



University of Alberta Students' Union

**FINANCE
COMMITTEE**

**December 9th, 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, Dênesųłinê (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 Viloso, Chair	Abner Monteiro	Y
Simran Dhillon, Interim Chair		Y
Joannie Fogue		Y
Haruun Ali		N
Lionel Liu	Leo Huang	Y
David Lee		Y
Levi Flaman		Y
Fateh Arslan		Y
Milan Regmi		Y
Marc Dumochel		Y
Navjot Kaur		N/A

2022-16/1

INTRODUCTION

2022-16/1a

Call to Order

DHILLON: CALLED the meeting to order at 1:04 PM.

2022-16/1b

Approval of Agenda

FOGUE/ REGMI MOVE TO approve the agenda as presented.
CARRIED

2022-16/1c

Approval of Minutes [#13](#)

REGMI/ LEE MOVE to approve the minutes
CARRIED

2022-16/1d

Chair's Business

DHILLON: Is interim chair for this meeting.

2022-16/2

QUESTION/DISCUSSION PERIOD

DHILLON: Opens the floor to the committee for any questions that may be forwarded to Julia Villosio (Chair)

With no questions presented, moves to introduce the presentation from Josh Connauton.

2022-16/3

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

2022-16/3a

[Annual Report: Josh Connauton, Senior Manager of Student Services](#) (finish by 1:30pm)

CONNAUTON: Manager of Student Services gives a presentation about their department.

DUMOUCHEL: Questions if SU Awards expenses are also included in the LEAD numbers.

CONNAUTON: No, it is now its own budget line. Will need to clarify with Peter Ta (Finance Manager) regarding the budget structure.

FLAMAN: Questions how and why products are introduced and sold within the department. Wonders who brings these products in.

CONNAUTON: Student Group Services' partners work to create programs and products. COVID limited a lot of programming but most of that programming is beginning to come back. The department is currently planning future discussions to grow partnerships and discounted items/events which can be

provided to students.

FLAMAN: Questions how services have been affected by COVID within the department.

CONNAUTON: Student Group Services now offers hybrid services. This year, students have actively wanted to engage in person, however. Some services, such as The Landing, have offered more online modes of engagement, such as setting up a Discord.

DUMOCHÉL: Questions what the usage trends are for support services within the department.

CONNAUTON: There is a drastic increase for students to access services, partially the Peer-Support Centre and The Landing. Faculty staff have increasingly directed students to use these services, however these services are not meant as counselling services, which is how they have become used in more recent months. The influx of students accessing these services, and the complexity of the issues that they want to discuss, is stretching resources thin within the Peer Support Centre and the Landing.

FLAMAN: Wonders if the committee can do anything for Student Services to help alleviate any burdens that they are facing.

CONNAUTON: The main thing that the committee can do is represent the needs and concerns of students and what services would best serve student needs.

2022-16/3b

[APIRG DFU Report](#) + [Response to Question](#)

FLAMAN: APIRG responses left many questions. A consistent \$20,000.00 budget variance on a regular basis is not acceptable. Notes that they cannot vote in favour of the APIRG DFU report.

DHILLON: APIRG's modest surplus doesn't sound horrible. But asks for more opinions from members of the committee.

FLAMAN: Notes that APIRG seems to never intend to use their budget as a guiding document.

DUMOCHÉL: States that, traditionally, the SU doesn't tell people how to run their finances so any kind of feedback regarding this should be noted as a special consideration.

FOGUE: States that, according to bylaw, the committee needs to approve DFU Reports within four weeks of receiving them. If the DFU report cannot be approved today the committee will, consequently, be breaking bylaw. Agrees,

however, to submit financial suggestions, as a special circumstance, to APIRG.

FLAMAN: Questions the effectiveness of suggesting changes to budgeting documents if these suggestions are not necessarily implemented.

DUMOUCHEL: States that the SU is a granting agency and not an auditing agency. Budgets provided by DFU's are a reference point for the SU as a granting agency. Does not think that withholding funds is justifiable.

2022-16/3c

DHILLON/LEE MOVE TO approve APIRG's DFU Report as presented.
CARRIED 5/3/0

[SLS DFU Report](#) + [Response to Question](#)

2022-16/3d

DHILLON/LEE MOVE TO approve SLS's DFU Report as presented.
CARRIED 8/0/0

2022-16/3e

[General Discussion on Budget Principles](#)

TABLED

2022-16/4

INFORMATION ITEMS

2022-16/4a

[Finance Committee Year Plan](#)

2022-16/5

ADJOURNMENT

DHILLON adjourned the meeting at 2:14 PM.