



University of Alberta Students' Union
POLICY COMMITTEE

November 3rd, 2022
4:00 P.M.
[Zoom](#)/SUB 6-06

The University of Alberta and the University of Alberta Students' Union occupy Indigenous land in amiskwacîswâskahikan (Beaver Hills House), on Treaty 6 territory. From time immemorial, the banks along the river valley have been known as the Pehonan, a meeting place for the nêhiyawak (Cree), the Niitsitapi (Blackfoot), Métis, Dênesųłíné (Dene), Ojibway/Saulteaux/Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee and others. The University, the Students' Union and much of the city are located on the unlawfully stolen land of the forcibly removed Papaschase Cree.

We acknowledge that sharing this land gives each of us the responsibility to research the historic contexts of Treaty 6, to reflect on our personal relationships to the land, the Nations we've named, and to our roles in upholding justice on this territory. Since they began, the Students' Union and the University have benefited from historic and ongoing dispossession of land and resources from Indigenous Peoples. As a result, it is our responsibility to seek the restitution of this land and its resources. Finally, we seek to do better by working to make our learning, research, and governance align with the histories, languages, teachings, and cultures of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Peoples in the land presently occupied by the Canadian state.

We encourage critical reflection by asking the following question. In relation to the territory on which you are situated, what role do you play in strengthening the resistance and resurgence of Indigenous students within your communities?

ATTENDANCE

NAME	PROXY	PRESENT
Haruun Ali		Y
Simran Dhillon		N
Joannie Fogue		Y
Christian Fotang, Chair		Y
Gurleen Kaur		Y
Lionel Liu	Leo Huang	Y
Ibukun Ojo	Daniela Carbajal Velez	Y
Vedant Vyas		N
Marcel Roth		N/A
COO Okere		N/A
Courtney Graham		N/A

MINUTES (PC-2022-10-M)

2022-10/1 INTRODUCTION (5 minutes)

2022-10/1a Call to Order

FOTANG called the meeting to order at 4:04 P.M.

2022-10/1b Approval of Agenda

The committee considers the approval of the draft agenda prepared by the committee's chairperson; at this stage, committee members can propose that agenda items be added or removed, or that one or more items on the agenda be reordered.

KAUR/HUANG MOVED TO approve the agenda with amendments.
CARRIED

2022-10/1c Approval of Minutes

ALI/HUANG MOVED TO approve the minutes from the previous meeting.
CARRIED

[PC-2022-09-M](#)

2022-10/1d Chair's Business

Updates from the Chair relating to progress updates, announcements or other relevant or important information that pertain to the committee or that committee members should be aware of.

2022-10/2 QUESTION/DISCUSSION PERIOD

An Opportunity for Discussion or Questions in regards to activities of the Committee

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Items for the committee to consider, including items requiring the committee's approval, will be listed here for consideration. Items may be submitted by committee members of the policy committee but should be submitted to the Chair or staff member in advance so committee members have time to consider them ahead of the meeting.

ALI: Questions if there has been a comprehensive review of the liaison program.

ROTH: Confirms that there has been. Review of the liaison program is done on a weekly, monthly and quarterly basis. There is a weekly meeting with the liaison, and a monthly/quarterly meeting with the South Side Services Officer. No outside review of the liaison program has been completed.

ALI: Questions about Excited Delirium Syndrome in regards to UAPS training.

ROTH: Excited Delirium Syndrome is in the UAPS training based on previous observations that it leads to medical distress.

ALI: Questions about the minimum education requirement for UAPS officers.

ROTH: The minimum education requirement for UAPS is a highschool diploma.

ALI: Questions if there are plans for a sexual violence unit within UAPS.

ROTH: States that there are currently three UAPS officers who have sexual violence, intimate partner violence and survivor based skills and training.

FOGUE: Questions if the anxiety students feel with UAPS on campus is the result of systemic issues. If yes, wonders if these systemic issues are being addressed

ROTH: Agrees that there are systemic issues. Perceptions do become reality, but is less concerned if something is a perception or a fact, than if it is bothering someone to the point that their own safety is affected. Is open to meeting with individuals and organisations in order to address this.

FOGUE: Questions what community/student consultation has been had to better adjust UAPS services to students.

ROTH: UAPS service adjustment come directly from feedback received. Has had a substantial and long standing (five year) relationship with the residence community, which has helped to inform this. Residence makes up a large part of the campus community and a lot of feedback has come from this community on campus. Staff and student concerns from residence have been addressed appropriately.

KAUR: Questions what would be recommended to a student who feels unsafe due to other transit users. As well, questions what would be recommend for students who feel unsafe from the presence of UAPS officers.

