

Minutes for the Students' Council Meeting of the
Students' Association of MacEwan University
October 18, 2017 at 6:00pm in room #7-218

In Attendance:

Stephanie Nedoshytko, President
Robbie Lepp, Vice President Academic
Parvin Sedighi, Vice President External
Emma Patterson, Vice President Operations
Jason Garcia, Vice President Student Life
Andrew Bieman, Councilor
Aubrianna Broughton-Snow, Councilor
Andrew Desaulniers, Councilor
Rachelle Drummond, Councilor
Jacob Marler, Councilor
Duncan McManus, Councilor
Jared Millions, Councilor

Arva Nadeem, Councilor
Mark Romero, Councilor
Luis Ruiz, Councilor
Megan Sell, Councilor
Tansy Spyker, Councilor
Quyen Tang, Councilor
Micheal Ziegler, Councilor

SAMU Officials and Council Support:
Timothy Jobs, Chair
Alan Honey, Governance Advisor
Samantha Hay, Governance Assistant

Meeting called to order at 6:00pm.

1. Treaty 6 Land Recognition

We would like to acknowledge that this meeting of the Students' Association of MacEwan University is taking place on the traditional territories of the people of the Treaty 6 region in Central Alberta.

The Students' Association of MacEwan University is situated in the centre of what we call the city of Edmonton, which is called Amiskwaciwaskahikan or Beaver Hill House in Nehiyawewin (Cree). This is the traditional home of the Nehiyaw (Cree) and Michif (Métis), and meeting place for many Indigenous peoples including the Nakawe (Saulteaux), Siksika (Blackfoot), Nakota Sioux (Stoney) and other nations.

2. Approvals

2.1 MOTION

TO APPROVE THE AGENDA FOR OCTOBER 18, 2017

ZIEGLER/TANG

CARRIED

2.2 MOTION

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 20, 2017

RUIZ/SELL

CARRIED

3. Presentations

4. For Information

4.1. Reports

4.1.1. President

As presented.

4.1.2. Vice President Academic

Open education conference report will be submitted to SC.

4.1.3. Vice President External

Doug Schweitzer meeting today.

4.1.4. Vice President Operations & Finance

BPC report was sent out this afternoon.

4.1.5. Vice President Student Life

Peer Support retreat update.

4.2. Executive Committee Minutes

Minutes of September 12, 20, 27, and October 3, 2017 provided.

5. Question Period

5.1. Written Questions

Sell - For Madame President: What is the current Alumni Policy? You had said you are dissatisfied with it currently. What would you hope to see change with the Alumni Policy?

Pres - Currently the Alumni Policy states that a student is considered an alumnus if they have graduated from a certificate, diploma, degree, or partook in an official transfer program of 30 credits or more. At the stage that MacEwan is currently at, I do not feel this fully encompasses our status. I advocated for alumni to be considered as students who finished 60 credits or more in a program. My reasoning behind this is that not all of the programs that MacEwan offers are fully developed. For example, students from the sciences often transfer due to the lack in breadth of programming, but this isn't considered an official transfer program. Many of our past councillors have had to transfer to other institutions, but still feel very much a part of the MacEwan community. I feel that in the future, the Alumni Policy could stand without complaint, but currently it does not. We will lose contact with some very involved individuals that contributed a lot to our community and our campus, and there was no discussion of grandfathering past students into the new policy.

Sell - For Mister Vice President Academic: If the lifetime access to Alumni Emails is in the works and comes into play what steps will be taken to notify Alumni of this change since it's not currently this way? How will those past MacEwan Alumni who were students before the time of Email be contacted or will they receive new email accounts?

Vpa - These are good questions. Unfortunately, I don't know the answers to any them. These are things that I will have to bring back to the committee in our coming meetings.

Ziegler - For executive members, what new insights did you gain by sitting in on the Board of Governors meeting?

Vpa - One of the asks in our advocacy we have as a Students' Association includes increased student representation in governance. It is our hope that by attending Board of Governors and AGC meetings we will demonstrate how much this issue matters to us. We were there to observe what decisions the Board makes and to prove that students care about these decisions. Decisions made by the Board affect all students across our campus and it is important that we continue to stay involved and informed.

