

Transcript of August 15, 2018 Students' Council meeting

Speaker Key:

CH	Chair, Timothy Jobs
PRE	President Parvin Sedighi
VPE	Vice President External Andrew Bieman
VPA	Vice President Academic Jackie Kent
VPO	Vice President Operations Emma Patterson
VPSL	Vice President Student Life Tansy Spyker
CASN	Councillor Aubrianna Snow
CAST	Councillor Alycia Stewart
CCB	Councillor Cole Baker
CJMA	Councillor Jacob Marler
CJME	Councillor Jaden Melech
CJMI	Councillor Jared Millions
CKS	Councillor Kent Strayer
CLR	Councillor Luis Ruiz
CMY	Councillor Matthew Yanish
CRD	Councillor Rachelle Drummond
CSM	Councillor Sylvie Masson
CSN	Councillor Spencer Newton
CSQ	Councillor Sophia Qaderi
CVS	Councillor Vanessa Sheppard
GS	Guest Speaker

00:00:00

CH Item 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 Nakawé (Saulteaux), Siksika (Blackfoot), Nakota Sioux (Stoney) and other nations.

Item 2: Approvals. 2.1 we have a motion. Councillor Ruiz.

00:00:43

CLR I move to approve the agenda for August 15th, 2018.

CH Thank you. Do we have a second? Thank you, Councillor Strayer. It has been moved and seconded to approve the agenda for August 15th, 2018. Is there any debate? Madam President.

PRE Thank you, Chair. I'd like to move to amend the agenda for Item 6.1: Building Update.

CH Thank you. Do we have a second? Vice President Operations and Finance, thank you. It has been moved and seconded to amend the agenda to include Item 6.1 Building Update. Councillors, that's in the in camera period, just for your information. Is there any debate? Question is on the adoption of the motion to amend the main motion to include Item 6.1 SAMU Building Update. Those in favour? Thank you. And opposed? Motion carries. Just for your information, councillor's amendments to the agenda require a three quarters majority and so that motion carries.

Back to the main motion, motion to approve the agenda for August 15th, 2018 as amended. Is there any debate? Question is on the adoption of the motion to approve the agenda for August 15th, 2018 as amended. All those in favour? Thank you. And opposed? Motion carries. That's unanimously.

Item 2.2: Motion. Councillor Yanish?

00:02:21

CMY I move to approve the minutes of July 18th, 2018.

CH Thank you, councillor. Do we have a second? Vice President of Academic, thank you. It has been moved and seconded to approve the minutes of July 18th, 2018.

Before we move to debate councillors, I'll just note that the minutes are not included in the agenda package for you and were sent out 30 minutes ago. So my recommendation is that we postpone the approval or debate of the minutes until we've had adequate time to review those. The minutes believe it or not are quite important as a record of what has occurred at these meetings so I think it's your due diligence to be able to review those, I don't think there's any risk to the organisation if we postpone a vote to the following meeting.

So if anyone out there would entertain a motion to postpone to the following meeting, I would happily take that. Madam President.

PRE Thank you, chair. I move to postpone the discussion or debate of the minutes to the next meeting.

CH Thank you. Do we have a second? Thank you, Councillor Sheppard. It is moved and seconded to postpone to the following meeting. Is there any debate? Question is on the adoption to postpone to the following meeting. All those in favour? Thank you. And opposed? Motion carries and that supersedes the following motion.

Item 3: Presentations. Item 3.1, Career Development and Experiential Learning. I believe the Vice President Academic is going to introduce our guest.

00:03:56

VPA Hello, friends and family. Subsequent to a meeting that was held between SAMU and recruiting...

GS ... way of booking those workshops. Sometimes this applies to specific clubs that are interested in that kind of thing. We also have a free online programme called Navigating My Career Journey. This does not necessarily talk about resumes and job search. It's more about your decision making in career planning. So career planning is a developmental thing and I always talk about being in your career as you walk in the door at your university. So you are in your career right now. And what you're doing is exploring options, some of which you want, some of which you're going to say no to. Which is a really good process. It needs to happen.

