



University of Alberta Students' Union

POLICY COMMITTEE

Monday, September 23, 2016

9:00AM

SUB 6-06

AGENDA (PC 2016-04)

2016-04/1 INTRODUCTION

2016-04/1a Call to Order

2016-04/1b Approval of Agenda

2016-04/1c Approval of Minutes

2016-04/1d Chair's Business

2016-04/2 QUESTION/DISCUSSION PERIOD

2016-04/3 COMMITTEE BUSINESS

2016-04/3a Sexual Violence Policy Second Principles

Please see PC 2016-04.01

2016-04/3b Review of Mandatory Non-Instructional Fees Political Policy

Please see PC 2016-04.02

2016-04/4 INFORMATION ITEMS

2016-04/5 ADJOURNMENT

2016-04/5a

Next Meeting: 9:00AM on October 31, 2016 in SUB 6-06

Draft Second Reading

1. The Students' Union will advocate that the University of Alberta create an intersectional, comprehensive, survivor-centred institutional policy on sexual violence.
2. The Students' Union will advocate that the University of Alberta thoroughly consult students when changes are being made regarding University Policy on sexual violence.
3. The Students' Union will advocate that the University of Alberta specifically consult interest groups of individuals who are disproportionately affected by sexual violence when making decisions surrounding campus sexual violence, including women, LGBTQ people, people of colour, Indigenous people, immigrants and newcomers to Canada, and people with disabilities
4. The Students' Union will advocate that the University of Alberta be transparent in releasing periodical and timely information and statistics about campus sexual violence.
5. The Students' Union will advocate that the University of Alberta make information on how to report instances of sexual violence easily accessible and widely distributed across U of A campuses, especially targeted to residences, gyms, sororities, and fraternities.
6. The Students' Union will advocate that the University of Alberta provides more funding to the Sexual Assault Centre for the purpose of education and prevention.
7. The Students' Union will advocate that the University of Alberta continue to respect the difference between a disclosure of sexual violence and a formal complaint.
8. The Students' Union will advocate that the University of Alberta provide support to students regardless of whether or not the survivor chooses to report.
9. The Students' Union will advocate that the University of Alberta provide students who choose to report guidance throughout the entire reporting process.
10. The Students' Union will advocate that the University of Alberta allow students who are survivors of sexual violence to request that their alleged perpetrator not be in the same classes or residence, regardless of whether or not they have made a formal complaint.
11. The Students' Union will advocate that the University of Alberta educates students on conduct that could be considered unwanted sexual attention, including students who use gym facilities.
12. The Students' Union will advocate that Residence Services develop a framework to prevent and manage instances of sexual violence in residences.
13. The Students' Union will advocate that the University of Alberta educates the student body on alcohol and how it is used as a tool to commit acts of sexual violence.
14. The Students' Union will advocate that the University of Alberta provides restorative justice as a sanction option for students who have been found to have contravened the Code of Student Behaviour as it relates to sexual violence.

Political Policy Mandatory Non-Instructional Fees

Expires: April 30, 2017

1 Facts

1. The University of Alberta is a publicly-funded public institution and therefore committed to high standards of service, administrative effectiveness, and good governance in the responsible management of its financial resources.
2. Services can foster a positive student experience.
3. Undergraduate students are willing to pay a reasonable fee for services that benefit them.
4. Mandatory non-instructional fees remain unregulated by the Government of Alberta and can therefore change at the discretion of the University.
5. Mandatory non-instructional fees are above and beyond the tuition fee, which is the mandatory payment for instruction.
6. The cost of a post-secondary education includes tuition, fees, educational materials, and living expenses.
7. A high and unpredictable cost of education is a barrier to post-secondary education for some students.

