



## **POLICY 8.13**

### **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

#### *Indigenous Circle at AUSU*

#### **POLICY INTENT**

This policy defines the roles and objectives of the Indigenous Circle at AUSU.

#### **POLICY**

##### **Role**

- 8.13.01 The Indigenous Circle at AUSU is a body of AUSU members who self-identify as Indigenous and is supported by Council to represent Indigenous students at Athabasca University (AU) to AUSU and advise AUSU on all matters from the lens of Indigenous students.

##### **Authority**

- 8.13.02 The Indigenous Circle at AUSU has the authority to:
- a. select a representative to sit on the AUSU council;
  - b. request information on any topic that the Indigenous Circle deems appropriate in the support of their roles and responsibilities and such requests shall be forwarded to the Executive Director who will determine the best way to obtain the required information;
  - c. monitor progress made on Indigenization as identified in the AUSU Strategic Plan and Executive Work Plans of AUSU;
  - d. request funds from council to support their activities and utilize any granted funds in the manner outlined in the request; and
  - e. make recommendations to council and AUSU committees on any matter which falls under the committee's role or related to the importance of Indigenization at Athabasca University or within AUSU.
- 8.13.03 The Indigenous Circle at AUSU is responsible for representing Indigenous members at AUSU.
- 8.13.04 The Indigenous Circle at AUSU may be asked for advice on all position policies, as well as specific Council policies during development and review as it relates to Indigenous students.
- 8.13.05 The Indigenous Circle at AUSU shall select one of its members annually to represent the Indigenous Circle on the AUSU Council.

- 8.13.06 In collaboration with the Executive Committee the Vice President Finance and Administration shall consult with the Indigenous Circle in the development of the AUSU budget prior to going to Council for approval.
- 8.13.07 In collaboration with the Executive Committee the Indigenous Circle at AUSU may choose to take a leadership role in representing Indigenous AUSU members to Athabasca University, government, and the larger community.

### **Membership**

- 8.13.08 The membership of the Indigenous Circle at AUSU shall be comprised of the following:
- AUSU members who must self-identify as Indigenous;
  - a minimum of three (3) and a maximum of thirteen (13) members of the Indigenous Circle;
  - invited Elders, guests, and allies as deemed appropriate by the Indigenous Circle at AUSU as non-voting members; and
  - the President, or Executive delegate, and the Executive Director as non-voting ex-officio members.
- 8.13.09 AUSU members who are elected to council and are also elected to sit on the Indigenous Circle at AUSU may not serve as the Indigenous Circle representative to council.
- 8.13.10 AUSU will advertise vacant positions on the Indigenous Circle at AUSU each January for a term to go from March 1 to the end of February annually.
- 8.13.11 Council shall appoint the members of the Indigenous Circle at AUSU. The Executive Committee will review all applications, consult with the Indigenous Circle at AUSU, and put forward a recommendation to Council no larger than thirteen (13) applicants for consideration by Council

### **Indigenous Circle at AUSU Representative to Council**

- 8.13.12 At the meeting prior to the Executive Election the Indigenous Circle at AUSU will select one member of the Indigenous Circle to sit on council as a voting member.
- 8.13.13 The Indigenous Circle at AUSU representative to Council shall be entitled to vote and run in Executive Elections.
- 8.13.14 The Indigenous Circle at AUSU representative to council will also provide a report in writing at every council meeting on the activities of the Indigenous Circle at AUSU and of items of particular interest.
- 8.13.15 The Indigenous Circle at AUSU representative to council cannot be a sitting councillor elected during the general election or in a by-election.
- 8.13.16 As a sitting member of Students' Council the Indigenous Circle at AUSU representative to council must continue to meet the criteria needed to be a councillor, such as remaining in good standing with AUSU and completing at least one course during a given council year and any other criteria set by AUSU bylaws or policy.

## **Indigenous Circle Member Selection**

- 8.13.17 Unless otherwise stated in Policy 8.13 Indigenous Circle at AUSU Terms of Reference the members of the Indigenous Circle at AUSU shall be selected by a process similar to the process laid out in Policy 2.07 Member Representatives on AUSU Committees.
- 8.13.18 The application process shall include a solemn declaration by applicants that they self-identify as Indigenous.

## **Meetings**

- 8.13.19 The Indigenous Circle at AUSU shall meet at least quarterly, but may meet up to six (6) times annually by teleconference.
- 8.13.20 Attendance shall be taken at each meeting and an opportunity will be given to members at the start of the meeting to add items to the agenda to discuss.
- 8.13.21 The Indigenous Circle at AUSU shall operate by consensus and with respect for Indigenous cultures and traditions.

## **RELATED REFERENCES, POLICIES, PROCEDURES AND FORMS**

### **This Policy References**

AUSU Policy 2.07 Member Representatives on AUSU Committees  
AUSU Policy 3.01 Election Conduct  
AUSU Policy 9.25 Access to Education for Indigenous Learners in Canada  
AUSU Policy 3.03 By-elections

### **This Policy is Referenced by**

None

## **POLICY RESPONSIBILITY**

Council

## **POLICY HISTORY**

Original Approval Date: June 17, 2021  
Last Review Date: August 25, 2022  
Review by Date: June 2023