



University of Alberta Students' Union

POLICY COMMITTEE

Thursday, August 16, 2018

6:00 PM

SUB 6-06

We would like to respectfully acknowledge that our University and our Students' Union are located on Treaty 6 Territory.

We are grateful to be on Cree, Dene, 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 and work towards the decolonization of Indigenous knowledges and traditions.

AGENDA (PC-2018-07)

2018-07/1 INTRODUCTION

2018-07/1a Call to Order

2018-07/1b Approval of Agenda

2018-07/1c Approval of Minutes

2018-07/1d Chair's Business

2018-07/2 QUESTION/DISCUSSION PERIOD

2018-07/2a Food Policy General Update

2018-07/2b Internationalization Policy - Check-in

2018-07/3 COMMITTEE BUSINESS

2018-07/3a` Fall Meeting Schedule Update

2018-07/3b First Principles of Capital Projects

See PC-2018-07.03.

2018-07/3c First Principles of Non-Partisan Policy

See PC-2018-07.04.

2018-07/4 INFORMATION ITEMS

2018-07/4a PC-2018-06 Minutes

See PC-2018-07.01.

2018-07/4b PC-2018-05 Minutes

Minutes have not yet been complete. Will be attached and the agenda re-sent once they have been received.

2018-07/4c First Principles of Capital Projects

PC-2018-07.03.

2018-07/4d First Principles of Non-Partisan Policy

See PC-2018-07.04.

2018-07/5 **ADJOURNMENT**

2018-07/5a **Next Meeting:** TBD.



University of Alberta Students' Union

POLICY COMMITTEE

Thursday, August 2, 2018

6:00 PM

SUB 6-06

We would like to respectfully acknowledge that our University and our Students' Union are located on Treaty 6 Territory.

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ATTENDANCE

NAME	PROXY	PRESENT	SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN FEEDBACK (IF ABSENT)
Robert Bilak		Y	
Kara Farris	Rowan Ley	Y	
Mpoe Mogale		Y	
James Thibaudeau		Y	
Breanna Palmer		Y	
Stephen Raitz (chair)		Y	
Akanksha Bhatnagar(ex-officio)		Y	
Adam Brown (ex-officio)		Y	
André Bourgeois (ex-officio)		Y	

MINUTES (PC-2018-06)

2018-06/1 INTRODUCTION

2018-06/1a Call to Order

RAITZ: Called the meeting to order at 6:03pm.

2018-06/1b Approval of Agenda

BHATNAGAR/BROWN MOVED to approve the agenda.

8/0/0 - CARRIED.

2018-06/1c Approval of Minutes

N/A

2018-06/1d Chair's Business

MOGALE: Requested that the chair read aloud the treaty acknowledgement at the beginning of each meeting.

RAITZ: Determined to act on Mogale's request. Established that, after consultation, the existing Thursday meeting schedule accommodates the membership.

PALMER: Requested the chair add Thibaudeau to the snack list.

RAITZ: Determined to substitute Thibaudeau with Palindat in the snack list.

2018-06/2 QUESTION/DISCUSSION PERIOD

BOURGEOIS: Noted that his work on the Truth and Reconciliation Policy precludes him from working further on the Food Policy.

2018-06/3 COMMITTEE BUSINESS

2018-06/3a Policy Check-in

RAITZ: Established that the Residence Policy, one of thirteen policies for renewal, has been successfully completed. Requested updates for the Internationalization Policy.

BOURGEOIS: Responded that Students' Union researchers recently added Facts to the Policy. Expressed that Fact 12 includes a specific percentage of international student food bank users. Proposed amending the Fact to remove the percentage value in order to ensure the Policy remains accurate.

RAITZ: Determined to add an item to the next agenda concerning the approval of the Internationalisation Policy. Requested updates for the Nonpartisan Policy.

BROWN: Responded that the Policy is ready for second reading. Urged members send him their comments.

RAITZ: Established that the Capital Projects Policy requires little revision. Noted that other institutions do not have as detailed a policy. Noted that planned revisions were found to be unnecessary as they exist within operational policy. Determined to add an item to the next agenda for the review and approval of the Capital Projects Policy. Requested updates for the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Policy.

BOURGEOIS: Responded that by August 13 he and Mogale will have developed a

draft of the Facts with the Resolutions to follow.

RAITZ: Anticipated a first-reading of the Policy to occur in the meeting after August 16th.

MOGALE: Noted that the Policy will receive further refinement when they and Bourgeois receive a reply from another equity office.

RAITZ: Anticipated that the Engagement Policy, after feedback from Farris, will move forward early September. Advised to Ley liaise with Farris. Requested updates for the Student Employment Policy.

BROWN: Responded that the Policy development is proceeding well. Noted that he is also writing the Council of Alberta University Students materials on student employment at present. Anticipated Policy completion for the end of summer.

