



University of Alberta Students' Union

**POLICY
COMMITTEE**

October 12, 2023

6:00 P.M.

SUB 6-06/[Zoom](#)

The University of Alberta and the University of Alberta Students' Union occupy Indigenous land in amiskwaciwâskahikan (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, Dënesųłiné (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		Y
Precious Majekodunmi (Chair)		Y
Mason Pich		Y
Nathan Thiessen		Y
Abdul Abbasi		Y
Courtney Graham		N/A

Aseel Atia		N/A
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MINUTES (PC-2023-09-M)

2023-09/1 INTRODUCTION

2023-09/1a Call to Order

MAJEKODUNMI called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM

2023-09/1b Approval of Agenda

BEASLEY/LAM MOVE TO approve the agenda
CARRIED

2023-09/1c Approval of Minutes

TABLED

2023-09/1d Chair’s Business

- Perks Surveys

MAJEKODUNMI: Some of the surveys that have gone out by the department of Research and Advocacy include surveys about financial aid, burnout, accessibility, and more. Have these surveys been included in policy facts or resolutions, as these surveys can provide support for some points?

BEASLEY: Reached out to Jon regarding a Lunch and Learn session for the Department of Research and Advocacy, and he has accepted. Will reach out to Jon for dates and times that are preferable to him. Jon has also provided other contacts.

ALMEIDA: Would not be possible for Jon to give a presentation during the PC meetings, as Jon is in Halifax and will not be working that late.

MAJEKODUNMI: When will ALMEIDA’s survey be released?

ALMEIDA: The survey will be released by the withdrawal deadline, which will allow a more rounded perspective. Currently the only survey which is specifically designed for supporting policies.

2023-09/2 COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Student Space Policy and Deferred Maintenance update regarding first principles.

GRIFFITHS: PICH and GRIFFITHS are working on the amendments on the Student Space Policy and Deferred Maintenance resolution section. A lot of the facts are

represented in the resolutions. Hoping it can be presented at the next meeting, but it will depend on the consultation pathway. Might consult with student groups, which will extend the timeline.

MAJEKODUNMI: Would it be possible to consult Augustana Campus?

LAM: There are two student spaces in Augustana, and one of them will be renovated soon. Students are concerned that they are losing spaces. Wants Augustana students to be able to consult on the policy.

GRIFFITHS: Will consult with Augustana during the consultation process.

Quality Academics Policy

ALMEIDA: No substantial updates, as the policy is still waiting on the survey.

MAJEKODUNMI: Is consultation completed or planned?

ALMEIDA: Yes, consultation was brought to COFA, and no feedback has been given yet, so either there was not that much engagement, or the facts are all correct. There is not a plan to bring the policy up again.

MAJEKODUNMI: Would it be possible for BEASLEY to send an email to the COFA group and provide feedback to ALMEIDA?

Student Financial Aid and Scholarships

ALMEIDA: The facts are the same as in the last meeting. There was a lack of communication regarding which people were doing which tasks, but now all the members know. Recommends that next meeting everyone take a look. Insight from VP External and VP Student Life are the only remaining tasks for the facts.

Mental Health Policy

BEASLEY: Might need an extra policy committee member, as the policy is very heavy and dense. A third person would be very helpful if they are willing to help.

MAJEKODUNMI: Can provide support and, if another member is willing, more people can work together on the policy.

Update regarding the Augustana Policy Consultation Plan

LAM: Moving slowly with no progress, as conflicting schedules have not allowed the committee to meet. Has the facts section in a personal document and is updating them with personal knowledge. Additional support is to be determined, as the

Mental Health Plan is the priority at the moment. The Augustana Plan is more consultation-based, which is more relevant after the first principles pass.

MAJEKODUNMI: Are the facts for the Mental Health Plan completed?

BEASLEY: The facts are 60-70% completed.

LAM: Has a document with all of the research being completed.

2023-09/3

QUESTION/DISCUSSION PERIOD

Policy templates when submitting to Students' Council

GRAHAM: The way PC is submitting first and second principles is not in line with current bylaw regulations, so PC will have to change the way they submit these principles by using a template that is similar to the one that Bylaw Committee utilizes. ATIA is working on a specific template for Policy Committee, which should be released on the upcoming Monday.

MAJEKODUNMI: The template will be discussed during the next meeting so the requirements are clear to everyone on the committee.

2023-09/4

WRAP-UP

Action Items / To-Do List

Next Scheduled Meeting

- October 26, 2023 @ 6 PM

Adjournment

MAJEKODUNMI adjourned the meeting at 6:46 PM.