



University of Alberta Students' Union

POLICY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, October 15, 2019

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 2019-10)

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| 2019-10/1 | <u>INTRODUCTION</u> |
| 2019-10/1a | Call to Order |
| 2019-10/1b | Approval of Agenda |
| 2019-10/1c | Approval of Minutes |
| 2019-10/1d | Chair's Business |
| 2019-10/2 | <u>QUESTION/DISCUSSION PERIOD</u> |
| 2019-10/2a | Policy Renewal. |
| 2019-10/3b | Presentations and Timelines for New Proposals. |
| 2019-10/3 | <u>COMMITTEE BUSINESS</u> |
| 2019-10/4 | <u>INFORMATION ITEMS</u> |
| 2019-10/4a | Policy Committee Minutes (PC-2019-09-M) - Tuesday, October 1, 2019.

See PC-2019-10.01. |
| 2019-10/5 | <u>ADJOURNMENT</u> |
| 2019-10/5a | Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 29, 2019 @ 5:00PM in SUB 6-06. |



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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.

ATTENDANCE

NAME	PROXY	PRESENT	SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN FEEDBACK (IF ABSENT)
Juan Vargas Alba (chair)		Y	
Abigail Isaac		Y	
Amber Sayed		Y	
Phoebe Marinakis	David Draper	Y	
Samantha Tse		Y	
Katie Kidd		Y	
Joel Agarwal		Y	
Adam Brown		Y	
Jared Larsen		Y	

MINUTES (PC 2019-09)

2019-09/1

INTRODUCTION

2019-09/1a

Call to Order

VARGAS ALBA: Called the meeting to order at 5:01pm.

2019-09/1b

Approval of Agenda

BROWN/SAYED MOVED to approve the agenda.

CARRIED

2019-09/1c

Approval of Minutes

BROWN/LARSEN MOVED to approve the minutes of PC-2019-08-M.
CARRIED
Larsen abstains.

2019-09/1d **Chair's Business**

2019-09/2 **QUESTION/DISCUSSION PERIOD**

2019-09/2a Sexual Violence Policy

LARSEN: Confirmed that he set up meetings with Aboriginal Student Council and First People's House in order to work out the subpoints of Fact 3 and cite the Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and information from Statistics Canada. Confirmed that he did updates and consultations in relation to the Resolutions.

VARGAS ALBA: Inquired into what, in particular, changes in the Policy's Facts.

LARSEN: Responded that changes to the Facts include the addition of subsections under Section 3:

Indigenous women and Two-Spirit people are almost three times as likely to experience sexual violence than non-Indigenous women.

The racialized and gendered violence that is faced by Indigenous women and Two-Spirit people is a direct result of ongoing colonialism in Canada.

LARSEN/BROWN MOVED to approve First Principles of the Sexual Violence Policy.
CARRIED

2019-09/2b Indigenous Student Policy

VARGAS ALBA: Inquired into whether the Committee wants to reference the population of enrolled self-identifying Aboriginal students on a national or provincial basis. Supported including this reference in reference to provincial data as connects to the Recommendations. Expressed concern that most Aboriginal bands have their post-secondary funding application deadlines prior to when students find out whether they have been admitted to post secondary programs.

Expressed concern that he could not find a data source data for Fact 10:

"According to the 2015 Indigenous Student Success Survey: 10(b) 10-22% of FNMI students attending the University of Alberta had dependant children."

KIDD: Proposed citing this fact from the Indigenous Student Success Survey itself.

VARGAS ALBA: Proposed, unless there is opposition, deleting the following subsections from Fact 12:

(i) According to the medium-growth scenario, in comparing the Canadian population to the Indigenous population, the Indigenous population was projected to increase from 3.4% in 2001 to 4.1% by 2017,

(ii) The Indigenous population is much younger than the total Canadian population yet a trend toward aging is evident during the projection period. The median age of the Indigenous people in Canada was projected to increase from 24.7 years in 2001 to 27.8 years by 2017 while that of the total Canadian population was projected to increase from 37.1 years to 41.3 years by 2017.

(iii) In 2001, children under the age of 15 years represented one-third of the total Indigenous population (32.9%). If fertility continues to decline moderately, the proportion of children will decrease to 28.6% by 2017.

(iv) By 2017, it is possible that Alberta succeed British Columbia in having the second largest Aboriginal population in the province; Ontario having the largest Indigenous population in the province.

Determined to discuss this deletion with the Aboriginal Relations & Reconciliation Committee. Proposed deleting, given that it is incomplete and outside the scope of the Policy, Fact 12(b)v:

“The population of First Nations people living in a house requiring major repair increased from 26% in 1996 to 29% in ----. Métis people were the only identity group to see a reduction in the past decade.”

Determined to discuss this deletion with the Aboriginal Relations & Reconciliation Committee. Proposed not removing, given that it connects to Resolutions on mental health, Fact 12(c)v:

“Indigenous peoples’ life expectancy is 7 years below the rest of the population” as it relates to a resolution advocating for better mental health.

LARSEN: Concurred with Vargas Alba.

