

**December 5th, 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 6:08 P.M.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS (SC-2023-16)

2023-16/1 **SPEAKER'S BUSINESS**

2023-16/1a Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85666007012>

The nomination deadline for Council Scholarships is December 5th, 2023 at the end of the Students' Council meeting. Because the Google Form for nominations was ONLY provided earlier today, nominations have been extended to Wednesday, December 6th at midnight.

FLAMAN/THESEN MOVE TO suspend regulations to extend the scholarship deadline to midnight on December 6th.

CARRIED 16/00/00

2023-16/2 **CONSENT AGENDA**

2023-16/2a Students' Council Votes and Proceedings (SC-2023-14) Tuesday, November 21st, 2023

See SC-2023.16.08
APPROVED

2023-16/2b **LAM/ABDELWAHAB MOVE TO** nominate Tawsif Hossain for the SAL Position on the Green and Gold Grant Adjudication Committee.
APPROVED

LAM/ABDELWAHAB MOVE TO appoint Karina Afonya for the SAL Position on the Sustainability Committee.

See SC-2023.16.01
APPROVED

2023-16/3 PRESENTATIONS

2023-16/3a **FLAMAN/MOHAMED MOVE TO** allow the ESS to present on their 2023-24 FAMF proposal

See SC-2023.16.02

CARRIED 16/00/00

FLAMAN/THIESEN MOVE TO extend the presentation by 10 minutes.
CARRIED 16/00/00

AISENSTAT/MOHAMED MOVE TO extend the presentation by 10 minutes.
CARRIED 12/03/01

FLAMAN: Thanks ESS for the extensive and detailed document package that followed the Bylaw requirements rigorously. Appreciates that the FAMF amount currently makes up only one-fifth of ESS revenue; believes that a FAMF should supplement existing revenue and get FAs across the finish line. States that the UASU often criticizes the University for not exploring non-student revenue sources. The last ESS plebiscite vote was 44% in favor and 48% against; asks what the ESS has learned since then.

BROOKS: States that the ESS prides itself on keeping good connections with its previous Executive teams to learn from what they did. The ESS has learned to more effectively and consistently highlight how past ESS funding has enabled student groups' specific achievements. The ESS has a confident communications team.

SPEAKER: Reminds Council about their fiduciary duty and scope of action in relation to these proposals.

AISENSTAT: Has seen the positive effects of ESS in personal life. Asks for more information about the refund mechanism for students who opt out, and whether those students would be revoked services or be able to run in elections.

BROOKS: States that the ESS does not intend to revoke services to individuals in

connection with the refund mechanism. This is for practicality reasons and has been the case for the last twenty years. The reason they said they 'may' is that future ESS leadership teams may make a different decision in regards to the ESS's service availability for students who do not pay the ESS fee.

SPEAKER: Reminds Council that a motion will come back to approve the plebiscite question. Thanks the ESS team for their detailed presentation.

2023-16/3b

GRIFFITHS/FOTANG MOVE TO allow the HCA to present on their 2023-24 FAMF proposal.

See SC-2023.16.03

GRIFFITHS/THIESSEN MOVE TO TABLE the motion.
CARRIED 14/02/00

GRIFFITHS/AISENSTAT MOVE TO extend the meeting by 30 minutes.
CARRIED 17/01/00

GRIFFITHS/MOHAMED MOVE TO remove the HCA Presentation from the Table.
CARRIED 18/00/00

BEASLEY: FAMF proposals usually provide last year's budget and next year's proposed budget. Asks HCA to provide it.

KELVIN AU (VP Finance, HUB Community Association): Confirms he will send it to Council via the Speaker.

ATWOOD: Asks how many residents are in HUB.

AU (HCA): Around 700 spaces, but HCA is not given the current number of residents by Residence Services due to confidentiality.

SAIF: Asked if HCA has an action plan for how fees will be handled in the context of executive turnover and election vacancies.

