

Minutes for the Students' Council Meeting of the Students' Association of MacEwan University November 15, 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
Rachelle Drummond, Councilor
Jacob Marler, Councilor
Sylvie Masson, Councilor
Jared Millions, Councilor
Spencer Newton, Councilor
Sophia Qaderi, Councilor

Luis Ruiz, Councilor Vanessa Sheppard, Councilor Aubrianna Snow, Councilor Tansy Spyker, Councilor Kent Strayer, Councilor Micheal Ziegler, Councilor Ashley Zielsdorf, 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 Amiskwaciy Waskahikan 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 NOVEMBER 15, 2017

**BIEMAN/ZIEGLER** 

**CARRIED** 

2.2 MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 18, 2017

**DRUMMOND/MILLIONS** 

CARRIED

- 3. Presentations
- 4. For Information
  - 4.1. Reports
  - 4.1.1.President

As presented.

4.1.2. Vice President Academic

As presented.

4.1.3. Vice President External

As presented.

4.1.4. Vice President Operations & Finance

As presented.

### 4.1.5. Vice President Student Life

As presented.

- 4.1.6. Chief Returning Officer
- 4.1.7. Town Hall
- 4.1.8. Q1 Financial Statements
- 4.1.9. General Manager
- 4.1.10. Audit Committee
- 4.2. Executive Committee Minutes

Minutes of October 11, 17, & 25, 2017 provided.

## 5. Question Period

## 5.1. Written Questions

Ziegler - For CRO: why did you allow copywrited material to be used during the SC election?

CRO - Article 24 of the Election Procedure states <u>inter alia</u> "The CRO has the right to refuse authorization of campaign materials for reason of appropriateness and legality." The CRO has exercised this power judiciously, making sure that intellectual property rights are taken into consideration, and that campaign materials do not bring disrepute to SAMU and MacEwan University. On this basis, the CRO has exercised this power, and rejected material that might

be problematic for reasons of appropriateness and for potential copyright infringement. Having said this, the CRO encourages creativity in the making of campaign material, while acknowledging the limitation of making a copyright infringement call on all the materials submitted. It is noteworthy, that none of the candidates in this year's councillor election brought to the CRO's attention any instance of suspected copyright infringement.

Ziegler - For CRO: do you have any policy recommendations that pertain to a candidate to running both a referendum campaign and a SC election campaign at the same time?

CRO - This issue seems to have caused some confusion, so I'd like to use this opportunity to bring clarity to the question of candidates contesting positions on Council or Executive Committee and running a referendum campaign. While the Election Procedure does not address this issue explicitly, I offer the perspective that it is entirely acceptable for a candidate running for a seat on Council or on the Executive Committee to participate in referendum campaign as a democratic right of being a student. Each student, including candidates, should not be barred under any circumstance from participating in referendum campaign or to signal their support for or against a referendum question as part of their election campaign. SAMU does provide students the opportunity to mount YES or NO campaigns on referendum questions, and candidates are eligible to engage in this process, if they fulfill all the financial reporting requirements of the election process. My policy recommendation is as follows: Make it explicit in the Election procedure that candidates running for Council or Executive Committee positions have the legitimate right to campaign in a referendum as part of the exercise of their democratic right as members of SAMU.

Ziegler - For CRO: do you have a policy recommendation on how to make the use of the word mandatory consistent throughout the election documents?

CRO - There is reference in the nomination package of "mandatory" attendance at the All Candidates Meeting. This reference is not part of the Election Procedure. This contrasts with the use of the word for Students' Council Training and Students' Council Refresher, both activities are tied to Governance Transition Policy. As mentioned in my report, there was a request to disqualify a candidate for non-attendance at the All Candidates Meeting. This request was rejected by the CRO. While the All Candidates Meeting is designated as "mandatory," it is designed to have candidates have access to the same information, and allows candidates to send their representatives to attend in their absence.

or to miss the meeting for extenuating circumstances upon notification of the CRO. I recommend that we maintain this flexibility, as there is nothing in the Election procedure that mandates disqualification of candidates for non-attendance for legitimate reasons. I see that the election document underlines the word "Mandatory" for Student Council Training and Student Council Refresher, and uses an asterisk to refer to the Governance Transition Policy, whereas this is not done for the All Candidates Meeting. This is the correct approach, and I don't recommend any changes.

