



University of Alberta Students' Union

POLICY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, April 4, 2017

4:00 PM

SUB 6-06

We would like to acknowledge that our University and our Students' Union are located on Treaty 6 Territory. We are grateful to be on Dene, Cree, Saulteaux, Métis, Blackfoot, and Nakota Sioux territory; specifically the ancestral space of the Papaschase Cree. These Nations are our family, friends, faculty, staff, students, and peers. As members of the University of Alberta Students' Union we honour the nation-to-nation treaty relationship. We aspire for our learning, research, teaching, and governance to acknowledge continuing colonial violence and respect Indigenous knowledges and traditions.

AGENDA (PC 2016-12)

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| 2016-12/1 | <u>INTRODUCTION</u> |
| 2016-12/1a | Call to Order |
| 2016-12/1b | Approval of Agenda |
| 2016-12/1c | Approval of Minutes |
| 2016-12/1d | Chair's Business |
| 2016-12/2 | <u>QUESTION PERIOD/ DISCUSSION</u> |
| 2016-12/2a | Items for Transition Report |
| 2016-12/3 | <u>COMMITTEE BUSINESS</u> |
| 2016-12/3a | Internationalization Policy Second Reading

Please PC 16-12.01 |
| 2016-12/3b | Public Transit Policy Second Reading

Please PC 16-12.02 |
| 2016-12/3c | Scholarships and Bursaries Policy Second Reading

Please PC 16-12.03 |
| 2016-12/4 | <u>INFORMATION ITEMS</u> |

2016-12/5

ADJOURNMENT

2016-12/5a

Next Meeting: TBD

Internationalization Political Policy

1 Facts

1. The number of international students in Canada has increased by 148 percent from 2002 to 2011^[1].
2. The number of international students transitioning from temporary to permanent resident status increased by 16 percent from 2002 to 2011^[2].
3. The rate of international students transitioning from temporary to permanent resident status in the past decade has not kept up with the pace of international student enrollment in Canadian post secondary institutions.
4. The International Differential Fee (IDF) represents a serious threat to affordability and accessibility.
5. International students have less access to merit-based and need-based aid than domestic students, and do not have access to Provincial or Federal Government student loans.
6. Renewable scholarships for international students are important for their financial planning and cannot be regained if lost.
7. Post secondary institutions are permitted to charge international students more than they cost to educate.
8. International students should not bear the burden of an institutions' financial deficits.
9. The University of Alberta and the Students' Union recognizes the importance of international students.
10. The Government of Alberta does not require educational institutions to charge International Differential Fees (IDFs).
11. The Public Post-Secondary Institutions Tuition Fees Regulation does not regulate International Differential fees (IDFs).
12. The International Differential Fee limits the geographic diversity of our international students.
13. A diverse student body and institutional internationalization is a fundamental feature of a high-quality university education.
14. An enhanced campus experience may increase engagement and retention of international students.
15. Surveys have shown that:
 - a. integration with domestic students;
 - b. accessibility of on-campus housing; and
 - c. quality of career-related programming are the top three experiences international students seek in their post-secondary experience.

16. The transfer credit system plays a pivotal role in enhancing the quality of internationalization at the University of Alberta.
17. Cultural awareness and global experiences are highly sought-after attributes by potential employers.
18. Public reporting of statistical information regarding international students is infrequent and difficult to obtain.

2 Resolutions

1. The Students' Union shall support accessible post-secondary education for international students at the University of Alberta.
2. The Students' Union shall not support the University of Alberta Board of Governors increasing International Differential Fees
3. The Students' Union shall advocate for predictability of international tuition fees.
4. The Students' Union shall advocate that current international students be grandfathered into their tuition fees, and that any tuition increases only affect incoming students.
5. The Students' Union shall advocate that the University of Alberta provide clear and transparent transfer credit processes at the faculty, campus, in-province, national, and international levels.
6. The Students' Union shall advocate the University of Alberta to improve access to merit-based and need-based aid for international students.
7. The Students' Union shall advocate the University of Alberta to restructure renewable scholarships to provide more predictability.
8. The Students' Union shall lobby the Government of Alberta for regulation of the International Differential Fees (IDF) to provide predictable tuition rates for international students.
9. ~~The Students' Union shall lobby the Federal Government to issue multiple-entry visas to all international students.~~
10. The Students' Union shall advocate that the Federal Government increase the number of permanent residencies for undergraduate international students issued each year in the Canadian Experience Class.
11. The Students' Union shall advocate that the Federal Government expand the Federal Skilled Worker Class immigration program's fast track stream eligibility to include undergraduate international students.
12. The Students' Union shall encourage the University of Alberta to actively foster opportunities that allow local students to interact with international students.
13. The Students' Union shall advocate that the University of Alberta improve housing quality and accessibility for international students.