AU (HCA): The fee is deposited into HCA's bank account, so even if some executive positions are not filled, HCA will have at least two executives to sign off on using the funds.

GRIFFITHS: Since HCA's referendum did not pass last year, what lessons has HCA learned? States that it is hard for residents to get behind a fee that pays an executive honorarium when they have not seen executives' work in past years.

AU (HCA): There was miscommunication and misguidance last year as to what HCA

executives could do. This year's transition and by-elections were stronger, allowing HCA to get its name out earlier than last year. The referendum failed because turnout was low, not because students voted against it.

FLAMAN: Apart from bottle drives, have there been other revenue sources explored? In the ESS proposal, the fee made up less than 20% of their revenue, but the fee makes up the entirety of revenue in the HCA proposal. The honorarium makes up 49% of expenses, and there is 18% allocated for administrative expenses. Asks whether that is a hidden honorarium, creative accounting to make it look like a more appealing proposal than last year.

AU (HCA): Does not appreciate the term 'creative accounting.' States that it would be more accurate to compare HCA to another Residence Association rather than a Faculty Association. HCA has explored revenue streams, but RAs struggle to get things that FAs can get, such as sponsorships. The high admin cost is because of office equipment replacements.

ATWOOD: States that the HCA exists to sponsor events and so forth, but some of the plans (e.g. moving mailboxes) are maintenance issues that should be the University's responsibility.

AU (HCA): The University takes care of the building, and HCA takes care of buying and maintaining gym equipment, furniture, etc. within specific spaces. Not many RAs do that.

THIESEN: Raises the low turnout last year. Asks how HCA has improved outreach.

AU (HCA): States that HCA has created more events and hired a full executive team focusing on student engagement. Many HUB students are international, and four out of five HCA executives are international students.

AISENSTAT: States that many students may object to 49% of the fee going to executive honoraria, and asks how HCA would justify this.

AU (HCA): States that HCA is responsible for many things in the vaults, e.g. equipment, and spends a great deal of time meeting with residence staff. HCA desperately needs executives. International students are under financial pressure and the honorarium is an incentive. States that HUB Mall residents care about whether they are compensated for their time.

BEASLEY/GRIFFITHS MOVE TO extend the presentation by 10 minutes.
CARRIED 11/04/03

BEASLEY: Last year, 89% of the proposal was set to go to honorarium; in this year's proposal, the amount has fallen to 49%. Why has this decreased, and why is 18% (~\$4,000) going to admin costs under the new proposal?

AU (HCA): The HCA is not paying the honoraria right now because it does not have the fee this term. Affirms that the admin costs are for equipment, including replacing the office computer.

AAMIR MOHAMED: Extends his speaking turn to MIKAEL SCHMIDKE, an Engineering student and former HUB resident in the summer.

SCHMIDKE: Asks whether the HCA plans to provide events in the summer, as the ambience there is draining.

AU (HCA): That probably depends on the capacity of the next executive teams. Many executives and other students are away in the summer. The feedback will be brought to the executive team.

GRIFFITHS: Asked Au to confirm that, going forward, the proposal would pay executives honoraria next year and not pay this year's executives. Students will be more comfortable paying the fee based on their assessment of the work and advocacy done this year.

AU (HCA): It would not be possible to pay out the honorarium to the current executive team. Constitutional changes may be required.

2023-16/3c

GRIFFITHS/FOTANG MOVE TO allow the ISU to present on their 2023/24 DFU renewal.

See SC-2023.16.04

CARRIED 16/00/00

LAM: Asks whether the fee would be assessed to CSJ and Augustana students.

MALIJHA MOYAN (ISU President): Confirms Augustana students will pay the fee.

VICTOR OLSEN (ISU VP Consultation and Engagement): Confirms CSJ students will pay the fee.

GARBUTT: Asks for more information about planned renovations to ISU office.