Ziegler - For VPE: what is/are the desired outcome(s) of the the Indigenization as topic: "Reconciliation through Post-Secondary Education?"

Vpe - There are a few things I would like to see accomplished with this specific topic. First, I think advocating on this issue will make it apparent to elected officials that this is something that matters on campuses— from our conversations with the Advanced Ed. Ministry and federal reps, this isn't something that they're keeping on their radar. Further, the goal is to ensure institutions have the resources they need to pursue indigenization efforts, be it through programming or courses, or whatever else is deemed appropriate. Lastly, and most importantly, I want to make sure the safety and comfort of indigenous students on campuses is not compromised, and that institutional barriers to access are limited or eliminated altogether, a goal I believe can be accomplished through the facilitation of reconciliation in post-secondary education.

Ziegler - VPE: what will the main topics of CASA's Advocacy Week conference in Ottawa be, and what are the desired goals you hope to achieve with this conference?

Vpe - The topics covered at Advocacy Week will be as follows: better supporting students with disabilities, creating a Canada Student Grant for graduate students, international student study permits and co-ops, meeting Canada's obligations to indigenous learners, the importance of fair dealing for students, and developing Open Educational Resources (OERs). The details of this are covered in the advocacy document that I circulated to all councilors at council training last week, and I would be happy to discuss these goals with council further through email or during office hours. As for the goals for this conference, it's to meet with as many relevant stakeholders to get the word out about student priorities and hopefully impact decision-making. The primary purpose of Advocacy Week is to facilitate meetings between student leaders and MPs, senators, ministry staff, and other relevant people to communicate CASA's goals, and with over 160 meetings over five days last year, our expectations are high. Additionally, as it's rather difficult to connect with certain Edmonton MPs during other times of the year, it's my hope that we can connect with them during Advocacy Week and strengthen their relationship with SAMU.

Ziegler - For VPO: what is your criteria for declaring the Townhall a success?

Vpo - We had several objectives and things we wanted to test by doing an additional town hall. For one, we wanted to try to reach out to groups of students who have said for a while now they feel disengaged from SAMU, meaning nursing and fine arts - the change in location was an attempt to do this. This was also a test run to see if an additional town hall proved to be valuable or if we could engage more students earlier on, rather than in just the winter term.

My concern was that we would not have as many people attend as the regularly scheduled town hall, or that students would seem uninterested in SAMU. But I consider it successful because we performed on par with past town halls, even exceeding our 150 printed passports. Tables were rarely empty, and if so for a short period of time, and almost 75% of the students who attended were in the faculties we were trying to reach. And although it is a little too operational, the event also came in under budget, which is also a win. So for an experimental event, I would deem it successful.

Ziegler - For VPSL: has there been any discussion as of late on expanding breakfast club?

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VpsI - No. At this time, our services team is rolling out Breakfast Club at City Centre Campus taking into consideration our added Centre for the Arts student population while working with Sysco for the

full year as our food service provider, reflecting the slight increase in the Breakfast Club budget line in our current budget compared to budget 2016-17. As noted in the GM report, we continue to see a steady rise in student attendance at Breakfast Club this year, which we're happy to see. The programs and services committee sub-committee exists to track this data and make recommendations going forward when creating future budgets, and more critically, when our programs and services move into the new SAMU Building.

### 5.2. Oral Questions

Topics include: breakfast club.

