

# STUDENTS' COUNCIL

# June 28th, 2022 6:00 P.M. Council Chambers/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, Dënesułiné (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?

# VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS (SC-2022-05) SPEAKER CALLED the meeting to order at 6:03 pm

- 2022-05/I SPEAKERS BUSINESS
- 2022-05/1a Join Zoom Meeting https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85666007012

Meeting ID: 856 6600 7012

# 2022-05/2 <u>CONSENT AGENDA</u>

2022-05/2a Students' Council Votes and Proceedings (SC-2022-03) Tuesday, May 31st, 2022

See SC-2022-05.01

APPROVED

# 2022-05/3 PRESENTATION

2022-05/4 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

FOGUE - VP Student Life - Report VILLOSO - VP Finance and Operations - Report FOTANG - VP External - Report KAUR - VP Academic - Report MONTEIRO - President - Report

## 2022-05/5 BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORT

DHILLON-Audit Committee-Report FLAMAN-Bylaw Committee-Report WATTAMANIUK-Council Administration Committee-Report MONTEIRO-Executive Committee-Report VILLOSO-Finance Committee-Report ALI-Nominating Committee-Report FOTANG- Policy Committee-Report DORSCHEID-BoG-Report

#### 2022-05/6 <u>OPEN FORUM</u>

JIN: These questions are for President Monteiro. At the bog meeting, Provost Steven Dew said that during the consultation at TBAC with the UASU on the international students' 6% tuition increase, "the students at the time indicated no clear need to further consult." Could you elaborate on that?

MONTEIRO: The international students' association and the students' union met with Steve to make sure we got our point across and what all of our asks were. Provost Dew was going through the consultation process and where this item was going to go, and the university indicated to us that they were not going to make any changes to the proposal and that it was us making our case and they were making their case, so the university felt that the item was ready to move forward. We also stated to them that we were not ready to go forward because we wanted to ensure that our asks were met during this proposal.

JIN: In the previous President Ley's final council report, he mentioned that the previous VP Kimani and he were at the first consultation meeting of TBAC. Kimani did not mention TBAC in her report and Ley did not mention further consultation in his, what were the plans for consultation at that time?

MONTEIRO: As the Provost mentioned, they utilized TBAC as the consultation mechanism forced with students with the students' union to get our feedback. When Rowen and Kimani got to see the proposal on April 19th, right after their end of term, during the period of transition, they did what we did, which was to share their points and what they wanted to get across in this proposal, and from that point on, there was no mention of the proposal until it came up on the ABC agenda. So, there was a slight miscommunication because everything was happening during the executive transition and final exams but a lot of these points were shared previously as well, and they weren't incorporated into the proposal either. Just based on that response, continuity of knowledge within the UASU has been a recurring issue in the past, particularly highlighting that. In light of the fact that international tuition is usually around that time and the administration's job doesn't revolve around term-ending schedules, what is the UASU planning to do to prevent this from happening again?

MONTEIRO: In our conversations with the Provost, he did indicate to us that the university has a responsibility to make sure that they aren't doing this transition, doing this consultation during periods of transition, and they were well aware of that. I conveyed to the Provost that we have to make sure we're doing this earlier on. They have committed to ensuring this doesn't happen again because they have to make sure that we are consulting with the group adequately before we get to the point of transition.

## 2022-05/7 QUESTION PERIOD

DUMOUCHEL: I'm stating a comment because we brought something forward a little while ago and I was told it needed to go through SCFC first. I agree, but I'm coming here because SCFC will not be formulated until August and we, as part of the sub-planning process, have identified 2 projects one for next summer and another large one for the summer after that. Summer construction periods will require earlier planning if we're going to meet them. If councilors want to approach me afterward, that would be fine, but I wanted to advise the council that if we do that, I would also be present in the work that the committee and the designers have to do on the sub-master plan to provide the context. It's primarily just a timing thing. When doing big renovations, you need to do conceptual and design development documents, and then you need to get construction documents, and that takes a year for a mid-sized project, and for a bigger project like the food court, it's going to take us about 18 months. We want to make sure that we can hit those timelines. So I'm just advising the council and I will likely be forwarding something through the executives. However, if there's a lot of resistance to that, I'm willing to have a conversation.

REGMI: My question is for Joannie Fogue. As you are aware, the United States Supreme Court overturned over 50 years of protection for the right to choose on Friday, and students across the border are concerned that they will all face stigma for seeking abortion care, particularly those who have faced sexual violence. How do you plan on number one supporting Ualberta, the students who are from the United States affected by the ruling, and number two ensuring minimal stigma on campus for those who seek abortion care or suffered sexual violence?