RAITZ: Requested updates for the Quality Instruction Policy.

BHATNAGAR: Responded that, after consultation, she plans to amend the Policy to include an item concerning access to the Universal Student Ratings of Instruction database. Anticipated the Policy to come before the Committee at the start of September and to proceed to Council by mid-September.

RAITZ: Requested updates for the Students in Governance Policy.

BHATNAGAR: Responded that she intends to wait for the by-elections to occur prior to drafting the Policy. Determined to consult the Council of Faculty Associations. Anticipated the Policy completion for mid to late October.

RAITZ: Requested updates for the Experiential Learning Policy.

BILAK: Responded that, upon the return of Farris, they will work together to consult an arranged list of parties. Anticipated the Policy completion for the Students' Council meeting of November 13th.

RAITZ: Requested updates for the Faculté Saint-Jean Linguistic Accessibility Policy.

BROWN: Responded that the Policy requires an overhaul. Anticipated completion for late Fall early Winter. Planned to consult the French Canadian Alberta Association and the Francophone Youth of Alberta. Identified internal (translated communications and Beartracks) and external (provincial funding) aspects of the Policy.

PALMER: Offered her assistance to Brown.

RAITZ: Requested updates on the Food Policy.

BOURGEOIS: Responded that there is no new progress to report in relation to the Food Policy.

BROWN: Determined to provide relevant meeting notes Policy-lead Thibaudeau.

RAITZ: Requested that Thibaudeau develop a Food Policy proposed timeline for the next meeting. Requested updates for the Truth and Reconciliation Policy.

BOURGEOIS: Responded that he intends for Belcourt to lead the Policy development with his full support. Determined to meet with Belcourt to develop a workplan. Supported using the September 27 Town Hall as an opportunity for consultation.

RAITZ: Determined to support Thibaudeau on the Food Policy.

BOURGEOIS: Requested that the Committee review the amendments to the Internationalization Policy. Combined Facts 1 and 2. Proposed removing Fact 4 due to the ambiguity of the term “enhanced campus experience”.

MOGALE: Defined the term as a thorough and encompassing experience on Campus.

BHATNAGAR: Proposed amending the phrase to read a “well-rounded Campus experience”.

RAITZ: Suggested that the Fact does not have sufficient grounds on which to stand.

PALMER: Inquired into whether there is another provision concerning the retention of international students in Canada.

BOURGEOIS: Responded that there is another provision concerning permanent residency. Noted that there was no data with which to support Fact 4.

BHATNAGAR: Suggested removing the Fact, but noting it as a document comment for further action.

BOURGEOIS: Requested clarification as to whether the provision concerning cultural awareness and global experience applies to natural-born citizens or immigrants.

MOGALE: Responded that many international students visit the Career Centre to learn about Canadian culture.

PALMER: Suggested that Fact 19 concerns the integration of immigrants.

BOURGEOIS: Considered that Fact 19 better fits in the Student Employment

Policy. Determined to email Brown the text of the Fact for transference to the Student Employment Policy.

MOGALE: Expressed concern over having no evidence with which to support Fact 19.

BOURGEOIS: Determined to copy, paste, and rephrase the data from Lu and Hou for Fact 4.

BROWN: Proposed removing Fact 6 due to its lack of purpose.

RAITZ: Proposed amending Fact 6 into an acknowledgment of English Language Requirements for study. Expressed concern that domestic students are not subject to requirements.

BOURGEOIS: Noted that domestic students, in order to apply to the University, must complete English 30. Recognised that the University standard of English proficiency is lower than that required for obtaining permanent residency.

BILAK: Noted that the General Faculty Council raised the proficiency standard by 0.5 in the last year.

THIBAUDEAU: Established that the International Students Association supported the change because a low language proficiency negatively impacts an international students' quality of education.

RAITZ: Supported recognising a proficiency requirement in the Facts.

LEY: Emphasised that the Fact 6 remains valuable because it applies in circumstances in which the University may attempt to increase the proficiency standard without consulting international students.

BOURGEOIS: Determined to consolidate Facts 13-15. Expressed concern that Fact 16 does not include referenced data/research relating to academic misconduct.

LEY: Advised investigating disciplinary hearings to ascertain whether there is a difference in outcomes when comparing international and domestic students.

MOGALE: Determined to contact the Office of Student Ombuds to acquire the statistics for comparison.

BOURGEOIS: Determined to remove Fact 17. Considered, in relation to Resolution 1, that the Students' Union does not have the operational capacity to instruct students on their tuition.

BROWN: Proposed amending Resolution 3 to concern the Students' Union advocating the University to provide resources to inform international students

on their tuition and tuition change. Determined to amend Resolution 3 in the document.

BOURGEOIS: Expressed concern over the similarity between Resolutions 2 and 10.

RAITZ: Proposed removing Resolution 10 for Resolution 3, which better represents the level of generality in the Policy. Proposed, alternatively, further differentiating the resolutions.

