



University of Alberta Students' Union

**FINANCE
COMMITTEE**

**February 10th, 2023
5:00 pm MST
Zoom**

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		YES
Simran Dhillon		NO
Joannie Fogue		YES
David Lee		YES
Levi Flaman		YES
Fateh Arslan		YES
Milan Regmi		NO
Abner Monteiro		YES
Pien Steinbusch		YES
Erin O'Neil		N/A
Courtney Graham		N/A

MINUTES (FC-2022-20-M)

2022-20/1 INTRODUCTION

2022-20/1a Call to Order

VILLOSO called the meeting for order at 5:02 P.M.

2022-20/1b Approval of Agenda

ARSLAN/FOGUE MOVE TO approve the agenda.
CARRIED

2022-20/1c Approval of Minutes

TABLED

2022-20/1d Chair's Business

- Annual Reports Update

VILLOSO: Suggests the meeting to be rescheduled to a time where managers can come and report. The meeting would not be official and attendance would not be required.

2022-20/2 QUESTION/DISCUSSION PERIOD

2022-20/3 COMMITTEE BUSINESS

2022-20/3a [CFB DFU Report](#)

FLAMAN: Comments that some of the items in the reforecasted budget for the Campus Food Bank in the DFU report are more than double the initial figures. Asks if the numbers are a temporary spike or indicative of future figures.

O'NEIL: Campus Food Bank set the budget as an estimate, and are now reforecasting the budget due to an increase in demand of services.

FOGUE: Asks for clarification as to why the Board minutes from the Campus Food Bank are not being posted online.

O'NEIL: Explains that charities commonly don't post Board meeting minutes online because of privacy concerns. The Campus Food Bank is a registered charity and meets all the regulations on charities that are put forth by the government. States that information other than minutes has been provided to prove that the Food Bank has been following their mandate.

FLAMAN: Other Councils in the past have been lenient with allowing the CFB to not post their minutes online, but now wants to enforce that the CFB

should post their minutes online.

O'NEIL: The responsibility of the Finance Committee appears to be to ensure that the Campus Food Bank mandate is being followed based on the funding agreement between themselves and the SU. Has shared the Governance Board Meeting minutes with FOGUE, but it's not common practice to post the minutes online. Posting minutes would be an extra level of bureaucracy for a fraction of the CFB's budget, as they have funders apart from the SU.

VILLOSO: The SU has mandated that all other DFUs publicly post their minutes online, and it's not fair to allow the CFB to bypass the bylaws when the bylaws are being enforced on other campus organizations.

O'NEIL: The DFU cheque for the Campus Food Bank is almost \$73,000, which is being held up by Students' Council. Offers that the CFB post their minutes up for a week and then take them down. Is currently looking for solutions that the CFB and Council can work towards while providing the CFB with their funding.

Doesn't want to deal with the DFU/minutes issue in the future. The CFB was supposed to hear about their first DFU cheque from the Finance Committee in October

VILLOSO: According to UASU bylaw, DFU cheques can only be disbursed when DFU reports are approved by Finance Committee.

FOGUE: Aims to set up a follow-up meeting with herself, VILLOSO, and O'NEIL to discuss what the MOU agreement could look like. Will familiarize themselves with the steps within the CFB to know what kinds of information can or cannot be shared and what steps can be taken in the future.

FLAMAN: Previous Councils have not been holding the CFB to posting their minutes, but the information being provided by the CFB is being given to the Council and not to the public, whose money is being taken to fund the CFB. The rules are important so that the public knows where their funding is being utilized.

2022-20/3b

[Fee Governance - Consultation](#)

VILLOSO: Feedback received from consulted SRAs and DFUs. Last meeting was with ESS and their feedback was received. DFUs request monthly email reminders of relevant deadlines.

Requirements for publicised reviews are to give the exact same proposal as the creation proposal. Other feedback received is that there's too much information to prepare for financial matters and that the general public won't read this prepared material.

FLAMAN: States that the purpose of the Council is to have a group of people read the DFU's paperwork, and if the DFU cannot make the effort to write the reviews, then they can't collect the money given by students.

VILLOSO: A suggestion given was that a representative of each DFU attend Council meetings, so that the Council doesn't have to go back and forth with them over email.

FLAMAN: Finds that having someone come in person allows for clearer communication and that having a representative from each DFU present provides more context to issues.

ARSLAN: Agrees with FLAMAN, but brings up the point that going back and forth via text or email allows for a written record that can be referred back to.

VILLOSO: DFUs don't like the proposed termination clauses, as the professionally audited financial statement should be seen as meeting their financial obligations. If they submit professionally audited financial statements, then their argument is that the Council can't use financial mismanagement as grounds for terminating a DFU, as they have been deemed as compliant by professionals.

ARSLAN: Agrees that professionally audited financial statements seem valid, and wants each auditor to be aware of relevant SU bylaws.

FLAMAN: Notes the differences between the types of audits and further notes that some audits are not comprehensive. Professional auditors also don't know the specific requirements set out by the SU. Agrees that a termination clause should exist and be stringent.

VILLOSO: Notes that a five year timeline wouldn't work for LSA, as two law cohorts won't be able to vote. Programs have different lengths of time, which must be considered.

FLAMAN: Agrees that a five year plan might be arbitrary, but there has to be some way to maintain consistency on Council's end.

2022-20/4

VILLOSO: Will figure out a timeline for fee renewals and report back to the committee.

2023-20/4a

INFORMATION ITEMS

[Finance Committee Year Plan](#)

2023-20/5

ADJOURNMENT

VILLOSO adjourned the meeting at 6:05 P.M.