



University of Alberta Students' Union

**STUDENT GROUP
COMMITTEE (SGC)**

November 7th, 2022

5:00 P.M.

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 Niitsitapi (Blackfoot), Métis, Dënesųłiné (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
Jayden Brooks (Chair)		Y
Mackenzie Burnstick		Y
Selen Erkut (Non-Voting Member)		Y
Joannie Fogue		Y
Gurleen Kaur		Y
Michelle Kim (Non-Voting Member)		Y
Polina Reisbig		Y
Mikael Schmidtke		Y
Ben Yang		N
Janvi Bali		N
Courtney Graham		N/A

Chantal Musial (DoS Representative)		N/A
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MINUTES (SGC-2022-03)

2022-03/1 INTRODUCTION

2022-03/1a Call to Order

BROOKS: CALLED the meeting to order at 5:05 PM.

2022-03/1b Approval of Agenda

FOGUE/REISBIG MOVE TO approve the agenda for the meeting.
CARRIED

2022-03/1c Approval of Minutes

REISBIG/KAUR MOVE TO approve the meeting minutes (SGC-2022-01-M)
CARRIED

2022-03/1d Chair's Business

Disclosure of Conflict of Interest:

BROOKS: Informs that the Committee will be discussing a situation that has arisen with the Indigenous Engineering Students' Association (IESA). The IESA is loosely associated with the Engineering Students' Society (ESS) as they both are advocacy groups focusing on overlapping engineering demographics. The ESS does engage occasionally with the IESA, but is limited.

Discloses that there is a slight conflict of interest here, as he is the Director of the ESS' Board of Directors, which is the overseeing committee for ESS. States that this conflict is not significant as he has never personally engaged with or made any decisions which would relate to the IESA.

We'll be discussing a situation that has arisen with the Indigenous Engineering Students' Association (IESA). The IESA is loosely associated with the Engineering Students' Society (ESS) as they are both advocacy groups focused on overlapping engineering demographics. The ESS has and does engage occasionally with the IESA, but this is quite limited. I am disclosing that I am at a slight conflict as a Director of the ESS' Board of Directors - the overseeing committee for the ESS. However, I have never personally engaged with or made any decision which would relate to the IESA and feel this conflict is not significant.

2022-03/2 QUESTION/DISCUSSION PERIOD

2022-03/3 COMMITTEE BUSINESS

2022-03/3a Situation - Indigenous Engineering Students' Association (IESA)

ERKUT: States that this situation is fairly new, but wanted to loop in the Committee to give some context as there could be a point where this could come to SGC. Informs that anyone who has a conflict of interest, will have ample time to find a proxy.

Someone reached out to SGS back in September, stating that they wanted to revive the IESA. SGS offered them to go forward on a provisional recognition, which is a recognition status that has been outlined in student Group procedures. This is because that group cannot meet the usual requirements for a student group recognition.

States that recently, she received an email from a student who is in the Faculty of Engineering and that they identified themselves as an indigenous student. They expressed concerns regarding how the group isn't doing as well as they need to and there won't be many opportunities to maintain the group in the future because of low enrollment rates of indigenous students in Engineering.

Informs that SGS is planning to meet with the people who are trying to revive the group and also the people who want it to be dissolved in order to get a full picture of the situation. SGS will then bring this item back when they potentially have more information about it.

KIM: Raises concern about the fact that students who are bringing these issues to SGS are undergraduate students and the students who want to revive the group are majority Ph.D students. As under SU bylaws, PhD students cannot be executives of an undergraduate student group.

SCHMIDTKE: Raises concern about having a conflict of interest, as they have a director position and are heavily involved in the ESS. Questions about what has to be done if this issue is brought up to the Board of Directors in the ESS.

ERKUT: Answers that it would be dependent on ESS' Bylaws and if they have any jurisdiction based on Bylaw. States that if there is no such structure in place, then it shouldn't be a conflict of interest.

KIM: States that it also comes down to a personal opinion of not being able to make an unbiased decision. If an unbiased decision cannot be provided, it would be beneficial to withdraw from the conversation and have a proxy appointed instead

Investigation - Alpha Psi

2022-03/3b

KIM: States that, despite the report being a one-sided report, there is another document consisting of responses from the Alpha Psi sorority.

States that there has been interest within the committee to ask the Alpha Psi members or the respondents to come to an SGC meeting, Suggests against this. . This is mainly because of the trauma incurred from that event and respecting member boundaries.

KAUR/RESIBIG MOVE TO go in-camera.
CARRIED.

FOGUE/SCHMIDTKE MOVE TO go ex-camera.
CARRIED

Presentation - Bylaw 5100 Summary by Courtney

2022-03/3c

FOGUE: Questions if the Committee will be having a presentation from GRAHAM about the Bylaw 5100.

GRAHAM: States that the presentation can be given whenever the Committee wants to have it.

COMMITTEE: Decides to have the presentation at this meeting.

GRAHAM: Gives the presentation.

States that Bylaw 5100 directs the UASU Student Groups, Student Services and Student Group Committee.

Briefly goes over what are the rights of the student groups and prohibited behaviour for student groups. Also highlights what privileges a student group can have upon being recognized by the Students' Union. Describes what the Complaint Process looks like for the student group and SGS and SGC regulations and powers regarding this.

2022-03/4

ADJOURNMENT

2022-03/4a

Next Meeting: November 21st at 5:00 P.M in SUB 6-06.

BROOKS: ADJOURNED the meeting at 5:55 PM.