OLSEN (ISU): Last year was a floor issue; this year there is a roof issue. In the long term, the ISU is exploring more artwork and a floor in the four colours of the medicine wheel, to make it a more specifically Indigenous space. The ISU is also looking at replacing their large banner that uses their old name.

BEASLEY: Because the ISU has had challenges with executive turnover, there have been challenges with spending the full amount of the fee revenue (around \$91,000/year) in the past few years. Asks how much of the \$91,000 has been spent.

OLSEN (ISU): Last year around \$60,000 was spent due to repeated turnover in the VP Finance role. The ISU has taken steps (to make it a dual role and to create an honorarium) to ensure more continuity and stability.

MOYAN (ISU): Another way the ISU is spending this money is by increasing engagement, which suffered in past years due to COVID. For example, the ISU has been seeing more applications for its child care subsidy. Lounge renovations and increased grant applications are also expenses.

OLSEN (ISU): Explains that the child care subsidy has struggled to get off the ground, but has opened for applications as of last year. Explains how serious the escalating cost of child care is for Indigenous students, who are more likely to be older and to be parents. Hopes for UASU support in making the subsidy more available.

SAIF: Point of clarification regarding what off-campus students are in this context.

GRIFFITHS: Clarifies what off-campus students are; this is a category commonly used in relation to Mandatory Non-Instructional Fees (MNIFs) and other student fees. These students are mostly taking classes online and would not be coming to campus often, if ever.

FLAMAN: Asks for more information about internal oversight processes. DFUs submit information to Finance Committee, which has sometimes been neglectful in its duties over the past few years. A DFU is supposed to register as a society in Alberta and submit audited financial statements, and Flaman can find no indication that this was done. Asks what ISU does internally before sending this information to Finance Committee.

OLSEN (ISU): Will not engage in finger-pointing at previous Finance Committees. The Alberta Societies Act does not allow the words Indigenous or Union, and has other constraints on naming, but the ISU has recently concluded governance processes that should allow it to register as a society in the near future. ISU financial information is available on request to anyone who asked. The ISU has two VPs Finances, and every cheque must be signed by both a VP Finance and the President. The ISU executive team has been doing in-depth transition documents.

FLAMAN: Asks for more information about external auditing.

OLSEN (ISU): The new VP Finance is working on this currently.

SAIF: Asks for more information about awards and scholarships. Asks whether there is a fixed percentage of the fee that will go to awards and scholarships, or a maximum value for individual awards.

OLSEN (ISU): Awards and scholarships are roughly one fifth of the expenses, but the ISU is reluctant to put hard limits or a fixed percentage on this because a lot can change in students' financial circumstances over the coming years.

GRIFFITHS: Has had the pleasure of working with the ISU on events and visiting the ISU lounge, which is used by many people. Affirms how impactful the ISU's efforts are and asks for more information about the connection between the fee and these efforts; what would be possible without the fee?

MOYAN (ISU): Gives examples, e.g. the ISU started a drop-in art event to provide access to costly supplies like beads and hide, and to share Indigenous art-related and cultural teachings with Indigenous and often non-Indigenous students.

OLSEN (ISU): The fee also makes programs possible through honoraria for those who share teachings.

MOYAN (ISU): We select directors who significantly increase our capacity to hold events like this, and director-led events are more expensive.

MOHAMED/THIESSEN MOVE TO extend the presentation by 10 minutes.
CARRIED 15/01/00

FLAMAN: Asks for clarity around email exchanges on terminology regarding use of funds in connection with University facilities, as the ISU North Power Plant lounge is a University facility.

MOYAN (ISU): Misunderstood the email question and believed it was referring to rent; clarifies that a portion of this fee will be used for lounge renovations.

OLSEN (ISU): The ISU has been fortunate to work closely with the University to reduce the cost of renovations and secure free furniture.

AISENSTAT: Congratulates the ISU on its major developments and accomplishments. Asks for more clarity around the ISU's governance structure, specifically its directors.