FOGUE: I want to mention that this is a political issue, but I will continue my duties and responsibilities to make sure that the university is committing to its prevention and responsive practices regarding sexual violence for supporting survivors. ALI: I don't think abortion was ever a policy. My actual comment was about BoG. It is a reality that there was a loss of continuing information. How do we plan around this as we need to find a way to mobilize students. Actually, how do we make people engage with SU, be involved with SU (as students don't want to be involved), and also be comfortable with SU?

DHILLON: I have a question for NomCom chair ALI. From your report, it appears that the selection for the committees SGC, SCFC, and ARRC will occur at the end of July, given that there are a lot of important mandates and they can't begin until the student-at-large has been selected. So why is this the projected timeline?

ALI:We set up committees a little bit late. The Senate should have been selected by the last NomCom, but that didn't happen. The reason the timeline is the end of July is so people can actively engage, but once again, we only got to set up a committee in early June. I think we had our actual second meeting where we got to business in June. We tried pushing for a harder deadline, but we couldn't do that as we had some leftover work from the last NomCom committee.

SINGH: My question is for President Monteiro, and it is again pushing back on international tuition. The main issue that we have with international tuition consultation, apart from the timelines, is the consultation itself and with whom the consultation is happening. This year, for international tuition, not even a single international student was consulted. This year we had a proposal, and next year there'll be another proposal, so what is UASU's plan for this? According to tuition regulations, the university is supposed to consult with the student's council, so what is our plan as a students' union to address the consultation issues that we have in the current framework?

MONTEIRO: One of the items that have also been included in my report speaks to propose the university's commitment to reviewing the consultation process to improve it. It was one of the key things that the international students' association President mentioned to me that we were able to receive from the university. I think of a more robust consultation process to ensure that we can include the voice of everyone that will be affected by these proposals. We will be working with the university and GSA to ensure that we can consult with those who are going to be affected by these proposals before they reach this point and that consultation takes place earlier instead of at the end of the governance cycle.

ABBASI: My question is for Fogue. She said about the wellness directory about CSJ. So what about Augustana? Is there any progress on including the wellness directory?

VILLOSO: I'm still trying to meet with some people. I have further plans to include both Augustana and CSJ in terms of updating UASU care.

SINGH: My question is for VPA, few of the GFC student members have reached out

and expressed that they don't fully understand what happens in the GFC and don't understand the agenda and items being discussed. We have a really good transition process for council, Govcamp, and many other resources. Is there any plan to dedicate resources for just GFC members who are just in GFC and not part of the students' council so they are better prepared to advocate for the constituents at GFC?

KAUR: I, Abner, and Joannie were able to meet Kate Peters and Heather. They were also talking about having an orientation. We plan to invite them and have an orientation in GFC, so students will have the opportunity to ask them any questions they have, and I believe this will serve the purpose of helping students understand what happens at the GFC.

REGMI: My question is for VPA. There tends to be a problem with the lack of student participation in governance issues. Many people in departments and DAs feel this isolation. As you begin planning for SRA summits, how do you plan to ensure that these DAs can participate in collaboration with student issues in these summits?

# SPEAKER MOVED TO extend for 15 mins CARRIED

MONTEIRO: I will take this question just because it's related to the SRA summit, and that's essentially one of the projects I'm planning this year regarding departmental associations. I think they are very crucial within the governance structure and ensure the students get proper representation so we can identify the key issues that they are facing. As far as the SRA summit is concerned, one of the key things that I've tried to accomplish in planning the summit is ensuring there is enough time to do active engagement and practice certain skills that require a certain size of group. The first thing that we're going to be doing is one, working with faculty associations and SRASs that have directed allocated authority with the students' union, they're members of COFA right now in CORA, to work with them to make sure they have the necessary things they need. And two, working with departmental associations, seeing how faculty associations can best support departmental associations and also how we can build this connection between the students' union and departmental associations. Part of that work is identifying the particular issues those DAs are facing and what they need so that the students' union can help support them as well.