Career planning is a process, it's not an answer to a question at the end of your graduation. And so this programme is on Blackboard free for all students to use and it walks you through self-evaluation, self-assessment, decision making, how to explore careers, where to go to look for information about careers. It's all about the internal processes and also activities that you can do. [Unclear] knows about it because she worked in student leadership.

00:05:34

So it's a resource that helps you learn strategies. They can do this anytime. They can look at it then do some other things then go back to it. They can do it over Christmas break in their pyjamas and nobody is going to care. So they can send us emails asking questions on careerjourney@mcewan.ca if they're halfway through and they're not sure what's going on next. Learn about yourself, build your foundation and explore new interests at different career opportunities. Learn your programme.

One of the things we find is that students have difficulty interpreting their experience. We call it translation. How you translate your experience with SAMU to a resume to explain it to an employer. And how do you bring that information together so the employer gets what you're talking about. That's what this should help you with.

So this is a list. Who should I send this to? And you can distribute it.

I hope I have enough time here, but I want to show you a little video.

00:06:51 [Video]

00:09:34

So that's all about Navigating My Career Journey. So what I want to do next is take you into MacEwan Works. MacEwan Works is a jack of all trades, it does everything for you. It has here under career, appointments. You can find the olive coloured ones are the open appointments. Students can book via MacEwan Works their appointment. They can also do that anytime, in the day or night when they want to book. If it turns out that there are no open appointments, you would have a blank white thing coming up. Because we only load new appointment opportunities two weeks in advance.

00:10:26

The reason we do that is, first of all, if somebody books three weeks in advance, they may or may not show, for one. And secondly, we have other activities that we do,

workshops and presentations and seminars and such. So we only have opening for two weeks but every Friday afternoon, new appointments will be loaded so there will be new opportunities to book. So that is that part of MacEwan Works.

On MacEwan Works too, this is something we really want to promote to students because we're finding that they don't know this is here. Job postings. And there are job postings for part-time, summer, full-time. There's also placement opportunities, there are also volunteer opportunities so you can filter in various ways. And we have 3000 employers that are registered on MacEwan Works. We have 300 open job postings at any one time, more or less. The fact that students don't know about this is really discouraging to us because the employers are looking for students and they want to connect with students.

00:11:48

What we could really use your help with is to let students know there is this job board and it's MacEwan specific. We vet every single job that goes through there to make sure that there is nothing fishy about it. It's not like Indeed or Kijiji or something like that. And that it's appropriate for somebody going to university. And we also vet all the employers. So all those 3000 employers, at one point somebody checked them out to make sure they had a website, that there was nothing about them on the Better Business Bureau site, that kind of thing.

There is also events and presentations. We have an events calendar. There's nothing there now but there will be. So when we have events like the Get Involved Career Fair, which will be on September 19th, there are 28 community agencies coming, looking for volunteers. So any students that need volunteer experience for going on into the programmes that they're in or students that just want to help out in the community. That event will be on September 19th, in the multipurpose room.

And then on October 3rd, we have over 30 graduates in law schools coming and they will be in the atrium and that fair is also open to any students who have questions about further education after MacEwan.

Then we have on February 13th, the Get to Work Career Fair. Last year we had 70 employers here. I always think of fairs as an opportunity, not just to get a job or to get an opportunity, but it's also to learn. So if you're a history major and you're walking in there and there's a plastics company, would they hire you? Well how do you know? Go and talk to them, that's what they're there for. They pay money to meet students. So students shouldn't be shy. Come and talk to the employers, they'd love to meet with you.

00:14:05

Also on this, on our calendar, we're going to have our employer recruitment. So there are things like a display table. Let's say for example, Study Buddy which is an organisation that's looking for volunteers to help out in schools. Anybody who would like to be a teacher really should have that kind of volunteer experience. Study Buddy will be here, they will have a display table in front of our area, Building 7, and they will be looking to meet with students and to sign them up to help out in the schools.

Sometimes we have employers that are actually wanting to tell you about their company and what they do and what kind of positions they might hire for. Sometimes it's for part-time jobs or summer jobs. The employers pay us money so that they can meet you. And they also have information sessions. Sometimes they will set up a session, we usually book those over lunch for the employers, like around 11:30 to 1:00, something like that. They will be booked in a classroom and they'll talk to you about their company, about their opportunities, about their expectations for applications, that kind of thing.