BOURGEOIS: Proposed splitting Resolution 10 into a number of smaller points. Determined to remove the term grandfathering. Anticipated voting on the Policy by the next Committee meeting.

BROWN: Proposed amending Fact 4 to detail how the University defines tuition and student fees.

PALMER: Inquired into whether there is a standard font, formatting, and organisation for developing policies.

RAITZ: Responded that Discover Governance is responsible for these matters. Emphasised that the Committee must be diligent in proofreading its policies.

See PC-2018-06.02.

2018-6/3b Capital Projects - Review

BROWN: Proposed that Fact 2 mention specific instances of the University spending student tuition on capital projects.

RAITZ: Expressed concern over the effectivity of highlighting examples of University spending.

BILAK: Requested clarification in relation to Resolution 2.

RAITZ: Responded that Resolution 2 concerns ensuring that student fees are only used to fund student-oriented spaces.

BROWN: Proposed amending Resolution 2 to identify the spaces for which student fees should be spent rather than the spaces for which they should not.

LEY: Suggested removing the phrase “academic spaces” as it could include lecture theatres.

RAITZ: Determined to add an item concerning the Second Reading of the Capital Projects Policy to the next meeting agenda.

See PC-2018-06.03.

2018-06/4 **INFORMATION ITEMS**

2018-06/4a *PC-2018-05 Minutes*

Minutes have not been completed. Agenda will be re-sent, when they have been submit.

2018-06/4b Policy Check in

See PC-2018-06.02.

2018-06/4c Capital Projects - Review

See PC-2018-06.03.

2018-06/5 **ADJOURNMENT**

RAITZ: Adjourned the meeting for 7:19.

2018-06/5a **Next Meeting:** Thursday, August 16, 2018 @ 6:00PM in SUB 6-06.

SUMMARY OF MOTIONS

MOTION	VOTES
BHATNAGAR/BROWN MOVED to approve the agenda.	8/0/0 - CARRIED.

1 Facts

1. The University has numerous sources of revenue and should not depend solely on students to finance capital projects.
2. The University should not be spending tuition revenue on capital projects.
3. Capital projects benefit the University and serve a wide range of communities beyond undergraduate students.
4. The University of Alberta describes tuition as “the instructional costs based on classes and units of courses weight a student registers in per terms.”¹
5. Student fees can be described as additional costs charged by the University of Alberta and/or University of Alberta Students’ Union that students pay for services, which are not directly related to tuition.
6. Undergraduate student-oriented components of campus space include, but are not limited to;
 - a. Lecture Theatres;
 - b. Classrooms;
 - c. Laboratories;
 - d. Maker-spaces;
 - e. Studios;
 - f. Performance spaces; or
 - g. Libraries or other study spaces.

2 Resolutions

1. The Students’ Union will advocate that tuition revenues shall not be used to fund capital projects.
2. The Students’ Union will advocate that a dedicated student fee for a capital project shall not be used to fund the construction of spaces which do not include undergraduate student-oriented components.
3. The Students’ Union will engage and consult with students over the creation, use, and termination of student fees.
4. The Students’ Union will advocate that the Students’ Union participate in defining the purpose and scope of any project where a student fee is involved.
5. The Students’ Union will advocate that all capital projects funded directly by a student fee dedicated to that project must include proportional commitments from other stakeholder groups.
6. The Students’ Union will advocate that a dedicated student fee for a capital project shall not be implemented until such a time as students have the ability to receive benefits from their contribution.
7. The Students’ Union will advocate that any capital project funded directly by a dedicated student fee shall have a governance structure that includes adequate student representation.
8. The Students’ Union will advocate that any dedicated student fee that funds a capital project shall be eliminated upon the final payment of the agreed upon student contribution.

¹ University of Alberta, Undergraduate Cost Calculator

1 Facts

1. Undergraduate students at the University of Alberta have diverse political views and ideologies.
2. The Students' Union represents all undergraduate students at the University of Alberta.
3. The Students' Union would not be representing the perspectives of all students by endorsing political parties or candidates.
4. Student associations are legislated corporations under the Post-Secondary Learning Act (2003) of the Government of Alberta.

2 Resolutions

1. The Students' Union is a nonpartisan organization.
2. The Students' Union will not support or oppose candidates for public office, nor does it take a stand for or against a political party.
3. The Students' Union will advocate to parties and candidates primarily on Students' Council's political policies.
4. The Students' Union will engage in efforts to educate members on policies, platforms, and political statements made by parties and candidates that may affect the student experience.
5. The Students' Union will engage its members to be active in the political discourse within our municipalities, our province, and our country.
6. The Students' Union will engage in efforts to inform members about opportunities to vote and provide access to polling in all levels of Canadian democracy due to a belief that the participation of informed citizens is of utmost importance in our society.