MOYAN (ISU): The ISU has a committee of 5-10 directors who meet bi-weekly and engage with specific ISU Executives. Directors have portfolios like cultural events and social media. These are low-commitment positions for students who want to get involved.

OLSEN (ISU): Manpower is a major reason the DFU funds have not been fully spent, and the director model is a way of addressing that problem.

GRIFFITHS: Clarifies that these are not directors in the sense of a board of directors; notes that the ISU Executive team is closer to that role.

AISENSTAT: Asks for confirmation that the ISU Executives, not directors, oversee the DFU.

OLSEN (ISU): Confirms that the directors are essentially extended volunteers and do

not have voting power.

GRIFFITHS: Asks the ISU to explain its executive team in more detail for Council.

MOYAN (ISU): The ISU has eight executive seats, of which seven are currently filled. The roles are President, VP Consultation and Engagement, two VPs Finance, a VP Internal, a VP External, a VP Admin, and a VP Operations.

OLSEN (ISU): The ISU Executives oversee the DFU and do all voting on DFU-related matters.

GRIFFITHS: As a point of information, the UASU representative and the First Peoples' House representative also have seats.

FLAMAN: How much DFU funding in recent years has not been spent, i.e. how much funding is liquid right now?

OLSEN (ISU): States that the answer is complicated because the ISU is waiting on major invoices for renovations, the Residential School Memorial, and other matters. The current cash reserve is about \$80,000, much of which is because of challenges having people in the VP Finance role to sign necessary cheques. Around 30% over the last four years has gone un-spent.

2023-16/4

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND BOG REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

GRIFFITHS - VP Student Life - Report

FLAMAN - VP Operations and Finance - Report

BEASLEY - VP External - Report

ALMEIDA - VP Academic - Report

FOTANG - President - Report

2023-16/5

BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORT

SAIF - Councillor - Report

AISENSTAT - Councillor - Report

FLAMAN - Finance Committee Chair - Report

2023-16/6

OPEN FORUM

APARAJITA RAHMAN (The Gateway): Asks BEASLEY to elaborate about lobbying he did about international students and the work limit.

BEASLEY: CASA had 80 meetings over the course of its Advocacy Week in Ottawa. The upcoming return of the 20-hour-per-week limit on work for international students was one of the advocacy issues discussed. Was able to personally raise

concerns with several MPs and the Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Official Languages. The CASA ED and student representatives were also able to bring the issue directly to the Minister of Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship, as this falls under IRCC's file. It worries all of us that the federal government has not released what will happen after the 20-hour limit comes back into force after December 31st, especially for international students that are currently working more than 20 hours a week and want to continue doing so. Beasley is getting together with provincial counterparts and working with the ISA to see what else can be done. 70% of the students who come to the Campus Food Bank are international.

PROMETHEUS (Statement): Strongly believes that the UASU should get involved in international conflicts. States that the UASU stood in support of Ukrainian students, took stances on issues in Iran, and has made advocacy policies about the needs of Indigenous and Black students. States that students want equality, fairness, and justice. States that the UASU failing to take a position in support of Palestine enhances racism and conflict on campus. States that there are only two reasons the UASU would back out of an international conflict: racism and fear. States that the UASU represents all undergraduate students regardless of their nationality. Does not believe any students are asking the UASU to be silent on international conflicts. States that the only basis for not taking a site in this situation is cowardice and laziness.

MAKSEN (Statement): Echoes Prometheus' statement. On this issue, the University has let students down. When the University lets students down, the UASU should have students' backs. States that he has a limited individual voice, and that the UASU should make students' voices and calls to action heard. The UASU can still put out a more committing statement on Palestine and the ongoing genocide.

MATIN KOOHKAN (Statement): States that, as addressed in the last meeting, the UASU took the right approach by ensuring support for both Palestinian and Israeli students. States that many requests that are being made are ignoring the needs of Jewish students. The UASU should not abandon Israeli and Jewish students due to intimidation tactics.

