

**CODE CHANGES 2020:
INDIGENOUS COMMITTEE**

TO: Council
FROM: The Indigenous Committee
September 2020

Amendment to update the terms of reference of the Indigenous Committee and of the Indigenous Students Fund.

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

SECTION VIII: INDIGENOUS COMMITTEE

Article 1. Purpose and Mandate

1. *The purpose of the Indigenous Committee is to establish an Indigenous student governance system on the UBC Vancouver campus and to integrate Indigenous forms of knowledge and practice into the Alma Mater Society (the AMS).*
2. *The mandate of the Indigenous Committee is to work with the AMS, rather than have the AMS and, by extension, the University do work on our behalf. Our voices, our knowledge and our representation are essential to the true nature of Reconciliation as an action, an action that we are accountable to, as well as all citizens of this land.*
3. *The Indigenous Committee shall be the responsible party for maintaining, budgeting and disbursing funds from the Indigenous Students Fund, which is to be renewed at the end of every September in perpetuity until otherwise declared by the UBC Vancouver student population through a referendum.*

Article 2. Land Acknowledgement

1. *The work and practices of the Indigenous Committee shall be done on the stolen lands of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) people who have been a part of these sacred lands for millennia.*
2. *We, along with the University of British Columbia staff and faculty and its approximately 57,000 students, are all guests on this campus, and the larger territory that borders the Squamish and the Tsleil-Waututh nations. As guests, it is our responsibility to recognize this land as stolen and sacred, and we must all do our best to honour our hosts as uninvited visitors.*

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3. *We have begun our relationship with Musqueam First Nation and we intend to build on these relations to continue to honour and respect them, as the original stewards of this land.*

Commented [1]:

Change to: It is our priority to honour Musqueam, and the land that we live and work on through partnerships or the way we conduct ourselves as a Committee.

Article 3. Who We Are/Composition

1. *We are Indigenous students of the UBC Vancouver campus whose traditional lands fall within the colonially constructed borders of Canada and the United States of America (we recognize that borders are arbitrary and that many Indigenous nations do not recognize these borders, though they may be constricted by them).*
2. *Our committee is composed of current Indigenous students who pay regular student fees to the AMS on the UBC Vancouver campus.*
3. *Indigenous Committee members shall consist of Indigenous students who attend regular meetings and participate in Indigenous Committee activities.*
4. *All members shall adhere to our community based decision making process, as this is an integral part of our self-governance. Our community based decision making is precolonial, and that is a part of our mission. Members are required to seek approval when asked to speak on behalf of the Committee.*
5. *The Indigenous Committee Executives team shall be elected by consensus by the members of the Indigenous Committee on October 1st of every year. The Executives shall hold their positions for an entire calendar year. In the event that someone can no longer fulfill their role, the outgoing student can recommend a nominee for that role. The Indigenous Committee shall elect a student by consensus to fill that role until the next appointment in early October.*
6. *The Indigenous Committee Executive shall be composed of:*
 - (a) *Chair(s), whose duties shall include:*
 - (i) *Creating meeting agendas;*
 - (ii) *Chairing meetings;*
 - (iii) *Overseeing assigned roles, managing member and Executive tasks;*
 - (iv) *Managing communication with the AMS and its members.*
 - (b) *The Vice-President, whose duties shall include:*
 - (i) *Being the proxy Chairperson when the Chair(s) are unable to attend;*
 - (ii) *Managing Indigenous Committee historical and current documents.*
 - (c) *Treasurer(s), whose duties shall include:*
 - (i) *Attending training sessions with the AMS Finance office;*
 - (ii) *Keeping bookkeeping records of the Indigenous Students Fund budget for each line item;*
 - (iii) *Managing receipts for reimbursement;*

- (iv) *Providing regular updates to the Indigenous Committee regarding finances;*
- (v) *Creating quarterly financial reports for the AMS.*
- (d) *The Social Media Representative, whose duties shall include:*
 - (i) *Managing social media accounts (such as Facebook and Instagram) and posting regular updates, including meeting dates and dates of other pertinent events.*
- (e) *Lounge Manager whose duties shall include:*
 - (i) *Ensuring all lounge rules are followed.*
 - (ii) *Overseeing the general upkeep of the lounge.*
 - (iii) *Being responsible for holding a key for the locked cabinet in Room 2131;*
 - (iv) *Providing regular access to the cabinet for all members.*

Article 4. Powers and Duties

1. *The Indigenous Committee shall:*
 - (a) *Assert Indigenous knowledge, presence and practices into the AMS;*
 - (b) *Ensure Indigenous peoples are represented at UBC Vancouver 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 AMS and the UBC Vancouver campus;*
 - (e) *Ensure that the Indigenous Committee provides a space for Indigenous students on the UBC Vancouver campus to participate in meetings and events;*
 - (f) *Safeguard Room 2131, prioritizing it for Indigenous students and Committee guests;*
 - (g) *Provide support for issues arising in Room 2131;*
 - (h) *Hold Indigenous Committee meetings biweekly from September through April and on an as-needed basis in the summer months;*
 - (i) *Manage, maintain, and disburse funds from the Indigenous Students Fund in accordance with Section IX B, Article 6(5)(t) below;*

