

**STUDENT GROUP  
COMMITTEE**

**Monday, January 10, 2022**

**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
Christopher Beasley		Y
Abner Monterio, Chair		Y
Daniela Carbajal		N
Talia Dixon		N
Caitlin Mcleod		Y
Selen Erkut		Y
Asyah Saif		N
Aadhavya Sivakumaran		Y
Bin Ge Yang		Y
Jacqueline Yang		Y
Courtney Graham		N/A

**MINUTES (SGC 2021-07-M)**

**2021-07/1**      **INTRODUCTION**

**2021-07/1a**      **Call to Order**  
MONTEIRO: CALLED the meeting to order at 5:09 P.M.

**2021-07/1b**      **Approval of Minutes**

**2021-07/1c**      **Approval of Agenda**

**2021-07/1d**      **Chair's Business**

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**2021-07/2**      **QUESTION/DISCUSSION PERIOD**

**2021-07/3**      **COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

**2021-07/3a**      **ISA Recommendations**

Selen Erkut  
Abner Monteiro

ERKUT: To help resolve the conflict between the SU and the ISA, conflict resolution seminars can be offered and training regarding conflict management can be provided to both the SU and the ISA. Probation is also an option. This would mean that the ISA would need to meet certain standards, while having restricted management, before being eligible to leave probation.

MONTEIRO: As the discussion continues, we can look at other aspects that are not necessarily related to the ISA and the SU. However, the main focus should be relationship improvement between these two organizations. No one is expected to have a stance on the matter right now, but discussion is highly encouraged.

B YANG: Questions what are the examples of bullying and threats uttered by the ISA, as identified in the report.

ERKUT: The ISA is very keen to keep records of everything they do, often personally recording Students' Council meetings despite there being public recordings. Chanpreet, the ISA President, during one of these meetings, sent messages to the former UASU president which threatened that the ISA was not represented by the UASU and that public campaigns against the UASU would take place the moment that the Council meeting ended.

SIVAKUMARAN: Wonders if the committee should give recommendations for the situation or ask clarifying questions about the report.

MONTEIRO: States that questions will be taken right now and then recommendations will be provided later in the meeting.

SIVAKUMARAN: Most of the problems outlined in the report seem to be personal conflict rather than conflict between organizations.

BEASLEY: Questions where this report is being shared to.

ERKUTI: As of right now, the people involved in the report have not had access to it. Suggests that it may not be in the best interest of the committee to share the report to those discussed within in it.

MONTEIRO: Some people have suggested that their comments, within the report, would identify them, when they would rather remain anonymous. This also prevented the committee from sharing the report to everyone involved.

ERKUT: Clarifies that any identifying comments were removed from the report.

J YANG: Asks what exactly is an SRA.

ERKUT: States that the SU has a lot of moving parts and SRAs represent SU interests while being independent organizations. SRAs, stand for Student Representative Associations. As such, they are student run organizations which function to promote and serve student interests.

MCCLEOD: Questions if there is any special training for SRAs.

MONTEIRO: States that SRAs go through Govcamp, where they gain an understanding of governance, but it is not in-depth by any means.

J YANG: New councillors don't have as many limits as experienced councillors, which is evident in the report.

SIVAKUMARAN: Problems should not be handed off from year to year. Each leader of each year should resolve all their own conflicts.

BEASLEY: A lack of communication was evident around many of the issues outlined in the report. Releasing a lot of the information in the report may help to clear the air, but releasing that information, if done, needs to be handled delicately.

Suggests that, if the information in the report is not willingly released, the ISA may not willingly engage with the SU anymore.

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MONTEIRO: Acknowledges that committee recommendations may not be followed by the ISA, which is something to keep in mind. States intent to shield everyone on the committee from any backlash to the decision they reach by the end of the night.

BEASLEY: Communication techniques between ISA and UASU are essential to solving current issues.

As well, putting an UASU Executive onto the ISA instead of suggesting probation, would go a long way in improving relations.

ERKUT: The last time a UASU executive was suggested to sit on the ISA, it was utilized as a threat and was not well received by the ISA.

B YANG: A lot of issues seem to be due to a lack of communication and a lack of understanding of how each side works. Perhaps at the start of the year, there could be a meeting between both groups to help facilitate good will.

BEASLEY: Recommends that there are only three viable options for conflict resolution at this point in time:

- 1) The ISA voluntarily accepts probation
- 2) An SU Executive serves on the ISA Board (with the stipulation that they are not a voting member of the board and cannot be present during in-camera sessions)
- 3) The ISA Executives and the SU Executives have bi-weekly meetings.

MONTEIRO: Questions how the committee would like to structure recommendations.

BEASLEY: Argues that the committee needs to institutionalize communication between the ISA and the SU.

ERKUT: Stages of group development could also be a way that we organize everything. Conflict management training and implementing contingency plans could also be a priority.

MONTEIRO: The committee also needs to identify and iron out specific bylaws so communication can be more clearly outlined between the ISA and the SU.

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BEASLEY: Questions if the committee's decision tonight should affect the ISA proposal occurring tomorrow.

MONTEIRO: States the vote regarding Erkut's report cannot be delayed. While the committee should provide Students' Council with all the information at the committee's disposal, the information can only be included on the Late Additions for Students' Council, providing councillors with limited time to read everything over.

Further questions if there should be context and background provided for the committee's recommendations. The relationship between the ISA and SU and what went wrong will be stated within the report.

ERKUT: Suggests including the committee's guiding ethics, such as stating whether the committee is seeking to handle the problem punitively or restoratively.

MONTEIRO: Asks the committee what other principles they wanted included in the report.

SIVAKUMARAN: Suggests including the membership of Student Group Committee, to represent that there are diverse perspectives and that the people on the committee are not just councillors or councillors who have previously had issues with the ISA.

BEASLEY: Both the ISA and the SU need to go through modules to help educate themselves about conflict moderation .

MONTEIRO: Agrees and further states that modules need to be interactive in scope.

J YANG: Suggests making modules more widely available and more relevant to the issues at hand.

ERKUT: Will talk to LEAD about the development of these modules/

MONTEIRO: Questions how the committee feels about putting the ISA on probation.

BEASLEY: Is against putting the ISA on probation, unless the ISA willingly agrees to go on probation.

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SIVAKUMARAN: Suggests that the committee shouldn't force probation but further argues that no organization will ever willingly choose to go on probation.

MONTEIRO: Execs change every year, so probation doesn't really make sense when probation does not hold accountable those who actually caused the issues.

J YANG: Agrees

ERKUT: Dumouchel has met with the ISA in recent weeks, which has resulted in a lot of reflection and a movement away from problematic behaviours.

**MONTEIRO/SIVAKUMARAN MOVES TO** send the ISA/UASU Relationship Recommendation Report to Students' Council for consideration.

CARRIED

**2021-07/4**      **INFORMATION ITEMS**

**2021-07/5**      **ADJOURNMENT**

MONTEIRO adjourned the meeting at 7:44 P.M.