ROTH: Edmonton transit is responsible for transit stations. However, transit stations and trains do run through the U of A property. Recommends to head the advice and resources provided to any patron of the transit system, such as utilising emergency phone lines around the transit. If a patron is unsafe on transit, they should contact both UAPS and Edmonton Transit (considering if they are on the University of Alberta campus stations).

HUANG: Questions if the liaison program is close to what school constable programs are.

ROTH: State in the negative. School CROs have different tasks and responsibilities. The U of A is an open border school institution with adult learners. The Liaison program was set up to, specifically, incorporate better response times with police services.

HUANG: Questions if there will be any initiatives in the future to allow UAPS to be on transit systems in the future.

ROTH: Transit officers have jurisdiction to enforce security and law enforcement. However, UAPS has jurisdiction on university lands and property. As such, the lines become blurred when incidents occur on the transit system.

KAUR: Asks for recommendations when a student on transit feels unsafe due to policing.

ROTH: Recommends that students who ride transit ride in pairs, let others know their travel plans and utilise Safewalk services. Encourages people to not be fearful of law enforcement.

FOGUE: Questions about U of A safe apps which can be downloaded by students.

ROTH: The app is called U of A SAFE.

FOGUE: Questions why the Mustard Seed Community Liaison Program is beneficial to the campus community.

ROTH: Uses the first year to learn and show positive outcomes for having the Mustard Seed Community Liaison Program. People are getting connected and assisted in the ways that they need to be, such as becoming connected with a variety of social services triaging.

HUANG: Asks about initiatives for UAPS to go on LRT stations .

ROTH: The best thing that can be done is to partner and connect with the City of Edmonton. Something that UAPS is willing to explore. However, UAPS is concerned about officers exposing themselves to liability if they are allowed on the transit system.

UAPS wants to be partners with the campus community and is fully invested in the safety and well-being of the campus community. During COVID, UAPS was not stagnant and has explored new ideas in which to help students. UAPS very much wants to be part of the solution within the community.

2022-10/3a

Presentation by Marcel Roth

ROTH: Is the current director of the U of A Protective Services (UAPS). UAPS is dedicated to building a safe community for all student members. UAPS strives to be unbiased and accountable and is committed to campus safety and approaching everything with problem solving methods. UAPS admits that it is not perfect, but commits to learning from its challenges, being open to new ideas and learning to do things better. This dedication to doing better has been an important part of their tenure in the past six years. In the past six years, UAPS has crafted a dedicated partnership with the residence community and established a community liaison program with the residence community. In 2019, UAPS created the Community Assistance Team and a UAPS/EPS liaison program (which has allowed for more timely response times). This has led to increased community engagement with police officers, proactive patrolling, and crime reduction. The UAPS/EPS liaison officer has been more successful in applying quality affective outcomes. The current version of the community assistance team has been updated from its inception; it started off as a team of two UAPS peace officers (designed to primarily connect with the community and handle situations around homelessness and drug use). During COVID, this assistance team began being used more often. It is now composed of one UAPS officer and one Mustard Seed Officer (Social Services Support Officer).

2022-10/3b

Policy Updates

ALI: Raises the concern that there is not enough time to finish consultation for the Campus Safety and Security Policy. Suggests contacting other groups such as the BSA and the general student body for more consultation. Suggests moving the consultation deadline to right before the Students' Union elections.

FOTANG: Questions the need for an extended deadline for this policy.

FOGUE: BSA and the general student body were consulted last April, when the policy was first formed, does not believe that that information is out of date. The two groups which identified concerns with the policy, ISA and ISU, are the groups which are being reconsulted with.

ALI: Believes that more student body consultation is required. States that students should have a space to share ideas.

FOTANG: Suggests that there is already survey data from April that can be used for the Campus Safety and Security Policy. Does not think that the consultation deadline for November 30th should change. The BSA's thoughts are already very well reflected in the policy because the BSA was a part of the Campus Safety and Security Policy working group last year. Suggests meeting with the major stakeholders identified in the Students' Council motion, then writing the first principles of the policy to present to Council by the end of December, before assessing if more student consultation is required. First principles can also be put into the newsletter that the Students' Union could send out.

KAUR/ALI MOVE TO extend the meeting.
CARRIED

ALI: Is unconvinced. States intent to send a motion to Students' Council regarding this.

2022-10/4

INFORMATION ITEMS

2022-10/5

Next Meeting: November 10th, 2022

FOTANG: Adjourns the meeting at 5:05 P.M.

Outstanding Action Items:

Date	Topic	Action	Completed (yes or no)