LUIS (Statement): Attended the presentation on the tuition hike for international students. Was disappointed and felt that the presentation did not sufficiently engage with what the tuition hike meant for students. Wished the presentation could have been as thorough as the ISA presentation in this meeting. Referring to the previous statement, affirms that denouncing genocide does not leave Jewish voices out, as Jewish people have led protests against genocide and ethnic cleansing in Palestine, a situation that Canada is contributing to.

NISRIN: Asks if there are any planned actions in response to the statements made by students at Students' Council in regards to the worsening situation in Palestine. Affirms that nothing has happened.

FOTANG: Council will be holding a closed session tonight to discuss student petitions, emails, and statements regarding student impacts.

GRIFFITHS: States that work is still taking place in between Council meetings. As mentioned in his report, has been meeting with the Office of the Dean of Students to urge them to expand student supports.

ALMEIDA: Discussions with DoS have included expanded academic flexibility for impacted students, as well as supports and communications that have been made available, highlighting the differences in the University's responses to geopolitical crises. Has been working to ensure the University prioritizes consistency in communication and access in ways that may not have been done to this point. Has been working with the ISA and other student groups to push for the supports that impacted students currently need.

ALI ANSARI (Statement): States that the UASU's response to Palestine is insufficient. Hundreds of students do not feel safe because of the alienating treatment that the University is giving the Palestinian community. States that if the UASU wants to make the student body feel a bit more comfortable and safe, it needs to publicly express support for them. Without public support, it does not matter what is being done behind closed doors. There was recently a letter to the UAlberta President's office signed by 15 political science professors about the University's lacklustre response to the Palestinian genocide. Asks why the UASU keeps choosing neutrality.

COUNCIL requests a 15 minute extension of Open Forum.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

KATIA NASRI: Echoes Ali's statement. The fact that no public statement has been made is hurting students. A week after the war in Ukraine started, the University sent out an email condemning Russia's actions. Almost two months into this genocide, Palestinian students have lost family members and homes. Arab students, Muslim students, and many students who are supporting Palestine are getting doxxed and harassed online. Wonders why it is taking this long when usually the UASU's actions seem to be so swift.

FOTANG: Can't speak on behalf of the University or the rationale for why they have not put out a statement. The UASU's focus has been on supporting impacted students, responding to student concerns, and urging the University to provide increased supports to students, echoing calls that the UASU has heard for the University to provide these supports more equitably.

APARAJITA: Asks whether there is an amount proposed for Augustana and CSJ for the ISA FAME.

SAIF: The fees for Augustana and CSJ would be the same as for all international students. Questions can be directed to UAI.

NISRIN (Statement): Objects to the UASU working with the University behind closed doors rather than making a public statement. In regards to advocacy on academic

accommodations, hundreds of students are struggling because it is hard to balance life and school while traumatic things are happening to families, friends, and friends' families. Students are not seeing what these accommodations are, so the UASU needs to be more clear and show people that there are supports in place. The UASU's statement was not helpful.

LUIS CIFUENTES: Asked if he were to email Council on a sensitive subject, and the email was leaked to an external party who posted it on Twitter with his name and email address, would that constitute doxxing and, if so, what steps could he take to denounce this?

SPEAKER: Affirms that is a fair concern and appreciates it being brought forward. Is not an expert on what exactly constitute doxxing, but regardless of terminology, the unauthorized sharing of contact information and public identifiers is something that we take seriously. We are aware of an instance of this and have taken steps to clarify expectations around the sharing of personal information. In terms of steps taken, the situation has been communicated with the Executives, and we are taking steps to ensure this kind of thing does not included. As a general rule, we do not investigate students who hold positions within the Students' Union; broader student conduct concerns are the University's issue, but is not an expert on their conduct resources.