VARGAS ALBA: Proposed deleting, given that these facts are outdated and already stated elsewhere, the following sections from Fact 12(e):

“(i) Statistics Canada uses the concept of low income cut-off (LICO) to estimate an income threshold at which families are expected to spend 20 percentage points more than the average family on food, shelter, and clothing. In Edmonton of 2005, almost one third (32%) of Indigenous people were living under the LICO, compared to 13% of non-Indigenous people. In addition, about four in 10 (42%) Indigenous children (aged 14 years and under) were living under the LICO, compared to 16% of non-Indigenous children. These data are based on the before-tax LICO.

(ii) The median total income of the Indigenous population aged 25 to 54 in 2005 was just over \$22,000, compared to over \$33,000 for the non-Indigenous population in the same age group. Across the Indigenous identity groups, the Métis had the highest median income at nearly \$28,000, followed by the Inuit with a little less than \$25,000 and First Nations people with a median income of approximately \$19,000 in 2005. For First Nations people living off reserve, the median income was about \$22,500, compared to just over \$14,000 for First Nations people living on reserve.”

Proposed deleting, given that it relates to an operational issue outside the scope of the Committee, Fact 1(14):

“The University of Alberta currently has established ceremonial (smudging) guidelines that sets out parameters for smudging on campus. Since the Students’ Union Building is operated by the Students’ Union, it is not covered by these guidelines.”

VARGAS ALBA/BROWN MOVED to bring the Indigenous Student Policy to Aboriginal Relations & Reconciliation Committee for review.
CARRIED

2019-09/2c Tuition Policy

BROWN: Outlined that he updated the Policy to include provisions regarding provincial statutory changes as per Bill 19: An Act to Improve the Affordability and Accessibility of Post-secondary Education as well as mentioning international tuition.

BROWN/AGARWAL MOVED to approve the First Reading of the Tuition Policy.
CARRIED

2019-09/2d Student Space Policy

SAYED: Outlined that she updated the Policy to include provisions regarding advocating for the maintenance of high-use student spaces and constructing building with regard to the principles of carbon neutrality and universal design.

BROWN: Proposed that, unless there is opposition, Fact 5(i) be amended to read “the Students’ Union will work towards ensuring that students will be responsible for the lowest possible cost for space development, renewal, and maintenance, possible”

DRAPER: Proposed that, unless there is opposition, Fact (4i) be amended to read “The Students’ Union advocacy on space allocation and building development policies will prioritize buildings that remain most inaccessible to students.”

DRAPER: Inquired into whether the Policy references the different maintenance inequality which exists between the Faculties of Science and Engineering (whose buildings are relatively new) and the Faculty of Arts (whose buildings are relatively old).

SAYED: Responded in the negative.

VARGAS ALBA: Responded that this point exists within the Deferred Maintenance Policy and, therefore, does not need to be incorporated within this Policy.

SAYED/ISAAC MOVED, on behalf of the Committee, to present Council with the Student Space Policy Second Principles.
CARRIED

2019-09/2e

Additional Policy Renewal (Given Time)

BROWN: Inquired into whether the Committee supports adding to the Public Transit Policy a recommendation for the Students' Union to advocate for free transit. Noted that he updated the Policy to include provisions noting that public transportation is common and sustainable and that there are smart fare systems in development. Noted that he added a statistic detailing the commute times of students from traveling to the University from outlying neighborhoods.

DRAPER: Inquired into whether the Policy references the City of Edmonton subsidized low-income transit pass Ride Transit Program which students, in the summer, cannot use due to the eligibility requirements.

BROWN: Responded in the negative. Determined to look into this issue.

VARGAS ALBA: Supported advocating for free public transit. Considered that it would be a large political win for the Students' Union if it successfully advocated for the implementation of free public transit. Considered that free transit would reduce the anxiety of students who forget to bring their uPass or who are required to purchase a uPass but do not use it. Considered that the Students' Union could advocate for free transit in certain areas, times, or free everywhere. Emphasized that any advocacy for free public transit must be coupled with advocacy for improved transit.

LARSEN: Noted that he is in consultations regarding the creation of a Students Who Parent Policy. Determined to, in addition, update and expand the Residence Policy.

VARGAS ALBA: Determined to support Larsen.

ISAAC: Determined to support Larsen.

VARGAS ALBA: Noted that the Committee will prioritize renewing existing policy at next meeting but, if possible, thereafter receive presentations on and begin assigning responsibilities for creating new policies.

2019-09/3

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

2019-09/4

INFORMATION ITEMS

2019-09/4a

Policy Committee Minutes (PC-2019-08-M) - Tuesday, September 5, 2019.

See PC-2019-08.01.

2019-09/5

ADJOURNMENT

VARGAS ALBA: Adjourned the meeting at 5:59pm.

2019-09/5a

Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 15, 2019 @ 5:00PM in SUB 6-06.

SUMMARY OF MOTIONS

MOTION	VOTES
BROWN/SAYED MOVED to approve the agenda.	CARRIED
BROWN/LARSEN MOVED to approve the minutes of PC-2019-08-M.	CARRIED
LARSEN/BROWN MOVED to approve First Principles of the Sexual Violence Policy.	CARRIED
SAYED/ISAAC MOVED , on behalf of the Committee, to present Council with the Student Space Policy Second Principles.	CARRIED