



University of Alberta Students' Union

FINANCE COMMITTEE

February 17th, 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, Dênesųłíné (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		YES
Joannie Fogue		YES
David Lee		YES
Levi Flaman		YES
Fateh Arslan		YES
Milan Regmi		NO
Abner Monteiro		YES
Pien Steinbusch		YES
Marc Dumouchel		N/A
Courtney Graham		N/A

Racquel Araujo-Aikman		N/A
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MINUTES (FC-2022-21)

2022-21/1 INTRODUCTION

2022-21/1a Call to Order

VILLOSO called the meeting for order at 5:04 P.M.

2022-21/1b Approval of Agenda

LEE/MONTEIRO MOVE TO approve the agenda.
CARRIED

2022-21/1c Approval of Minutes [#19](#)

ARSLAN/LEE MOVE TO approve the minutes.
CARRIED

2022-21/1d Chair's Business

- Annual Reports Update

VILLOSO: Meetings with managers have been postponed until March.

2022-21/2 QUESTION/DISCUSSION PERIOD

LEE: The budget format changes document is not accessible to everyone.

VILLOSO: Will adjust the settings so everyone can access it.

FLAMAN: The organizational chart in the Council handbook is hard to read and outdated.

MONTEIRO: John is working on updating the Council handbook for next year. If a request is submitted, they can work on creating an updated organizational chart.

2022-21/3 COMMITTEE BUSINESS

2022-21/3a [Budget Format Changes](#)

VILLOSO: Currently in the process of testing out different budget formats. People want a breakdown of preambles, plain language throughout, and a trimester report. They also want breakdowns of budgets by departments, events, and initiatives. Explanations of why certain items have certain budgets and specific vocabularies, such as events. The Council does not

want to give too much information, such as employee salaries. Currently only have information about money coming in and money going out.

FLAMAN: Supportive of the proposed performance audit. Hard to balance how much information should be given out. Concerned about the extra cost and digestibility of detailed budget formats, but supports transparency. Proposes having information regarding how much each department makes salary-wise.

Notes that the 2020-2021 Financial Breakdown is relatively detailed, but some departments only have information on revenues/expenses, which is insufficient. Other departments have all the line items for groupings of expenditures listed. As long as the highly detailed information is available upon request, it is a step in the right direction.

FOGUE: Agrees that having a slightly more detailed financial budget would be an improvement and agrees that a highly detailed budget should be available upon request.

VILLOSO: A detailed financial budget would give Council more information for decision-making and students more information on where their money is going.

MONTEIRO: Concerned about creating a detailed budget, and having highly detailed budgets will still require an employee to create the document upon request.

VILLOSO: Peter, Financial Control's spreadsheets are robust and customizable. Possibility for having a separate budget for Council versus the general public.

ARSLAN: Agrees that there should be two budgets, one for the public and one for internal use, that is more detailed in favor of having a separate budget.

VILLOSO: Does not think that having two budgets would be politically advantageous.

MONTEIRO: Agrees and wants one budget with a balance of information.

FLAMAN: Agrees and adds that any member of the Union should have the same information as Council without jumping through hoops.

2022-21/4

INFORMATION ITEMS

2022-21/4a

[Bill 4: Finance Reform First Principles](#)

VILLOSO: Council needs to approve the above by March 15, 2023. Possibility of people not showing up to quorum. Will be away for the next three weeks and unsure of having wifi access. In March, the majority of FC meetings will be cancelled.

DUMOUCHEL: Two issues with the budget: how to present the operating and spending items. The budget does not contain much detail nor allow Council to evaluate changes made. Currently, the budget has a departmental breakdown. Wants to present the budget with major expenses or a simplified financial statement. What kinds of information does Council want from the budget to make it easier to present the budget?

FLAMAN: The current budget is broken down by department, and then there is a separate breakdown of business activities. Interested in having a mix of the two for the new budget format.

DUMOUCHEL: Agrees, and that is what they are aiming for. It is helpful for Council to know the totals of certain costs, such as Staff Costs. Take the same information and apply it on a departmental scale.

The Council should understand that the budget is a guideline on how the SU will function. The budget is to contain the level of spending.

FLAMAN: Likes the idea of trimester reports so that Council will get updated information.

DUMOUCHEL: Agrees, yet is chastened by how many issues have become political.

2022-21/4b

[Finance Committee Year Plan](#)

TABLED

2022-21/5

ADJOURNMENT

VILLOSO adjourned the meeting at 6:00 P.M.

