

# STUDENTS' COUNCIL

## January 24th, 2023 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, 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?

#### VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS (SC-2022-20)

2022-20/I SPEAKERS BUSINESS

SPEAKER CALLED the meeting to order at 6:05 PM

Join Zoom Meeting https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85666007012

Meeting ID: 856 6600 7012

Oath reminder.

Councilor HUANG resigns from Council

SPEAKER SPECIAL ORDERS agenda items 9b and 9c to the Order Paper

**FOTANG/FOGUE MOVETO** special order agenda item 8d to the Order Papers. CARRIED 25/00/00

2022-20/2 CONSENT AGENDA

2022-20/2a Students' Council Votes and Proceedings (SC-2022-19) Tuesday, January 10th, 2023

See SC-2022-20.01

**APPROVED** 

2022-20/2b ARSLAN/USSERBAYEVA MOVE TO approve Ivan Varela and Evan Sawyer to

the Sustainability and Capital Fund Committee.

See SC-2022-20.02

**APPROVED** 

2022-20/3 PRESENTATION

2022-20/3a MONTEIRO/FOTANG MOVE TO allow a presentation from the University of

Alberta regarding the Student Experience Action Plan

See SC-2022-20.07

**CARRIED 25/00/00** 

**FLAMAN/FOGUE MOVETO** extend the presentation by ten minutes

**CARRIED 25/00/00** 

2022-20/4 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

FOGUE - VP Student Life - Report

VILLOSO - VP Operations and Finance - Report

FOTANG - VP External - Report MONTEIRO - President - Report

2022-20/5 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

Steinbusch - Nominating Committee - Report

Fotang - Policy Committee - Report

Dorscheid - Board of Governors Representative - Report

Akinneah - ARRC - Report

Villoso - SCFC - Report

Regmi - Sustainability Committee - Report

Soto - Translation Committee - Report

2022-20/6 <u>OPEN FORUM</u>

POLENCHUK: Questions MONTEIRO, if the UASU is planning to organize any protests or strikes in regard to the tuition hike as well as the protests at the University of Calgary.

MONTEIRO: States that he is in contact with colleagues at the University of Calgary, However, things have been quite the contrary at the University of Alberta, where potential direct actions and other alternatives are being discussed.

Hopes that the upcoming BoG conference will bring greater clarification.

Adds that the SU is doing everything that they can for the proposed tuition increase, which would be the fourth increase in a row.

### 2022-20/7 QUESTION PERIOD

LIU: Questions MONTEIRO regarding the student experience presentation. Wonders f there is a system in place for gathering the bad experiences that students have, and if so, how they are being reported and evaluated.

MONTEIRO: States that this program strives to gather and record all of the information that students have to offer, whether it be positive or negative.

Explains that this program is still in its early phases and that the SU is still debating how best to communicate that with the student body.

HUANG: Declares that this is his last day serving as a councilor and expresses gratitude to everyone.

ABBASI: Questions MONTEIRO about his opinion of the Faculty of Arts's religion course, RELIG 200: Religion of Islam.

MONTEIRO: States that FOGUE has actively been working on this concern and instead moves to have FOGUE answer this question.

FOGUE: Declares that she met with the MSA Execs to learn more about this concern. To ensure that this issue is brought up at a university level, the Executives will continue to discuss this issue in more detail.

MONTEIRO; Highlights his report, stating that the University would be making an inspiring statement addressing mental health in the next week or two, following the UASU's advocacy.

LIU: Gives his Farewell wishes to Councillor HUANG and encourages all council members to volunteer in the upcoming provincial election.

FOTANG: Appreciates LIU's volunteerism and enthusiasm towards the upcoming provincial election.. Mentions that council members might contribute as volunteers to

the Zine Magazine's article on the subject of postsecondary education affordability in Alberta. Council members can submit their writing, poetry, comics, and other artistic works. This is stated to be published in the winter term.

SHETTY: Comments that, while the University has engaged in communication with the UASU regarding the tuition hike, the document verification on BearTracks still costs an additional \$10 and states that there is a possibility that the University will still stick to the 6% increase despite student body concerns.

WATTAMANIUK: Remarks on the back-and-forth overtaking direct action in response to the tuition increases. Because of this, the UASU will also greatly benefit from developing relationships with the University.

ARSLAN: Believes that, although protests against tuition increases have been in the news for a while, they are of no use right now.

Remarks that the committee that makes choices that will impact the student body has a sizable representation from the UASU Execs and the BoG representative.

#### 2022-20/8 BOARD AND COMMITTEE BUSINESS

2022-20/8a **VILLOSO/FOGUE MOVETO** nominate one member of Council to the Finance Committee.

See SC-2022-20.08

CARRIED 21/00/00

**VILLOSO/DHILLON MOVETO** amend the above motion to nominate two members of Council to the Finance Committee.

**CARRIED 21/00/00** 

FLAMAN nominates SHETTY - declined
SHETTY nominates FORD - declined
VILLOSO nominates STEINBUSCH - accepted
VILLOSO nominates ABBASI - declined
DHILLON nominates USSERBAYEVA - declined
LEE nominates THIND - declined
VILLOSO nominates MONTEIRO - accepted

Councillors MONTEIRO and STEINBUSCH are appointed to the Finance Committee via acclamation.

