Policy Committee

Date: October 26, 2023 Time: 6:00

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		N
Precious Majekodunmi (Chair)		Υ
Mason Pich		Υ
Nathan Thiessen		Υ
Abdul Abbasi		Υ
Courtney Graham		N/A
Aseel Atia		N/A
Racquel Araujo		N/A

MINUTES (PC 2023-10-M)





2023-10/1 INTRODUCTION

2023-10/1a Call to Order(5 min)

MAJEKODUNMI called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM

• Land Acknowledgement

2023-10/1b Approval of Agenda(1 min)

GRIFFITHS/THIESSEN MOVE TO approve the agenda

CARRIED

2023-10/1c Approval of ▶ PC-2023-09-M.docx.pdf and ▶ PC-2023-08-M.docx.pdf (1 min)

THIESSEN/ABBASI MOVE TO approve the minutes

CARRIED

2023-10/1d Chair's Business(10 mins)

• Review of New Template for First and Second Principles

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2023-10/2 COMMITTEE BUSINESS (40 min)

Student Space Policy and Deferred Maintenance 2nd draft approval(15 min)

GRIFFITHS: Presented the Student Spaces 2nd Principles. Still working in the old format, and will consult with ATIA regarding if the principles need to be edited for the new format. Maintenance of student spaces, cleanliness on campus, carbon neutrality, and accommodating enrollment growth were topics that were added or maintained. Buildings that have reduced hours should be accessible via OneCard access. Retrofit designs should be avoided, as they're temporary incomplete spaces. The policy and advocacy should capture repairs, and not just new buildings.

MAJEKODUNMI: Would GRIFFITHS be able to ensure that student spaces at Augustana are created and that Augustana and CSJ are part of the Student Space Policy?

GRIFFITHS: There are more consultations that need to be made, but the policy is designed to be general enough that the advocacy can be targeted towards CSJ and Augustana. Will speak with ATIA regarding the template and using it on the policies.

COMMITTEE MOVES TO approve the Student Space Policy and Deferred Maintenance 2nd Principles draft APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

MAJEKODUNMI: Would like an explanation regarding the new template format for the 1st and 2nd principles.

ATIA: The way that 1st principles were being done didn't align with the way that Bylaw had it set out. Showed the template, which lays out what 1st principles are and how they should be done.

MAJEKODUNMI: The 1st principles are now the foundation for changes, and include core objectives, reasoning, and accountability. Read through more of the template and the changes that will be implemented.

GRAHAM: Now, a lot of the items that were in the past 1st principles are now in the 2nd principles. The 2nd principles will have the proposed legislation. The 1st principles are an introduction. The policies are always renewed for 5 years.

Student Financial Aid and Scholarships Facts Review working period (25 min)

MAJEKODUNMI: It may be best to review the Quality Academics policy. Encourages ALMEIDA and ABBASI to come up with a draft of the 1st principles for the Student Financial Aid and Scholarships.

ALMEIDA: The Quality Academics policy Appendix B is scheduled to be presented to the committee. The Teaching, Learning, and Evaluation Policy is proposed to offer a more multifaceted approach with education and evaluating education. The UASU's policy committee will evaluate whether another policy should be renewed or redone. If that policy is not renewed, then this one might not need to be changed, as it's set to expire in a few years.

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THEISSEN: If the policy has been implemented and it aligns with the university already, then the UASU doesn't need to worry about speaking with the university. However, if the university doesn't fulfill their part and upholds quality, then the UASU doesn't have a way to hold the university accountable. Trusts ALMEIDA's guidance regarding this topic.

MAJEKODUNMI: As the committee is aligned with the UASU, the policy should come from the UASU, so that the students are able to hold the university accountable. Will table the discussion until the next meeting, so that all members are kept in the loop.

ALMEIDA: As the policy is currently laid out, it needs to change. Asks members to review the appendix, the quality instruction resolution, and then think about resolutions that are getting USAU members to advocate for the students. Doesn't have problems with maintaining or doing the Quality Academics policy, as it may include several points that are present in another document as well.

ALMEIDA: Appendix B is proposed, so this conversation might need to be tabled until the Appendix has been approved.

2023-10/3 QUESTION/DISCUSSION PERIOD(5 min)

2023-10/4a Action Items / To-Do List

MAJEKODUNMI: All members take time to review Appendix B and the Quality Academics policy and then decide whether or not to proceed with the Policy once Appendix B has been approved by the university.

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1dI1GTwYDAgb5pLGQzbkGvPo12aIz2gGQf6KJYgwpp0c/edit?usp=sharing

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1KdLWZEebhJZMAUewgcQxezfAU-A8pb4GKMqx_qwl4Nc/edit?usp=sharing

2023-10/4b Next Scheduled Meeting: November 2, 2023 @ 6pm

2023-10/5 Adjournment

MAJEKODUNMI adjourned the meeting at 7:03 PM.