



**FINANCE
COMMITTEE**

**January 13th, 2022
11:00 am MST
SUB 6-06**

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
Simran Dhillon		Y
Joannie Fogue		Y
Lionel Liu		N
David Lee		N
Levi Flaman		Y
Fateh Arslan		Y
Milan Regmi		Y
Courtney Graham		N/A

MINUTES (FC-2022-16-M)

2022-16/1

INTRODUCTION

2022-16/1a

Call to Order

VILLOSO called the meeting to order at 11:03 P.M.

2022-16/1b

Approval of Agenda

FOGUE/DHILLON MOVE TO approve the agenda
CARRIED

2022-16/1c

Approval of Minutes [#14](#)

DHILLON/REGMI MOVE TO approve the minutes.
CARRIED VILLOSO abstains

2022-16/1d

Chair's Business

VILLOSO: Posted Budget Principles and will go over those at today's meeting.

2022-16/2

QUESTION/DISCUSSION PERIOD

2022-16/3

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

2022-16/3a

[Budget Principles](#)

VILLOSO: Separated Operating and Dedicated Fees in the Budget Principles and made other necessary changes. Expanded ARRC Recommendations to include Reconciliation Projects as a whole.

FLAMAN: Would like the Governance Staff to be more involved in such processes as fixing Budget Principles wording and other administrative needs. Calls for more staff support from the Governance Manager in managing these needs.

Also calls for more prioritization on both mental health and physical health in the Budget Principles. States that physical health and mental health go hand in hand and should be emphasised equally.

VILLOSO: Thinks that FLAMAN makes a good point and would also like to emphasise mental health going forward.

FOGUE: States that it is important to directly respond to a need that has already been identified across campus. Campus is currently struggling to maintain resources capable of handling student mental health concerns. While physical health is important, mental health resources are currently more limited at the U of A. Having an emphasis on mental health in the Budget Principles would help respond to the increasing demand on mental health services across campus.

REGMI: Raises concern that students might see mental health initiatives as being the most important thing in the Budget Principles, which he finds concerning. Thinks that mental health initiatives should not be included in the Budget Principles.

Would also like to put forward a 10k Slush Fund for Students' Union Councillors, which would exist under the purview of Students' Council.

FOGUE: Questions what kind of projects councillors would create from this 10k Slush Fund.

REGMI: Was thinking that constituent appreciation events would benefit from the 10k Slush Fund. Also suggests that residential memorial events, hosted by councillors, would utilize this money. Councillor hosted town halls would further benefit from this fund.

FLAMAN: Also suggests utilizing the Slush Fund for councillor name tags, business cards, gift cards, stickers and other functional uses. The Slush Fund would give governance more resources to do things.

ARSLAN: Questions if the Slush Fund would be able to exist under the CAC Committee rather than Students' Council.

VILLOSO: States that Regmi wanted the Slush Fund under Students' Council so that all councillors could have access to it and have a broader authority on how to spend that money.

ARSLAN: States that, putting the Slush Fund under CAC, would make it easier to manage finances and reimbursements. There is a direct contact point with the CAC Chair, which makes financial management easier and more transparent.

REGMI: Does not agree with the suggestion of putting the Slush Fund under CAC. Feels that, if the Slush Fund is put under CAC, the money will not go directly towards councillors. Feels that councillors have more direct control of the Slush Fund if it is under the purview of Students' Council.

ARSLAN: Suggests that CAC would manage two separate monetary accounts. One account would contain CAC's \$5000 budget and one account would contain Students' Council \$10000 Slush Fund. Suggests making it explicitly clear in CAC's standing orders that the Slush Fund is not meant for CAC's business but for use by Councillors.

VILLOSO: Would like to bring this idea to Council and ask for their opinion on it.

FLAMAN: Would like to see an increase in the monetary value of the Council trimesterly scholarship.

2022-16/3b

Budget Priorities Consultation

VILLOSO: Would like to implement a month long consultation process, particularly with SU staff. SU staff, in previous years, were not consulted on Budget Principle changes. Will bring this forward for more discussion with the Governance Staff.

Would like to directly reach out to students to inform student priorities. Potential ways to reach out to students include a Perks survey or posters with a QR code.

Asks the committee if they would like to see the questions on the Perks survey before they get posted.

COMMITTEE: Agrees.

VILLOSO: Will try to get the committee the questions before the next Finance meeting.

2022-16/3c

Budget Format

TABLED

2022-16/4

INFORMATION ITEMS

2022-16/4a

[Finance Committee Year Plan](#)

2022-16/5

ADJOURNMENT

VILLOSO adjourned the meeting at 12:00 P.M.