

Tuesday, September 14, 2020

5:00 PM

Google Meet

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)
Abner Monteiro (Chair)		Y	
David Draper		Y	
Katie Kidd		Y	
Rowan Ley		N	
Andrew Batycki		Y	
Nathan Brandwein		Y	
Simran Dhillon		Y	
Talia Dixon		Y	
Christian Fotang		Y	

MINUTES (PC 2020-07)

- 2020-07/1 INTRODUCTION**
- 2020-07/1a Call to Order**
MONTEIRO: Called the meeting to order at 5:06pm.
- 2020-07/1b Approval of Minutes**
- 2020-07/1c Approval of Agenda**
DIXON/DRAPER MOVED to approve the agenda.
CARRIED

2020-07/1d **Chair's Business**

2020-07/2 **QUESTION/DISCUSSION PERIOD**

2020-07/2a KIDD: Updated that the Committee members working on the Health and Wellness Policy have established what themes they want the Policy to address and intend to meet next week to create First Principles.

DRAPER: Updated that the Committee members working on the Deferred Maintenance Policy have met and completed several resolutions. Considered that Second Principles could be ready for the next Committee meeting.

DIXON: Updated that the Committee members working on the Non-Partisan Policy has not yet met.

MONTEIRO: Updated that the Committee members working on the Student Employment Policy has not yet met. Directed teams working on the Non-Partisan and Employment Policies to aim to prepare their First Principles for approval at the next Committee meeting.

2020-07/2b **Campus Policing Policy Subcommittee Update**

KIDD: Updated that the Subcommittee will receive a presentation from Protective Services and meet on September 9. Noted that the Subcommittee has completed Campus Policing Survey questions for the Annual General Survey. Considered that First Principles for the Policy will be ready for review in November or December.

2020-07/2c **Fall 2020 Plan**

MONTEIRO: Inquired as to what goals Committee members have for the remainder of the term.

DIXON: Responded that their goal is to write a Climate Policy.

DRAPER: Responded that their goal is to update the Assessment Policy to reflect the University's current operations.

BRANDWEIN: Responded that their goal is to better integrate EDI perspectives and student perspectives in policy renewal. Committed to connecting with representatives from his faculty. Recommitted to meeting assigned deadlines.

MONTEIRO: Agreed that the Committee should consult students and seek to consider diverse perspectives.

KIDD: Noted that Aboriginal Student Council and the Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation Committee are creating a consultation guide. Noted that ASC has, in past, expressed concern when the SU attempted to consult them on a finished

product rather than engaging them early in the process of writing policy. Proposed that the Committee create a guide for consulting groups for the purpose of writing policy.

DIXON: Recognised that the Committee's consultation efforts should be intentional, focused, and involve relationship building. Proposed that the Committee should work to standardise a structure for writing facts in its policies. Expressed concern that some facts read as opinions while others read as evidence.

LEY: Agreed with Dixon. Proposed that the Committee adopt a new structure for its policies, the Principles, Concerns, and Resolutions (PCR) Model. Considered that the Committee's policies run into difficulty as its principles and problems are often very similar. Determined to present the PCR Model to the Committee at a later meeting. Proposed that the Committee amend its Standing Orders to implement the PCR Model, taking effect in the next session of Council. Suggested that the Committee need not always seek to do new consultation as much of the research and evidence that the Committee uses to inform its policies have embedded/pre-existing consultation in them.

BRANDWEIN: Inquired as to what differentiates facts and principles in writing policy.

LEY: Responded that principles are generally abstract and about values whereas facts are specific and quantifiable.

KIDD: Inquired as to how the Committee's practice of passing first and second principles of a policy would change if it adopted the PCR Model.

DRAPER: Considered that Bylaw 100 may prescribe that the Committee adhere to a certain structure in writing policy.

LEY: Proposed that the Committee consult Council on adopting the PCR Model.

FOTANG: Confirmed, having reviewed Bylaw 100 and Policy Standing Orders, that they do not constrain the Committee in terms of amending its policy structure by adopting the PCR Model. Noted that the Policy Committee Handbook proposes a format for how the Committee passes policy but the Committee does not adhere to it.

KIDD: Responded that their goal is to pursue and update the research recommendations as part of the Student Poverty Policy, add a mental health section to Health and Wellness Policy, and update the EDI Policy to reflect the current state of SU operations.

BATYCKI: Responded that their goal is to work on renewing policies through the lens of how the Committee can reduce student stresses and make their lives easier.

FOTANG: Responded that their goal is to expand the Health and Wellness Policy and strengthen their consultation efforts with Faculty of Science departmental associations.

DHILLON: Responded that their goal is to renew policy by taking into account the multiple perspectives that exist in relation to it. Expressed concern that Council generally hears from only one type of engaged student. Recognised that it can be challenging but rewarding to engage with faculty associations. Proposed that the Committee adopt the University of British Columbia structure for writing policy which includes success indicators alike to those the SU has for the ARRC Recommendations.

LEY: Agreed with Dhillon that there is a self-selection bias in the types of students that engage with the SU. Suggested that this bias can be controlled for by using surveys that randomly sample the student body. Recognised that surveys are not a substitute for focus groups or deep consultation. Expressed concern that it would be problematic to adopt performance indicators for all policies given that many policies have highly aspirational goals and that the SU has so many policies that the Executive cannot advance all of them in a given year.

DHILLON: Proposed including in policies some information about how the SU is working toward their fulfillment.

FOTANG: Agreed with Dhillon. Noted that Council has no strategic plan for EDI. Noted that Council must take care to not only focus on an issue when it is politically convenient.

DIXON: Agreed with Dhillon. Suggested that performance indicator tracking, as for the ARRC Recommendations, is useful as it pushes the SU to make progress on its commitments as it makes the SU more accountable to students. Agreed with Ley that the SU has an abundance of policies. Expressed concern that some policies are overlapping or unnecessary. Emphasised the need for the Committee to focus on quality over quantity when it comes to Policy.

MONTEIRO: Agreed with Dixon that the Committee should streamline and simplify policy where possible. Suggested that the Committee could give examples in policies about the initiatives it has ongoing to meet them.

LEY: Clarified that the ARRC Recommendations have tracked performance indicators because the SU recognises reconciliation as a uniquely important issue. Reaffirmed that the SU cannot realistically track all of its policies.

Expressed concern that if the Committee chooses to identify performance indicators for all its policies, then future committees will overestimate the capacity of the SU and set unrealistic target indicators.

DRAPER: Suggested that Executives interact with so many policies on a daily basis

that it would be unrealistic to track their progress on meeting each one. Noted that it is important to designate specific individual(s) for updating performance indicator tracking when they exist. Proposed adding a new highlights section to policies that contains information about how the SU is working to fulfil them.

LEY: Responded that they have no goals surrounding the creation of new policies at this time.

DHILLON: Agreed that tracking the fulfillment of performance indicators for all policies is not possible. Proposed that the Committee include in policies a checklist that shows, in broad terms, what the SU is doing to effect the policy.

DRAPER: Considered that a new policy highlights section could be included in policies in addition to a performance indicator checklist.

2020-07/3

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

2020-07/4

INFORMATION ITEMS

2020-07/5

ADJOURNMENT

MONTEIRO: Adjourned the meeting at 6:00pm.

2020-07/5a

Next Meeting: Tuesday, August 1, 2020 @ 5pm