ALI: This is in response to what Simran said, NomCom was set up last year on May 5th, 2021, whereas this year it was set up on May 31st, 2022. Our actual first meeting was on June 8th, where we set a good agenda, but unfortunately, we are a month behind, so we are not going to be able to do something if we weren't set up. Hopefully, we can get some interviews set up and scheduled. I'll be adding the system digest before the next meeting on the 13th of July and hopefully, we get some interviews and we can get some names back to the committees. I can get those committees up and running, but unfortunately this year it's just due to the timing. It has been hard, so hopefully, we can take this as a good lesson to get this committee set up earlier because I do agree with you, Simran, that the committee has a lot of

important work, so it's important to get set up as soon as possible.

LIU: My question is directed at President Monteiro. What does the SU plan to do to continue opposing the 6% increase in international students' tuition though it has been passed? What more could we do about this?

MONTEIRO: There's not much that we can directly do to oppose this proposal because it has been passed, but what I and Governor Dorscheid, GSA President, are doing is actively addressing a lot of the key issues through this proposal. Three of them are one, consultation we will be working on throughout this process to prevent the same process from repeating itself; two, food insecurity is one of the key identifiers for international students, being twice as high as domestic students and even higher for graduate students, and we will see how we can address that within the proposal itself because it's not very holistic. Mental health support and social support for international students as well but I think it goes broader to just a general student body and how we can best support students and make sure that they have all the resources they need to be successful with long wait times and those things and also financial aid and this is one conversation right now. The university has its own calculation for determining the amount of financial need that goes towards these proposals and how much is taken away to support international students. We are asking for them to reevaluate that number as well as the proposed house committed to saying that if there is a financial need, more money will be allocated to support international students, so it just comes down to getting that information and ensuring it's done.

FLAMAN: It is a comment. The fact that we started our terms late and didn't get our committees going until late sucks. I was probably one of the first people to complain about that. Going through previous years, we did start early. We had our meeting zero in April, we had our first meeting early in May, and our committees got going early, but the fact that we started late just means we have to work twice as fast and work twice as hard to get caught up. If these committees and boards that we were appointed to were just within the SU, then it's fine, but when we're appointed to university boards like the Senate, that reflects poorly on us as an organization. It only fuels the fire to the argument that the university doesn't take us seriously. When we're doing these things like this, they're right. Moreover, we have 3 empty seats in the Senate, and in this way, we're depriving students of representation in that body. It is unacceptable that we're waiting this long, and whatever the circumstances that arose that we started late or whatever the circumstances of the inner turmoil that the committee is going through, this needs to get done and it needs to get done now.

ARSLAN: A quick question for President Monteiro, you mentioned that you are working on the SRA summit. Could we get more written details about that and something like a PDF document or anything, and if there is could you point me where I can find that? MONTEIRO: Just let me know what specific information you are looking for specifically. Last year we planned the event internally for the SRAs. The students' council didn't play a huge role in planning the event itself as we're students' council and there are no members of SRAs or there aren't any SRA representatives directly here on the council, so I'm happy to provide some more information. We have just developed the terms of reference for the advisory committee that we're hoping to strike that's going to involve SRA presidents, CORA presidents, and 3 execs, myself, VP Kaur, and also VP Fogue, to make sure that we have a very robust process for establishing this accessory summit, as last year we didn't include residence associations, but we will be including this year.

FOTANG: This is in response to Levi's statement. I understand your frustration and I agree with you that we should be working double time, especially when we're behind. I did talk with Tyrel in the Senate about our recruitment process and he is comfortable with it as long as we have senators by September 15th, which is when this Senate orientation occurs, so we do have time, and we also didn't start nominating Senate members till late June, so while we're still behind, we are working fast to get those seats there. I also think the important thing is to remind ourselves that we do want to strive for quality and not just quantity. So part of us wanting to extend this process is that we didn't get a lot of applications, and that was in part due to a lack of promotion and lack of communication of the role, which I know the committee can take responsibility for, so we do take responsibility there, but we are working to make sure that lots of students know about that role and they are able to apply.

MAHAL: I'm asking this to Abner. International students are disproportionately affected by tuition decisions. This proposal and how the consultation went have left us feeling powerless and like we do not have a say in tuition decisions. Why can we not have an international student representative sit on the tuition advisory committee so we are not blindsided when there is another increase in the future?