14. The Students' Union shall lobby the University of Alberta to improve career-related programming and services for international students.
15. The Students' Union shall advocate that the University of Alberta publish regular, public reports regarding its international students.

Public Transit Political Policy

Facts

1. Public transit is a common mode of transportation used by University of Alberta students that benefits the quality of life of all members in the community.
2. The U-Pass is to be implemented in the academic years consistent with the referendum Conditions.
3. The post-secondary bus pass provides a more affordable public transit option for students than a regular adult pass.
4. Public transit expansion would allow improved access for University of Alberta students to commute within the service area.
5. Smartfare technology would reduce the possibility for U-pass fraud and reduce the need for a U-Pass replacement fee.
6. Students who are employed with the University are not eligible for employee transit benefits. That leaves student employees who are not enrolled in a class for the spring/summer semester without a more affordable option than the adult bus pass.
7. Students often feel unsafe using public transit.

Resolutions

1. The Students' Union advocates that the regional municipalities and transit services carefully monitor service demand arising from U-pass implementation, consider input from stakeholders and commit all resources necessary to maintain reliable, safe and timely service.
2. The Students' Union negotiates a new, long-term U-Pass contract to be implemented upon the expiry of the current contract.
3. The Students' Union advocates that the regional municipalities and transit services expand their current service systems, prioritizing the implementation of Smartfare technology, to better meet the needs of the University of Alberta students.
4. The Students' Union advocates for the integration of Smartfare technology into the ONECard system.
5. The Students' Union advocates to and works with the University and relevant stakeholders to ensure that students employed by the University, but not currently enrolled in classes, be provided with a more affordable alternative than the adult bus pass.

Scholarships and Bursaries Political Policy

1 Facts

1. The cost of a university education has increased
2. This cost increase poses a great disincentive to accessing a university education, as well as a considerable barrier to finishing a degree
3. Scholarships and bursaries are an integral part of the student finance system, without which motivated and outstanding individuals could not afford a university education
4. The University of Alberta should not only aim to attract talented students, but demonstrate a commitment to realizing the full potential of current undergraduate students
5. Financial need can be detrimental to academic and extracurricular student achievement by diverting student focus and effort to employment
6. The current scholarship and bursaries applications process is inefficient and time consuming.

2 Resolutions

1. The Students' Union shall lobby the University of Alberta to increase the number and value of awards granted to continuing undergraduate students in order to be consistent with the number and value of entrance awards.
2. The Students' Union shall lobby the University of Alberta and the Government of Alberta to increase the relative and absolute amounts of scholarships and bursaries that are awarded based on the student's' financial need and/or involvement.
3. The Students' Union pursue a single point of entry to the scholarship and bursaries application process.
4. The Students' Union shall advocate for the University of Alberta and the Government of Alberta to provide awards of merit based on leadership and community involvement, in addition to scholarships based on academics.

**POLICY
COMMITTEE**

**Tuesday March 21, 2017
4:00 pm
SUB 6-06**

ATTENDANCE

NAME	PROXY	PRESENT
Victoria DeJong (Chair)		Y
Reed Larsen (chaired the meeting)		Y
Delane Howie		Y
Kyle Monda		N
Alexander Brophy		Y
Fredrique Ndatirwa		N
Marina Banister		Y
Mike Sandare		Y
Francesca El Ghossein		Y
Fahim Rahman		N
Brandon Prochnau		Y

MINUTES (PC 2016-11)

2016-11/1 INTRODUCTION

2016-11/1a **Call to Order**

Meeting called to order at 4:00 pm

2016-11/1b

Approval of Agenda

GHOSSEIN/BANISTER moved to approve the agenda

7/0/0

CARRIED

2016-11/1c

Approval of Minutes

GHOSSEIN

Suggested an amendment to the minutes as she was misquoted and stated that "we should not change policy based on cost issue."