2 Resolutions

1. The University of Alberta Students' Union advocate for a predictable cost of post-secondary education, that can be reasonably anticipated year-to-year.
2. The University of Alberta Students' Union advocate for an affordable cost of post-secondary education for all current and potential students.
3. The University of Alberta Students' Union advocate for an accessible cost of post-secondary education, especially for students facing financial and/or cultural barriers.
4. The University of Alberta Students' Union advocate to the Government of Alberta for the regulation of all mandatory non-instructional fees.
5. The University of Alberta Students' Union advocate to the Government of Alberta for a framework which clearly defines which fees are non-instructional and therefore outside the framework established in the Public Post-Secondary Tuition Fees Regulation.
6. The University of Alberta Students' Union advocate for a process where students provide meaningful input on which services mandatory non-instructional fees pay for.
7. The University of Alberta Students' Union advocate for a student-approval mechanism for the implementation of any new mandatory non-instructional fees as well as for an increase to any existing mandatory non-instructional fees.

8. The University of Alberta Students' Union advocate for transparency and accountability as to where and how the fees levied on students are spent.
9. The Students' Union advocate that students maintain representation on any body directing the general affairs and mandate of a service which is funded by a student fee.

**POLICY
COMMITTEE**

Wednesday July 20, 2016

6:00 pm

SUB 6-06

ATTENDANCE

NAME	PROXY	PRESENT
Victoria Dejong (Chair)		Y
Michael Sandare		N
Franshesca El Ghossein		Y
Marina Banister		Y
Sandy Brophy		Y
Jason Wang		N
Delane Howie		Y
Kyle Monda	Cody Bondarchuk	Y
Ben Angus	Brandon Prochnau	Y

MINUTES (PC 2016-3)

2016-3/1 INTRODUCTION

2016-3/1a **Call to Order**

Meeting called to order at 6:01 pm.

2016-3/1b **Approval of Agenda**

BROPHY/BANISTER moved to approve the agenda for July 20, 2016 as tabled.

Vote 7/0/0

CARRIED

2016-3/1c Approval of Minutes

BROPHY/BANISTER moved to approve the minutes for June 08, 2016 as tabled.

Vote 6/0/1

CARRIED

2016-3/1d Chair's Business

2016-3/2 QUESTION/DISCUSSION PERIOD

BANISTER: Is the Policy Committee doing anything for GovWeek?

DEJONG: I was initially thinking of doing Students' Union (SU) advocacy. But, that was a little bit broad. I also don't think students really care about how to make policies. So, I haven't really decided yet.

BANISTER: Maybe we can make them aware of the sexual assault issue.

DEJONG: I was talking with President Fahim Rahman yesterday about the SU doing something for the sexual assault awareness week. There are quite a few ideas floating around. I'm not going to commit to anything yet.

LARSEN: Are you guys going through the renewals of old policies?

DEJONG: Yes, we talked about this during the last meeting. It should be in the minutes. We assigned some people to have a look at the old policies. We only have a very rough timeline.

2016-3/3 COMMITTEE BUSINESS

2016-3/3a Sexual Violence Policy First Principles

DEJONG: Before we start, I'm going to make a couple of edits. On point 3, I'll change it to "Some demographics experience higher rates of sexual violence". On point 8, I'm changing it to "Students are primary stakeholders in campus sexual violence, and must be..."

BANISTER: I have 2 changes as well. On point 6, we should clarify what "our society" means. On point 3, "University aged women" must be clearly defined because people of all ages attend University.

DEJONG: 15-24 is the highest age group.

BANISTER: We should specify that.

GHOSSSEIN: Did you hear back from the Native Studies Students' Association? Is point 1 in the way they prefer?

DEJONG: No, I did not hear back from them. Maybe we can split that up.

BANISTER: Coming back to point 6, what did you intend "our society" to be? Is it North American? Western?

LARSEN: It may be interpreted as the SU.

BONDARCHUK: You can broaden it out to contemporary societies.

BROPHY: It's not limited to western societies. "Contemporary societies" is the best word in my opinion.

DEJONG: I was tempted to put in "patriarchal society" there as well.