MONTEIRO: In my conversations with numerous people, including ISA President DHIR, I mentioned to him the intent and also the need to have more than one form of consultation in TBAC. The Provost stated multiple times that he sees the students' union and the GSA as the primary representatives of all students, including international students. I can, to a certain extent, understand where he is coming from, but I also want to ensure that international students get the opportunity to make sure they are at the table. I think the fact that we only have one form of consultation in TBAC is extremely problematic in this process because it means there is only one avenue to do consultation and I want to ensure that we create multiple avenues because it also gives us more opportunities to get our point across with different groups that are affected in different ways to get changes to this proposal. I think having one avenue such as TBAC to have everyone show their concerns in one place makes it much harder for us to be able to spread out those concerns over time and make sure the university can address them. I'm open to conversations with the ISA to see how we can best make sure that international students have their voices heard in this process and that their feedback is

incorporated into these proposals.

#### ALI/REGMI MOVE TO extend the meeting by 15 min.

### CARRIED

DHILLON: My question is for VP Kaur in regards to FAMFs this year. So when I was doing the presentation for COFA the other day, I realized that we have approximately 8 SRAS that are going to be running FAMFs this year and I was just wondering if they've been made aware yet or if communications have been made and if not, when that will occur.

KAUR: So, till now we didn't have any conversation regarding that, but thanks a lot for bringing that to my mind. I'll put it on the next agenda for sure.

AVILA: It's a question. What are the plans for the SU, in particular, to address tuition models for international students now that it has increased? Also, regarding that in the last board meeting, the motion only allowed discussion for the increase in tuition, not the model, and the guaranteed tuition model makes tuition fixed for students admitted on or after 2020 irrespective of the number of classes taken. So, now that tuition is increased, if you don't have to take all 5 classes, it's a really big problem. Therefore, what are the plans of SU to change that for the future?

MONTEIRO: So, your question is related to the model itself, not necessarily the increase. We can definitely bring this item and discuss it with the Board of Governors. Specifically, I think what this works around is identifying what some of the key issues are with the current tuition model and being able to bring that and make a case to the Board of Governors as to why this current model is problematic and why we need to look at reevaluating it and creating a better model so that some work can be done at the back end of the students' union. Also, I'm happy to chat with the international student association to help identify some of these key areas so that we can make a case and bring it forward.

ALI: I just wanted to answer Levi's concern. It's a very valid concern that he raised that we do need to be able to make sure that we fill in, so I just wanted to once again reiterate the timeline. I told this committee 2 weeks ago that we had our actual business meeting on June 8th where we set a timeline to select committees to get Senate done in a week. As Christian said, we did technically get enough candidates and we could just do it by acclamation, but at the same time, we want to make sure there are opportunities for new people, so we decided to extend it for 2 weeks and to keep applications open on a rolling basis afterward while we complete interviews to make sure more students get involved. I'm also sending the job posting to the black students' association and the indigenous students' union. We're trying to recruit people. The goal is to get more people outside of the governance to get involved, and once again, is it going to take longer? Yes, but at the current moment, there's no business happening in the Senate until September, so right now there's no business. So once again, I want to make sure you are getting quality candidates,

however possible, and I should have an update for the Senate by the end of July. For other committees as well, we're aiming for the end of July.

HUANG: This is a question for President Monteiro. Recently, the university executives released the capital plan that was discussed in the previous two GFC meetings. So, the executives gave us 3 choices for what to do with the humanities center, which was either to lease it, shut it down for a period of time, or completely take it down. So, I just want to know what UASU's current plan is to see when it comes to this issue.

MONTEIRO: I understand a lot of the value humanities has to the current population and the sentimental values it has to students for taking classes in those buildings who are in the faculty of arts. We want to ensure that those students aren't just misplaced and that they have a space to be able to take the classes and have a community. Part of this is also within the previous students' council and what they want the executives to do, and I'm happy to hear that feedback on what you would like to see from the executives, but our goal is to ensure that those students are not misplaced and that they have a faculty and have somebody to take their classes that meets the needs of those students, the pedagogical needs, so that this university continues to offer the highest quality to all the students.

LIU: The question is directed at VPSL Fogue. Could you elaborate more on the discussion items that you went through during the meeting with campus and community recreation? I work with CCR as well, and we are also looking at collaborations between CCR and SU to promote well-being among students.

FOGUE: I also have this meeting with President Monteiro, and we're just looking at areas of knowledge gaps in actual services that CCR provides on campus for students, seeing how we can make sure that students are aware of these, as well as seeing how we can make sure that it can be more inclusive towards students at CSJ. We have also connected Cheryl, who is one of the heads of CCR, with recreational leaders at CSJ as well as the student addiction awareness campaign that was one of President Monteiro's platform points, in seeing how we could potentially implement that within the residence.