- 6. In Camera Period
- 7. Motions & Business Orders of the Day
  - 7.1. Governance Remuneration Advisory Committee and Health and Dental Sub-Committee

MOTION TO APPOINT COUNCILLOR ZIELSDORF TO THE GOVERNANCE REMUNERATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR THE 2017-2018 TERM

VPO/RUIZ

**CARRIED** 

7.2. Health & Dental Sub-Committee

MOTION TO APPOINT COUNCILLOR RUIZ TO THE HEALTH AND DENTAL SUB-COMMITTEE FOR THE 2017-2018 TERM

**VPO/SHEPPARD** 

**CARRIED** 

7.3. Audit Committee

MOTION TO APPOINT COUNCILLOR ZIEGLER, COUNCILLOR NEWTON, COUNCILLOR SPYKER, AND COUNCILLOR BEIMAN TO THE AUDIT COMMITTEE FOR THE 2017-2018 TERM

VPO/DRUMMOND

CARRIED

7.4. Budget and Finance Committee

MOTION TO APPOINT COUNCILLOR MILLIONS AND COUNCILLOR SHEPPARD TO THE BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE FOR THE 2017-2018 TERM

VPO/BIEMAN

**CARRIED** 

7.5. Bylaws and Policy Committee

MOTION TO APPOINT COUNCILLOR SHEPPARD, COUNCILLOR ZIEGLER, AND COUNCILLOR BIEMAN TO THE BYLAWS AND POLICY COMMITTEE FOR THE 2017-2018 TERM

**VPO/ZIEGLER** 

**CARRIED** 

7.6. Leadership and Engagement Committee

MOTION TO APPOINT COUNCILLOR DRUMMOND, COUNCILLOR ZIELSDORF, AND COUNCILLOR SPYKER TO THE LEADERSHIP AND ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE FOR THE 2017-2018 TERM

VPO/SHEPPARD

CARRIED

7.7. Appointment Advisory Committee

MOTION TO APPOINT COUNCILLOR QADERI TO THE APPOINTMENT ADVISORY
COMMITTEE FOR THE 2017-2018 TERM

**VPO/MARLER** 

**CARRIED** 

7.8. Programs and Services Sub-Committee

MOTION TO APPOINT COUNCILLOR DRUMMOND TO THE PROGRAMS AND SERVICES SUB-COMMITTEE FOR THE 2017-2018 TERM

**VPO/RUIZ** 

**CARRIED** 

7.9. External Advocacy Ad Hoc Committee

MOTION TO APPOINT COUNCILLOR SNOW AND COUNCILLOR QADERI TO THE EXTERNAL ADVOCACY AD HOC SUB-COMMITTEE FOR THE 2017-2018 TERM

**VPO/DRUMMOND** 

**CARRIED** 

7.10. Students' Council Review Committee

MOTION TO APPOINT COUNCILLOR STRAYER, COUNCILLOR MASSON, AND COUNCILLOR RUIZ TO THE STUDENTS' COUNCIL REVIEW COMMITTEE FOR THE 2017-2018 TERM

**VPO/BIEMAN** 

**CARRIED** 

7.11. Awards Sub-Committee

MOTION TO APPOINT COUNCILLOR MARLER TO THE AWARDS SUB-COMMITTEE FOR THE 2017-2018 TERM

VPO/STRAYER

**CARRIED** 

7.12. Student Refugee Program Ad Hoc Sub-Committee

MOTION TO APPOINT COUNCILLOR SNOW AND COUNCILLOR MILLIONS TO THE STUDENT REFUGEE PROGRAM AD HOC SUB-COMMITTEE FOR THE 2017-2018 TERM

**VPO/NEWTON** 

**CARRIED** 

7.13. Governance Transition policy

MOTION TO APPROVE THE GOVERNANCE TRANSITION POLICY ON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE BYLAWS AND POLICY COMMITTEE

VPO/VPE

**CARRIED** 

7.14.

- 8. Consultation
- 9. Evaluation
- 10. Recognition

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# 11. Adjournment

MOTION TO ADJOURN

**ZIEGLER** 

**CARRIED** 

Next Meeting Date: December 20, 2017

Meeting adjourned at 7:40pm