



University of Alberta Students' Union

POLICY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, December 4, 2018

5:00 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-2018-14)

2018-14/1 INTRODUCTION

2018-14/1a Call to Order

2018-14/1b Approval of Agenda

2018-14/1c Approval of Minutes

2018-14/1d Chair's Business

2018-14/2 QUESTION/DISCUSSION PERIOD

2018-14/2a Check-in EDI, Food, Reconciliation Policy

2018-14/3 COMMITTEE BUSINESS

2018-14/3a BHATNAGAR MOVES to approve first reading of the Quality Instruction Political Policy.

See PC-2018-14.02.

2018-14/4 INFORMATION ITEMS

2018-14/4a PC-2018-13 Minutes

See PC-2018-14.01.

2018-14/4b Quality Instruction Political Policy.

See PC-2018-14.02.

2018-14/5 ADJOURNMENT

2018-14/5a Next Meeting: TBD.



University of Alberta Students' Union

POLICY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, November 20, 2018

5:00 PM

SUB 0-55

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

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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.

ATTENDANCE

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

MINUTES (PC-2018-13)

2018-13/1 INTRODUCTION

2018-13/1a Call to Order

RAITZ: Called the meeting to order at 5:06PM.

2018-13/1b Approval of Agenda

BROWN/FARRIS MOVED to add item 2018-13/3b "BROWN moved to recommend the First Principles of the Campus Saint-Jean Policy to Students' Council"

7/0/0 - CARRIED

BHATNAGAR/BROWN MOVED to add item *2018-13/2a* to discuss the Quality Instruction Policy.

7/0/0 - CARRIED

BHATNAGAR/BOURGEOIS MOVED to approve the agenda.

7/0/0 - CARRIED

2018-13/1c Approval of Minutes

BILAK/BROWN MOVED to approve the minutes of *PC-2018-12-M*.

6/0/1 - CARRIED

2018-13/1d Chair's Business

RAITZ: Noted that there remains only one meeting in the present semester which occurs on the last Tuesday of classes. Considered that, unless the Committee thinks otherwise, no meeting occur over exam break. Confirmed that the present meeting schedule accommodates members' schedules for the Winter semester. Requested that members, in future, add relevant links and documents in the agenda or within the group chat.

2018-13/2 QUESTION/DISCUSSION PERIOD

2018-13/2a Quality of Instruction Policy

BHATNAGAR: Established that Resolution 7, concerning the evaluation of teaching, requires clarification and simplification. Noted that the remainder of edits include grammatical changes. Confirmed that vice-provosts supported the policy in her consultations.

BROWN: Expressed concern that the Policy does not address the modernisation of curricula.

BOURGEOIS: Proposed that the Policy, in addition to recognising the importance of availability, address the need for accessibility in the Universal Student Ratings of Instruction.

BROWN: Expressed concern at the specificity of Resolution 6 which does not clarify the nature of its recommended increased and ongoing communication in the context of mid-semester teaching evaluation.

BHATNAGAR: Clarified that the provision is intended to promote the practice of taking mid-term evaluations.

BOURGEOIS: Proposed that the provision relate to the Students' Union advocating for mandatory mid-semester course evaluations where applicable.

RAITZ: Proposed using the phrase “where suitable within the classroom context.”

BHATNAGAR: Determined to focus on evaluations holistically as opposed to only in the context of the USRI's. Determined to bring forward the Quality Instruction and Students in Governance Policies for First Reading approval at the next Committee meeting.

2018-13/3 **COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

2018-13/3a **BILAK MOVED** to recommend the First Principles of the Experiential Learning Policy to Students' Council.

BILAK: Established that his review differentiates between institutional and financial barriers to experiential learning. Considered that the Policy could address the creation of a central system to identify experiential learning opportunities. Noted that, additionally, he added Fact 5 to recognise that those with experiential learning opportunities enjoy higher employability rates. Expressed concern at how to cite the colloquially presented URI-derived Fact 6.

BROWN: Proposed specifying that this metric is exclusive to the University of Alberta.

MOGALE: Proposed noting how the amount and duration of research awards amount of making less than minimum wage.

