



University of Alberta Students' Union

POLICY COMMITTEE

June 29, 2023

6:00 P.M.

SUB/[Zoom](#)

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 Niitsítapi (Blackfoot), Métis, Dēnesųłíné (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?

ATTENDANCE

NAME	PROXY	PRESENT
Pedro Almeida		Y
Chris Beasley		N
Michael Griffiths		Y
Adrian Lam		Y
Precious Majekodunmi (Chair)		Y
Mason Pich		Y
Nathan Thiessen		Y
Courtney Graham		N/A
Jetro Dano		N/A

MINUTES (PC-2023-03-M)

2023-03/1 INTRODUCTION

2023-03/1a Call to Order

MAJEKODUNMI called the meeting to order at 6:06 PM

2023-03/1b Approval of Agenda

PICH/THIESSEN MOVE TO approve the agenda
CARRIED

2023-03/1c Approval of Minutes

THIESSEN/GRIFFITHS MOVE TO approve the minutes
CARRIED

2023-03/1d Chair's Business

- Recap of the previous meeting
- Review of Augustana policy

LAM: Mentions that the policy has pandemic-related information and that most of this information does not apply currently.

Adds that there is no fixed transportation between Edmonton and Camrose which is a central issue, especially for international students. City buses run 3-4 times a week, and limited health care services are available in Camrose.

- Update regarding shared document for brainstorming and collaboration

MAJEKODUNMI: Mentions that a shared Google spreadsheet has been created that the committee can use for work collaboration alongside the WhatsApp group chat for communication.

2023-03/2 QUESTION/DISCUSSION PERIOD

- Discussing our work plan for this term and set goals

Committee discusses committee and personal goals.

GRIFFITHS: Mentions the importance of consolidating relevant policies.

THIESEN: Mentions working on policies regarding students' concerns on campus life, provincial life, and Canadian life

ALMEIDA: Mentions personal goal of potential consolidation of the academic-based policies. Adds that Quality Instruction Policy will be ready to thorough Council in about 3 months

THIESEN: Mentions Perks as a tool the committee can utilise for student engagement.

MAJEKODUNMI: Clarifies that THIESEN is suggesting switching USRI to SPOT upon the renewal of the Quality Instructions Policy

GRIFFITHS: Mentions personal goals on working on and consulting with groups on TRC and Indigenous Policy.

LAM: Mentions personal goals on working on the Augustana Policy and Mental Health Policy.

PICH: Mentions interest in condensing the policies to make them more approachable

THIESEN: Mentions the goal of working on Students' spaces. Suggests creating a fundamental political charter of what the UASU advocates and creating political policies based on that.

MAJEKODUNMI: Asks GRAHAM if the committee will have to create facts and resolutions should it decide to do a subsection on the policies.

GRAHAM: States that a generalised facts section could suffice.

LAM: Mentions concerned with determining the boundaries between the policies and their distinction

MAJEKODUNMI: Mentions that it will be under the discretion of the committee

PICH: Mentions possible policies that can be condensed altogether, including Tuition, Open Education, and Student Financial Aid and

Scholarships and Bursaries, and putting them under one category.

ALMEIDA: Mentions some concerns that might arise upon consolidating these policies

THIESSEN: Suggests short-term goals focusing on policies that have expired in April 2023, medium-range goals working on policies that expire in 2024, and long-term goals focusing on consolidation of political policies.

MAJEKODUNMI: Mentions that the committee should focus on individual policies. Then, the working groups must propose to the committee which policies they think can be consolidated.

GRIFFITHS: Mentions that the strategic plan will be coming up this year for exploration and renewal.

- Creation of working groups for policies completion

MAJEKODUNMI: Mentions dividing the 28 policies amongst the members of the Committee, having 4-5 policies per member

THIESSEN: Suggests working on the 6 expired policies first- giving each member one policy each

ALMEIDA: Suggests dividing the committees into pairs- pairing up an executive and a councillor to tackle 3 policies. First, do the 2023 expired policies, set deadlines for the facts sections, and then have another deadline for the resolutions. Once done, make a new set of groups to work on the next set of policies.

GRAHAM: Mentions that working groups in the past typically consisted of 2-3 members (the 3rd member being the chair) and doing it on a trimester basis.

LAM: Mentions issues on working on the Augustana Policy regarding consultations since their Council does not start until late August or early September

MAJEKODUNMI: Agrees on pairing an executive with a councillor.

However, it mentions that issues might arise if the executive and councillor have different goals they want to work on.

GRAHAM: Mentions restructuring the policies altogether could be beneficial to the Committee based on how the Committee is going about consolidation

MAJEKODUNMI: Confirms that ALMEIDA and THIESSEN will be working on the Quality Instruction Policy.

GRAHAM: Mentions the previous committee strategy regarding policy deadlines. Suggests setting two separate deadlines for the 1st and second principles. Adds that there could be less time to tackle the policies during the winter term because of the elections happening around the same time

Adds that some policies in the past were assigned early but were worked on although-out the year.

GRAHAM: Suggests having a contingency plan in case deadlines are not met

Augustana Policy- LAM & BEASLEY + support from the Committee (long-term)

Quality Instruction Policy-THIESSEN & ALMEIDA

Student Space Policy- PICH & GRIFFITHS/ BEASLEY

The Committee set the deadline for 1st reading on July 27th and October 31st for the 2nd reading.

- Discussing and reviewing the structure of the policies
- Draft a consultation plan for policies

MAJEKODUNMI: Encourages the exec and the counsellor assigned to each of the policies to create a consultation plan before getting started on the policy to factor in the consultation aspect into their ability to meet the deadline for the first reading.

2023-03/3

NEW BUSINESS

- Open Education Policy Expansion

MAJEKODUNMI: Mentions ALMEIDA's insight regarding Artificial intelligence

2023-03/4

WRAP-UP

Action Items / To-Do List

- Reading assigned policies

Next Scheduled Meeting

- **July 13, 2023**

Adjournment

MAJEKODUNMI adjourned the meeting at 7:17 PM