
**Tuesday, July 31, 2018
6:00PM
Council Chambers, University Hall**

LATE ADDITIONS (SC-2018-06)

2018-06/1 SPEAKERS BUSINESS

2018-06/2 PRESENTATIONS

2018-06/3 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

2018-06/4 BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORT

2018-06/5 OPEN FORUM

2018-06/5a Councillor **SUNDAY** to the **VICE PRESIDENT ACADEMIC** Bhatnagar

“According to the Vice President Academic's Executive Report, Ryerson University has recently made changes to how students rate instructors. Could the Vice President please provide more information on what exactly Ryerson University has changed regarding student ratings of instructors?”

VICE PRESIDENT ACADEMIC Bhatnagar to Councillor **SUNDAY**

"Thank you for the question Councillor Sunday. A recent arbitration between the Ryerson University and the Ryerson Faculty Association (the RFA is the bargaining unit for faculty, librarians, and councillors at Ryerson University) has mandated that the collective agreement between URyerson and RFA be updated to ensure that faculty course surveys (FCS) are not used in measuring teaching effectiveness for promotion or tenure. FCS's are equivalent to the University of Alberta's Universal Student Rating of Instruction (USRI).

One of the goals I ran on was ensuring the UAlberta USRI database is much more accessible to students in order to (re)-build legitimacy this has on teaching evaluations and ensure that students have further autonomy regarding their academic experience. In discussions with Vice-Provost Sarah Forgie and Tammy Hopper and then with Provost Steven Dew, it is clear that what happened at URyerson is not something that will happen at the University of Alberta. For the future, I am supportive and will be advocating heavily towards the University of Alberta to create a multi-faceted teaching evaluation process that will, and always will, include USRI's as a key component of our evaluation process.

I hope that answers your question."

2018-06/6 **QUESTION PERIOD**

2018-06/7 **BOARD AND COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

2018-06/8 **GENERAL ORDERS**

2018-06/9 **INFORMATION ITEMS**

2018-06/9a ARRC Recommendations to the Executive Committee - Letter

See SC-2018-06.01.



University of Alberta Students' Union
**ABORIGINAL RELATIONS
AND RECONCILIATION
COMMITTEE**

July 27, 2018

Executive Committee
University of Alberta Students Union
Students' Union Building, University of Alberta
8900 114 Street NW
Edmonton AB, T6G 2J7

RE: Recommendation to the Executive Committee

Dear Executive Committee,

I am writing this letter on behalf of the Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation Committee, a committee of Students' Council given the delegated authority to advance and promote reconciliation within the Students' Union.

Specifically, I am writing to you today to provide a recommendation on the recent document shared by President Larsen on Monday, July 16 titled "2018/2019 Executive Goals." Respecting the request to not share the document, this letter (and its content) has only been approved by the permanent members of the Committee, and not with students-at-large. Therefore, this letter is submitted on behalf of the following members of the Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation Committee: Kimberley Fraser-Airhart, Mpoé Mogale, Deirdra Cutarm, Katherine Belcourt, and Ariyanna Callihoo.

The University of Alberta Students' Union is poised to actualize real change in regards to improving its relationship with Aboriginal undergraduate students. Moreover, having the only committee dedicated to Aboriginal students and reconciliation in Canada, the Students' Union is in a position of leadership and acts as an example for other post-secondary student representative organizations across Canada.

In this regard, the 2018/2019 Executive Goals represents an opportunity to continue along this path; a path which strengthens relationships with Aboriginal students at the University of Alberta. As stated by the Honourable Justice Murray Sinclair, chair of Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission, "the road we travel is equal in importance to the destination we

seek. There are no shortcuts. When it comes to truth and reconciliation, we are all forced to go the distance.” With this in mind, the Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation Committee recommends to the Executive Committee the creation of a fifth goal, independent and not a sub-category, titled *Reconciliation*.

Having met with Aboriginal students, groups, and organizations over the past year, one of the most reoccurring themes expressed to the Committee is the disconnect felt between themselves and the Executive. Furthermore, and has been stated by the Committee, this leads to feelings and beliefs of resentment; specifically, in the belief that the Students’ Union does not value or represent Aboriginal undergraduate students. While the creation of the Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation Committee was the first step in re-writing this narrative, we believe that the incorporation of *reconciliation* as an Executive Goal would be an enormous illustration of the Executive Committee’s—and by extension the Students’ Union—commitment to Aboriginal student representation.

It has been well documented, both in academia and in domestic and international legal instruments (i.e., TRC & UNDRIP), that Aboriginal Peoples hold a special place within Canada’s cultural mosaic. The reaffirmation of Aboriginal Peoples as distinct cultural, political, and social entities effects all facets of life in Canada, including at the student governance level. The creation of a reconciliation goal would be a symbolic gesture of this. When discussing reconciliation with Aboriginal Peoples in Australia, former Australian Prime Minister John Malcolm Fraser stated, “Reconciliation requires changes of heart and spirit, as well as social and economic change. It requires symbolic as well as practical action.” True to this, symbolic acts of reconciliation are equally important to Aboriginal Peoples in Canada; specifically, in showing the truthful intent of governments. Therefore, although the Committee is happy that some points were added regarding Aboriginal Students to the 2018/2019 Executive Goals document, we believe that it is inappropriate to sub-categorize Aboriginal issues or reconciliation, considering the seriousness of each topic.

To reiterate, the Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation Committee recommends to the Executive Committee *the creation of a fifth goal regarding Aboriginal Students and reconciliation*. Moreover, the Committee would be happy, if requested by the Executive, to work with you in creating such a goal.

In closing, thank you for reading this letter and we hope that you give solemn thought to our recommendation. Should you have any comments, questions, or concerns, please don’t hesitate to contact the Chair of the Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation Committee.

Thank you,

Nathan Sunday, Chair

Ariyanna Callihoo, Aboriginal Student Council Vice President

Deirdra Cutarm, Arts Councillor

Katherine Belcourt, Aboriginal Student Council President

Kimberley Fraser-Airhart, Native Studies Students' Association Vice President

Mpoe Mogale, Arts Councillor

(signed electronically)