

**FINANCE
COMMITTEE**

Friday, September 6, 2019

4:00pm

SUB 6-06

We would like to respectfully acknowledge that our University and our Students' Union are located on Treaty 6 Territory. We are grateful to be on Cree, Dene, Saulteaux, Métis, Blackfoot, and Nakota Sioux territory; specifically the ancestral space of the Papaschase Cree. These Nations are our family, friends, faculty, staff, students, and peers. As members of the University of Alberta Students' Union we honour the nation-to-nation treaty relationship. We aspire for our learning, research, teaching, and governance to acknowledge and work towards the decolonization of Indigenous knowledges and traditions.

ATTENDANCE

NAME	PROXY	PRESENT	SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN FEEDBACK (IF ABSENT)
Samir Esmail		N	
Talia Dixon		Y	
Chris Beasley		Y	
Amlan Bose		Y	
Phoebe Marinakis		N	
David Draper		N	
Abigail Isaac		Y	
Luke Statt (chair)		Y	
Jared Larsen		Y	
Amber Sayed		Y	

MINUTES (FC-2019-05)

2019-05/1 INTRODUCTION

2019-05/1a Call to Order
STATT: Called the meeting to order at 4:06pm.

2019-05/1b Approval of Agenda
ISAAC/BEASLEY MOVED to approve the agenda.

CARRIED

2019-05/1c

Approval of Minutes

BOSE/STATT MOVED to approve the minutes of FC-2019-03-M

CARRIED

Beasley abstained.

2019-05/1d

Chair's Business

2019-05/2

QUESTION/DISCUSSION PERIOD

2019-05/2a

Review Appeal by the History and Classics Undergraduate Society

STATT: Outlined that the Society received a grant of \$350 from Student Group Services but that the SU shredded the \$350 cheque as it was not collected within one month. Noted that the Society appealed the withdrawal of their grant and are requesting a new cheque. Proposed that the Committee determine whether to allow the appeal. Suggested allowing the appeal and issuing a new cheque of \$350 minus the cost of preparing it.

BEASLEY: Expressed concern that allowing the appeal will set a precedent that student groups do not have to pick-up their cheques within a reasonable time period. Suggested denying the appeal.

DIXON: Suggested allowing the appeal given that the Society failed to pick up the cheque during the summer, not regular the academic year. Emphasised the value of student groups and need to help facilitate their operations.

BOSE: Concurred with Dixon.

ISAAC: Concurred with Dixon.

STATT: Proposed that, in future, Student Group Services more clearly communicate that failing to receive a cheque within one month results in its termination and the withdrawal of its associated grant.

Clarified that the 30 day policy exists as, in some cases, student groups had not picked up their cheques even after two years and uncashed cheques became a business liability.

BOSE: Proposed, instead of having a one month deadline, deducting the amount of the grant each day after the deadline.

BEASLEY: Proposed instituting a 10% total reduction per month after the deadline.

STATT: Determined to consult Student Group Services on the practicability of the proposed phased deduction.

STATT/BOSE MOVED to approve the appeal by the History and Classics Undergraduate Society and provide a cheque for \$350 minus the fee for redrawing it.
CARRIED

2019-05/2b Work Plan for the Committee

STATT: Expressed concern that the website Standing Orders reference organisational positions that no longer exist and do not include content about approving tenant space agreements which the Committee, under VP Ripka, likely added to the document. Determined to investigate what changes are required. Noted that the Committee will be involved in the renegotiation of CJSR-FM's tenancy renewal. Noted that the Committee will, later in the session, approve the Students' Union budget. Noted that, later in the session, the Committee will advise and receive information from core Students' Union managers. Noted that individuals responsible for dedicated fee units will also provide materials for the Committee to approve. Determined, with the consent of the Committee, not to send DFU's reminders about submitting their materials.

2019-05/2c Scheduling Conflict with the Current Finance Committee Schedule

STATT: Considered changing the Committee meeting schedule as some members are unable to attend.

DIXON: Expressed concern that she cannot attend meetings on any other day except the current day.

BOSE: Concurred with Dixon.

STATT: Determined to continue meeting on Friday. Determined to only meet when the agendas are reasonably full.

BEASLEY: Inquired into how far in advance Statt can notify the Committee whether a meeting will occur.

STATT: Responded that he can probably give notice three days in advance.

2019-05/2d Update on Student Group Granting and SU Awards Granting Process

STATT: Noted that Student Group Services, in an email, expressed concern that Dixon and Bose were behind schedule in reviewing the applications for SU Awards.

DIXON: Clarified that she completed her review. Expressed concern that Statt misled her as to the total number of hours required to review the applications. Emphasised that the process for reviewing the applications was an unreasonable amount of work.

BOSE: Concurred with Dixon.

DIXON: Expressed concern that the short time period for reviewing the applications (30 days) prevents reviewers from reviewing applications with any degree of detail. Expressed concern that reviewers skim large numbers of applications which students invest substantial amounts of time in preparing.

BOSE: Expressed concern that SGS did not provide him with sufficient training to assess the quality of the applications.

DIXON: Concurred with Bose.

BOSE: Considered, however, that there are criteria for most scholarships which help direct the review of applications.

DIXON: Expressed concern that the review process, nevertheless, is time intensive, rushed, and subjective (for adversity awards in particular).

STATT: Noted that he attempted to support to Dixon in the review of applications but was not permitted due to confidentiality restrictions.

DIXON: Expressed concern that the time required to review the applications was so burdensome that it ruined her summer.

BOSE: Expressed concern that the time required to review the applications was so burdensome that it ruined his trip to India.

DIXON: Expressed concern that she encountered communication difficulties with SGS.

BEASLEY: Expressed concern that Dixon put in an extraordinary effort to review the applications but did not meet a deadline and, therefore, will not receive an honorarium.

DIXON: Proposed reducing the number of applications that each individual is required to review or transferring the responsibility to Students' Union staff.

STATT: Noted that the responsibility could not fall to one one staff member as this could introduce bias into the granting. Proposed increasing the amount of the honorarium as an additional solution.

ISAAC: Concurred with Statt.

BOSE: Expressed concern that there is no oversight in the review of the applications.

LARSEN: Determined to discuss this issue with the Executive and SGS. Proposed using staff to screen and vet the quality of applications in order to reduce the total number of applications students need to review.

STATT: Determined to follow up with Dixon to attempt to mitigate her workload. Noted that granting Student Group Awards is easier than SU Awards.

BOSE: Noted that he is resigning from all granting responsibilities.

DIXON: Noted that she will not review student group award applications in October.

STATT: Determined to attempt to secure the \$200 honorarium to Dixon. Considered that staff will likely be able to provide additional support in granting moving forward.

2019-05/3 **COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

2019-05/4 **INFORMATION ITEMS**

2019-05/4a Finance Committee Minutes, (FC-2019-03-M) - Monday, June 17, 2019.

See FC-2019-05.01.

2019-05/5 **ADJOURNMENT**

STATT: Adjourned the meeting at 4:58pm.

2019-05/5a **Next Meeting:** Friday, September 20, 2019 @ 4:00PM in SUB 6-06.

SUMMARY OF MOTIONS

MOTION	VOTES
ISAAC/BEASLEY MOVED to approve the agenda.	CARRIED
BOSE/STATT MOVED to approve the minutes of FC-2019-03-M	CARRIED Beasley abstained.
STATT/BOSE MOVED to approve the appeal by the History and Classics Undergraduate Society and provide a cheque for \$350 minus the fee for redrawing it.	CARRIED