So all of that information would be on this events. It's also on our social media. We have [unclear] Facebook, and [unclear] Twitter account. We do Snapchat once a week as well.

00:15:32

And then the other thing is career resources. People don't realise this is here so if you can't get us for any reason, let's say you're in a big hurry and you've got to get your resume done, you can scroll down here for an article on how to prepare your resume. It's right here for you. Sometimes there's videos connected to this as well. So the resources are handy-dandy.

And then the other thing I want to talk to you about is, for those clubs that want to book a presentation, they would go right here to book. And then the other thing is the co-curricular record. Co-curricular record is there are positions in here for SAMU so anybody who has been, and [unclear] can tell you all about the co-curricular record. So when you go here and you look at the SAMU clubs, these are the opportunities that you can check off and get recognised for doing by MacEwan University.

And if you just want to take one of these, as many as I have, you can hand out and then show them around to other people This is just a sample of a co-curricular record.

So that is not in my area, that's in the Student Leadership area but we believe it's really important for career development that you are able to identify the things that you did here at MacEwan, and how you contributed and you can talk to an employer about it and there's physical proof from MacEwan that you did those things. Any questions?

00:17:22

?? I've a question submitted from Councillor Masson who has just gone away from here. She said in terms of navigating your career journey, will there be any further recognition of students that use this on Blackboard, such as the printable certificate?

GS Yes. They get little badges when they complete each module right in the programme itself. And then when you finish, you just send us an email that you're done, we will enter. We have not yet had that but we'll enter a position in the co-curricular record. They will be able to get a co-curricular record stating that you've completed it. Anything else?

?? It's been very underutilised by students?

GS Yes and we wish it was utilised more. We launched last year and we have 130 students on it at various stages. But we love for more students to take advantage of it. Also faculty can use parts of it. They wouldn't do the whole thing but if they want to use parts of it in their programming, like if they have a placement course and they would like to include some of that, they're welcome to do so. They just need to come talk to us about how they can do that.

Anything else?

00:19:01

I just want to show you on the PowerPoint there are some videos on MacEwan Works. I'll send that out to you guys and you'll be able to see. Right now we have 3187 active employers. Here is a sample of the co-curricular record.

Coming up with MacEwan Works is an upgraded platform, same company, the same vendor called Orbis. They are actually going to upgrade into a thing called Outcome which will be the co-curricular record on steroids. Where the student will be able to pull in their work experience placements as well as co-curricular not for credit activity, as well as being in leadership with SAMU. All of those will be pooled together and the student will actually have a student experience record. That will be launched likely in January. We have the contract, we're working on it, we're trying to figure out all the things that it can do.

We are also wanting to expand the use of MacEwan Works to include Student Success, which is a writing and learning support. They have many resources that they would like students to be able to access which would be on here.

Wellness and psychological services, they have the inquiring mind programme that you might have heard about. The resources for that will be on there. So if you have ideas or suggestions around other ways we could use MacEwan Works, in different areas of student affairs, including what we do in career development, please feel free to chat to Dr Wells about that. So we're just talking about that now, just starting on it as we're getting Outcome and the upgrade going.

00:20:56

Anything else you need to know? We love to have you come into our area any time. We do have some computers there that students can use. Just sit on a couch. We have Lego. Come and ask questions, we have resources that you can pick up too, like actual books. Anything else you need to know? Well, thank you so much for your time and I appreciate the opportunity, thank you.

CH Item 4: For Information. Item 4.1: Reports 4.1.1. President, any oral supplements?

PRE As reported, thank you, Chair.

CH Thank you. Item 4.1.2. Vice President Academic, any oral supplements?

VPA No, as presented, thank you, Chair.

CH Thank you. Item 4.1.3. Vice President External, any oral supplements?

VPE Yes, I have a few, thank you, chair. Last Friday, President and I met with Emily [unclear] We talked about the cause for our reason and she is going to write a letter of support for some of our parties to our Minister of Labour and to the Minister of Advanced Education, which is exciting.