2022-20/8b **FLAMAN / LEE MOVE TO** approve the first reading of Bill 3: Governance Reform based on the following principles.

See SC-2022-20.09

**CARRIED 24/00/00** 

SHETTY: Asks whether Council is considering the same bills from the DIE Board that were amended simultaneously.

FLAMAN: Claims that this one doesn't, but that those issues have already been resolved.

HUANG: Speaks in favor of the first reading.

Believes that Council needs a long-overdue change, particularly in light of the recent successful elections. The Undergraduate BoG's appointment process was highly opaque and may have damaged many students' trust.

WATTAMANIUK: Strongly supports this bill.

SHETTY: Asks as to whether the 2017 DIE Board decisions were also taken into

account when the Bill made amendments.

FLAMAN: The Bylaw Committee is tasked with reviewing DIE Board decisions from the previous year and making modifications as necessary. However, claims he went back to 2015 to double-check all information.

2022-20/8c **FOTANG/LIU MOVE TO** nominate 2 Councillors to the Policy Committee.

See SC-2022-20.10

**CARRIED 23/00/00** 

FOGUE nominates SHETTY - accepted FLAMAN nominates FORD - declined FOGUE nominates CARBAJALVELEZ - accepted

Councillors SHETTY and CARBAJAL VELEZ are appointed to the Policy Committee via acclamation.

2022-20/8d **FOTANG/FOGUE MOVETO** approve 1st Principles of the Campus Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Policy.

See SC-2022-20.14

**CARRIED 23/00/00** 

LIU: States that during the committee meeting, he intends to bring solutions that go hand in hand with international students and newcomers to Canada. Believes that they should be included in the policy.

2022-20/9 GENERAL ORDERS

2022-20/9b VILLOSO/DHILLON MOVETO discuss the SC 2022-14/8h motion.

See SC-2022-20.15

**CARRIED 23/00/00** 

LIU: States that there is debate over whether this type of spending was appropriate for the money (for example, the BTR Event).

VILLOSO: Mentions that the formal Council task was to examine "finance management," which broadly encompasses some topics. But to have a general notion of the "spending money," the SU surveyed students via a Perks survey and aim to conduct another one soon to gain further insight.

DORSCHEID: Inquires about the value and expense associated with a KPMG report.

VILLOSO: States that working with KPMG is one choice, but if they give too high of a quote, the SU can look into alternative accounting companies.

FLAMAN: Asks whether it's possible to get a rough estimate and the difference if the SU had had this done in July. Both performance and scheduled audits would be beneficial for such a large organization. And since audits are ultimately simply numbers, money needs to be managed effectively.

ARSLAN: Questions if this will be included in the upcoming governance cycle.

VILLOSO: Responds, clarifying that she did not mean the SRA deadlines but rather the SU year (May-April). Internally, it begins in mid-May, and from August to December, it is presented to the audit committee for additional debate.

FLAMAN: Suggests that if there is no cost or estimate, the SU can set aside additional funds and release them if they are not needed. This will prevent any deficiency and make it more of a task for preparing ahead.

**VILLOSO/FLAMAN MOVE TO** add a motion to the Order Paper stating the following: rescind SC 2022-14/8h motion and instead direct the Audit Committee to work with KPMG to set up a plan for the completion of a performance and compliance audit for the upcoming Audit cycle recognizing the previous motion to complete a financial management assessment of the SU.

**CARRIED 23/00/00** 

**VILLOSO/FLAMAN MOVE TO** rescind SC 2022-14/8h motion and instead direct the Audit Committee to work with KPMG to set up a plan to complete a performance and compliance audit for the upcoming Audit cycle recognizing the previous motion to complete a financial management assessment of the SU.

CARRIED 22/01/00 LIU abstains

2022-20/9c MONTEIRO/VILLOSO MOVETO discuss the 2022/23 UASU Elections dates and timeline.

See SC-2022-20.16

**CARRIED 23/00/00** 

**MONTEIRO/LIU MOVETO** go into Committee of the Whole CARRIED 23/00/00

LIU: Thinks that more time should be given to candidates so that they can consider applying for executive positions. Adds that the campaign period is shorter by just one

week. There are doubts about whether the packages can be released early because elections occur in the second week of March.

KOOHKAN: Says he's here to listen to the Council's recommendations and viewpoints.

Adds that if the nomination deadline is extended to 30 days from now, it will fall on the first day of Reading Week, when faculty support won't be accessible. This year, some internal problems led to the delay.

HUANG: Asks how significant the errors are in the nomination packages.

MONTEIRO: Answers that the errors were related to bylaw compliance. If Executive elections were to be extended by a week, it would conflict with Council and GFC Elections before continuing into the first week of April. Because this is also the last week of courses and the start of final exams, student involvement will, inevitably, be low.

