

**March 7th, 2023
6:00 P.M.
Council Chambers/Zoom**

The University of Alberta and the University of Alberta Students' Union occupy Indigenous land in amiskwaciwâskahikan (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 Niitsítapi (Blackfoot), Métis, Dènesų́łíné (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?

SPEAKER CALLED the meeting to order at 6:06 P.M.

ORDER PAPERS (SC-2022-23)

2022-23/1 SPEAKERS BUSINESS

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85666007012>

Meeting ID: 856 6600 7012

2022-23/2 CONSENT AGENDA

2022-23/2a Students' Council Votes and Proceedings (SC-2022-22) Tuesday, February 21st, 2023

See SC-2022-23.01

APPROVED

2022-23/3 PRESENTATION

2022-23/4 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

FOGUE - VP Student Life - Report
KAUR - VP Academic - Report

MONTEIRO - President - Report

2022-23/5

BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORT

KAUR - Audit Committee - Report

MONTEIRO - Bylaw Committee - Report

WATTAMANIUK - Council Administration Committee - Report

MONTEIRO - Executive Committee - Report

STEINBUSCH - Nominating Committee - Report

STEINBUSCH - SCFC - Report

REISBIG - Student Group Committee - Report

SOTO - Translation Committee - Report

2022-23/6

OPEN FORUM

SPARKS: Identifies themselves as a staff reporter for *The Gateway*. Questions VP FOGUE about the food hygiene in Lister and whether or not any direct action has been made so far in regards to that issue.

FOGUE: Confirms that food hygiene issues have been identified and discussed with Residence Services. Increased hygiene, new reporting systems and a pest control hire have been further discussed and looked into by Residence Services.

SPARKS: Further questions if direct action has been completed or if it is just discussions taking place currently.

FOGUE: States that direct action has occurred.

2022-23/7

QUESTION PERIOD

SHETTY: Wonders if there has been any action against students who have harassed Executive Election candidates or, if action has been taken against these students, whether or not it has been publicized.

FOGUE: When incidents like these occur, direct action is always taken. As VP Student Life, any direct action that is taken is coming directly from the wishes of those who have been harmed, which may not be the same as the wishes of the community outside of those who have been harmed. In regards to the harm against Executive Election candidate Haruun Ali, an investigation has been conducted against the student who urinated on his door. Steps have been taken to ensure that Haruun Ali feels safe in the residence which he calls home. The LSHA did release a statement about this incident and put the student who enacted this harm on probation. Has personally had meetings with the LSHA and has directly reached out to Haruun Ali to offer support and provide any action steps, if necessary.

SHETTY: The Gateway released an article about the lack of representation in different communities amongst Executive Election candidates this year. Questions if

enough support from the SU has been given to those from minority groups to run in Executive Elections.

FOGUE: Thinks that the SU, as an organization, is doing a significant amount to support potential candidates in Executive Elections. In a previous year, an SU President initiated the STRIDE program, which was designed to help female presenting individuals and gender minorities enter governance spaces and empower them to take up space. It is true that the 2023-2024 SU Executives will all be men. As such, raises the question to the men of Students' Council if they have done enough to support making Students' Council a safe space for female identifying and gender minority councillors and potential councillors of these same groups.

MONTEIRO: Adds that, as an Executive for the previous two years who has served on two teams with women Executives, he has consistently heard that female Executives do not feel comfortable coming to and participating in Students' Council. This is because Students' Council has the responsibility to uphold the principles of making Council a safe place for all members to participate in and, so far, Students' Council has not done enough to ensure this. Notes that he, personally, wanted to become a part of Students' Council because someone reached out and said that it was a great experience to be on Students' Council. However, women and gender minorities are having a terrible experience on Council and then are telling other women and gender minorities that Council is not a great or safe experience. That is a massive problem on Students' Council. Questions current councillors how they are reaching out to try and make a safe space for women and gender minorities within Council.

OJO: Has personally found that for women and gender minorities, like herself, it is much easier to serve in leadership positions when they have the capacity to be sincere. Current councillors will be the ones bringing future councillors to Students' Council. However, personally feels hesitant to bring more women to Council because of personal experiences on Council. States that, while support is needed for women and gender minorities to join Students' Council, even more support is required after they have joined Council.

LEE: Asks if there have been any investigations or attempts to bring direct action against members of council who have harassed female and gender minority councillors.

SHETTY: Clarifies LEE's statements by stating the following: If issues of mistreatment against female councillors and executives have been raised, were they looked into?

