



University of Alberta Students' Union

SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE (SUSC)

March 27, 2023
4:00 P.M.
Zoom/SUB 6-06

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?

MINUTES

NAME	PROXY	PRESENT
Mackenzie Burnstick		Y
Daniela Carbajal Velez		N
Brett Friesen		N
Megan Jones (Non-Voting Member)		Y
Pien Steinbusch, Co-Chair		Y
Julia Villosio		Y
Milan Regmi, Co-Chair		Y
Audrey Johnson		Y
Courtney Graham		N/A
Jetro Dano		N/A

MINUTES (SUSC-2022-09-M)

2022-09/1 INTRODUCTION

2022-09/1a Call to Order

REGMI called the meeting to order at 4:09 PM.

2022-09/1b Approval of Agenda

VILLOSO/JOHNSON MOVE TO approve the agenda.

CARRIED

2022-09/1c Approval of Minutes

JOHNSON/STEINBUSCH MOVE TO approve the minutes.

CARRIED

2022-09/1d Chair's Business

Committee discusses feedback received from the consultations.

REGMI: Mentions that the committee will review the consultation list and the consultation feedback.

JOHNSON: Mentions feedback received from Robert Summers (Sustainability Council). Points discussed include: discussing the Food Systems with the Sustainable Food Working Group, issues on sustainable food, reaching out to Energy and Climate Action in Facilities and Operations for carbon tracking, recommendations about expanding the reusable dish program, contacting the University Architect's Office regarding biodiversity issues, rephrasing and clarifying some points regarding the issue of urban intensification as well as linking important points of contact.

No responses from ISU, ISA & ARCC.

PIEN: Mentions feedback received from Jewel Naiker (ASA). Points discussed include: making sure that Augustana and CSJ are mentioned more as free trade campuses, Augustana Campus using solar panels, mentions of Aramark being appalling to read, errors on the gender-neutral washroom statistics, CSJ should be given a spotlight as its main focuses are student suicide and food security under Social Sustainability, mentioning that all campuses are suffering from sexual violence epidemics, as well as finding alternative substances used for melting ice with budget cuts in place.

No response from AUFSJ.

JOHNSON: Mentions feedback from Michael Griffiths (Lister Students Associations). Points discussed include collaboration between the U of A and UASU regarding sustainable food, not resigning from the contract with

Aramark, and recommendations under governance.

No response on Energy & Climate Action (E&CA)

VILLOSO: Mentions feedback from Marc Dumouchel (SU General Manager). Points discussed include: reconfiguring the recommendations into two components- advocacy towards the UASU & the Government, rephrasing the introduction, putting the definitions in one place, adding an appendix showcasing the background information and research done for the recommendations as well as noting that some of the recommendations are have already been incorporated by the SU including RATT and Dewy's composting their food waste to decrease waste cost and contamination.

No response SUB Building Manager.

VILLOSO: (UASU VP OP-FL) States that implementing the consultation suggestions will improve the recommendations.

No response from HSA, ECSA, Bird Strike Experts, UASU VP Student Life & Urban Wildlife/Conservation Expert.

JOHNSON: Mentions that there were no changes applied to the document on Sustain SU.

JONES: Mentions some of the comments she made on Sustain SU. Points discussed include the ecological footprints of SUB and SU regarding water and carbon usage, adding more explanations on the preamble on Food Systems regarding water usage, having a water tracking system, and swag items becoming huge waste products.

VILLOSO: Mentions feedback from Craig Turner (UASU Director of Business Operations). Points discussed mainly regarding the business aspect of the recommendation, including utilization of compost streams from RATT & Dewey's, waste diversion program, consulting with the Taxation & Governance in terms of increasing off-campus marketing,

No response from UASU Director of Conferencing and Events & Campus Food Bank.

REGMI: Read the email sent by Erin Van Horn (UASU Building Planner). Adds that Andrew Sharman, the University VP of Finance and Operations, has not been contacted yet

No response from SRAs.

REGMI: Reminds the committee to add the consultation responses to the responses folder in the drive.

STEINBUSCH: Comments that with the time constraints, the committee does not have enough time to incorporate the significant changes from the consultations to the recommendations and would not be ready to be presented to Council.

Milan: Agrees. States that with the critical information received from the consultations, the committee must schedule a special meeting.

STEINBUSCH: Comments that one special meeting will not be enough to incorporate the changes because of time constraints.

VILLOSO: Agrees with STEINBUSCH. Comments that because of these constraints, the committee should focus on building a compiled document as a reference for the future Sustainability Committee to work on instead.

REGMI: Mentions concern that if none of the recommendations is passed for the term, it will no longer represent the Students once the Executive Committee takes over.

VILLOSO: Comments that even though the Sustainability Committee will be under the Executive Committee, the membership will stay the same.

STEINBUSCH: Agrees with VILLOSO. States that creating a transition document for the next Sustainability Committee is more feasible at this point.

The rest of the committee agrees to the proposed transition document. Will be discussed further at the proposed special meeting as well.

2022-09/2

QUESTION/DISCUSSION PERIOD

2022-09/3

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

2022-09/4

ADJOURNMENT

2022-09/4a

Next Meeting: TBA

STEINBUSCH adjourned the meeting at 4:57 PM.