

## STUDENTS' COUNCIL

## May 31st, 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, 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-2022-03)**

ZUKOWSKI called the meeting to order at 6:10 pm

2022-03/I SPEAKERS BUSINESS

2022-03/Ia Join Zoom Meeting

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85666007012

Meeting ID: 856 6600 7012

**THE SPEAKER MOVED TO** special order agenda item 2022/03/8b to the top of the agenda

**CARRIED** 

**VILLOSO/MONTEIRO MOVED** to special order agenda item 2022/03/8i to the top of the agenda.

**CARRIED** 

2022-03/8b MONTEIRO/FLAMAN MOVED TO approve the Students' Council Standing

Orders

See SC-2022-03.

CARRIED

2022-03/8i VILLOSO/MONTEIRO MOVED TO appoint one member of Council to sit on

the Gateway Student Journalism Society (GSJS) Board of Directors

**CARRIED** 

AVILA self-nomination - accepted

AVILA is appointed to the Gateway Student Journalism Society (GSJS) Board of

Directors via acclamation

2022-03/2 CONSENT AGENDA

2022-03/2a Students' Council Votes and Proceedings (SC-2022-02) Tuesday, May 17th, 2022

See SC-2022-03.08

**APPROVED** 

2022-03/3 PRESENTATION

2022-03/4 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

2022-03/5 BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORT

FLAMAN - Bylaw Committee - Report

WATTAMANIUK - Council Administration Committee - Report

MONTEIRO - Executive Committee - Report

ALI - Nominating Committee -Report FOTANG - Policy Committee -Report

2022-03/6 <u>OPEN FORUM</u>

2022-03/7 QUESTION PERIOD

WATTAMANIUK: With ETIs approved and being implemented in the Fall, have any

other discussions occurred around this and can more information be provided regarding ETIs? Further wonders what specific information could be provided, tracked and implemented about ETIs in collaboration with SRAs.

MONTEIRO: Can confirm that there have been external conversations regarding this. While there have been no direct conversations regarding it, VP Fotang and himself have had conversations with the minister and other student leaders to help ensure transparency from the University. So far, no access to ETI budgets have been provided. It's uncertain what money is going towards quality improvements, but hopefully more information can be provided soon.

FOTANG: Clarifies that a lot of institutions have had issues with consultation and transparency within their specific departments. The best way to bolster transparency is to work with the government. The Council of Post-Secondary Presidents, which includes the Presidents of the U of A and U of C, advocate to the government to help ensure this transparency. While we don't have the data that has been requested, collective pressure on parliament can help yield results.

REGMI: Questions VP Student Life, Joannie Fogue, if there has been significant improvements in reducing barriers for U of A students who parent. Further questions what exactly has been discussed regarding this and what advocacy has taken place to ensure that student parents have access to family friendly locations, such as the proposed family lounge.

FOGUE: The family lounge was initiated by previous VP Student Life's. Has been talking about the family lounge and gathering more information regarding timelines, implementation and academic accommodations for students who parent. These talks have included discussions about implementing policies. All implemented policies will have consultation from parents on campus.

SINGH: Questions President Monteiro about the Governance Restructuring Task Force (GRTF) made by the Students' Council in the previous year. Notes that not much progress had been made in regards to GRTF. Wonders if President Monteiro could clarify timelines and implementation of GRTF and what progress the executives, as a whole, are expecting on GRTF this year.

MONTEIRO: While no concrete progress was made on GRTF last year, Students' Council did have fruitful discussion regarding GRTF, some of which were further discussed and implemented at the SRA Summit held last November. Conversations included how to implement changes to creating new Council structures and concretely defining the responsibility of Students' Council, councillors and the Senate. A specific concern was about councillor workload and committee fatigue, particularly due to the increase of Students' Council committees in recent years.

As for specific GRTF timelines this year, the current executive plan is to renew GRTF this year as well as follow through the discussions, and the suggestions yielded from those discussions, which occurred last year. GRTF should be renewed and

implemented by the end of the summer trimester.

ALI: Questions VP Academic, Gurleen Kaur, why the ISA and ISU received non-voting seats on CoFA boards rather than voting seats.

KAUR: States that non-voting seats were decided for the ISA and ISU because CoFA is meant to represent faculty associations, which the ISA and ISU are not. However, due to their unique association natures, the concerns of CoFA would still be relevant to them and, as such, could utilize CoFA to bring agenda items specific to their organizations. Non-voting seats gives the ISA and ISU the ability to participate in CoFA conversations without taking away from what CoFA is as an association.

MONTEIRO: Clarifies that the ISA and ISU's non-voting seats provide them with an opportunity to work with faculty and faculty administration, which they previously did not have access to. The ISA and ISU face similar challenges to faculty associations (such as large scale finances and administration), without being faculty associations, which makes it important for them to be part of the conversation. However, once again, they couldn't receive voting seats because they are not, by definition, faculty associations.

SINGH: Questions President Monteiro regarding international tuition fees, specifically asking about proposals that will be presented shortly to the Board of Governors. Wonders if there will be a protest at the Board of Governors meeting and questions what the strategy is to try and stop the Board of Governors from approving a 6% tuition hike for international students'.

MONTEIRO: States that, in regards to the Board of Governor's potentially hiking international tuition by 6%, an open letter to the Board of Governors has been discussed.