- (j) **Ensure that the AMS position of the Indigenous Student Engagement Facilitator is held for an Indigenous student, and the Committee will work with the AMS to develop job duties to include:**
 - (i) **Providing administrative support for the Indigenous Committee;**
 - (ii) **Attending Indigenous Committee meetings regularly;**
 - (iii) **Maintaining a direct line of communication with the Indigenous Committee on such matters as Indigenous issues and initiatives that the AMS is working on and/or overseeing any other relevant campus activities;**
 - (iv) **Liaising with Indigenous bodies on campus to facilitate communication, networking and collaboration for the Indigenous Committee and its projects.**

Article 5. Annual Goals

1. **The annual goals of the Indigenous Committee shall be to:**
 - (a) **Plan at least one Indigenous-focused event on the UBC Vancouver campus;**
 - (b) **Host ongoing activities in Room 2131 to enhance Indigenous student engagement in the Nest;**
 - (c) **Provide financial support for Indigenous student clubs with the Indigenous Students Fund through an application process;**
 - (d) **Provide financial support for Indigenous students' professional development with the Indigenous Students Fund through an application process.**

SECTION IX B. FISCAL PROCEDURES

Article 6. Funds

5. Funds Established by Referendum
 - (t) **The Indigenous Student Fund** shall be administered by the Indigenous Committee, in consultation with the Finance Committee **and the AMS Finance Team (who shall provide support and training)**, in accordance with the following provisions:
 - (i) In accordance with the referendum of March 2019, the Fund shall be used for Indigenous student support and initiatives, **including the following:**
 - 1) **Pow Wow: A large-scale event to be produced by the Indigenous Committee in concert with other departments on campus, as the Indigenous Committee sees fit.**

- 2) ***Indigenous Clubs: For Indigenous students to access funds to begin their own clubs and to sustain their club activities as they see fit. (Each club should keep a detailed report of how funds are being used so that the Indigenous Committee can have a record of the usage of funds for future reference.)***
 - 3) ***Conference Sponsorship: For Indigenous students to apply for sponsorship to attend conferences, summits or other special training pertaining to their education. Funding can be applied to application fees, airfare, hotels, or other travel to the event itself.***
 - 4) ***The Indigenous Committee: For the operating cost of the Indigenous Committee for its meetings and team-building events.***
 - 5) ***The Indigenous Student Lounge, Room 2131 in the Nest: For the purchase of items for the room and students who use the room, including, but not limited to furniture, organizational items, and snack items for students.***
 - 6) ***Marketing: For the promotion and advertising of Indigenous Committee events, such as the annual large-scale event, business cards, stickers, banners, etc.***
 - 7) ***Gifts and Honorariums: For gifts or cash items for Elders and respected individuals who assist the Indigenous Committee in some form.***
 - 8) ***Arts Event: For an event or series of events that promote Indigenous culture, knowledge systems, cultural performers, artists, speakers, etc. for the betterment of Indigenous relations with all other students on the UBC Vancouver campus.***
 - 9) ***Contingency: For unforeseen events or circumstances whereby funds are needed on an emergency basis.***
- (ii) ***The Indigenous Committee shall administer the Fund by way of two (2) Indigenous Committee-appointed Indigenous student treasurers, who shall be responsible for submitting quarterly reports to the AMS.***
- (iii) ***Disbursements shall be approved by the Indigenous Committee at scheduled meetings.***

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 x^wməθk^wəyəm (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.~~

- (e) ~~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;~~
- ~~(a) — keep minutes or cause minutes to be taken; and~~
- ~~(b) — 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 attendance at four consecutive meetings.~~
4. — ~~The Cousins shall have any other duties as assigned by the Indigenous Committee.~~

SECTION IX B, FISCAL PROCEDURES

Article 6. — Funds

5. ~~Funds Established by Referendum~~

- (t) ~~The Indigenous Student Fund shall be administered by the Indigenous Committee, in consultation with the Finance Committee, in accordance with the following provisions:~~
- ~~(i) In accordance with the referendum of March 2019, the Fund shall be used for Indigenous student support and initiatives.~~
 - ~~(ii) Fifty percent (50%) of the money deposited in the Fund each year shall be put towards an annual large scale cultural event hosted by the Indigenous Committee.~~
 - ~~(iii) Ten percent (10%) of the money deposited in the Fund each year shall be used to provide funding for Indigenous students to attend professional development workshops or similar activities.~~
 - ~~(iv) Twenty percent (20%) of the money deposited in the Fund each year shall be used to provide funding for Indigenous initiatives based at the UBC Vancouver campus.~~
 - ~~(v) Twenty percent (20%) of the money deposited in the Fund each year shall be put towards the operations and initiatives of the Indigenous Committee.~~
 - ~~(vi) An individual or group wishing to receive moneys from the Fund shall submit a proposal to the Indigenous Committee.~~
 - ~~(vii) Only Active Members and Indigenous student groups will be eligible to receive funds; UBC Vancouver's faculty, staff, and community partners may work with resources from this Fund only through partnering with Active Members or Indigenous student groups.~~
 - ~~(viii) Any eligible individual or group will be reimbursed the cost of their proposal when approved.~~