BILAK: Expressed concern that specific numbers change the Policy must remain updated.

BOURGEOIS: Proposed advocating, instead, that the amount of money disbursed as part of undergraduate research awards meet the minimum wage proportionate to the number of hours involved in the project.

BILAK: Noted that Fact 7 references the limited funding offered for national and international research activities. Resolved not to reference a limitation in funds for local research-related activities.

RAITZ: Advised acknowledging that Fact originated at the URI.

BHATNAGAR: Proposed it read “as reported by the URI, there is a lack of funding for undergraduates to present their research at academic conferences”.

BOURGEOIS: Expressed concern that Bhatnagar's proposal makes it appear as if the URI is advocating for internal change in the University, which is not permitted.

BHATNAGAR: Responded that this provision is a Fact and, therefore, not an item of advocacy.

BOURGEOIS: Suggested that the provision is an opinion rather than a fact.

MOGALE: Advised that the Committee cite the Fact with information in the URI annual reports.

BHATNAGAR: Determined to investigate citing this Fact as per the relevant report.

BOURGEOIS: Emphasised that University staff cannot offer or be seen to offer normative recommendations to the Students' Council in order to influence University policy.

BHATNAGAR: Suggested not differentiating between a lack of funding affecting national and international conference opportunities as funding is holistically limited.

MOGALE: Suggested, however, that national and international conferences are particular areas of concern which the Policy should address.

BILAK: Identified that new provisions suggest that grades ought not to preclude students from engaging in experiential learning.

FARRIS: Proposed the term "academic standing". Suggested recognising restrictions related to student status as well.

MOGALE: Clarified that academic standing is different than GPA. Proposed that the provision advocate for no discrimination on the basis of GPA but support a basic standard of academic standing.

BHATNAGAR: Proposed defining sufficient academic standing as 1.7 GPA (non-probation) as defined by the University of Alberta.

BROWN: Proposed that Resolution 2, or an additional resolution, recognise the limitations that international students insofar as their study permits do not also act as work permits. Suggested an integrative approach.

MOGALE: Proposed including a provision that recognises the high cost paid by international students participating in work experience programmes.

BROWN: Emphasises that advocacy should connect federally as it connects to the development of the National Youth Employment Strategy.

BHATNAGAR: Proposed that the Policy address all orders of government. Noted that the City of Edmonton is now attempting to integrate internal students into the local economy.

BILAK: Determined to act on Bhatnagar's proposal.

LEY: Inquired into how the Policy classifies a non-traditional student.

FARRIS: Responded that non-traditional student is generally one that does not take a five course load.

BILAK: Determined to take an inclusive approach as to whom the Policy applies. Considered that the Policy support a digital database of opportunities to provide for increased awareness.

BOURGEOIS: Proposed defining holistic funding as that which includes travel expenses in the Facts or as a definition.

BILAK/BHATNAGAR MOVED to table item *2018-13/3a* until the next meeting. 7/0/0 - CARRIED.

2018-13/3b BROWN MOVED to recommend the First Principles of the Campus St Jean Policy to Students' Council"

BROWN: Established that this Policy represents years of discussions with students, the Francophonie community, and the Province in addition to collaboration with the Department of Research and Advocacy. Noted that he incorporated comments from Saint-Jean student leaders. Identified that the present Policy now extends beyond linguistic accessibility. Noted that the agreement which created the CJS as part of the University occurred in 1976.

BHATNAGAR: Proposed removing specifically referring to BearsDen as it may change in name in future. Proposed removing the date of the Facts as the date of their update is listed.

RAITZ: Proposed including Fact relating to the 1976 agreement first in the order to provide for logical flow.

BROWN: Clarified that he ordered Facts in relation to orders of government such that Facts 1-3 are University related, Facts 4-5 are provincially related, Facts 6-7 are federally related, and Fact 8 is a general.

BHATNAGAR: Proposed using sub-points to a greater extent.

BROWN: Noted that the Facts should remain separate if the object to which they relate is sufficiently distinct.

BHATNAGAR: Proposed including Facts' citations as footnotes.

BROWN: Noted that Fact 8 relates to the shortage of teachers who can instruct in French immersion settings. Noted that most CJS students who graduate already have their job offers.

