



University of Alberta Students' Union

**FINANCE  
COMMITTEE**

**December 2nd, 2022  
12:00 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, Interim Chair		Y
Levi Flaman		Y
Fateh Arslan		Y
Milan Regmi		Y
Tanisha Sahu		N/A

**MINUTES (FC-2022-13)**

**2022-13/1**

**INTRODUCTION**

**2022-13/1a**

**Call to Order**

VILLOSO: CALLED the meeting to order at 12:07 PM.

**2022-13/1b**

**Approval of Agenda**

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

**2022-13/1c**

**Approval of Minutes - Meeting [11](#) & [12](#)**

**ARSLAN/LEE MOVE TO** approve the previous meetings minutes.  
CARRIED. (ALI Abstains)

**2022-13/1d**

**Chair's Business**

VILLOSO: Informs that there is a three-hour long Finance meeting next week and asks all members to indicate availability on the Google Calendar invite.

States that Capital fees and the budget process will be talked about in the meeting.

There will be another meeting the following Friday to accommodate two presentations and the DFU reports that still need to be passed.

**2022-13/2**

**QUESTION/DISCUSSION PERIOD**

ALI: Asks about the minutes from the previous three-hour-long meeting.

SAHU: Answers that they are yet to be sent to the committee.

**2022-13/3**

**COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

**2022-13/3a**

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”

ALI: States that SINGH and himself, requested this motion for an ad-hoc committee to be struck, to mainly feel out how the SU manages finances and then prepare a report on it. There is confusion about what powers the Executive members hold and a comparative analysis is needed to review current practices.

Suggests that the committee takes this motion back to Council and get a month long extension as rushing this topic would not be helpful. Thinks that the Finance Committee should own up to its mistakes.

DHILLON: Appreciates the clarity about the motion given by ALI. Agrees with ALI on the fact that councillors don't want to go back and forth on this topic and constantly bring up the directives and mandates that fit within the scope of the motion.

Thinks that it would make more sense to direct this motion to the Audit Committee.

Ali: Supports the motion going back to Council, but not the change of committees. Thinks that it is not a very transparent way to deal with this situation and it would be better if Council decides to make a change.

REGMI: Agrees on bringing this matter back to Council as it's the best way to avoid going back and forth between the two committees of Audit and Finance and which one best fits the motion as presented. States that the decision made by Council should be the final one, as Council has the authority over the Committee, and that should be respected.

ALI: Adds that the mandate of the Finance Committee states that it can make recommendations to Students' Council on legislation dealing with Students' Union finances. Audit Committee doesn't have any authority on this. Feels that this is a better fit for the Finance Committee as it will also raise questions on financial transparency.

DHILLON: Points out that directing the motion to Audit Committee would be better as Audit mandate states that the committee shall annually review the budget and transaction units of the UASU.

ALI: Clarifies that the BTR discussion wasn't to do with the cost but the poor decision to run the event. Wants to see how finances are managed in the UASU.

Adds that this motion has nothing to do with BTR or its transactions, but rather to know how and where the finances are managed. It wasn't to make an investigative report into BTR but more on who can authorise spending, who exactly is accountable, and bringing forward policy changes if needed.

All these categories of interest fall into the mandate of the Finance Committee. Extending the deadline is acceptable but the Committee shouldn't be delaying the review process.

REGMI: Thinks this shouldn't be a reason to circumvent this matter and pass

it on between the two committees, as the committees have deadlines to meet. If this happens to go to Council, all members should respect the decision made and work forward with it.

VILLOSO: States that she was never asked by ALI if this was a proper motion to be directed towards Finance Committee. The decision to amend the motion was made halfway through discussion and there was very limited debate on this item. Agrees with REGMI on respecting Council's decision.

ARSLAN: Agrees that the motion didn't have enough discussion back in the Council meeting and also agrees with avoiding delays. .

Adds that things might get delayed because of FAMF presentations in the upcoming Council meetings. States that this is a huge topic that needs proper discussion and most of the Councillors are becoming too busy with final exams, which will limit participation.

DHILLON: Apologises if she mischaracterized the motion. States that one of the selling points of the Audit Committee is that it deals with financial transparency in a broad way.

As the Chair of the Audit Committee, ensures that the committee will complete this item, despite it being a hectic time for Audit Committee, should the motion go to Audit Committee.

ALI: Shares thoughts on why he didn't approach the Finance Chair as he is not too comfortable having a one-on-one conversation with VILLOSO.

Adds that the Finance committee can recommend changes to the financial legislation of the UASU and, hence, this motion fits the Finance Committee's mandate more than Audit's. If the motion goes back to Audit Committee, the motion is effectively being killed.

States that the members themselves have made this motion more complicated than it should've been

DHILLON: Informs the committee that she will be take over as Interim Chair for this meeting as VILLOSO had to leave.

LIU: Points out that he had submitted a written question to the Exec team in regards to asking for a report of cost-effectiveness and internal debrief about BTR. Hasn't heard from anyone so far on this matter.