GHOSSSEIN: Patriarchal society is a perceived controversial word. When we were talking about this for the University policy, many people debated and in the end agreed to use that word.

BANISTER: I feel that the policy would be stronger if it is universally worded. Our wording should be parallel to similar institutions.

DEJONG: I like the word "contemporary society".

LARSEN: The way it is worded right now, it seems that the SU accepts these things. I'd prefer if it were more along the lines of the SU condoning them.

DEJONG: Do you think that point 3 is too wordy?

HOWIE: I think so.

BONDARCHUK: I feel it's better to keep them. The SU has an anti-discrimination policy which is similar. It refers all but also lists out specific cases to strengthen the argument.

GHOSSSEIN: I have a comment about the word "can be". For example, on point 9, shouldn't we say "are" instead?

BANISTER: I think the word "should be" is better than either of those.

GHOSSSEIN: "should be more readily accessible" is good. For point 7, "can have" is better. Furthermore, when we're talking about the national average, these groups skew the national average. We are

really comparing them to a group that has statistics about themselves. Should we be comparing them to other groups on average?

DEJONG: That's tricky. I was thinking about that. We can say "Some are disproportionately affected".

GHOSEIN: It would be better to say "On a national average".

DEJONG: I would be comfortable saying that. A lot of my data is from *Statistics Canada*.

BANISTER: We can break point 6 into two. We can end the sentence after "sexual violence", and then start the next one as "Furthermore, common attitudes, norms and practices often tolerate, normalize, excuse, or condone sexual violence". It's good to include the word "often" in the middle to make it flow better.

LARSEN: I have an opinion about point 6. "Contemporary societal attitudes, norms, and practices tolerate, normalize, excuse, and condone sexual violence, myths and stereotypes".

DEJONG: I don't think the end works too well. These are two separate statements. Also, in terms of readability, two sentences are better. What are the other opinions?

GHOSEIN: Vice-president Banister's version is good.

HOWIE: It's good to keep them as one point, but with two sentences.

GHOSEIN: Why are we excusing students because they can also be perpetrators?

DEJONG: It depends on what we're going for, and it's better to be less antagonistic. Right now, we're skirting around the fact that University students are perpetrators.

GHOSEIN: That's not the fight we want right now.

DEJONG: We have to think about what our end goal for advocacy is. While we all acknowledge something like that exists, what could we advocate based on that principle?

HOWIE: Should we advocate for some sort of disciplinary action? It's not just prevention. If something were to happen, is there any time of involvement of the SU?

PROCHNAU: I'd say that we should stay out of it because we'll get muddled down by a bunch of legal stuff. It may be okay to get involved individually, but not as an organization.

HOWIE: So, what's the management side of it?

GHOSEIN: If we mandate how we should react, we never take into consideration what they may want us to do. If they don't want the attention, we shouldn't be doing something against their will. Also, while we can advocate whatever we want, it's really decided in the disciplinary processes. That's another question with the consultation. Should the consultation be specifically for this?

DEJONG: Do we have an official standpoint on how we should be consulted?

GHOSSEIN: We have a handbook that we designed together with the University. Unfortunately, it's seldom followed. If we want to be really specific, we can cite the handbook.

DEJONG: Is repeating that students should be consulted necessarily a bad thing?

GHOSSEIN: It's not a bad thing. It opens up the need to have a separate policy or governance documentation regarding consultation.

DEJONG: When I say management, I meant the high level approach that should be taken in the future.

LARSEN: What about strategic management? It would include the high level management and policies.

GHOSSEIN: What we want is something between the two. We don't want to say strategic.

BANISTER: What about process management?

DEJONG: Can that be interpreted as management?

BANISTER: Not really. The process would hypothetically be the same for everyone.

GHOSSEIN: We have used the word survivor here instead of complainant. I agree with that. But, we are using the word respondent.

