



**POLICY
COMMITTEE**

September 28, 2023

6:00 P.M.

SUB 6-06/[Zoom](#)

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 Niitsítapi (Blackfoot), Métis, Dènesųłíné (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
Pedro Almeida		Y
Chris Beasley		Y
Michael Griffiths		Y
Adrian Lam		N
Precious Majekodunmi (Chair)		Y
Mason Pich		Y
Nathan Thiessen		Y
Abdul Abbasi		Y
Courtney Graham		N/A

Aseel Atia		N/A
Racquel Araujo		N/A

MINUTES (PC-2023-08-M)

2023-08/1 INTRODUCTION

2023-08/1a Call to Order

MAJEKODUNMI called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM

2023-08/1b Approval of Agenda

THIESSEN/BEASLEY MOVE TO approve the agenda
CARRIED

2023-08/1c Approval of Minutes

THIESSEN/ABBASI MOVE TO approve the minutes
CARRIED

2023-08/1d Chair’s Business

- Policy Action Plan Update

MAJEKODUNMI: Congratulate Mason and Michael for completing their set of First Principles.

- Trimester Check-In

MAJEKODUNMI: Questions the committee to see if anyone is feeling overwhelmed or requires any extra support.

GRIFFITHS: Wonders if an official motion can be made to vote on the minutes.

MAJEKODUNMI: Proceeds with revoting on the previous meeting’s minutes.

GRIFFITHS/THIESSEN MOVE TO approve the minutes.
CARRIED

ABBASI: Introduces themselves to the committee and apologises to ALMEIDA for any inconveniences that occurred while out of the country, as they are working on the same policy together and scheduling meeting times was difficult.

2023-08/2

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Student Space Policy and Deferred Maintenance update regarding first principles.

GRIFFITHS: The First Principles are finished, and soon the Second Principles will have made a lot of progress. Hopes to bring the second principles to Council shortly.

Quality Academics Policy

ALMEIDA: Waiting for a data collection survey to come out (which will occur around the class withdrawal deadline) to capture students' experience with policy and grading. In line with the lack of data at the moment, there are no updates at this point. THIESSSEN and ALMEIDA did a source check for the survey.

MAJEKODUNMI: Wonders if the survey has been created yet.

ALMEIDA: Yes, an outline has been created by THIESSSEN, which was further reviewed by the UASU's Director of Research and Advocacy. As understood, the majority of questions have been set and the survey is just waiting to be sent out. Has sent the survey out for Council to review and give feedback on.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1KdLWZEebhJZMAUewgcQxezfAU-A8pb4GKMax_qwl4Nc/edit>

MAJEKODUNMI: Wonders what the rough estimate is for when the First Principles will be completed.

ALMEIDA: The goal is to get about 1000 responses on the survey; the survey will close a week after the withdrawal deadline. However, the committee should have input regarding what kind of response threshold they would like, depending on their goals. Would recommend that everyone take some time to think about it.

MAJEKODUNMI: What kind of advertising will be done to get the idea out?

ALMEIDA: The Marketing department is set on it being a Perks survey, so the Research and Advocacy Department is great at reaching students, but is open to collaborating with the Social Media Sub-Committee.

THIESSSEN: When it comes to getting data from students, believes Perks is good enough to get a sizable spread. Believes this is out of the scope of SMS.

GRIFFITHS: Agrees with THIESSSEN. What are the chances the committee can get aggregated SPOT data?

ALMEIDA: Very likely, as SPOT data is public. Whatever is decided for promotion will not impact the date the survey is released, but will impact the number of responses that the survey gets. Recommends going to the Research Department and seeing what kinds of resources and recommendations would be helpful to increase reach.

Update regarding the Augustana Policy Consultation Plan and Mental Health Policy Check-in.

BEASLEY: Needs final consultation to be finished for First Principles to be complete.

2023-08/3

QUESTION/DISCUSSION PERIOD

ALMEIDA: The way policies and procedures are passed could use some looking over. Not a discussion right now, but recommends it become a point of discussion in the future, where there can be more transparency regarding how First and Second Principles are created.

MAJEKODUNMI: Maybe focus on brainstorming how the council creates the First and Second Principles and how best to build them out. Will need GRAHAM's knowledge regarding how the process could be altered.

PICH: There are only a few policies that are out for renewal, so the council could examine the process of renewing the policies instead of actually renewing them.

MAJEKODUNMI: Wants to complete the Fall semester's policies, and once they're renewed, in the Winter semester conversations can begin regarding altering the renewal process.

ABBASI: For the survey, how many responses will the survey get and how will council get all those responses? What is the average response rate for Perks surveys?

ALMEIDA: Surveys on Perks have a large threshold, so if the council wants a larger threshold, more points should be associated with them and the survey should run for longer.

GRIFFITHS: Might not want to have the survey pushed out very hard. It's best left to governance to decide on the Perk point value and the length of time the survey is released to the public. As any big changes could result in throwing off Governance.

MAJEKODUNMI: Would like Jon to attend a meeting, chat, and ask him questions. Whatever schedule would work best for everyone involved, ranging from sending him questions via email or having him send over a presentation.

THIESEN: Will chat with Jon regarding what's the best format for a Q&A.

2023-08/4

WRAP-UP

Action Items / To-Do List

MAJEKODUNMI: This meeting had updates on the policies.

Next Scheduled Meeting

- October 12, 2023 @ 6 PM

Adjournment

MAJEKODUNMI adjourned the meeting at 6:52 PM.