



SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

**Thursday, July 18, 2019
6:00PM
SUB 6-06**

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	SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN FEEDBACK (IF ABSENT)
Talia Dixon (chair)		Y	
Stephanie McKenzie		Y	
Tahra Haddouche		Y	
Ian Gatera		N	
Rojine McVea		Y	
Luke Statt (ex officio)	Akanksha Bhatnagar	N	

MINUTES (SUSC 2019-02)

2019-02/1

INTRODUCTION

2019-02/1a

Call to Order

DIXON: Called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

2019-02/1b

Approval of Agenda

MCVAE/DIXON MOVED to approve the agenda.

CARRIED

2019-02/1c

Approval of Minutes

MCKENIZE/MCVAE MOVED to approve the SUSC-2019-00-M.

CARRIED

2019-02/1d

Chair's Business

2019-02/2

QUESTION/DISCUSSION PERIOD

2019-02/3

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

2019-02/3a

Standing Orders

DIXON: Noted that she will ask the chair of Bylaw or a member of the Executive to review the finished Standing Orders to ensure quality. Outlined that, in her comparative review of the other committee's standing orders, she added that there provisions for proxies, guests, confidentiality, and rules of order to the Standing Orders.

MCVAE: Proposed adding a preamble to highlight the importance of the Committee and the reasons for its emergence.

DIXON: Determined to add the mission statement for the Committee under the preface.

MCVAE: Inquired into whether the Committee should include statistics within the preamble.

DIXON: Responded in the negative.

MCKENZIE: Proposed that the preamble that the Committee will respond to the climate crisis with a student perspective.

BHATNAGAR: Proposed defining "climate crisis" as the Students' Union will have to justify to students why it is spending student dollars on this initiative.

MCKENZIE: Proposed using, alternatively, the phrase "climate change" and enumerating examples relevant to students.

DIXON: Suggested the the phrase "climate crisis" is more in keeping with the emotional nature of the preamble. Proposed defining it as the rapid progression of climate change that threatens students' futures.

MCKENZIE: Expressed concern that phrasing the preamble too radically may turn off or upset students.

DIXON: Determined to move on from discussing the preamble.

BHATNAGAR: Proposed removing specific actions from the mandate as it reads like an action plan. Inquired into the intention of Section 2.

DIXON: Responded that the Committee will seek to have Council consider sustainability in every action that it takes beyond the internal audit Committee will make of the Students' Union.

MCKENZIE: Inquired into whether the provision intends to apply to the actions or

the administration of Council.

DIXON: Responded that it should apply to both.

BHATNAGAR: Suggested that there need not be another provision applying to Council as it is inclusive within the Students' Union.

DIXON: Proposed that the mandate read that the Committee will perform annual evaluations of sustainability practices in both the governance and operations of the Students' Union.

BHATNAGAR: Recommended broadening the scope of the mandate beyond this advocacy function. Suggested that it touch upon operations, services, and advocacy.

DIXON: Confirmed that she used standard membership provisions from other committees except for a change requiring members are required to attend 75% of Committee meetings. Noted that the Committee will meet on an as-needed or bi-weekly.

BHATNAGAR: Noted that Students' Council Standing Orders are supreme and only require attendance 50% of the time.

DIXON: Noted that the Committee will be comprised of an executive advisor, three members of Council, one member of Aboriginal Student Association, and one from the International Students' Association.

BHATNAGAR: Inquired into whether Dixon inquired into whether these groups wanted to participate.

DIXON: Responded in the negative. Noted that they intended to have Indigenous members as their knowledge fuels sustainability. Determined to inquire into whether these groups want to participate. Suggested that the only way to form sustainability is to use Indigenous knowledge.

BHATNAGAR: Proposed drawing upon support from ARRC in joint-committee work and meetings instead of adding more seats. Proposed establishing seats for students-at-large that will include international students instead of requiring seats from the Association which is, at present, inactive. Inquired into why the executive member is non-voting.

DIXON: Responded that the rationale for not including a voting executive is to ensure the Committee can will critique the Students' Union without bias.

BHATNAGAR: Expressed concern that having the executive as non-voting makes the Committee appear adversarial.

DIXON: Determined to allow the executive member to vote.

MCVAE: Noted that Sustain SU Coordinator does not want a strong presence on the committee as they are focusing on outward engagement, not internal reform. Considered that they can attend meetings when needed to provide input and receive updates.

DIXON: Noted that a Sustain SU Team Lead or designate will serve as a non-voting advisor.

BHATNAGAR: Expressed concern that adding a requirement for Sustain SU involvement changes staff's job descriptions.

DIXON: Clarified that it is an optional involvement for staff and that the chair will request the presence of the Sustain Coordinator when needed.

BHATNAGAR: Inquired into whether the Committee has an end-date.

DIXON: Responded in the negative. Noted that she intends that it will serve as a Standing Committee in future.

MCVAE: Inquired into whether the Standing Orders must spell out how the Committee will assess SU sustainability practices.

DIXON: Responded in the negative.

MCKENZIE: Determined that, next meeting, the Committee will focus on re-wording and editing the Standing Orders.

DIXON: Determined that, next meeting, the Committee will continue to address the Standing Orders preamble. Expressed concern that the current internal definition of sustainability is not sufficiently comprehensive.

2019-02/4 **INFORMATION ITEMS**

2019-02/4a Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes (2019-00).

See SUSC-2019-02.01.

2019-02/5 **ADJOURNMENT**

DIXON: Adjourned the meeting at 7:10pm.

2019-02/5a **Next Meeting:** TBD.