

**Friday, February 7, 2020**

**5:00PM**

**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	
David Konrad		Y	
Luke Statt (ex officio)		N	
Kelsi-Leigh Balaban		Y	
Oliva Harris	Juan Vargas Alba	Y	
Alana Krahn		N	
Abigail Kohler	Kaelen Kropp	Y	
Carter Gorzitza		Y	
International Student: Vacancy		V	

**MINUTES (SUSC 2019-06)**

**2019-06/1**

**INTRODUCTION**

**2019-06/1a**

**Call to Order**

DIXON: Called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.

**2019-06/1b**

**Approval of Agenda**

**DIXON/KONRAD MOVED** to approve the agenda.

CARRIED

**2019-06/1c**

**Approval of Minutes**

**DIXON/KONRAD MOVED** to approve the minutes of (2019-05) as per  
SUSC-2019-06.01.  
CARRIED

**2019-06/1d**      **Chair's Business**

DIXON: Expressed concern that scheduling meetings has been difficult. Noted that, even when there is no official agenda, the Committee will meet as determined by Doodle polling. Determined that the Committee will meet 5:00pm-6:00pm on Friday's moving forward.

**2019-06/2**      **QUESTION/DISCUSSION PERIOD**

**2019-06/3**      **COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

**2019-06/3a**      Defining Sustainability /Climate Justice

DIXON: Noted that the Committee will present Council with a motion to change the official Students' Union definition of sustainability. Suggested that the definition should be broad and encompassing. Expressed concern that the current definition is flawed in that it is overly human centric and is not sufficiently radical. Expressed concern that the term sustainability is problematic in that sustaining the present ways of living is not an ideal goal.

KROPP: Noted that current climate justice movements do not support maintaining living in the status quo.

GORZITZA: Considered that the current Students' Union definition of sustainability which reads 'Sustainability is the process of living within the limits of available physical, natural and social resources in ways that allow the living systems in which humans are embedded to thrive in perpetuity.' is acceptable.

KONRAD: Expressed concern that the current definition is vague. Suggested that it should be specific in addressing supporting life in the natural world and marginalised groups.

KROPP: Proposed setting out a mandate and a mission for the Students' Union as part of the definition.

BALABAN: Proposed incorporating the concept of treaty relationships (and the responsibilities that come with them) as part of the definition.

GORZITZA: Expressed concern at investing Committee time in creating a long-form definition as opposed to a short definition and a series of recommendations related to advancing sustainability.

DIXON: Determined to use the current definition as a framework to build a more

expansive definition.

KONRAD: Proposed changing the current definition phrase reading 'living within the limits of' with a phrase reading 'having a relationship with'. Expressed concern that the term 'resources' has an economic and industrial connotation.

DIXON: Concurred with Konrad.

BALABAN: Proposed that Konrad's phrase read 'living a reciprocal relationship with all living beings'.

GORZITZA: Suggested that the definition should have practical as well as idealistic elements.

DIXON: Proposed deleting the phrase reading 'available physical, natural and social resources in ways that allow the living systems in which humans are embedded to thrive in perpetuity'.

BALABAN: Proposed that the definition include a phrase reading 'sustainability is about enacting responsibility-based relationships to consider how decisions impact future generations of human and nonhuman life in social, economic, and environmental spheres'.

GORZITZA: Suggested that the definition should make clear that the environment is the foundation of life.

DIXON: Noted that without a relationship and a respect for nature none of the other aspects of sustainability can be achieved.

BALABAN: Proposed that the definition mention the need to restore harm done to the environment.

GORZITZA: Proposed framing the need for restorative justice as reconciliation with the environment.

DIXON: Expressed concern that the term reconciliation implies that there was at some point a positive relationship between humans and the environment and that it is a buzzword.

KONRAD: Proposed that the definition refer to 'challenging oppressive present systems'.

GORZITZA: Proposed making it more clear how oppressive systems contribute to climate change.

DIXON: Expressed concern at using the term 'acknowledge' as it implies inaction and acceptance. Suggested that the definition be made to extend beyond the

University of Alberta Campuses. Determined to schedule a longer meeting for developing the definition in the next week.

**2019-06/3b** Developing a Working Plan for This Year

DIXON: Determined to create a Google Drive to contain information associated with developing the Committee work plan.

**2019-06/4** **INFORMATION ITEMS**

**2019-06/4a** Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes (2019-05).  
See SUSC-2019-06.01.

**2019-06/5** **ADJOURNMENT**  
DIXON: Adjourned the meeting at 6:09.