



University of Alberta Students' Union

**SUSTAINABILITY  
COMMITTEE**

**[August 19, 2020]  
[10:00pm-11:00pm]  
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 (Y/N)
Amlan Bose		Y
David Draper		N
Kristofer Akkerman		Y
Prabhjyot Arora		Y
Raya Najiba Troyee		N
Shenin Mehnaj		N
Subhana Tazrian		Y
Talia Dixon		Y
Elizabeth Blanchette (ASC)		N
Michelle Kim (Sustain SU)		Y

**MINUTES (SUSC 2020-04)**

- 2020-04/1      INTRODUCTION**
- 2020-04/1a    Call to Order**
- 2020-04/1b    Approval of Minutes**
- 2020-04/1c    Approval of Agenda**
- 2020-04/1d    Chair's Business**
- 2020-04/2      QUESTION/DISCUSSION PERIOD**
- 2020-04/3      COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

2020-04/3a

## Committee Working Plan

DIXON: Noted that the Committee will divide its work instead of collaboratively developing each recommendation. Determined to edit and refine the Recommendations once drafted. Noted that the Committee will begin its researching and writing in September. Inquired as to whether the Committee has feedback about the Plan.

DRAPER: Proposed flexibly structuring the Plan's timelines in order to accommodate unforeseen complications and changes in the Committee's work. Expressed concern that the Committee will be unable to deliver on its Plan if its timelines are over aggressive.

BLANCHETTE: Expressed concern that Committee could fail to take into account the intersectional nature of environmental, social, and economic sustainability given that the Plan has the Committee researching these topics individually.

DRAPER: Agreed with Blanchette. Proposed, as a remedy, reviewing each Recommendation to ensure it connects to one or more types of sustainability after completing them.

DIXON: Clarified that, while the research will be singularly focused, she has always intended that the Recommendations themselves be intersectional.

DRAPER: Proposed, in order to ensure the recommendations are intersectional, that the Committee hold mock thesis defenses in which certain members are tasked with analysing each recommendation through the lens of a particular type of sustainability.

BLANCHETTE: Suggested that Draper's proposal is unnecessary given that the Committee has diverse members who will naturally review the Recommendations from different lenses of interpretation. Noted that the Committee should seek to add new members if it feels that it lacks insight into one type of sustainability.

DIXON: Agreed with Blanchette. Considered that the Committee needs to be careful in crafting its messaging related to sustainability in order to ensure that people understand that it is not only about protecting the environment.

DRAPER: Considered that the Committee needs to be mindful, in crafting its Recommendations, to where it has power to make change and where it has influence to lobby others to make change.

DIXON: Inquired as to the number of recommendations the Committee intends to create.

DRAPER: Suggested that setting a target number of recommendations would be unhelpful as it would lead the Committee to cut substantive recommendations if it

develops too many or add superfluous recommendations if it has too few. Advised, instead, that the Committee focus on ensuring that all their recommendations touch upon all relevant areas of sustainability.

BLANCHETTE: Proposed that the Committee present to Council to report their progress and receive feedback at the end of the Fall and Winter Semesters as an accountability mechanism.

DIXON: Agreed with Blanchette. Considered that it would be sufficient for the Committee to create five well-developed recommendations per semester.

DRAPER: Proposed that the Committee set a March deadline for the completion of its first draft of the Recommendations.

DIXON: Agreed with Draper. Considered, however, that the Committee may not be done writing its recommendations by the end of the year. Inquired as to whether the Committee supports dividing the work plan into environmental, economic, and social sustainability.

BLANCHETTE: Suggested that the Committee focus on creating recommendations in general and, thereafter, linking them to types of sustainability.

DRAPER: Noted that the Committee must be mindful to avoid siloing itself in creating recommendations that are limited in their intersectionality. Reaffirmed the need for the Committee to holistically review each recommendation it writes.

BLANCHETTE: Agreed with Draper.

DIXON: Recognised that the Committee should consult Indigenous and international students as well as other groups when its recommendations directly impact their interests. Inquired as to how the Committee should undertake consultation.

BLANCHETTE: Proposed that the Committee undertake consultation efforts focused only on substantive issues in order to respect stakeholder's time. Emphasised that the Committee should engage with stakeholders at a level deeper than sending them documents for review. Considered that the Committee could hold town halls or invite stakeholders to its meetings.

DIXON: Agreed with Blanchette. Recognised that not every recommendation the Committee creates will require deep consultation.

BLANCHETTE: Recognised that stakeholders could still comment on recommendations that are not directly impacting their interests if they have time and interest.

DIXON: Proposed that the Committee, before attempting to consult stakeholders directly, send relevant groups an introductory email and establish a line of communication.

DRAPER: Agreed with Dixon. Proposed also regularly informing SU General Manager Marc Dumouchel of the Committee's recommendations to avoid duplication and redundancy if the SU is already pursuing change.

BLANCHETTE: Noted that the Committee can also consult the Sustainability and Capital Fund.

KIM: Proposed that the Committee offer stakeholders its support on sustainability related matters in the introductory email. Inquired as to which groups will receive the email.

DIXON: Responded that the Committee will connect with Sustain SU, Aboriginal Student Council, Sustainability Council, and the International Students' Association. Determined to send the Plan to absent members for review.

**2020-04/4**

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

**2020-04/5**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**2020-04/5a**

**Next Meeting:** [5:00pm September 28 2020 via Google Meet]