



University of Alberta Students' Union
**SUSTAINABILITY
 COMMITTEE**

[November 9, 2020]

[5:00pm-6:00pm]

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		Y
Kristofer Akkerman		Y
Prabhjyot Arora		N
Raya Najiba Troyee		N
Shenin Mehnaj		Y
Subhana Tazrian		N
Talia Dixon		Y
Elizabeth Blanchette (ASC)		Y
Michelle Kim (Sustain SU)		N

MINUTES (SUSC 2020-07)

2020-07/1 INTRODUCTION

2020-07/1a **Call to Order**

DIXON: Called the meeting to order at 5:06pm.

2020-07/1b **Approval of Minutes**

2020-07/1c **Approval of Agenda**

2020-07/1d **Chair's Business**

DIXON: Proposed that the Committee present its preliminary Recommendations to

Council in December.

2020-07/2 **QUESTION/DISCUSSION PERIOD**

2020-07/3 **COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

2020-07/3a **Updates on research/recommendations from committee members**

AKKERMAN: Established that he is creating recommendations focused on energy and water management. Expressed concern that publicly-available data concerning resource management are outdated. Determined to meet with SU General Manager Mark Dumouchel and Vice President (Operations & Finance) Alana Krahn to discuss SU water and gas use as tracked by the University Energy Management and Sustainability Office. Proposed applying University sustainability targets in SUB. Clarified that Tazrian and Arora are to address research for paper waste and single use plastics. Determined to create preliminary recommendations for the next meeting.

DIXON: Offered to support Akkerman in his meeting. Inquired as to whether Tazrian and Arora will attend.

AKKERMAN: Responded that they are welcome to attend.

DIXON: Suggested that Akkerman invite other members of the Committee if interested.

BOSE: Noted that he has done no research on his assigned topic as of yet. Noted that is considering how to improve water and paper towel use in washrooms.

DIXON: Suggested that Bose, if interested in a topic outside his assigned research arena, reach out to the Committee responsible in order to avoid work duplication.

BLANCHETTE: Noted that she could not find data concerning University greenspaces. Noted that there are large numbers of songbirds on Campus and their population in North America is declining. Proposed advocating the University to reduce the incidence of bird window strike kills. Proposed that the University identify which, if any, windows are a problem and take measures to mitigate the issue. Proposed advocating the University to improve its stormwater management via a green corridor as at the University of British Columbia.

DIXON: Requested that Blanchette write her ideas as recommendations and add them to the Drive.

MEHNAJ: Noted that the Augustana Campus has a policy related to sourcing its

food locally. Recognised that Campus does not have local suppliers to the same extent. Recognised that Campus businesses are not using reusable cups due to COVID public health orders. Proposed, as a recommendation, that the Committee request the University review its sustainability efforts periodically.

DIXON: Directed the Committee define any technical terms in making their recommendations. Determined to structure the Recommendations by listing recommendations with explanatory notes under each one. Identified that she is recommending that (1) the SU research food and sustainability and encourage the University to do the same, (2) that the SU create a volunteer unit focused on creating sustainable food systems, (3) that the SU push for the reform or cancellation of the University's contract with Aramark, (4) that the SU reduce use of single-use plastics, (5) that the SU create waste and carbon tracking systems, (6) that the SU advocate that Campus become fair trade, (7) that the SU attempt to use local food sources in its operations, and (8) that the SU transition its cleaning products to be sustainable. Determined to connect with Kim concerning (2). Determined to connect with Akkerman concerning (5). Expressed concern that Aramark has been connected to illegal activities and environmental misconduct.

BOSE: Inquired as to the definition of fair trade.

DIXON: Responded that fair trade is characterised by equal relations among suppliers and producers.

DRAPER: Proposed that the Recommendations make reference to the 100 mile diet initiative in Augustana.

BOSE: Inquired as to how the Aramark contract is related to sustainability.

DIXON: Responded that Aramark's operations are contrary to social and economic sustainability as well as climate justice.

BLANCHETTE: Proposed, in the Recommendations, listing and defining each type of sustainability and identifying each recommendation with one or more of these types.

DRAPER: Proposed that Dixon reach out to Kidd concerning the current status of the Aramark contract. Noted that he is in the process of writing his recommendations related to transportation between buildings via pedways, sidewalk de-icing, and promoting accessibility.

DIXON: Offered to support Draper in writing and researching his recommendations.

DRAPER: Clarified that he will have more time to develop his recommendations after November 13. Offered to share his notes concerning open education resources from the 2020 Open Education Conference.

DIXON: Proposed that the Committee meet November 16.

BLANCHETTE: Agreed with Dixon.

AKKERMAN: Agreed with Dixon.

DIXON: Inquired as to whether Bose can provide the Committee updates on the Sustainability and Capital Fund.

BOSE: Responded in the negative. Noted that he will be meeting with Krahn in the near future concerning to receive updates.

2020-07/4

INFORMATION ITEMS

2020-07/5

ADJOURNMENT

DIXON: Adjourned the meeting at 5:52pm.

2020-07/5a

Next Meeting: [Monday, November 16th 2020 at 5:00pm]