BOURGEOIS: Proposed simplifying Fact 8 to read “Canada has a shortage of French immersion and Francophone teachers”.

BROWN: Clarified that the problem Fact 8 addresses is the shortage of persons who have the ability to instruct in French and not a shortage of teachers more generally.

FARRIS: Proposed replacing the phrase “for many years” with the phrase “an ongoing shortage”.

BOURGEOIS: Proposed using the phrase “able to provide quality instruction in French”.

BHATNAGAR: Expressed concern at the phrasing of Fact 2.

BROWN: Determined to clarify the provision.

BOURGEOIS: Proposed using the term “advocate” rather than “calls on”

BHATNAGAR: Proposed that Resolution 3 not refer to specific offices and, instead, represent a more holistic approach by referring to the University as a whole.

BOURGEOIS: Advised that including more specificity in the political policy provides for institutional memory and smoother transitions.

BHATNAGAR: Suggested that the onboarding process is designed to support transition, not political policy. Proposed referring to only the Provost’s office.

BOURGEOIS: Proposed using the phrase “will provide funding to renovate and expand academic and student-oriented spaces at Campus Saint-Jean” in Resolution 5.

BROWN: Noted that Fact 6 relates to the overrepresentation of sessional instructors which have high turnover. Emphasised that this creates difficulty in the quality of education.

FARRIS: Proposed describing instructors “long term” and those who teach for more than one year.

RAITZ: Proposed that the Policy employ the phrase “hire and retain” in Resolution 6.

MOGALE: Inquired into whether the Policy addresses the consistency of student support between the CSJ and Faculties.

BHATNAGAR: Recommended that the Policy include more provisions relating to

the quality of education at Saint-Jean.

BOURGEOIS: Recommended that the Policy include provisions relating to student life and student services.

BROWN: Considered that quality of instruction is the root causes of many of these problems. Noted that the Policy could address increased collaboration between faculties.

BHATNAGAR: Expressed concern at the depth of this Policy in its present form. Advised tabling the motion until the next meeting in order to hear more from interested stakeholders.

BOURGEOIS: Identified services, events, and residence as topics to include in the Policy. Noted that limited funding and weak relationships may cause a more limited range of events and services. Emphasised that the Policy must support and ongoing and proactive relationship.

BROWN: Confirmed that provisions and issues unique to Campus Saint-Jean will be addressed in this Policy and not another policy which addresses the issue.

LEY: Noted that the Facts can recognise relevant provisions in other policies that relate to Campus Saint-Jean.

BROWN: Considered that he could review the other political policies to identify those which require a Campus Saint-Jean component and then propose amendments.

BOURGEOIS: Supported this approach. Noted that this is what Discover Governance recommended.

BROWN: Noted that present policy could move forward retitled to only recognise the issues of capacity, funding, and infrastructure.

MOGALE: Suggested consolidating all issues which relate to Campus Saint-Jean in this Policy.

RAITZ: Supported this approach.

BROWN/BOURGEOIS MOVED to table item *2018-13/3b* until the next meeting.
7/0/0 - CARRIED.

2018-13/4 **INFORMATION ITEMS**

2018-13/4a *PC-2018-12 Minutes*

See PC-2018-13.01.

2018-13/5 **ADJOURNMENT**

RAITZ: Adjourned the meeting at 6:17pm.

2018-13/5a **Next Meeting:** Tuesday, December 4, 2018 @ 5:00PM in SUB 6-06.

MOTION	VOTES
BROWN/FARRIS MOVED to add item <i>2018-13/3b</i> "BROWN moved to recommend the First Principles of the Campus Saint-Jean Policy to Students' Council"	7/0/0 - CARRIED
BHATNAGAR/BROWN MOVED to add item <i>2018-13/2a</i> to discuss the Quality Instruction Policy.	7/0/0 - CARRIED
BHATNAGAR/BOURGEOIS MOVED to approve the agenda.	7/0/0 - CARRIED
BILAK/BROWN MOVED to approve the minutes of <i>PC-2018-12-M</i> .	6/0/1 - CARRIED
BILAK/BHATNAGAR MOVED to table item <i>2018-13/3a</i> until the next meeting.	7/0/0 - CARRIED.
BROWN/BOURGEOIS MOVED to table item <i>2018-13/3b</i> until the next meeting.	7/0/0 - CARRIED.