PROMETHEUS (Statement): Points out that Council has the option of a motion to censure. Suggests this would be an appropriate response to a doxxing. Is in contact with the University, who is indicating that the doxxing situation may be more within the UASU's jurisdiction, so will put more pressure on the UASU.

SPEAKER: Explains the motion to censure, as found in Standing Orders, to all present.

APARAJITA: Asks for more information about discussions ongoing at BFPC or TBAC about tuition hikes.

FOTANG: The University's proposal is a 2% increase for domestic tuition in 2024 as mandated by the provincial government. There is a proposed 5% increase for international students who start in Fall 2025, 6.5% for Science, which is concerning. We welcome that there is a set-aside increase of 7.55% to 8.55%, generating an additional \$1.6 million for international student support. International tuition has skyrocketed in recent years and should not increase at all. The UASU expects more detailed budgets from the University regarding how this money is spent. A series of town halls will begin on December 8th.

MAKSEN (Statement): Would like the UASU to make a more forceful statement on Palestine. Students are often told they are the leaders of tomorrow. Students' Council has a responsibility to stand up for students. There is fear to speak on this issue, including fear for careers and life after university. Urges Council to consider how they will answer if asked in the future what they did in this situation.

2023-16/7

QUESTION PERIOD

GARBUTT: Regarding advocacy on ONEcard access, will there be access to ECHA/KATZ/Medical Sciences pedway?

ALMEIDA: The University's web page on building hours, under 'Facilities + Building Hours,' has a subtitle labeled 'Notices' that will lead to more information about this update, including a map. The information is in a post labeled ["Ensuring access to study spaces and access between buildings after hours."](#) ECHA will have access; the pedway is not currently being explored, partially due to security concerns around lab work.

GRIFFITHS: This is going to be an ongoing project throughout next semester and hopefully in future years. While we have made significant gains to ONEcard access, there will be more work and more opportunities for students to engage.

2023-16/8 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

2023-16/9 BOARD AND COMMITTEE BUSINESS

BEASLEY/LAM MOVE TO postpone 9a and 9b to the next meeting and extend the meeting until completion of 11a.
CARRIED 16/00/01

2023-16/9a **ALMEIDA/THIESSEN MOVE TO** approve the first principles of the UASU's Quality Academics policy.

See SC-2023.16.05

TABLED

2023-16/9b **LAM/MAJEKODUNMI MOVE TO** approve the First Principles of the UASU's Mental Health Policy.

See SC-2023.16.06

TABLED

2023-16/9c **AISENSTAT/RAITZ MOVE TO** approve the 2024 DFU questions for The Gateway, The Landing, and CJSR.

See SC-2023.16.11

CARRIED 17/00/00

GARBUTT: Suggests a friendly amendment to a non-substantive formatting error in The Landing question.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

LAM: The Landing is hoping to forego the petition requirements for their fee proposal. Asks whether the vote would take place now or later.

SPEAKER: As a current UASU service, The Landing is entitled to ask that the petition requirement be waived. A motion is expected to come forward next week.

2023-16/10 GENERAL ORDERS

2023-16/11 CLOSED SESSIONS

2023-16/11a **FOTANG/ALMEIDA/MOHAMED MOVE TO** discuss student concerns regarding the Israel-Hamas war and the humanitarian crisis in Gaza.

CARRIED 17/01/00

ELAHI/BEASLEY MOVE TO adjourn immediately.
CARRIED 16/00/00

2023-16/12 INFORMATION ITEMS

2023-16/12a Students' Council Submissions

See SC-2023.16.01-07

2023-16/12b Students' Council Votes and Proceedings

See SC-2023.16.08

2023-16/12c Students' Council Attendance

See SC-2023.16.09

2023-16/12d Students' Council Motion Tracker

See SC-2023.16.10

2023-16/12e Students' Council Submissions

See SC-2023.16.11

SPEAKER adjourned the meeting at 11:33 p.m.