



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

**February 27th, 2023
 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		N
Selen Erkut (Non-Voting Member)		N
Joannie Fogue		Y
Gurleen Kaur		Y
Michelle Kim (Non-Voting Member)	Josh Connauton	Y
Polina Reisbig		Y
Mikael Schmidtke		Y
Ben Yang		Y
Janvi Bali		N
Courtney Graham		N/A

Chantal Musial (DoS Representative)		N
Aaryan Shetty		N/A

MINUTES (SGC-2022-05-M)

2022-01/1 INTRODUCTION

2022-01/1a **Call to Order**

BROOKS called the meeting for order at 5:07.

2022-01/1b **Approval of Agenda**

SCHMIDTKE/REISBIG MOVE TO approve the agenda.
CARRIED

2022-01/1c **Approval of Minutes**

TABLED

2022-01/1d **Chair's Business**

Comments regarding the [Gateway's article](#) regarding the Alpha Psi situation.

First and foremost, I want to apologise for the mishandling of the sensitive documents relating to the Alpha Psi decision to Vivienne Shaw - the complainant - to Alpha Psi, the Students' Council, and Student Group Services, and to the committee. It was my responsibility to ensure that this was a safe space for everyone in this room and anyone involved in the investigation, and I take personal accountability for this mishandling of documents.

I will provide some context on my end, but please use this as an explanation rather than an excuse. When I submitted the report and the presentation, I noted that this was sensitive and to be discussed in-camera. However, there was perhaps an error in the system that caused the late additions to include these documents, which were subsequently made public. During the in-camera session, I was asked if this was supposed to be on the public documents, and I replied that it should be fine, given that all previous SGC reports were made public. This was the wrong call, and I am genuinely sorry for this. While it was made public by this time, I could have ensured it was removed earlier, and I failed in that regard.

I believe that this situation shines a light on not only the various systems the SU uses for sensitivity but also begins to ask questions about our role as a committee, which is the purpose of this meeting.

2022-01/2

QUESTION/DISCUSSION PERIOD

REISBIG: Why did the Chair think it was appropriate for the documents to be made public?

BROOKS: Thought it was appropriate because the previous Chair noted that everything was publicised and based on what was done previously. Believes that it would have been made public one way or another.

SCHMIDTKE: Other committees handle documents in a different way, and thinks that the handling of the documents fits the situation. In the transition, there need to be improved ways of submitting things for confidentiality.

BROOKS: There needs to be an established system for this severe issue, and according to by-laws, what was presented doesn't even fall under sensitive information. The by-law committee might be unable to get through all the requests made to them.

REISBIG: When it comes to severe issues, the council should've encouraged councillors to go and have an opportunity to provide their input before deciding.

2022-01/3

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

2022-01/3a

Discussion of the presentation of the Alpha Psi situation.

2022-01/3b

Questions for the committee to determine future direction:

- What should the purpose of SGC be? Should we be a judicial body similar to the Supreme Court? Should it act more like the DIE Board?

BROOKS: Many questions need to be considered, such as whom does SGC report to, whom do they serve, and their purpose? Can the Students' Council override SGC decisions?

REISBIG: Another councillor might need to be added to the Committee for more student representation. The next time, councillors should know that they should attend, which is upsetting because those who did not attend had much criticism for the decision made by those who did attend.

- How should SGS interact with SGC?
 - What information should SGC have or not have from SGS?

BROOKS: What should the relationship be between the committee and SGS?

REISBIG: disappointed in SGS, they withheld more information than they should have, making The Gateway article condemn the committee. Feels as

though SGS didn't treat SGC with the authority that they have.

CONNAUTON: Regarding the investigation unfolded and the decision, it was based on policy. In the future, SGC should adjust its policy accordingly, and they need to iron out policies and ensure that everything is moving in canon with one another.

The SGC's hands were tied during the time of the investigation and decision, where some decisions were forced because of policy, and others weren't because of policies.

- What information should be released and/or presented to the Students' Council?

REISBIG: The SGC should've gotten more information from the Council.

FOGUE: Thinks that SGC should reevaluate why they're bringing any information to Council; are they going to Council to give updates or ask for feedback? By identifying why SGC will contact the Council, the information shared will be more easily identifiable.

When it comes to the work that SGC does, it can be very impactful on people's lives as students, and SGC members need to be cognizant of that. SGC spends a lot of time processing information, and Council might not be comfortable giving feedback and answers right away as they don't have enough time to process the information.

- Should we, as students, make decisions in sensitive situations?
- What can help the committee ensure effectiveness in the future and prevent situations like this?

2022-01/4

ADJOURNMENT

BROOKS adjourned the meeting at 6:00 P.M.

2022-01/4a

Next Meeting: TBD