Essentially, the UASU was collecting fees but they weren't being dispersed. The question with the Access fund was how to spend it and transfer it to SIEF and use that money for awards.

FLAMAN: Points out that SU awards are mostly about \$1000, and looking at the previous 8-9 years, with the CPI increase, it might be worth looking at increasing the award amount value.

**2022-12/3b**

[REGMI MOVES TO discuss possible changes to budget processes](#)

REGMI: States that he discussed with VILLOSO and came up with a few suggestions to change the budget process.

One such thing could be expanding the budget displayed to mimic the AMS budget, with specific breakdowns of departments. If passed then it wouldn't be implemented until the next financial year. Until then it would be helpful to take surveys and see how that information can be aligned with this change.

Another idea is to introduce a slush fund for the Students' Council to allocate themselves in their own year.

FLAMAN: Points that previously there were two separate budget lines for Council Appreciation and initiatives (Eg: Coffee with Constituents). But all this never went anywhere.

Comments on the idea of financial breakdown, stating that it involves the concept of materiality, which is the time and effort spent on preparing this change, collecting every little piece of information. Essentially, this would

require the SU to spend more money to be transparent, which eventually leads to a net loss.

Points out that there are people who showed their outrage on BTR but not on Antifreeze or any other events planned by the UASU.

ALI: Comments that the issue appears as he's not micromanaging everything but trying to be transparent, which is fair for any organisation. The UASU needs to be more transparent about costs and have a clearer idea of how much an event will cost. Agrees with REGMI's thoughts on the changes proposed.

VILLOSO: Comments that these suggestions are a good starting point for the committee to look at how our budget processes look currently at the UASU. Further consultation would be required to move ahead with these recommendations. The committee needs to discuss what can be done for consultations and if it is aligned with the bylaws. Potential discussions about that can happen during the three-hour-long meeting the Committee will be having soon.

FOGUE: States that she doesn't feel any issues with transparency, as it was one of the main things on VILLOSO'S election portfolio. Raises concern about how there has to be a mandatory 1 month consultation period and the Committee has to ensure that this actually takes place. The Policy Committee Consultation period didn't happen as expected because of conflicting schedules of the members.

**2022-12/3c**

Discussion of SC2022-14/8h motion:

“**ALI/SINGH MOVE TO** direct the Finance Committee in collaboration with the Executive Committee to complete a financial management assessment of the UASU and to complete a comparative analysis of other Students' Union financial management along with student consultation by February 7th”

VILLOSO: Wants to discuss this item before next week's scheduled meeting. ill send a lettucemeet to be filled out by the Committee members.

**2022-12/3d**

[APIRG DFU Report](#)

TABLED.

**2022-12/3e**

[Operational DFU Reports Updates](#)

TABLED.

**2022-12/4**

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

**2022-12/4a**

[Finance Committee Year Plan](#)

**2022-12/4b**

[Student Group Granting Committee Minutes](#)

**2022-12/5**

**ADJOURNMENT**

VILLOSO: ADJOURNED the meeting at 2:01 PM.