MONTEIRO: I can also say that another big portion of this is the promotion of a lot of the great stuff that CCR is doing and how we can integrate it with what we currently do for our promotion through and purchase through other areas of CCR so that they can get more students engaged in the campus community. Being a part of the events that they host, they can also benefit from it and get some of the prices and stuff that CCR is wanting to put out there.

REGMI: My question is for VPA. Many students felt unsatisfied with the quality of learning, including 65% of nursing students who reported poor internet connection, 51% reported teachers not putting any effort into teaching at all, and 44% complained about invading privacy with online proctoring. This is from a survey done in February. As we go back to full in person, how do we plan on working with the student body, SRAs, and administration to rebuild trust between students and professors and the university so that they can receive a quality education in person that they failed to receive online?

MONTEIRO: I'll say as per the first SRA summit is concerned, what we plan to do this year is to send out a form just like we did last year to all the SRAs identifying what they think the key concerns around campus are and what they'd like to see addressed in the summit, and from that, we're going to list down what they want to do and what they want to address in that meeting.

KAUR: As I mentioned in my report, I have been meeting with the FA president, and most of them have been mentioning hybrid learning. They really want us to push towards hybrid learning and still have an online component, so I have been having this conversation with the Provost's office about how we can improve that and take it forward to meet the needs of students.

MONTEIRO: One more point and it was one of the commitments that I made with my platform when I ran, which is around providing hybrid learning options for students, and it's one conversation I've been having with the University of the Provost office to device purpose learning initiatives on how we can utilize the technology that we currently have in our classrooms to make the classroom a more accessible place. Mostly for students who may not feel comfortable coming back, may be sick, may have to parent, or can't be in the classroom right away. We are making sure that we have the support available to instructors so that they can be able to offer the hybrid option to their students while also making sure that they can offer in-person components to students depending on what they need.

## 2022-05/8 BOARD AND COMMITTEE BUSINESS

2022-05/8a VILLOSO/WATTAMANIUK MOVES TO ratify changes to the Collective Agreement between The University of Alberta Students' Union and CUPE Local 1368

See SC-2022-05.09

TABLED

FLAMAN/WATTAMANIUK MOVES TO go into committee as a whole CARRIED

ALI/VILLOSO MOVES TO exit committee as a whole SINGH abstained CARRIED

ALI/REGMI MOVES TO go in camera SINGH abstained CARRIED

**ALI/REGMI MOVES TO** return to the committee as a whole CARRIED

**FLAMAN/MONTEIRO MOVES TO** the committee of the difference CARRIED

FLAMAN/MONTEIRO MOVESTO go ex camera CARRIED

**HUANG/FLAMAN MOVES TO** table the motion till the next meeting TABLED

**FLAMAN/ALI MOVES TO** postpone item 2022-05/8a to the next meeting of the council. CARRIED

**FLAMAN/REISBIG MOVES TO** suspend the standing orders to allow the council not to recess at this meeting CARRIED

2022-05/8b VILLOSO/FLAMAN MOVES TO appoint five (5) members of Students' Council to the Social Media Sub-Committee

See SC-2022-05.10

# CARRIED

KAUR nominated DHILLON-declined ALI nominated HUANG-declined ABBASI nominated DHAMIJA-accepted REGMI nominated LIU-accepted VILLOSO nominated REISBIG-declined REISBIG nominated SINGH-declined FOGUE nominated REGMI-accepted KAUR nominated OJO-accepted ALI nominated VILLOSO-declined REGMI nominated AVILA-declined VILLOSO nominated HAN-declined REISBIG nominated USSERBAYEVA-declined MONTEIRO nominated ABBASI-accepted

**DHAMIJA, LIU, REGMI, OJO and ABBASI** are declared appointed to the social media subcommittee of CAC by acclamation

2022-05/2b Students' Council Votes and Proceedings (SC-2022-04) Tuesday, June 14th, 2022

See SC-2022-05.02

# **KAUR/REGMI MOVES** TO approve the minutes CARRIED

- 2022-05/9 GENERAL ORDERS
- 2022-05/10 INFORMATION ITEMS
- 2022-05/10a Students' Council Votes and Proceedings

See SC-2022-05.01-02

2022-05/10b Executive Committee Reports

See SC-2022-05.03-07

2022-05/10c BoG Representative Report

See SC-2022-05.08

2022-05/10d Students' Council Submissions

See SC-2022-05.09-10

2022-05/10e Students' Council - Attendance

See SC-2022-05.11

SPEAKER adjourned the meeting at 8:48 pm.