MONTEIRO: States that individuals have come forward to discuss their discomfort within governance spaces. Stresses that this is not a situation which one Executive Committee can find a solution for. Students' Council holds a responsibility to both direct the Executive Committee and to hold one another accountable. The Executives bring conversations forward when issues have been identified and give Council the time to discuss these issues and resolve them. Looking at the Council

Speaking Turn Graph, it is quite evident that men take up much more space in Council than any other group. The Executives can only do so much; councillor support and responsibility is also required to resolve these conflicts.

LIU: Would like to raise concerns regarding the treatment and representation of LGBTQ candidates in student governance elections. Has talked to Executive Election candidate Rowan Morris, and notes the transphobia that Rowan has faced during his campaign. Proper representation is essential in any democracy and governance system. No one should have to face hate and discrimination while running for a governance position.

QUESTION PERIOD is extended by 15 minutes.

CARBAJAL VELEZ: Wants to reiterate what Councillor OJO previously stated. Treatment of women and gender minorities in student leadership is not a campus wide issue but rather an SU issue. Personally knows many women and gender minorities who organize and hold leadership positions on campus but do not get involved in the SU. Has personally faced many struggles on Students' Council this past year. Only one Executive reached out to support them when these struggles were identified. The harm that was done to them was never addressed. Does not believe that councillors will be defended by the SU when they are faced with issues and, as such, will not recommend the SU and Students' Council to other women and gender minorities across campus.

WATTAMANIUK: Came into Students' Council hoping that the majority of Students' Council issues were structural and could be resolved. However, the problems of Students' Council are very multi-faceted and, at this junction, most people are at a loss on how to resolve these issues. Councillors are feeling unsafe and looking to the Executives to do things and the Executives are also feeling unsafe and looking to councillors to do things, which leads to dysfunction. Council sessions, in some cases, are just three hours of micro-aggression after micro-aggression. Is tremendously disappointed in themselves for not doing more to fix Students' Council's issues and is still at a loss on how to resolve the toxicity of Students' Council. There has to be changes in a lot of areas for Council to become a better place. Some of these changes are already being implemented, with greater communication between Executives and councillors, with the implementation of the Code of Conduct and the current Standing Order review. Councillors, ultimately, hold a responsibility to create a safe space for council members. Would like to do an assessment, during the next two months of CAC, to assess Students' Council progress and how to further create a safe space for future councillors. Thanks councillors for being in governance this year and appreciates those who have made efforts to continuously make Council a safer place.

REISBIG: Has noticed that Council likes to use the term "female." Using "female" and "male" reaffirms the gender binary and does not refer to gender but biology. Personally, would like to be referred to as a human being rather than as a biological category. Thinks that Council will be a more safe space if the use of "female" and

“male” is phased out.

ABBASI: Notes that it has been difficult for them to get to know Council culture when they have to attend all meetings online. However, has noticed the significant number of resignations on Council this year. Believes that everyone is trying their best while they are on Council, but personally feels that the system is stopping any forward progress and that the system needs to be significantly changed.

ZUKOWSKI: As the Speaker, who is also responsible for the safety of Council, personally feels sad that there has been significant harm to councillors by virtue of being on Council. Offers support for any issues that councillors are facing and is happy to have any conversations that are needed. Thanks Council for being so open about their experiences.

SHETTY: Notes that Marc Dumouchel, the current General Manager, has been at the Student' Union for almost 20 years. Questions if term limits should be imposed on Students' Union General Managers and if this has been something that has been discussed at Students' Council.

MONTEIRO: States that this is not something that has been discussed at Students' Council but, if it is the wish of Students' Council, that is something that can be looked into.

SINGH: Did not realize that the term “male” or “female” would be upsetting to council members. However, appreciates Councillor Reisbig for raising this issue and creating a learning experience for everyone present at the meeting. Small changes like these are very important in creating a safer space on Council.

2022-23/8

BOARD AND COMMITTEE BUSINESS

2022-23/8a

MONTEIRO/WATTAMANIUK MOVE TO approve the second reading of Bill 3: Council Size.

See SC-2022-23.04
CARRIED 14/00/01

OJO: Appreciates the formula of Bill 3: Council Size as presented. Questions what the response would be to a student who questioned why Students' Council would want less seats on the Council.

MONTEIRO: Feels that more personal and more productive conversations can be held when Council is smaller. These conversations can include more voices as, at Council's current size, not every councillor gets to speak during each and every meeting of Students' Council. The number of Students' Council committees has ballooned over the years, which has stretched Governance thin and offloaded further responsibilities to councillors and committee chairs. This would be rectified with a reduction in Council size.

