



**POLICY
COMMITTEE**

Tuesday, November 26, 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	Chris Beasley	Y	
Samantha Tse		Y	
Katie Kidd		Y	
Joel Agarwal		Y	
Adam Brown		N	
Jared Larsen		Y	

MINUTES (PC 2019-13)

2019-13/1 INTRODUCTION

2019-13/1a Call to Order
VARGAS ALBA: Called the meeting to order at 5:03pm

2019-13/1b Approval of Agenda
LARSEN/KIDD MOVED to approve the agenda with the addition of 2019-13/2b to 2019-13/2e.
CARRIED

2019-13/1c

Approval of Minutes

LARSEN/KIDD MOVED to approve the minutes of PC-2019-12-M.

CARRIED

Beasley abstains.

2019-13/1d

Chair's Business

2019-13/2

QUESTION/DISCUSSION PERIOD

2019-13/2a

Free Expression Discussion

2019-13/2b

Residence Policy

LARSEN: Noted that Council approved the First Reading at SC-2019-14. Noted that he has, since then, consulted the Council of Residents Associations, Lister Hall Students' Association, and the East Campus Students' Association on the Policy. Confirmed that there have been no substantive changes to the Policy since First Reading.

LARSEN/AGARWAL MOVED to approve the Second Principles of the Residence Policy.

CARRIED

2019-13/2c

Student Poverty

KIDD: Noted that she has authorized the Policy's Facts on the basis of the Student Homelessness and Food Insecurity among UAlberta Students Report and the 2018 Undergraduate Student Survey Report.

AGARWAL: Considered that the Facts duplicate information already within the Residence and Tuition Policies. Suggested that the first fact should relate explicitly to student poverty as opposed to the high cost of post-secondary education.

VARGAS ALBA: Recognised that the facts are interrelated as if one faces food insecurity they are more likely to also be in a precarious living arrangement

BEASLEY: Proposed adding a fact recognising that the highest proportion of persons using the food bank are international students with dependants. Proposed adding a fact recognising the deleterious academic performance impacts resulting from food or housing insecurity.

KIDD: Expressed concern that there is no research the Committee can use to cite these facts.

VARGAS ALBA: Proposed adding a fact demonstrating to how poverty reduces one's health and how poor health, in turn, can result in poverty.

KIDD: Inquired into whether Vargas Alba can provide her with research with which to cite his proposed fact.

VARGAS ALBA: Responded in the negative.

KIDD: Determined to add a Resolution detailing that more research needs to be done on student food and housing insecurity.

VARGAS ALBA: Proposed that Kidd consult with the University Health Centre and School of Public Health. Considered that, even if there is no UAlberta specific data, Kidd may be able to find related data.

KIDD: Expressed concern at using facts that are overly broad or not specifically related to a resolution.

VARGAS ALBA: Suggested that broad facts are acceptable but specificity is preferable.

TSE: Proposed structuring the Policy such that it be immediately clear from where a Fact derives. Proposed using research specific to Canada in creating the Facts.

LARSEN: Suggested that it is not feasible for the Committee to complete exhaustive research in developing the Policy.

KIDD: Confirmed that more evidence and detail can be added into the Policy in creating its Second Principles and, subsequently, in its renewal.

LARSEN: Recognized that there is limited data available on student food and housing insecurity. Noted that the Students' Union has more data available than the University or Office of the Student Ombuds.

AGARWAL: Noted that Facts do not always require citations or specific numbers.

VARGAS ALBA: Proposed that the Policy recognise that students overwhelmingly find themselves doing precarious work, defined by uncertain hours and an absence of benefits.

AGARWAL: Inquired into how Kidd can draft this Policy such that it relates to the other existing policies without re-stating their content.

KIDD: Responded that the Policy does not duplicate existing Policy as its content is specifically related to housing and food insecurity. Determined to do more consultation in creating the Policy's Resolutions.

DIXON: Suggested that it is beneficial if the Policy has facts and resolutions which overlap with those existing in other policies as redundancy will ensure that Students' Union policy is, in general, comprehensive.

VARGAS ALBA: Inquired into what data Kidd was unable to source in drafting the Policy.

KIDD: Responded that she was unable to find data related to how many students engage in sex work and the number of students who use homeless shelters. Considered that researchers need to use creative methods to reach this population of students.

AGARWAL: Proposed, moving forward, refining the Facts to give them a more specific focus on poverty.

KIDD/LARSEN MOVED to approve the Student Poverty Policy First Principles.
CARRIED

2019-13/2d

Academic Quality

KIDD: Determined to discuss this item at the next meeting.

2019-13/2e

Public Transit / Active Transportation Policy

VARGAS ALBA: Determined to remove Fact 3 which states 'A post-secondary bus pass provides a more affordable public transit option for students than a regular adult pass.' Inquired into whether the Committee should remove Fact 5 concerning the implementation of SmartCard technology on Edmonton Transit as the City has committed to pursuing this project.

LARSEN: Responded in the negative.

VARGAS ALBA: Recognised that students enrol in Spring-Summer term courses to receive a subsidised UPass and, thereafter, withdraw.

SAYED: Emphasised that, for students in the lowest income bracket, a Ride Transit Program subsidized pass costs less than a U-Pass.

VARGAS ALBA: Noted that fare-free public transit would obviate many of the issues the Committee identified as extant within the current public transit system.

AGARWAL: Proposed adding Fact 2(i) to state 'For the majority of students, the U-Pass is a mandatory fee with very specific restrictions. Many students who see no need to take transit have to pay this fee regardless.'

VARGAS ALBA/SAYED MOVED to approve Public Transit / Active Transportation Policy First Principles.
CARRIED

2019-13/3

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

2019-13/4 **INFORMATION ITEMS**

2019-13/4a Policy Committee Minutes (PC-2019-12-M) - Tuesday, November 5, 2019.

See PC-2019-13.01.

2019-13/5 **ADJOURNMENT**

VARGAS ALBA: Adjourned the meeting at 6:07pm.

2019-13/5a **Next Meeting:** Tuesday, December 10, 2019 @ 5:00PM in SUB 6-06.

SUMMARY OF MOTIONS

MOTION	VOTES
LARSEN/AGARWAL MOVED to approve the Second Principles of the Residence Policy.	CARRIED
LARSEN/KIDD MOVED to approve the minutes of PC-2019-12-M.	CARRIED
KIDD/LARSEN MOVED to approve the Student Poverty Policy First Principles.	CARRIED
VARGAS ALBA/SAYED MOVED to approve Public Transit / Active Transportation Policy First Principles.	CARRIED