LARSEN/BROPHY moved to approve the minutes as-amended

7/0/0, CARRIED

(SANDARE and PROCHNAU abstained)

2016-11/1d

Chair's Business

2016-11/2

QUESTION/DISCUSSION PERIOD

2016-11/2a

MNIF Policy Second Principles

DEJONG

Said that, for the Second Reading of MNIF policy, Robyn has a Google Docs and there he made a comment in resolutions section.

DEJONG

Read line by line and asked for comments.

BANISTER

Said that in point 3, "and/or" should be changed to "or."

DEJONG

Said that in point 5, "framework" is mentioned twice but that is okay.

GHOSSEIN

Point 6 was in the old one, and she doesn't know if the current point 6 refers to that in the new one. This is the process where they might have to talk about in the future, as long as what's behind there is mentioned.

DEJONG

For point 8, Robyn made a comment, and asked if it can be expanded to a specific transparent procedure

SANDERE

Said that there is not much to expand into but we can leave that open for debate. Right now, it seems good to me.

BANISTER

I also like it as is but it can be more encompassing if it is made more into present sense.

GHOSSEIN

Said that if they look more deeply and if there is a transparent reporting procedure, then we can find how fees are spent.

BANISTER

Asked if all are okay with "in"

Members disagree with "in"

PROCHNAU

Said that it should be "U of A procedures will account for how fees are spent."

LARSEN

Suggested just having "procedures" and leaving it blank.

BANISTER

They can have transparency and accountability regarding procedures.

BANISTER

Suggested keeping "continued."

GHOSSEIN

Said that she is okay with "continued"

BROPHY

That makes sense.

DEJONG

Any other comments?

BROPHY/BANISTER moved to recommend the MNIF Policy Second Principles to Student Council

7/0/0
CARRIED

2016-11/2b

Internationalization Policy First Principles

DEJONG

Said that she made a few changes. From 2011 onward, she did not find any new information. There is no new shared information although facts are correct. In number 5, she added in there that international students have less access to merit based aid, and that they also don't have access to federal and provincial government student loans. In number 12, there is extra point. In number 15 there is small change, and in number 18, the wording can improve.

LARSEN

Said that you can make it more broad as it is First Principles and be more specific in Second Principles, and suggested including "infrequent" or "lack of information."

(All agree)

DEJONG

Read out the first principles. How does it sound to everyone? Are there any further comments?

PROCHNAU

In point 3, should it be provincial?

DEJONG

It can be.

BROPHY

Said that it can be "Alberta and Canada" or "provincial and national."

SANDERE

Asked how about "in-province" and "out-of-province", by giving the example of students from Ontario.

BROPHY

Agreed with Councillor Sandare.

DEJONG

Makes those changes, is there any further comments?

DEJONG/BROPHY moved to submit the revised Internationalization Policy First Principles to Student Council

7/0/0

CARRIED

2016-11/2c

Public Transit Policy First Principles

DEJONG

Does everyone have access to Levi's Google Drive, as he gave a lot of thoughts to public transit policy, and Robyn did the same as well.

PROCHNAU

Point 11, in Levi's edit, is incorrect because it is not “municipal boundaries.”

(all agreed)

DEJONG

Let's go line by line in the first principles.

Point 5 is for the SmartCard Technology, and Robyn supports it. For the point about opt-out, Robyn was not in favour of but he was in favour of point 8.

GHOSSEIN

Said that these changes can't just happen.

PROCHNAU

Added that they can happen in future

DEJONG

Suggested looking into the citation of this fact

BANISTER

Said that all should say “students”, and if they however don't pay the fees then they should not get a U-Pass.

LARSEN

Said that the purpose for not having opt-out is very clear.