WATTAMANIUK: A smaller council will make it easier to implement councillor honorariums and to also implement a future Senate for Students' Council. Having a smaller council will also contribute to a culture shift where a more collaborative working environment can be built. While creating a smaller Council may lead to less diversity, which has been a concern that has already been raised, it should also be noted that there is a large amount of vacancies on Council right now and a lot of unengaged Council members. As such, is hopeful that Council's engagement and culture will improve for the better with the implementation of a smaller Council size.

SINGH: Wonders if the general student body was consulted on Bill 3's Second Principles. Requests that a survey or Town Hall is run to get the perspective of the general student body.

MONTEIRO: The Governance Restructuring Task Force (GRTF) has brought together student leaders for consultation to represent the views of the general student body. Student leaders are well equipped and well connected with their constituents to accurately share their views to GRTF. GRTF has been in progress for a very long time and student leaders, as the representatives of the general student body, have been consulted over a period of time in order to ensure that the right decisions are made.

SINGH: When student leaders were consulted, they were consulted on reducing Council size and implementing a Students' Council Senate. Now, only reducing Council size is being proposed and the implementation of the Senate appears to be a dream. Believes that the consultation conducted was a failure.

MONTEIRO: Does not believe that the consultation conducted was a failure. Not all

changes can be implemented at the same time. This has been shared previously in Council. The reason that these changes cannot be implemented at the same time is because the Council needs to pinpoint what allows it to be most effective as a body to achieve its mandate. The GRTF recommendations will not be complete by changing the size and structure of Council and discussions will continue. Does not believe that implementing another body, such as a Senate, while Council is still working to operate effectively makes any sense.

LIU: Is happy with the amount of representation that is being proposed for their faculty (KSR) in the new system. However, raises concern with the way that representation is being determined for faculties in general. Is further worried that, as Councillor SINGH pointed out, that a Students' Council Senate will never be implemented.

USSERBAYEVA: Is very concerned about diversity and representation on Council if Council seat numbers are reduced. Wonders how representation will be addressed on Council, with a smaller size, and if there would be any limitations on who could be present within Council.

MONTEIRO: Anybody and everybody can come to and run for Students' Council. Acknowledges that the way that Council is laid out, with the reduction of seats, diversity may become limited. The way to overcome limitations in diversity is to increase student involvement on Students' Council committees, where real change is implemented. Further supports and an increase in Student at Large (SAL) positions will be available on committees and these positions can be filled by everyone who wants to participate in the governance process. Past that point, the creation of the Senate will also help address diversity within SU governance.

MONTEIRO/FOGUE MOVE TO suspend standing orders to not have recess.
CARRIED 18/00/00

SHETTY: Believes that most of the points that are being raised today have already been discussed when Bill 3: First Principles was brought to Council. Understands that there is a risk for diversity when implementing a smaller Council size, however, has the hope that the best candidate for the available positions will be chosen based on candidates' ability and not their popularity. Will move to approve Bill 3, despite the risks, as they believe that those risks can be mitigated through the work of future Students' Councils.

SINGH: When comparing the benefit or perceived loss of Bill 3's Second Principles, finds that there is very little benefit to approving Bill 3's Second Principles. Does not believe that vacancies on Council harm Council and would rather have a larger Council structure, with vacancies, rather than a smaller Council that is completely filled. Concerns of diversity and a lack of consultation are at the forefront and limit the effectiveness of the proposed bill. Would personally like to decrease Council size but feels that the presented Second Principles are not appropriate for solving that issue and believes that future Students' Councils will have to solve the problems of

the proposed Bill 3.

MONTEIRO: Does not want the perfect to become the enemy of the good. There is never going to be a perfect situation or a perfect bill to solve every problem of Council. Understands Singh's point of view but reiterates that smaller groups of people invite more fulsome and more personal discussions, while ensuring that each member of that group has a speaking turn to express their views. Believes that, overall, there is a lot of merit in the proposed Bill 3's Second Principles, particularly the fact that it will give the opportunity for every Students' Council member to speak at every Students' Council meeting.

LIU: Agrees with Councillors USSERBAYEVA and SINGH about diversity concerns. Hopes that everyone takes the voice of opposition into consideration when voting on the approval of Bill 3's Second Principles.

WATTAMANIUK: Counters Councillor SINGH's previous statement that vacancies aren't harmful. States that vacancies only exist with harm. The university likes to point to Students' Union election turnouts and Students' Council vacancies to discount the advocacy that comes out of the Students' Union. The current thirteen vacant seats on Students' Council points to a lack of engagement and a lack of effectiveness on Students' Council. Students' Council is a more effective body when its seats are filled and all councillors are engaged with the problems being discussed. Council culture will also be improved when councillors can more effectively get to know each other and work with one another. Acknowledges the validity of the diversity concerns raised previously by Councillor USSERBAYEVA. States, however, that diversity will be a concern on a body of any size and points directly to the Executive Committee, which is composed of only five members. Not everybody who might want to run will be able to win an available seat, in any election. If a smaller Council improves the culture of Council, that improves the diversity of Council as a byproduct as it becomes a safer space for everyone to participate and engage actively. Reiterates President MONTEIRO by saying that the perfect cannot be the enemy of the good.