REGMI: Thinks that, rather than going back and forth, the best thing to do would be to strike a new committee. This ensures that there will be some progress made on the item.

DHILLON: Points out that this item fits largely into the Finance and Audit Committees but it is up to Council to make a final decision. Adds that it would be better for a specific committee to work on it, rather than creating a committee from scratch. Expresses that this whole situation has been very confusing and we need to come up with a solution as financial transparency is important.

States that the back and forth is due to committee mandates being broad, but this can be something to be brought to CAC in regards to standing order reviews.

Believes that this item, however, should go to Audit Committee as financial transparency aligns with Audit Committee the most. Assures that she will bring up an action plan to work on the motion, if it comes to Audit Committee.

ALI: Raises concern that bringing the motion to the Audit Committee would kill this motion, as this motion talks about sharing a document about financial management and has nothing to do with the mandate of Audit Committee.

The motion wants legislative changes to be made, which is in the hands of the Finance Committee.

FLAMAN: Agrees on the fact that there was not proper, adequate debate on this motion in the Council meeting. States that the mandates are essentially what a committee can do. They are a set of instructions. The Audit Committee looks over transactions while the Finance Committee recommends legislative changes.

Suggest that the committee can pass the motion over to the Audit Committee to look over the expenditures and then the Finance Committee can review it and add suggestions to the legislative component and as a joint effort, send the motion back to Council to make necessary changes.

Points that this isn't a legislative problem, but more of the Execs not reporting financials and the councillors simply not questioning why these financials are not being provided.

States that he has reached out to KPMG, who does the audit for the UASU, and asked them if they can perform a performance and compliance audit. This will take time for them to do it professionally, as it's a comprehensive review, but it will take committees longer to do something like this internally.

DHILLON: Looks favourably on the motion to bring it back to Council and then decide. Touches on the KPMG Auditing and UASU financial

management, which is expressed in an in-depth, yearly report.

States that it is frustrating to see all this happen. It is important to go forward with what can be done on this matter.

ALI: Raises concern on everything that the committee members are discussing which has nothing to do with the motion. States that this motion has nothing to do with BTR, financial changes, or transparency.

Feels confused about how this discussion is deviating from the actual discussion on the motion. States that he can't be a part of shady finance management.

DHILLON: Doesn't want to deviate from the original motion and agrees that this discussion has become confusing.

Points that the wordings - "to complete a financial management assessment of the UASU and to complete a comparative analysis of other Students' Union financial management", indicate that this motion is to do with financial practices and is drawing towards financial transparency.

ALI: Respects everyone's thoughts but is disappointed that FLAMAN and DHILLON confused other members by bringing up the BTR topic which is irrelevant.

Urges to make a motion with the terms that a joint committee between the two committees will go over this motion.

FLAMAN: States that the Council meeting was also very confusing as there were initially two motions made by the same mover and seconder, and one of them was withdrawn. The other motion was modified heavily which led to confusion. Adds that it was the BTR event that got this motion to the table in the first place.

LIU: Expresses frustration as there is no internal debrief and financial responsibility.

DHILLON: States that there is a lot of confusion and everyone is lacking empathy for one another. In the end, all members want the same goal and are trying to make things better.

**ALI/LIU MOVE TO** direct the Finance Committee to work with the Audit Committee on developing a joint ad-hoc committee with terms of reference to be developed by the Finance Chair and Audit Chair  
TABLED.

DHILLON: Wants to make an amendment to the motion (proposed by ALI and LIU), for it to go back to council so that all councillors can be consulted about it.

ALI: Points that it isn't the motive of this motion.  
Suggests that somebody else chair the meeting further in the absence of VILLOSO as DHILLON is too heavily involved with both committees.

DHILLON: States that she is trying to be empathic while chairing the meeting. VILLOSO had to leave and asked DHILLON to Chair the meeting in her absence. However, is willing to address other concerns ALI had about how the meeting is being chaired.

Adds that everyone here is equally involved and concerned about this topic.

FLAMAN: Asks for clarification if the committee is voting on the motion proposed above.

DHILLON: Confirms.

ALI: States that he will leave the meeting if DHILLON is still the chair for the rest of the meeting. Wants to pick up this discussion only when VILLOSO is back.

COMMITTEE: Lost quorum and voting became impossible.

**2022-13/3b** Annual Report: Peter Ta, Controller of Accounting Administration Offices

TABLED.

**2022-13/3c** [APIRG DFU Report](#)

TABLED.

**2022-13/3d** [SLS DFU Report](#)

TABLED.

**2022-13/3e** [Operational DFU Reports Updates](#)

TABLED.

**2022-13/4** **INFORMATION ITEMS**

**2022-13/4a** [Finance Committee Year Plan](#)

**2022-13/5** **ADJOURNMENT**

DHILLON: ADJOURNED the meeting at 1:22 PM.