BANISTER: I have an alternate sentence for 10. "Alcohol has been identified as a drug used to subdue people who experience sexual violence, and is often used as an illegitimate excuse to justify the act of violence"

DEJONG: That's good. Do you want to change it to violence? Violence is defined as harassment and verbal abuse.

BANISTER: It's not our call to make. There could be an attempted assault. That's violence.

GHOSSEIN: I'm good with the word violence. In addition, what does "proceed" mean in point 11?

DEJONG: We can clarify that by saying "proceed in the justice process".

GHOSSEIN: The way they proceed is up to them.

DEJONG: We can remove the part "or if they choose to proceed at all".

GHOSSEIN: If we go that way, the word we want is "report".

BROPHY: I think just deleting is "or if they choose to proceed at all" enough.

BANISTER: The word justice is controversial.

DEJONG: Yes. We don't have restorative justice, only punitive.

BROPHY: Not everybody will go through the University's process. They may take legal action. So, we should just delete the word "justice".

BANISTER: We have a combination of regular statements and aspirational statements. I'd like it to be more aspirational.

BONDARCHUK: The first principles are the facts and assumptions of the policy.

BANISTER: Can we arrange them better by grouping the two kinds of statements?

DEJONG: Yes, we can move the statement about alcohol to number 6, and then switch the current 6 and 7 around.

BONDARCHUK: Policies would incorporate the facts as WHEREAS statements and the resolutions as BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT statements. In that case, it's still the same here. And, the facts don't have to be exact facts.

GHOSSEIN: For point 4, can we say "Demographics who experience higher ..."? Because the demographics are already listed previously.

DEJONG: Yes, we have identified these groups before.

GHOSSEIN: With regards to intersectionality, I'm also inclined to include a statement saying any combination of the listed demographics for point 3. You can belong to more than 1. However, this point is already long, and I don't know of a better way to phrase it.

BONDARCHUK: As it's written right now, it doesn't say that an individual exclusively belongs to one group. It's inclusive enough.

HOWIE: It also ends with an "an" instead of an "or".

DEJONG: For point 4, I have specified gym facilities. Is it okay to include it here, or is it weird to specify just one?

GHOSSEIN: instead of "including" we can use a word like "such as".

BONDARCHUK: There are very high rates of sexual violence at the gym. I would be inclined to include residences as well.

BROPHY: I also believe that if we are mentioning places, we should include residences.

DEJONG: We'll add residences, and use the word "such as". I'm hesitant to add the Greek system right now.

BONDARCHUK: In the second reading, you can always broaden it out to student associations. It depends on your goals. If you don't have a specific goal for the Greek system, then I'd not put it in.

BANISTER: Aren't the halls of fraternities and sororities residences?

BROPHY: Although they are where some students reside, you can't really call them University residences.

PROCHNAU: That's not true. Most of them are residences unless they own the house outright.

GHOSSEIN: Residences already have training.

HOWIE: I would not put it in there for now.

DEJONG: I will not add references to the Greek system for now. If I get any feedback, we can expand it in the second reading.

BONDARCHUK: The way point 4 is written now, it implies that the gym is a campus. You can change it to say University property.

BANISTER: For point 1, should we say that sexual violence affects University students, staff, and community instead of just students?

BONDARCHUK: I agree with your thinking. However, the SU only represents undergraduate students.

BANISTER: Should we say “undergraduate students” then?

DEJONG: I’d leave it as students.

BANISTER: Then, should we say “students and community”?

BONDARCHUK: I agree with the thinking again. But, in terms of this policy, we can’t really include that legislatively. We don’t have to specifically say “undergraduate students” though.

DEJONG: For point 1, should we specify the age of women who are at higher risk than other women?

BONDARCHUK: This point is specific to higher risk demographics. The point above it encompasses every group.

BANISTER: We can say women aged 15-24.

HOWIE: Women are always at higher risk than men, but this particular group is at a higher risk than other women.

DEJONG: I’ll add the age group.