USSERBAYEVA: Feels that one of the biggest things that the SU has been facing is participation in elections and Students' Council. Wonders how decreasing the size of Council will increase the awareness of Students' Council and student governance. Making Council smaller makes it more of a clique and prevents people from wanting to join. Feels that the Council will become less transparent if it is reduced in size.

SINGH/ABBASI MOVE TO go into committee of the whole
CARRIED 18/00/00

ABBASI: Understands the issues that Councillor USSERBAYEVA has raised. However, believes that decreasing the size of Council would also allow councillors to be more informed and more aware of all the issues that the Executives or the SU release statements on. Knowing more makes the entire Council more effective.

OJO: Notes that councillors have consistently brought up the point that reducing the

size of Council would take away opportunities away from candidates that are more deserving or more qualified. Elections are not a meritocracy and every councillor currently on Council is relatively well-liked and well-known within their respective faculties, while also demonstrating the skills to perform their roles as councillors. It is risky to reduce the seats of Council as it runs the risk of Students' Council being only composed of well-liked white men, which doesn't represent the student body. However, there is a real chance that Bill 3's Second Principles will improve the student experience, even though, personally, they have hesitations about the proposed bill. However, change cannot be accomplished by staying the same. Council is a group of individuals, not a collective, which is not an issue of inclusion but an issue of training and team building.

SHETTY: Acknowledges that there is a risk of less diversity if Council is reduced. However, says that that can be rectified by creating more Student at Large positions within committees. Notes that Council and Council committees have struggled with quorum all year, which also provides merit to decreasing the size of Council.

SINGH: Raises the possibility of taking this motion to referendum during the Students' Council Elections. Students' Council has the authority to send anything to referendum.

ZUKOWSKI: Notes that sending this motion to referendum may be out of order.

SINGH: Wonders if the motion can be amended.

ZUKOWSKI: States that this motion can be defeated but it cannot be amended, as Council is constrained by the First Principles of Bill 3, which were passed last Council meeting.

MONTEIRO: PoO. States that sending the motion to referendum would be in violation of bylaw because the referendum has missed the 30 day deadline before the election and because there would be no one to effectively campaign for the referendum.

SINGH: Would like the **SPEAKER** to confirm if it would be possible for the motion to be sent to referendum. Does not think that there needs to be a lot of campaigning if the motion is sent to referendum. Believes that such a big change should have students making the final call on it. Is not opposed to shrinking the size of Council, but thinks that diversity concerns are being ignored. Students' Council has been operating as it has been for years, not changing the structure of Council will not impact its operating function. Until the concerns of a Students' Council Senate and the potential lack of diversity are addressed, Bill 3's Second Principles cannot be passed.

SPEAKER: Per Bylaw, sending Bill 3's Second Principles for referendum would be out of order. Referendums must be submitted 30 days before an election begins and referendums must run with the Executive Elections.

SINGH: PoO. Argues against this based on Bylaw 9000.

SPEAKER: States that to suspend bylaws under Bylaw 9000, the DIE Board must grant a ruling and confirm an extenuating circumstance for suspending bylaws. Furthermore, Bylaw 9000 can only suspend certain bylaws and election bylaws are not one of the possible bylaws which can be suspended.

LIU: States that they had been thinking of proposing a referendum as well. Thinks that it might be better to have direct input from the student body about reducing the size of Council.

SINGH/LIU MOVE TO postpone agenda item 8a indefinitely.
FAILED 06/00/11

ABBASI: PoO. Questions if the current nomination packages for the Students' Council elections would need to be changed if the motion is TABLED.

MONTEIRO: Also raises potential concerns if the motion is TABLED.

OJO: States that Councillor SINGH earlier stated that passing this motion would result in putting further work on future Students' Councils. By delaying the decision to approve the motion, Councillor SINGH is doing the exact same thing. This is the Second Principles of Bill 3, therefore there has already been ample discussion on this motion already.

SINGH: States that putting further work on future Students' Councils' was only in reference to Students' Council not creating a Students' Council Senate this year but leaving it for future Students' Council to create.

MONTEIRO: PoO. States that the conversations being held have already been held during the approval of the First Principles of Bill 3. While the conversations have merit, what should be focused on during this meeting is whether the Second Principles adhere to what was approved in the First Principles of Bill 3.

