

Policy Committee

Date: February 8, 2024
Time: 5:00pm

In Person: SUB 6-06 and Online: 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, Dënesųliné (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		Υ
Chris Beasley		N
Michael Griffiths		Υ
Adrian Lam		Υ
Precious Majekodunmi (Chair)		Y
Mason Pich		N
Nathan Thiessen		Υ
Aseel Atia		N/A
Courtney Graham		N/A

MINUTES (PC 2023-15-)

2023-14/1 INTRODUCTION

2023-14/1a Call to Order (5 min)

• Land Acknowledgement
MAJEKODUNMI called the meeting to order at 5:03 PM

2023-14/1b Approval of Agenda (1 min)
THIESSEN/LAM MOVE TO approve the agenda

2023-14/1c Approval of previous meeting minutes

TABLED

2023-14/1d Chair's Business (5 mins)

Review of Working Plan for this semester

MAJEKODUNMI: The first draft to this committee is to be released by January 30, 2024, and first principles are to be sent to Students' Council by February 15, 20243. The second draft will be brought to the Policy Committee by March 7, 2024, with the second principles sent to Students' Council by March 30.

2023-14/2 COMMITTEE BUSINESS (40 min)

• Mental Health Policy update (15 min)

LAM: No further progress has been made regarding Mental Health or Augustana, but both are in the second principles stages. The Augustana policy could be brought to the March 23rd meeting during the Augustana retreat.

Student Financial Aid and Scholarships (15 min)

ALMEIDA: One of the presidents wanted extra time to provide feedback, so no other further updates.

• Quality Academics Policy (15 min)

THIESSEN: No further updates for the Quality Academics or Academic Materials policy.

• TRC working period (15 min)

GRIFFITHS: The first principles for TRC have been brought to ARRC and the ISU, so they might be ready to vote on, and could be brought to the council meeting afterwards.

LAM/GRIFFITHS MOVE TO approve the first draft of the first principles of the TRC policy.

CARRIED

Academic Materials policy (15 min)

ALMEIDA: Wants to wait to move to approve the first draft until the next Policy Committee meeting.

• Augustana policy (15 min)

2023-14/3 QUESTION/DISCUSSION PERIOD (5 min)

2023-14/4a Action Items / To-Do List

2023-14/4b Next Scheduled Meeting: February 29, 2024 @ 5pm

2023-14/5 Adjournment

MAJEKODUNMI adjourned the meeting at 5:32 P.M.