GHOSSEIN

Said that there is no deal and it is like healthcare, and that they can use it to buy groceries and go outside university boundaries

BANISTER

Asked about striking out points 8 and 9.

PROCHNAU

Said he thinks point 8 should stay.

GHOSSEIN

Said point 9 is no-deal but point 8 is fine.

BANISTER

Suggested of getting rid of a bit of them.

GHOSSEIN

Said that the question is do we represent them?

DEJONG

Said that if approved it is not set in stone, and so the only change they made is the SmartCard.

Added that striking resolution 2 is a good idea.

LARSEN

Said that students don't pay SU fees in summer and so they should not have access to U-Pass if they don't register for classes.

PROCHNAU

Said that he was part of the union (in Faculty of Engineering) and the union was under university but did not get U-Pass.

GHOSSEIN

Said that they can recommend the union NASA to grant U-Pass to university and relevant stakeholders.

BROPHY

Said that it will be for students employed by the university and not the SU

GHOSSEIN

Said that the university has more affordable options for bus passes than the SU has.

DEJONG

Said that because they struck the last point under "fact," they can strike points 6 and 7.

HOWIE

Said that they cannot use the term opt-in.

SANDERE

Said that the one thing that can be done to reconcile for U-Pass is alternative transit options, and it doesn't hurt to do something like bus tickets at 5% off.

GHOSSEIN

Said that they can say "all students."

SANDERE

Said that, as members of SU it covers students, but the weird thing is exchange-students, which will be an issue.

BANISTER

Said that for exchange-students it will be cheaper to buy bus passes for a few weeks that opt into the whole thing.

SANDERE

Suggested alternative transit options like cheaper bus tickets.

GHOSSEIN

Said that if it benefits other people that's okay but they should have opt-out policy.

DEJONG

In conclusion, changes were made to a few point and SmartTechnology.

DEJONG/BROPHY moved to submit the Public Transit Policy First Principles to Student Council

8/0/0

CARRIED

2016 - 11/3

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

2016 - 11/3a

Recommendation to Students' Council to renew the Scholarships and Bursaries Political Policy as-is.

DEJONG

Said that she will is fine with it as is but interested in what the other members think.

SANDERE

Said that it is good to add another point to resolution, and to have other scholarships for leadership and such.

DEJONG

For resolutions it has go through councils

BROPHY

Said that it is beyond editorial change, and he can see it being passed

DEJONG

Asked if it would be appropriate for the committee to recommend it

SANDERE

Agreed to take it , and said that scholarships are very limited to province and awards are related to scholastic merit. Therefore, if anything it does reduce barriers, for example if you want to start a company and do something for the community then it should have provisions.

BROPHY

Said that if you might not be working then it might be good to have that kind of scholarship

DEJONG

Said that SU will advocate U of A and province of Alberta to base scholarship of basis of leadership in addition to merit, and that the motion will pass as-amended.

BROPHY/GHOSSEIN move to recommend to Students' Council to renew the Scholarships and Bursaries Political Policy as-is.

7/0/0

CARRIED

2016-11/4

INFORMATION ITEMS

2016-11/5

ADJOURNMENT

DEJONG/BANISTER move to adjourn the meeting

7/0/0

CARRIED

2016-11/5a

Next Meeting: TBD

2016-11/5b

Meeting adjourned at 5:15 pm.

SUMMARY OF MOTIONS

MOTION	VOTES
GHOSSEIN/BANISTER moved to approve the agenda	7/0/0, CARRIED
LARSEN/BROPHY moved to approve the minutes as-amended	7/0/0, CARRIED
BROPHY/BANISTER moved to recommend the MNIF Policy Second Principles to Student Council	7/0/0, CARRIED
DEJONG/BROPHY moved to submit the revised Internationalization Policy First Principles to Student Council	7/0/0, CARRIED
DEJONG/BROPHY moved to submit the Public Transit Policy First Principles to Student Council	8/0/0, CARRIED
BROPHY/GHOSSEIN move to recommend to Students' Council to renew the Scholarships and Bursaries Political Policy as-is	7/0/0, CARRIED
DEJONG/BANISTER move to adjourn the meeting	7/0/0, CARRIED