USSERBAYEVA: Is in favour of the motion to TABLE as they will vote against the motion if it is not TABLED. States that they were not present for the discussion of the First Principles of Bill 3 and that is why they are raising diversity concerns at today's meeting. Would also feel more comfortable passing this bill when more members of Council are present.

LIU: For restructuring, it is important to consider whether Student at Large positions or a Students' Council Senate will fill in the gaps that will result from a smaller Council size. As such, is in favour of TABLING the motion.

LEE: Is in favour of passing the Second Principles of Bill 3. While it has been raised that reducing council size will result in a lack of diversity and inclusion within

Students' Council, if the current council size continues, councillors will continue confronting a lack of engagement within Council. Although diversity is achieved through the current physical composition of Council because of a lack of engagement from current Council members and the high occurrence of vacant seats within Council, diversity of ideas and faculty constituents are still not being represented. In this sense, reducing Council size will maximize diverse voices and ensure that the diverse body of students is being represented on Council. Notes that, personally, the current system of Council is a failure because when they first arrived to Council, they felt uncomfortable and unsafe to share their opinions. However, as Council shrank and more people resigned, they felt more supported by Council and more comfortable to share their concerns to other councillors.

STEINBUSCH: Agrees with everything that Councillor LEE said. Notes that decreasing the size of Council can lead to a decrease in diverse voices. However, after looking through posted election results from last year, states that while the Engineering Faculty's top candidate was a white male, other faculties' top candidate was either an international student or a student from a diverse background. As such, while there is always a chance to decrease diversity, reducing Council size also has the possibility of increasing diverse student voices. Because of the way that elections ran last year, most faculties had either international students or students from diverse backgrounds as the front runners in the elections, suggesting that if Students' Council had been reduced last year, it would have maintained its diversity as diverse student voices were obviously prioritized in elections results.

SHETTY: Is against the motion to TABLE. States that they are entirely in agreement with Councillor LEE's previous comments.

SINGH/VYAS MOVE TO call to question on the motion to table agenda item 8a
WITHDRAWN

SINGH: PoO. Asks the SPEAKER about quorum.

SPEAKER: Notes that there are currently 17 voting members present within the Students' Council meeting.

SINGH: Further questions how many people would be required to leave the meeting for Students' Council to lose quorum.

SPEAKER: States that three voting members of Council would need to leave in order for Students' Council to lose quorum.

SINGH: Confirms that three members of Students' Council would need to leave in order to lose quorum.

SPEAKER: Confirms that that is the case.

LIU: Council was elected on a 5% turn out for Students' Council elections. Unless

there is a more promising structure of governance reform, notes that they will not vote in the affirmative of the presented bill.

ABBASI: PoO. Questions if voting can occur immediately by calling to question.

SPEAKER: States that it is up to a councillor to call to question during a speaking turn.

REISBIG: Expressed gratitude for the points that everyone has shared so far. Points out that invisible minorities are represented on Council and not everyone has to share if they are a minority. Personally feels that a lack of representation is pervasive within STEM and is not indicative of Students' Council as a whole.

STEINBUSCH/FOGUE MOVE THE previous question (agenda item 8a)
CARRIED 16/00/00

SINGH: PoO. Asks the SPEAKER to recount Students' Council quorum as himself and Councillors Thind and Vyas will be leaving the meeting immediately.

COUNCILLORS SINGH, THIND and VYAS exit the meeting.

MONTEIRO/FOGUE MOVE TO delay disbandment of the meeting and seek members able to attend to regain quorum (quorum was not present at the time of this motion)
CARRIED 13/00/00

COUNCILLOR BROOKS and BOG REPRESENTATIVE DORSCHIED enter the meeting.

Council reaches quorum and resumes voting on agenda item 8a.

2022-23/9

GENERAL ORDERS

2022-23/10

CLOSED SESSIONS

2022-23/11

INFORMATION ITEMS

2022-23/11a

Students' Council Votes and Proceedings (SC-2022-22) February 21st, 2023

See SC-2022-23.01

2022-23/11b

Executive Reports

See SC-2022-23.02-03

2022-23/11c

Students' Council Submissions

See SC-2022-23.04

2022-23/11d Students' Council - Attendance

See SC-2022-23.05

2022-23/11e Executive Reports

See SC-2022-23.02.06

2022-23/11f Board of Governors Representative Report

See SC-2022-23.02.07

KAUR/MONTEIRO MOVE TO adjourn the meeting.
CARRIED 16/00/00

SPEAKER adjourned the meeting at 8:46 P.M.