Ziegler - For VPE, what are the asks for the Barriers Campaign topic 'Indigenization'?

Vpe - There is only a single ask associated with each topic, and the ask for Indigenization is as follows: that the federal government create a "Reconciliation through Post-Secondary Education" program to support reconciliation programming at institutions across Canada.

This ask best captures the spirit of the work we are doing across our advocacy groups, as education is key in ensuring the conversations and actions around reconciliation are meaningful and effective. Additionally, I chose this ask as it amplifies requests made in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, in order to ensure the campaign would not be speaking for or over indigenous voices.

Ziegler - for President, why has SAMU taken a clearly defined political stance? While running a get out and vote campaign, all material was clearly stressing a certain political point of view (e.g. LRT as positive, Infills as positive, etc.). Why was this done when SAMU is supposed to take a neutral stance on all political issues?

Pres - The visual campaign to encourage students to vote was designed by the University of Alberta Students' Union not by SAMU. It was meant to evoke a desire from students to express an opinion, for or against, the statements you saw on campaign materials. The campaign was intended to run at multiple campuses and we tried to find messaging which worked for different kinds of students. Ultimately, we are not certain it struck the right tone, and we will be looking at what was successful for

this campaign compared to the federal election campaign which took a more traditional "get out and vote" and assess what to do in future elections. By no means was this campaign meant to be viewed as partisan. I assure you I am passionate about ensuring SAMU remains nonpartisan.

5.2. Oral Questions

Topics include: exec goals for the rest of their term; YEG election get out the vote campaign; audio recordings report; scholarships & bursaries; Federal policy paper re. international students;

*Romero enters at 6:10pm.

6. In Camera Period

7. Motions & Business Orders of the Day

7.1. Budget Publication

MOTION TO RECOMMEND BPC WRITE POLICY INTO "OFFICIAL REPORTING MECHANISMS TO SAMU MEMBERSHIP" FOR POSTING THE FULL BUDGET ONLINE

ZIEGLER/VPE

MOTION TO STRIKE THE WORD "FULL"

VPA/MARLER

MOTION TO CALL THE QUESTION

VPE/DRUMMOND

CARRIED

CARRIED

MOTION TO CALL THE QUESTION

VPSL/ZIEGLER

CARRIED

CARRIED

8. Consultation

9. Evaluation

10. Recognition

- Desaulniers - This is my final meeting as a SAMU councillor I would like to say a few words to you that will be returning and those in the room soon to take their seat at this table. The person I was when I first came to sit at this table three years ago, like many of you, was ideological and ambitious but I was very naïve. I thought I knew what a councillor's purpose was and that I knew what it takes to make a difference.

A Good councillor is not the loudest voice at the table, the one that raises the most questions, the one that holds another's feet to the fire. A good councillor is one that looks across table and doesn't see adversaries but friends. Each one of us, despite whatever reason that led us to sit here at this table is here to do good. Reach out to one another and form bonds. Work together for SAMU. This organization has been around for a while and we have institutional experience and memory; make use of it. Be humble and strive to do better

The namesake of our university in his farewell letter wrote "You should strive to leave the garden better than you found it" make that your purpose on this council and in your lives going forward. It has been an honour and pleasure. Thank you

- Vpsl - I would like to recognize Luke Jansen, an Edmonton musician and a student at the University of Alberta, who was tragically killed in a fatal accident in the city two weeks ago.

I had the opportunity to work with Luke briefly while organizing the advance polling stations process for the municipal election, and I know that for those who were closest to him, his presence will be sorely missed.

I would like to recognize Luke for his passion for music, his commitment to public service, and his kind and welcoming demeanour.

- Vpa - I would like to recognize Councillor Desaulniers and his many year of service to Council. We thank him for all he has done!

11. Adjournment

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Next Meeting Date: November 15, 2017

Meeting adjourned at: 6:58pm