



University of Alberta Students' Union
**STUDENT GROUP
 COMMITTEE (SGC)**

**November 21st, 2022
 5:00 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 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
Jayden Brooks (Chair)		Y
Mackenzie Burnstick		Y
Selen Erkut (Non-Voting Member)		N
Joannie Fogue		Y
Gurleen Kaur		Y
Michelle Kim (Non-Voting Member)		N
Polina Reisbig		Y
Mikael Schmidtke		Y
Ben Yang		N
Janvi Bali		N
Courtney Graham		N/A

Chantal Musial (DoS Representative)		N/A
Tanisha Sahu		N/A
Annika Chell		N/A
Josh Connauton		N/A
Rylie Spink		N/A

MINUTES (SGC-2022-04)

2022-04/1 INTRODUCTION

2022-04/1a Call to Order

BROOKS: CALLED the meeting to order at 5:10 PM.

2022-04/1b Approval of Agenda

REISBIG/FOGUE MOVE TO approve the agenda for this meeting.
CARRIED.

2022-04/1c Approval of Minutes

REISBIG/SCHMIDTKE MOVE TO approve the meeting minutes
(SGC-2022-02-M).
CARRIED.

2022-04/1d Chair's Business

BROOKS: Informs the Committee that if they make a decision on the Alpha Psi case in this meeting, then the rest of the Fall meetings for SGC will be called off until the committee receives a new business item to discuss.

2022-04/2 QUESTION/DISCUSSION PERIOD

2022-04/3 COMMITTEE BUSINESS

2022-04/3a Investigation Decision - Alpha Psi

BROOKS: Gives a brief recap of the situation. States that the committee needed more time to take a decision. Questions the committee members on the best approach to arrive at a decision for this case.

FOGUE: Suggests that, if members from the Alpha Psi have any comments to add, then the committee should hear them out.

BROOKS: Agrees and suggests that no sensitive information is shared.

SPINK: Introduces themselves as the President of the current Alpha Psi Chapter.

The group is currently putting work into education about hazing, having pledge meetings, and providing members with resources about anti-hazing.

The group is working hard on hazing prevention and safety implementation and discussing bylaw changes. Adds that the chapter is currently in a very healthy place and everyone understands the safety protocols being brought forward and are dedicated to ensuring that bylaws meet their updated standards. .

States that the legislature/bylaw overhaul was started before this issue was brought up. Consultation for this is now in its final stages. . The group is looking to have a roundtable involving all Alumni members. The policies still need a lot of work but Alpha Psi hopes to have it done by the end of the Winter term or by the beginning of Fall 2023 At the latest.

BROOKS: Questions SPINK on when her term as a president ends.

SPINK: Answers that it ends in April.

BROOKS: Questions about transition processes for Alpha Psi Executive positions and if certain standards for transition are upheld.

SPINK: States that there is a large alumni body that upholds transition processes and it is very difficult for future executives to not follow these high standards for transition practices. Believes that there will be a fairly good transition at the end of April.

CHELL: Adds that anyone who is in charge of conduct is currently a member and they are going through these changes.

SCHMIDTKE: Questions if the group undergoes any type of training (Eg: Anti-hazing training) and if the executives are mandated to take anti-hazing training.

SPINK: States that she has experience in mediation and in-depth anti-hazing training. Educates others in the chapter and these lessons seem to be received well by everyone in the group. The executive team is making sure hazing has no place in Alpha Psi's future.

BROOKS: Questions if the Alpha Psi members have a copy of the investigation.

SPINK: Confirms.

BROOKS: Reminds the Committee members that SGS has recommendations on how to deal with the situation but it is ultimately up to the committee if these recommendations are followed. Opens the floor for discussion on the decision.

SCHMIDTKE: States that the recommendation given by SGS are very broad and don't specify who exactly has to be receiving anti-hazing training within Alpha Psi. Suggests that the recommendations given by SGS are amended to having all the executives undergo mandatory anti-hazing training and that the President will have mandatory training on conflict management and anti-hazing.

FOGUE: Agrees on making this training mandatory for executives.

BROOKS: Agrees.

SPINK: Adds that the group has been implementing anti-hazing methods and have made a significant change in this aspect of their education.

FOGUE: Questions if the committee can request SGS to immediately do an overview of what the group has made progress on.

CONNAUTON: States that this is possible but hasn't been done before. A review after a year or two sounds reasonable.

SCHMIDTKE: Question if the mandatory training would only be effective for the year or if mandatory training into the future can be enforced.

BROOKS: States that the disciplinary contract is between the SGS and the group, so the Committee can't enforce training in the long run.

CONNAUTON: Agrees with BROOKS.

BROOKS: States that best practices are being reviewed and the committee can keep them in mind to consider a full recognition, whilst adding certain training in the newly amended constitution to help with the long-term aspect of the training.

SCHMIDTKE: Points to the question raised by FOGUE by stating that if SGS comes back with new findings, after reviewing the group's progress, it would not certainly make a definitive change.

Suggests that the Committee makes a decision today so that Alpha Psi can start working on the recommended changes.

COMMITTEE: Agrees to making a final decision on the case today.

BROOKS: Summarises that the recommendations by the SGS will be amended as follows:

- There will be a training mandate for all executive members of the group. (Training for anti-hazing and conflict management)
- The group will implement best practices along with the constitution prior to being recognized by the UASU.

SCHMIDTKE/RESIBIG MOVE TO approve the recommendations by the SGS with the addition that all the executive members of the group must take part in additional training and must implement best practices and constitution to be recognized by the UASU.

CARRIED

BROOKS: Adds that the decision on this investigation will be presented to Council soon. States that SGS will be consulted to further discuss the approved amendments.

2022-04/4

ADJOURNMENT

2022-04/4a

Next Meeting: TBD

BROOKS: Adjourned the meeting at 5:59 PM.