The Board of Governors' tuition hike only very narrowly passed, with a faculty member even abstaining from the vote. The biggest issue with the 6% tuition hike is getting the information out there and getting students' engaged about this issue. Discussions with the GSA president and the BoG representative will occur shortly to discuss the best approach in which to engage students and bring more attention to the proposed tuition hikes. There are currently no plans for a sit in.

ALI: Questions if the Black Students' Association (BSA) should have non-voting seats on the CoFA boards. Suggests that feedback from more groups would be beneficial to CoFA's operation.

KAUR: States that the BSA were not considered for a CoFA seat because they are not a faculty association and do not have the overarching capacity of the ISA and ISU, who are not faculty associations but operate in a similar manner.

MONTEIRO: Further clarifies that Student Groups, such as the BSA, do not have delegated authority on the behalf of the Students' Union. Student groups and faculty

associations are very different entities and have very different needs. As such, the BSA would likely not gain much by becoming part of CoFA. Other forms of engagement for student groups can certainly be explored.

REGMI: Questions VP Student Life, Joannie Fogue, if she is committed to advocating for academic support for students who have abortions or stillbirths, if the legislation is approved for it.

FOGUE: States that this legislation was not something that she was aware of. Will talk to VP Fotang for more information, as well as consult students, in regards to advocacy surrounding this concern.

SINGH: Provides context for why the ISA and ISU requested, and were offered, seats on CoFA. The ISA and ISU have overlapping constituents with faculty associations. Previously, the ISA and ISU had to reach out to faculty associations, when dealing with faculty oriented issues, which was time-consuming and unintuitive.

Giving the ISA and the ISU a guest, non-voting seat on CoFA allows them to make connections with faculty associations and resolve overlapping constituent issues.

LIU: Questions VP Fotang regarding the opposition leader in Alberta who is trying to institute a program which provides summer jobs in Edmonton for university students. Questions the possibility of having this program instituted and wonders how international students would benefit from this program.

FOTANG: Clarifies that the opposition leaders' announcement was a platform promise and not a policy, meaning it would only be implemented should the opposition leader be elected. Further states that the platform promise was meant to provide summer jobs for university students across all of Alberta, not just Edmonton. There is current advocacy to get international students included in this policy, but as of right now it is unclear the scope of students which will be included in this policy.

WATTAMANIUK: Provides a statement regarding CoFA. While it is important for student groups to have their voices, it is also equally important that student voices are given the correct platform. CoFA is not the correct platform for student groups to go through. Although the ISA and ISU are not faculty associations, which is what CoFA is composed of, they share similar advocacy work and have similar needs from the university central administration.

ALI:Argues that, while the BSA is a student group and not a faculty association, in a similar fashion to the ISA and ISU, many issues that the BSA advocates for utilize the same platforms and central administration that CoFA does. Suggests that CoFA should create sub-committees for student group leaders of equity groups, like the BSA, and double the seats of CoFa as a whole so that these advocacy efforts can be properly represented.

MONTEIRO: States that doubling the seats of CoFa will change the conversations

which CoFA can have. Smaller boards can have more in-depth conversations, and provide everyone with the ability to speak, which isn't possible in larger sized boards. As well, because CoFA only meets once a month, this can detract from their decision making capabilities. If you want to inquire about working groups or subgroups for CoFA, please reach out to VP Academic, Gurleen Kaur.

2022-03/8	BOARD AND COMMITTEE BUSINESS
2022-03/8a	ALI/WATTAMANIUK MOVED TO direct the Executive Committee to prepare a report, by no later than August 30th, for Students' Council regarding the following:  To recommend a process for moving forward with implementing the 2021-22 EDIT Recommendations be it further resolved that there be an evaluation comparing EDI Policies and programs to other comparable student associations.
	CARRIED with amendments
2022-03/9	GENERAL ORDERS
2022-03/9a	<b>VILLOSO/FLAMAN MOVED TO</b> re-affirm the ad-hoc Sustainability Committee and Standing Orders.  CARRIED
2022-03/9c	<b>ALI/REGMI MOVED TO</b> discuss student engagement with the UASU and ways to make improvements.  CARRIED
	WATTAMANIUK/ARSLAN MOVED to close debate CARRIED
2022-03/9d	MONTEIRO/FLAMAN MOVED TO go in-camera. CARRIED
	WATTAMANIUK/FALAMAN MOVED to go ex camera
	CARRIED
2022-03/10	<u> </u>
2022-03/10 2022-03/10a	CARRIED
	INFORMATION ITEMS
	CARRIED  INFORMATION ITEMS  Executive Committee Reports
2022-03/10a	INFORMATION ITEMS  Executive Committee Reports  See SC-2022-03.01-04
2022-03/10a	INFORMATION ITEMS  Executive Committee Reports  See SC-2022-03.01-04  BoG Representative Report
2022-03/10a 2022-03/10b	INFORMATION ITEMS  Executive Committee Reports  See SC-2022-03.01-04  BoG Representative Report  See SC-2022-03.05
2022-03/10a 2022-03/10b	INFORMATION ITEMS  Executive Committee Reports  See SC-2022-03.01-04  BoG Representative Report  See SC-2022-03.05  Students' Council Submissions

See SC-2021-03.07

2022-03/10e Students' Council, Votes and Proceedings (SC-2022-02) Tuesday, May 17th, 2022

See SC-2022-03.08

2022-03/10f Executive Committee Reports

See SC-2022-03.09

2022-03/10g Students' Council Submissions

See SC-2022-03.10-03.20

ZUKOWSKI adjourned the meeting at 10:19 pm