

Structural Composition Task Force Terms of Reference

1. Preamble

Whereas the University of Alberta Students' Union (hereafter, "UASU") is the official body created under the *Post-Secondary Learning Act* to represents undergraduate students at the University of Alberta;

Whereas the Students' Council is made up of democratically-elected faculty representatives who, collectively, hold the ultimate authority in the UASU;

Whereas the Students' Council has delegated some of its authority under the *Post-Secondary Learning Act* to a number of Standing Committees;

Whereas the Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation Committee (hereafter, "ARRC"), a Standing Committee of Students' Council given the delegated authority to advance reconciliation within the UASU, released a Recommendations Report which was approved by the 2018/2019 Students' Council;

Whereas the 2019/2020 Students' Council approved and adopted the ARRC Recommendations Report (2019-01/7c);

Whereas one of the ARRC recommendations called for the creation of a task force to review the current structure of Students' Council, with particular emphasis on representation¹; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Students' Council move to create the Students' Council Composition Task Force.

¹ Students' Council shall create a task force to delve into the structure of Students' Council representation. This task force should be delegated the authority to review the current model of Students' Council – in relation to Council and student feedback, as well as other university models – and make recommendations on it.

2. Purpose

Engagement with the student body is of crucial importance to the Students' Union and foundational to the concept of good governance. Students' Council, in exercising its authority as the governing body of the Students' Union, relies on engagement with the student body to ensure that the work of the Students' Union is reflective of the needs and priorities of students. Just as the student body contains a plethora of identifies and experiences, so too must Students' Council in order to remain relevant.

The Students' Council Composition Task Force will examine the overall structure of Students Council. Specifically, the examination will include a systematic review of student association governance structures across the country, as well as assess the current model of Students' Council as it relates to reflecting the diversity of the undergraduate student population.

3. Scope

The Task Force shall produce a report to Students' Council before January 31, 2020 that will seek to provide insight on the following issues:

Student Governance - What models of student governance exist at post-secondary student associations across Canada?

Engagement and Inclusion - Does the current structure of Students' Council, and in particular Roberts' Rules of Order, create barriers to participation and engagement?

Feasibility - How feasible would it be to change the structure of Students' Council to allow for, among other things, demographic seat representation?

4. Meetings

Unless otherwise specified by the Task Force, the default meeting schedule shall be biweekly until the end of January 2020.

5. Membership

The Task Force will be composed of Eight (8) permanent members with a commitment to meaningful improvements in the governance of the UASU and include:

- One (1) member of the UASU Executive Committee;
- One (1) member of the UASU Bylaw Committee;
- Three (3) members of Students' Council who are not members of the Executive Committee; and
- Three (3) students-at-large with experience or interest in student governance.

Additionally, a Consultation Group will be created whose members are made up of groups, individuals, or associations decided by the Task Force. Collectively, this Consultation Group will aid the Task Force in ensuring a multiplicity of voices and experiences are included in its work. At minimum, the Cultural Group Council will be invited and engaged in this process.

6. Requirements

In completing its Final Report on the structural representation of Students' Council, the Task Force is mandated to uphold the following requirements:

- Conduct a comprehensive review of governance models at other post-secondary student associations across Canada;
- Create an informal Consultation Group, whose membership include historically underrepresented communities. The Task Force shall engage in respectful and ongoing dialogue with the Consultation Group, whom it can draw wisdom from throughout the process;
- Gain the free, prior, and informed consent of the Cultural Group Council before releasing its Final Report; and
- Engaging with current and past members of Students' Council throughout the process.

7. Resources

The following resources shall be made available to the Task Force in the undertaking of its work:

- Chief Returning Officer;
- Speaker of the Students' Union;
- Office of Discover Governance;
- Department of Research and Advocacy; and
- Students' Council.