GHOSSEIN: Because most women at the University are aged between 18-24, isn’t it implicit?

BANISTER: We can say “...specifically aged 15-24...”. “Specifically” is not as strong as “especially”.

DEJONG: We’ll do that, and remove it if it’s opposed by Council.

HOWIE: For point 6, should we have “and condone” instead of “or condone” at the end?

BROPHY: There is a difference between those. While they might overlap, they are three separate things.

DEJONG: It’d be great if we can use “and/or”.

BANISTER: That’s not really professional for policies.

BROPHY: If we had to choose one, I’d prefer “or”.

BANISTER: For point 11, we can use “regardless” instead of “no matter”.

BONDARCHUK: I’d prefer “regardless”.

DEJONG: I’ll read out what we have so far, and do the re-ordering of points. The first five points will stay in the same order. We’ll move the point about alcohol to after point 5. The current number 6 and 7 would get switched as well.

BROPHY: Maybe can should switch the point about alcohol, and the point about sexual violence leading to severe mental trauma. It's more organized that way. However, it's not a big deal.

BONDARCHUK: It doesn't really have to be arranged.

GHOSEIN: Regarding the point about alcohol, what if the survivor forced to drink?

BONDARCHUK: That's true. Then, the perpetrator would have taken advantage of the state of the survivor.

GHOSEIN: I'm surprised the sexual assault center didn't say anything about that point.

DEJONG: I want to specify that people use alcohol consumption as an excuse, and not just that it exists.

The committee agreed on the following first principles:

- 1. Sexual violence impact University of Alberta students.*
- 2. People of all demographics are at risk of sexual violence.*
- 3. On a national average, some demographics experience disproportionately high rates of sexual violence. These groups include women, LGBTQ people, people of colour, Indigenous people, immigrants and newcomers to Canada, and people with disabilities.*
- 4. Demographics who experience higher rates of sexual violence often encounter unwanted sexual attention while on University property, such as at University gym facilities and residences.*
- 5. Research shows that the majority of Canadians do not have a clear understanding of sexual consent.*
- 6. Alcohol consumption is often used as an illegitimate excuse to justify acts of sexual violence.*
- 7. Sexual violence can have severe mental, emotional, and physical impacts on survivors and their communities.*
- 8. Contemporary societies accept myths and stereotypes about sexual violence. Furthermore, common attitudes, norms, and practices often tolerate, normalize, excuse, or condone sexual violence.*

9. *Students are primary stakeholders in the prevention of campus sexual violence and must be adequately consulted when the University makes decisions on sexual violence prevention and process management.*
10. *Information on how to report instances of sexual violence should be more readily available.*
11. *Not all survivors choose to report an instance of sexual violence or move forward with any sort of formal process. The way a survivor chooses to proceed is at their discretion, and a variety of supports should be available to them regardless of their decision.*

DEJONG/GHOSSEIN moved to submit the first principles of the Sexual Violence Policy to Council on the recommendation of the Policy Committee.

Vote 5/0/0

CARRIED

2016-3/4

INFORMATION ITEMS

2016-3/5

ADJOURNMENT

BROPHY/GHOSSEIN moved to adjourn the meeting.

Vote 5/0/0

CARRIED

2016-3/5a

Next Meeting: August 10, 2016 at 6:00 pm.

2016-3/5b

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.

SUMMARY OF MOTIONS

MOTION	VOTES
<i>BROPHY/BANISTER moved to approve the agenda for July 20, 2016 as tabled.</i>	7/0/0 - CARRIED
<i>BROPHY/BANISTER moved to approve the minutes for June 08, 2016 as tabled.</i>	6/0/1 - CARRIED
<i>DEJONG/GHOSSEIN moved to submit the first principles of the Sexual Violence Policy to Council on the recommendation of the Policy Committee.</i>	5/0/0 - CARRIED
<i>BROPHY/GHOSSEIN moved to adjourn the meeting.</i>	5/0/0 - CARRIED