

CODE CHANGES 2018: Indigenous Committee

TO: Council

FROM: Advocacy (on behalf of the Indigenous Committee)

November 2018

Amendment to establish the Indigenous Committee as an Extraordinary Committee of the AMS.

These Amendments are based off of a Terms of Reference written by the interim Indigenous Committee, a group of Indigenous Students and an Elder.

These Amendments have only been edited from the original Terms of Reference by the Chair of the Advocacy Committee to be formatted as a Code Change after being given permission at the last meeting of the interim Indigenous Committee.

Additions are indicated by ***bold italics***. Deletions are indicated by striking through (~~this~~).

SECTION V: COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL

Article 1. General

3. The Extraordinary Committees shall be:
 - (a) the Elections Committee;
 - (b) the New SUB Project Committee, which shall operate under the terms of reference for the Ad Hoc New SUB Project Committee until the completion of the New SUB Project, at which time this clause shall expire;
 - (c) the Advisory Board;
 - (d) ***the Indigenous Committee.***

Article 14. Indigenous Committee

1. ***The Indigenous Committee's terms of reference shall be as stipulated in Section VIII of the Code.***

SECTION VIII: INDIGENOUS COMMITTEE

Article 1. Purpose and Mandate

1. ***The Indigenous Committee shall assert Indigenous knowledge, presence and practices into the Society and establish Indigenous representation at the University. The Indigenous***

Committee shall adhere to local traditions while recognizing and respecting individual cultural beliefs and practices.

Article 2. Musqueam Acknowledgement

1. *The work and practices of the Indigenous Committee will be done on the unceded lands of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) people who have occupied these lands for thousands of years. We, along with UBC staff and faculty and students, are all guests on this territory. As guests, it is our traditional responsibility to work and inform the Musqueam Nation.*

Article 3. General

1. *The Indigenous Committee shall:*

- (a) *assert Indigenous knowledge, presence, and practices into the Society;*
- (b) *ensure Indigenous peoples are represented at the University through all levels of governance and student relations through various means;*
- (c) *adhere to local traditions while recognizing and respecting our individual cultural beliefs and practices;*
- (d) *advocate for Indigenous student representation within the Society and on the University's campuses;*
- (e) *be responsible for completing annual goals, including planning at least one Indigenous focused event on campus;*
- (f) *ensure that the Indigenous Committee gives Indigenous students the opportunity to participate in the Committee and Committee activities, through periodic emails to encourage participation;*
- (g) *uphold the Core Values in paragraph 2 below;*
- (h) *safeguard the Indigenous Student space in the AMS Student Nest, prioritizing it for Indigenous Students and Committee guests; and*
- (i) *provide support on issues arising in the Indigenous Student space in the AMS Student Nest.*

2. *The Core Values of the Indigenous Committee shall be:*

- (a) *Community: Taking care of our community, working with our community, empowering and uplifting the community.*
- (b) *Listening to Our Elders: Listening with respect, hearing their words and considering their wisdom and teachings when making decisions.*
- (c) *Respect: To have a healthy and reciprocal relation with Musqueam, AMS, UBC Staff, UBC Faculty, and each other. Honour each culture, language, and worldview and teach others to respect and understand their history and way of life. The work that we do will encourage and believe in each other, and future students, to succeed in every aspect of their lives.*
- (d) *Courage: Commit to change when needed or called for by the members of the committee and stand when needed to show support and a combined voice.*

- (e) Wisdom: Using stories of successes and failures to help guide our decisions. Redefining success by developing culturally appropriate and measurable outcomes.*
- (f) Humility: With each day we are given here on Mother Earth we are given through sight, sound, smell, and taste of what life is: beautiful. We know and acknowledge the life and land we are part of, it is up to us to contribute to sustaining balance.*
- (g) Honesty: As committee members we will be honest with ourselves, we will accept our own limitations in order to maintain a safe space.*

Article 4. Composition

- 1. The Indigenous Committee shall be composed of the following voting members:
 - (a) Head of House*
 - (b) Knowledge Keeper*
 - (c) An Elder*
 - (d) A Matriarch and/or Patriarch*
 - (e) Up to four Aunties or Uncles*
 - (f) Cousins (voting members only after attending four meeting)**
- 2. The Indigenous Committee shall appoint all of its own members.*
- 3. The Indigenous Committee shall determine its own method of appointments for committee positions.*

Article 5. Head of House

- 1. The Head of House for the Indigenous Committee shall:
 - (a) set the agendas for meetings;*
 - (b) call and publicize meetings;*
 - (c) cause minutes to be taken and approved at meetings and reported to Council;*
 - (d) be entitled to booking privileges for meeting rooms in the AMS Student Nest;*
 - (e) preside over the meetings of the Committee, and shall not vote except to break or create a tie or otherwise to affect the result;*
 - (f) administer the budget of the Committee as approved by Council, and shall be the signing officer of the Committee;*
 - (g) have access to secretarial support in performance of their duties, and the Executive Committee shall ensure that Chairs have such access; and*
 - (h) have any other duties as assigned by the Indigenous Committee.**
- 2. The Head of House shall be appointed for a term determined by the Indigenous Committee.*
- 3. The Head of House must be an Indigenous Student who is an active member of the Society.*

Article 6. Knowledge Keeper

1. *The Knowledge Keeper of the Indigenous Committee shall:
(a) preside over the meeting in the absence of the Head of House;
(b) keep minutes or cause minutes to be taken; and
(c) have any other duties as assigned by the Indigenous Committee.*
2. *The Knowledge Keeper shall be appointed for a term determined by the Indigenous Committee.*
3. *The Knowledge Keeper must be an Indigenous Student who is an active member of the Society.*

Article 7. Elder

1. *An Elder is held in high regard as a leader, teacher, role model, and mentor, and is recognized within their community as having knowledge of First Nations, Inuit, or Métis history, languages, customs, traditions, or ceremonies.*
2. *An Elder may also have life experiences that have allowed them to gain knowledge that others can learn life lessons from.*
3. *An Elder is an advisor, who is often consulted on various issues within the community and provides encouragement, direction, and support in moving work forward.*
4. *An Elder has gained respect for their guidance and knowledge from their depth of understanding within the culture.*
5. *It is recommended to consult with the community as to who they identify as an Elder.*
6. *The Indigenous Committee shall have a rotation of different Elders as the Elder for Committee meetings.*
7. *The Elders shall be appointed for a term determined by the Indigenous Committee.*

Article 8. Matriarch and/or Patriarch

1. *The Matriarch and/or Patriarch must be an Indigenous student in the faculty of graduate and post-doctoral studies or a student studying for an equivalent degree who is an active member of the Society.*
2. *The Matriarch and/or Patriarch shall be appointed for a term determined by the Indigenous Committee.*

3. *The Matriarch and/or Patriarch shall have any other duties as assigned by the Indigenous Committee.*

Article 9. Aunties and/or Uncles

1. *The Aunties and/or Uncles must be Indigenous Students who are active members of the Society.*
2. *The Aunties and/or Uncles shall be appointed for a term determined by the Indigenous Committee.*
3. *The Aunties and/or Uncles shall have any other duties as assigned by the Indigenous Committee.*

Article 10. Cousins

1. *The Cousins must be Indigenous Students who are active members of the Society.*
2. *The Cousins shall be Indigenous Students who do not hold another position on the Indigenous Committee.*
3. *The Cousins shall be granted voting rights after ~~the~~ attendance ~~to~~at four consecutive meetings.*
4. *The Cousins shall have any other duties as assigned by the Indigenous Committee.*