KOOHKAN: If the Candidates' Meeting were to take place on March 27, the election would then be delayed to March 2 or March 3—a breach of the Bylaw, which stipulates that elections must take place during the second week of reading week. They will have roughly two weeks to prepare as the candidates' meeting will be conducted on February 16.

Agrees with MONTEIRO that the dates conflict with the Council and GFC elections.

HUANG: Asks about what would happen if the Council and GFC Elections were held before the Exec Elections.

KOOHKAN: States that it violates the Bylaws.

DHILLON: Thinks that Council should shorten the nomination deadline. The Candidates will then have an additional week to prepare their banners and posters.

FLAMAN: Declares that we are attempting to select the alternative with the lowest potential for harm. We may decrease the nomination deadline since students serious about running for open positions will have made up their minds before these packages are distributed.

OJO: Is hesitant to lower the time frame because there is still much work to be done.

KOOHKAN: Considers that a strong line of communication between the election office and the SU is necessary to stop future conflicts.

REGMI: Considers moving the nomination deadline to two days before the candidates' meeting.

KOOHKAN: The Candidates' Meeting took place the day before the deadline in one of the prior years. However, we must hold the meeting on a different weekday rather than a holiday weekend.

VILLOSO: Remarks that she thought having seven days of campaigning was a void from the previous year and that it was too much time. This year, the maximum number of days for campaigning should be around ten.

Proposes moving the nomination deadline to Monday, February 27, which falls after Reading Week.

KOOHKAN: Suggests that the election season would be a rush and that student engagement has historically been minimal.

DHILLON: Agrees with VILLOSO. Since the candidates can only begin using the resources after this specific meeting, Doesn't support the concept of having the candidates meet on the 27th. Suggests cutting the package's delivery deadline.

FLAMAN: Agrees. Although the candidates' meeting takes place before reading week, which provides the pre-campaign days of roughly nine days, the dates have not been expressively described. Therefore, starting your promotion on Monday morning following reading week is a fantastic idea.

KOOHKAN: One approach to this would be to hold the Candidates' Meeting and the deadline for nominations on the same day: February 15. The candidates can prepare for their campaigns throughout Reading Week and they can then run their campaigns through March 8. But in essence, doing so would imply moving up the package deadline.

FLAMAN: Asks KOOHKAN if he received full training from SU and a proper transition.

KOOHKAN: Confirms that that was the case.

**VILLOSO/LIU MOVETO** return to Committee of the Difference CARRIED 23/00/00

**SHETTY/REGMI MOVETO** extend until the end of the motion. CARRIED 19/00/04

SHETTY: Declares that whatever course of action the Council and the Elections Office decide, Council doesn't want any deadlines that coincide with exam time or anything that would damage Council's reputation.

VILLOSO: Admits that the SU shouldn't punish the students because, in the end, it was SU's fault for the nomination packages contravening bylaws. Campaign season is a busy time, and students have a significant amount of work to do. Giving the

candidates access to documents before the meeting is one option.

USSERBAYEVA: Agrees with VILLOSO; everyone has a right to take their time before making a decision. It would be great if the students had a week to prepare psychologically.

DHILLON: Holding it on the 27th wouldn't go against any bylaws, but we don't want people making banners two to three days after the candidate's meeting.

SHETTY: Questions if everyone who fills out the nomination package is allowed to be considered as a candidate. Also, questions if having access to the materials would have any unfavorable consequences, and if their expenses would be covered.

VILLOSO: States that the \$550 allocated to each candidate to operate their entire campaign has already been budgeted.

MONTEIRO: Adds that the CRO office ensures that it reviews the packages before giving them a chance to be candidates.

KOOHKAN: Answers to VILLOSO stating that candidates would have access to the universal materials more extendedly if their packages were submitted sooner.

REGMI: Asks how long it will take to make any changes.

KOOHKAN: States that a decision will be made soon (i.e between 24-48 hrs).

ARSLAN: Recommends an e-vote if this is a pressing matter, as Council is barely maintaining quorum and notes that a vote in Council wouldn't be fair to those members who left at 9 due to prior commitments.

Council loses Quorum. Meeting Ends.

**REGMI/STEINBUSCH MOVETO** discuss the Alberta Sovereignty Act Within a United Alberta

**TABLED** 

2022-20/9a **FOTANG/MONTEIRO MOVETO** table this motion until the end of general orders.

**CARRIED 23/00/00** 

2022-20/10 CLOSED SESSIONS

2022-20/11 INFORMATION ITEMS

2022-20/11a Students' Council Votes and Proceedings (SC-2022-19) January 10th, 2023

See SC-2022-20.01

2022-20/11b Executive Reports

See SC-2022-20.02-06

2022-20/11c Students' Council Submissions

See SC-2022-20.07-20.11

2022-20/11d Students' Council - Attendance

See SC-2022-20.12

2022-20/I le Board of Governors Report

See SC-2022-20.13

2022-20/11f Students' Council Submissions

See SC-2022-20.14-16

SPEAKER ADJOURNED the meeting at 9:20 PM.