

**November 21st, 2023
6:00 P.M.
Council Chambers/Zoom**

The University of Alberta and the University of Alberta Students' Union occupy Indigenous land in amiskwaciswâskahikan (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, Dênesųłíné (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 PM.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS (SC-2023-14)

2023-14/1 **SPEAKERS BUSINESS**

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

GRIFFITHS/ALMEIDA MOVE TO put Reports, Open Forum, and Question Period to the top of the agenda and extend Open Forum up to an hour.
CARRIED 15/00/00

2023-14/4 **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND BOG REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS**

FOTANG - President - Report

2023-14/5 **BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORT**

2023-14/6 **OPEN FORUM**

PROMETHEUS (Statement): States dissatisfaction regarding the tuition hike. Further states how much UofA students contribute to the Alberta Economy. Thinks that the Alberta government should cover for the hike in order to increase revenue and students shouldn't be expected to pay more to cover funding cuts.

HOLLY (Statement): Expresses disappointment in the University's response to the situation in Palestine, which suggested that protests for Palestine could turn violent by stating that UAPS would be on call during a protest. Mentions how there's wider opposition seen against Palestine all over Canada. Believes that the UASU taking a stance would build a movement for Palestine amongst the UofA community.

IZZA (Statement): Reflects on the previous statement. States that the UASU's neutral stance, when it comes to the ongoing conflict with Israel and Palestine, is something that students aren't happy about. Previously, there have been situations where the UASU has taken a stance, such as for Iran and Ukraine.

MATIN KOOHKAN (Statement): Reminds the audience about the events that took place on the 7th of October 2023 and how that affected Israeli civilians.

AYSHA (Question): Questions what's being done to support and protect students who come forward with complaints of hatred and violence.

FOTANG: Answers that there's advocacy to push the university to have more accessible support for students. Is also spreading the word about the available resources through professors. Shares that President Flanagan affirms having peaceful protests and that the students have the right to express themselves and peacefully protest on campus.

YARA AWWAD (Statement): Sheds light on how the UASU has been quiet on the ongoing conflict and that its neutral stance on Palestine is frustrating for students.

HARUUN AL (Statement): Expresses frustration with how SU has formed its response to the geopolitical conflict in Israel and Palestine.

MARIJA CVETKOVSEA (Question): Questions about what kind of support and resources can be provided for students because the existing supports are overbooked and, at this point, there's no other support available.

FOTANG: States that the services by the university need to be consistent and in line with the already existing services for students.

DOHA (Statement): Points out how there's no support for the students who have family back in Palestine and who are struggling.

YARA (Statement): Talks about the history of the conflict between Israel and Palestine. Questions why the UASU took a stance for Ukraine during the Ukraine-Russia war, but is remaining neutral during this period.

FOTANG: Replies that the stance on the Ukraine-Russia war was taken by the previously elected executive team. However, recognizing the sensitivity of the topic, the current goal is to have more supports and services available for students in need.

PROMETHEUS (Statement): Explains the Alberta Human Rights Act and states that the policies don't demonstrate anti-Israeli hate. Notes that students coming from Palestine as refugees pay international tuition fees and believes that this is particularly unfair with upcoming tuition increases. Student refugees from Ukraine didn't pay international tuition fees; they paid domestic fees.

IZZA (Statement): States that Islamophobia is on the rise and harshly affects the students on campus. Encourages the Students' Union to reflect on their neutral statement.

MATIN KOOHKAN (Statement): States that every form of resistance is allowed and Israel has the right to defend itself.

AYSHA (Question): Questions why the SU has not implemented a mechanism to let students vote on their views. (For example, how the policy was formed at McGill University)

FOTANG: Answers that student body voices go through plebiscite and referendums, and that it's a process that needs to be referred to the Students' Council Bylaw Committee.

HARUUN ALI (Question): Questions what the term "anti-Israeli hate" mentioned in the UASU's statement means.

BEASLEY: Answers that the UASU doesn't want students to be harassed simply because of who they are or if they come from Palestine or Israel. The idea is to not criticize students and instead to engage in peaceful advocacy.

FOTANG: Adds that these concerns are being taken up with the Provost, particularly potential funding and financial aid for students impacted by the current geopolitical conflict. The Peer Support Center is also available as a resource.

PADFIELD: Encourages students to contact them for financial aid and mental health support.

NISRIN (Statement): States that it is crucial to clarify that the protests organized by the Palestinian community aren't aligned with any political groups, but are situated as humanitarian causes.

IZZA (Statement): States that there are also voices from the Jewish community in the discussion and reducing opposing views to religion doesn't do any justice to the geopolitical conflict at hand.

JACOB OSHRY (Statement): Introduces Hillel Edmonton, which is a registered student group on campus that promotes Jewish culture and combats anti-semitism on campus.

LUIS (Statement): Urges the UASU to call for a ceasefire and asks the university to recognize the history of the conflict.

ALI (Question): Questions if the current UASU executive team would happen to make a statement regarding the Russia-Ukraine conflict, and whether the current UASU executive team would still make a statement in support of Ukrainian Students, as the previous executive team did, or take a neutral stance. Questions why there's no visible support for Palestine when there was visible support for Ukraine.

FOTANG: States that they can't speak to the rationale on behalf of the team who put the statement out during the Russia-Ukraine conflict. For the executive team this year, the main focus is to have support available to all students.

2023-14/7 QUESTION PERIOD

MOHAMED: Questions how the proposed changes to AHS policies affect the health and dental plan coverage for students.

FLAMAN: Answers that AHS isn't responsible for the dental plan that the UASU provides. From the provider's end, there will not be any changes in regards to the delivery of the plan. There can be a more elaborate discussion regarding this at the next Health & Dental Committee meeting.

2023-14/2 CONSENT AGENDA

2023-14/2a Students' Council Votes and Proceedings (SC-2023-13) Tuesday, November 4th, 2023

See SC-2023-14.05

APPROVED

2023-14/3 PRESENTATIONS

2023-14/3a **FOTANG/FLAMAN MOVE TO** allow Melissa Padfield to present on the University Tuition Proposal

See SC-2023-14.01

CARRIED 15/00/00

GRIFFITHS/ALMEIDA MOVE TO extend the presentation by 10 minutes.

CARRIED 9/07/00

2023-14/3b **ALMEIDA/FOTANG MOVE TO** allow Carrie Smith to present on building an integrated EDI action plan

See SC-2023-14.02

CARRIED 16/00/00

- 2023-14/8 UNFINISHED BUSINESS
- 2023-14/9 BOARD AND COMMITTEE BUSINESS
- 2023-14/9a **GRIFFITHS/PICH MOVE TO** approve the Second Principles of the Student Spaces and Deferred Maintenance Policy.
See SC-2023-14.03
CARRIED 12/01/00
- 2023-14/9b **ALMEIDA/THIESSEN MOVE TO** approve the First Principles of UASU's Student Financial Aid and Scholarships Policy.
See SC-2023-14.04
CARRIED 14/00/00
- 2023-14/10 GENERAL ORDERS
- 2023-14/11 CLOSED SESSIONS
- 2023-14/12 INFORMATION ITEMS
- 2023-14/12a Students' Council Submissions
See SC-2023.14.01-04
- 2023-14/12b Executive Report
See SC-2023-14.05
- 2023-14/12c Students' Council Votes and Proceedings
See SC-2023-14.06
- 2023-14/12d Students' Council Attendance
See SC-2023-14.07
- 2023-14/12e Students' Council Motion Tracker
See SC-2023-14.08
SPEAKER adjourned the meeting at 8:56 PM.

