

University of Alberta Students' Union

# POLICY COMMITTEE

# Tuesday, October 29, 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.

#### **ATTENDANCE**

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

#### MINUTES (PC 2019-11)

- 2019-11/1 **INTRODUCTION**
- 2019-11/1a Call to Order VARGAS ALBA: Called the meeting to order at 5:06pm.
- 2019-11/1b Approval of Agenda VARGAS ALBA/KIDD MOVED to approve the agenda. CARRIED
- 2019-11/1c Approval of Minutes

## 2019-11/1d Chair's Business

# 2019-11/2 QUESTION/DISCUSSION PERIOD

#### 2019-11/2a Updates Policy Renewal

LARSEN: Noted that, later this week, he will meet with the Vice-Provost or Indigenous Programming and Research and a First People's House representatives to review the Students with Dependants and Sexual Violence Policies. Noted that he surveyed 55 individuals with children in University daycare centres to inform the Students with Dependants Policy

#### 2019-11/3b Assignment of Policies

VARGAS ALBA: Determined to address this item at a later date given that it only pertains to Vice President Agarwal who is not present.

## 2019-11/3c Residence Policy First Principles

LARSEN: Noted that the new policy reflects changes in University policy and practices as well as includes additional facts sourced from the 2018 Residence Services Resident Student Satisfaction and Learning Survey and Residence Life Task Force Recommendations. Outlined that he consulted the Lister Hall Students' Association Joint Council, Council of Residents Associations, all individual residence association executives, and the University administration.

VARGAS ALBA: Inquired into why the Policy uses the term 'non-cisgender' as opposed to 'transgender':

'Non-cisgender students report significantly higher levels of homesickness, loneliness, anxiety, and depression and significantly lower levels of acceptance compared to their cisgender peers.'

LARSEN: Responded that the Policy uses the term 'non-cisgender' as it was used by a consulted group.

VARGAS ALBA: Inquired into whether Larsen prefers one term over another.

LARSEN: Responded in the negative.

KIDD: Proposed using the term 'non-cisgender' in order that the Policy remain consistent with the 2018 Residence Services Resident Student Satisfaction which uses the same term.

LARSEN: Identified that some Facts state the year as of which they are relevant. Considered that this will help future committees keep the Policy current.

VARGAS ALBA: Proposed adding a fact recognizing that residence costs change rapidly.

LARSEN: Clarified that, while residence accommodation costs used to be highly variable, the University recently stabilized the costs by providing students with three-year predictable rates.

KIDD: Proposed adding a Resolution directing the Students' Union to advocate the University to offer predictable accommodation rates beyond the current three year window.

VARGAS ALBA: Suggested that the University should offer predictable housing costs as rental costs do not increase yearly by large amounts of money in the private rental market. Proposed, if there is no opposition, adding a Resolution to the Policy:

'The Students' Union will advocate for a predictable funding model for rent costs, reflective of the entirety of a residents' time on campus'

VARGAS ALBA: Inquired into the Policy addresses including student residences within the Alberta Residential Tenancies Act.

LARSEN: Responded in the affirmative. Identified that the Policy states that 'The Students' Union will advocate that shared University residences be included under provincial regulation or legislation.'

TSE: Recommend that Larsen enumerate the Policy's provisions before sending it to Council.

LARSEN/ISSAC MOVED to submit the First Principles of Residence Policy to Council. CARRIED

#### 2019-11/3 COMMITTEE BUSINESS

#### 2019-11/4 INFORMATION ITEMS

## 2019-11/5 ADJOURNMENT VARGAS ALBA: Adjourned the meeting at 5:27pm.

#### **2019-11/5a** Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 20, 2019 @ 5:00PM in SUB 6-06.

#### **SUMMARY OF MOTIONS**

ΜΟΤΙΟΝ	VOTES
VARGAS ALBA/KIDD MOVED to approve the agenda.	CARRIED
<b>LARSEN/ISSAC MOVED</b> to submit the First Principles of Residence Policy to Council.	CARRIED