Previous QI Policy	Updated QI Policy
<p>1 Facts</p> <hr/> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The University of Alberta is a publicly funded research and teaching intensive institution and excellence in undergraduate education is part of the institution's core academic mission. 2. Quality in undergraduate instruction affects all students on campus, and provides them with a memorable positive experience throughout their degree. 3. Outstanding instruction in undergraduate education reflects positively on the University. 4. Excellence in instruction requires effective communication and interaction between students and instructors. 5. Student feedback and evaluation of instruction provides students with a voice in their learning environment and can help instructors improve their teaching. 6. Quality instruction can prepare students with skills well-suited for the workforce and continuing educational endeavours. 7. Initiatives designed to improve instruction make positive contributions to common instruction practices as well as legislation relating to teaching and learning policies. 8. Establishing a culture that promotes excellence in teaching requires institutional commitment, investment and innovation, 	<p>1 Facts</p> <hr/> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The University of Alberta is a publicly funded research and teaching intensive institution and the core academic mission values “excellence in teaching, research, and creative activity that enriches learning experiences, advances knowledge, inspires engaged citizenship, and promotes the public good”¹ 2. Quality in undergraduate instruction affects every student on campus and provides them with a positive, safe, memorable, and learning rich experience throughout their degree. 3. Outstanding instruction in undergraduate education reflects positively on the University. 4. Excellence in instruction requires effective and clear communication and interaction between students and instructors. 5. Student feedback and evaluation of instruction provides students with a voice in their learning environment and can aid instructors improve their teaching philosophy. 6. Quality instruction prepares students with transferable skills well-suited for the workforce and continuing educational endeavours.

¹University of Alberta Strategic Plan - For the Public Good.

including support for the scholarship of teaching and learning.

2 Resolutions

1. The Students' Union advocates for continued and growing institutional commitment towards excellence in instruction, including support for innovative teaching practices and for the scholarship of teaching and learning.
2. The Students' Union fosters conditions that promote the importance of teaching at an institutional and grassroots level across our diverse campuses.
3. The Students' Union advocates for the support of experiential and co-curricular learning integration with instruction to enhance student learning and incentivize instructors to adopt innovative and effective teaching strategies.
4. The Students' Union advocates that the institution recognizes the importance of professional development in an instructor's performance evaluation in Faculty Evaluation Committees.
5. The Students' Union advocates that instructors' be required to present evidence of their current and past teaching professional development experience as part of their annual review.
6. The Students' Union advocates for increased and ongoing communication between students and professors through

7. Academic faculty members need access to high-quality, progressive professional development coupled with supporting policies relating to teaching and learning.
8. Establishing a culture that promotes excellence in teaching requires institutional commitment, investment and innovation, including support for the scholarship of teaching and learning.

2 Resolutions

1. The Students' Union will advocate for continued and growing institutional commitment towards excellence in instruction, including support for innovative teaching practices and for the scholarship of teaching and learning.
2. The Students' Union fosters conditions that promote the importance of teaching at an institutional and grassroots level across our diverse campuses.
3. The Students' Union will advocate for the support of experiential and co-curricular learning integration with instruction to enhance student learning and incentivize instructors to adopt innovative and effective teaching strategies.
4. The Students' Union will advocate that the institution recognizes the importance of professional development in an instructor's performance evaluation in Faculty Evaluation Committees.
5. The Students' Union will advocate that instructors' be required to present

mid-semester teaching evaluations.

7. The Students' Union advocates for a more effective student teaching evaluation mechanisms that are psychometrically valid and are made readily available for students.

evidence of their current and past teaching professional development experience as part of their annual review.

6. The Students' Union will for increased and ongoing communication between students and professors through mid-semester teaching evaluations.
7. The Students' Union will advocate that the Universal Student Rating of Instructors (USRI's) will take a more multifaceted approach of teaching evaluation and that the results of the USRI's be accessible and digestible for students.