



University of Alberta Students' Union  
**POLICY COMMITTEE**

**December 12th, 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
Simran Dhillon		N
Joannie Fogue		Y
Christian Fotang, Chair		Y
Gurleen Kaur		Y
Lionel Liu		Y
Ibukun Ojo		N
Milan Regmi		N
Vedant Vyas		N
Navjot Kaur		N/A
Haruun Ali		N/A

**MINUTES (PC-2022-14-M)**

2022-14/1	<b><u>INTRODUCTION (5 minutes)</u></b>
2022-14/1a	<b>Call to Order</b>  FOTANG called the meeting to order at 4:03 PM
2022-14/1b	<b>Approval of Agenda</b> <i>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.</i>  TABLED
2022-14/1c	<b>Approval of Minutes</b>  <a href="#">PC-2022-12-M</a>  TABLED
2022-14/1d	<b>Chair's Business</b> <i>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.</i>
2022-14/2	<b><u>QUESTION/DISCUSSION PERIOD</u></b> <i>An Opportunity for Discussion or Questions in regards to activities of the Committee</i>
2022-14/3	<b><u>COMMITTEE BUSINESS</u></b> <i>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.</i>
2022-14/3a	<b>Presentation by COO Okere</b>  OKERE: Is the Chief Operations Officer (COO) with EPS. Seeks to help provide community supports for addiction, social issues and sexual assaults within the community and create a safer transit system as a whole.
2022-14/3b	<b>Presentation by Adam Phillips</b>  PHILLIPS: Is currently working as a constable with EPS and is filling in for the current UAPS/EPS liaison officer. States that there are a lot of different roles that the liaison officer plays. The liaison officer exists, more or less, to share and gather intelligence. Because the university area is such a high call area, there are concerns about the safety of those at the university. EPS has moved focus from conducting criminal investigations to providing community

support and assistance. Has specifically noticed an increase in violence at the U of A campus. Due to the mediation training provided to the UAPS/EPS liaison, the liaison officer is uniquely qualified to defuse situations.

G.KAUR: States that transit systems can be very unsafe and some students can feel very unsafe while using them, especially international students. Questions about what solutions can be provided to increase safety measures on transit systems.

PHILLIPS: EPS has regularly scheduled patrols for night shifts on the transit system. However, due to jurisdiction issues, EPS does not conduct patrols on campus transit systems. Encourages students to reach out directly to EPS officers to discuss concerns about transit safety. Also encourages students to trust their guts and to avoid any situations that may feel unsafe.

OKERE: As a service, and a city, we are trying to learn to connect more with the U of A student population to help ensure student safety. Notes that international students have consistently reported feeling more unsafe than domestic students while using transit. EPS is creating more coverage and patrols to help address safety concerns on transit systems. As well, wants to encourage humanising troubled individuals, such as homeless people.

FOGUE: Questions if the differences between a peace officer, police officer and a security guard on the transit system can be provided to committee.

PHILLIPS: Notes that there are a lot of differences between the powers of these three groups. For example. security guards only have the same arrest powers as an average citizen of Edmonton. Police officers will carry firearms, batons and bear spray; peace officers will only be authorised to carry a baton and security officers only carry handcuffs.

OKERE: Notes that every police officer is a peace officer, but not every peace officer is a police officer.

FOGUE: Questions how much the UAPS/EPS liaison program costs.

PHILLIPS: Currently does not know the explicit cost of the program.

FOGUE: Notes that some students have had concerns about information sharing and what information is shared and collected between UAPS and EPS.

PHILLIPS: Recognizes that this is a student concern. Does not have access to a lot of student information. Has access to student's names, birthdays, address and potential disturbances that have occurred by their person in the last 24 hrs. Does not have access to any other information.

OJO (written question): Questions if information can be provided on how EPS determines someone to be a threat on campus.

PHILLIPS: There are a lot of factors that go into this determination. To say someone is a threat depends on each individual situation.

OKERE: EPS has extensive training in unconscious bias so someone's appearance does not determine threat level. Someone's actions determine the threat level.

LIU: Questions if unconscious bias training is mandatory amongst EPS officers.

OKERE: States that unconscious bias training is mandatory, along with a litany of other training and mediation techniques.

KAUR: Notes that indigenous students do not necessarily feel safe on transit systems due to their history within Canada and with the police force specifically. Questions what can be done to rectify this.

OKERE: No group is a monolith and every group is highly heterogeneous. What needs to happen is creating positive interactions with individuals to help communities at large feel safer amongst the presence of police officers. EPS wants to work with other organisations on diversity training and further mediation techniques to help ensure passionate care from the police force. EPS is very cognizant of addressing concerns amongst certain communities against EPS and is actively working to rectify them.

PHILLIPS: Every interaction is important and one police officer can work to change perceptions of EPS with individuals within the community.

FOTANG: Questions, in the presenter's opinions, what is the most effective way to address transit safety. Wonders if there is an immediate, short time solution that can address safety concerns on transit.

OKERE: Is working to ensure that transit officers are coordinated in such a way that there are no gaps in patrol on transit stations. A coordinator position has been hired to address this specifically. However, there is a labour shortage in the police force and transit officer service, which makes achieving this difficult. EPS is currently working to hire more officers to help act as remedies to safety concerns. Addressing mental health and addiction is also a short term solution which would help address transit safety.

### **POLICY UPDATES**

2022-14/4

TABLED

### **INFORMATION ITEMS**

**2022-14/5**

**Next Meeting:**

FOTANG adjourned the meeting at 4:42 PM.

Outstanding Action Items:

Date	Topic	Action	Completed (yes or no)