I also attended Human Experiential Learning Committee Partnership. We want to see if we can expand some of our research capabilities into the student population by getting a supervisor to kind of side or oversee some of the research they do for us. Of course they would set the direction and they would research it. That's about it, thank you, Chair.

00:24:38

CH Thank you, Vice President. 4.1.4, Vice President Operations and Finance, any oral supplements?

VPO Yes, thank you, Chair. I was able to attend the kick-off meeting for MacEwan Budget Model and Restructure Review. The university is beginning a very long process to revamp their current budget model and process. And I was invited by the President's office to sit as a student representative for that process. So over the next probably seven or eight months past my term, that will probably continue so I'll update as those meetings occur. Thank you, Chair.

CH Thank you, Vice President. 4.1.5, Vice President Student Life, any oral supplements?

VPSL No. Thank you, Chair.

CH Thank you. Item 4.1.6, the report from the general manager is included in your package for your information. Two executive committee minutes of July 4th and August 2nd are provided in your package for your information.

00:25:41

Item 5: Question Period. 5.1, written questions. Thank you to the councillors who submitted written questions. Good questions this time round, as always.

Item 5.2, oral questions. I'll take questions now. Councillor Strayer.

CKS Thank you, Chair. We've recently had a bunch of meetings with elected officials. I'm not going to ask about each individual's specific because we would be here till midnight but if there was one in particular, I suppose this would be a question for the president.

CH President?

PRE Thank you, Chair. Can I actually defer this question to Vice President External?

CH Certainly. Vice President?

VPE Thank you, Chair. I think Geneve [unclear] one the more beneficial one, just because she is extremely enthusiastic about supporting us and she wants to really support on behalf of the causes. I think that was one beneficial one. The other one is very much the same thing that they don't really want to commit to anything at the moment but we are going to launch at the end of the year so we don't really know where this is going to. So that's about it. Thank you, Chair.

CH Thank you, Vice President. Councillor Strayer, any further questions?

00:26:56

CKS Yes, thank you Chair. This again is going to be referred to the President. I saw on the agenda this month, there were two mentions of SAMU values. I looked back on the past six months of this reference to change in SAMU values, I couldn't find anything. What is this changing about and can you explain? Thank you, Chair.

CH Thank you, councillor. President?

PRE Thank you, Chair. If I could, can I ask for a clarification of where these references were so I get some context to respond?

CH Certainly. Councillor Strayer?

CKS Page 22 of your package. That's the first meeting, this is from the GM report, dashboard, defining SAMU values. Now this is clearly available on the SAMU website, I'm just curious about your train of thought.

CH Thank you, Councillor. President?

PRE Thank you, Chair. Well, I can't speak to specifics because I don't have it in front of me, I believe what that is referring to is a kind of clarification around one, specifically their strategic plan and two, our approach to certain different values and providing a clear framework around those. I think there is also some mention of the SAMU metrics that we will be using to measure some of the things around the organisation, which itself is also a representation of some of the changing values for the organisation. But if given some additional time I can certainly look into that and provide further detail to Councillor Strayer outside of the meeting.

00:28:35

CH Thank you, President. Councillor Strayer, any further questions?

CKS Yes, thank you, Chair. I've got one final question, it's for the VPO. I saw a motion to approve mobile phone allowance. Just curious about it. Thank you, Chair.

CH Thank you, Councillor Strayer. Vice President of Operations and Finance?

VPO Yes, thank you, Chair. I'm sorry, could you repeat it? I actually could not hear what you said, it was muffled.

CH He said reference to a motion to approve mobile phone allowances.

VPO Yes. Currently the procedure read that those who receive mobile phone allowances within staff have to fill out a form. It's the exact same form they fill out every single month and in an attempt to streamline some administrative process it was moved to an automatic financial procedure. The procedure simply had to be updated to say rather than filling out a form, they now submit it automatically as part of our streamline process.

CH Thank you, Vice President. Councillor Strayer, any further questions?

CKS No, thank you, Chair.

00:29:37

CH Thank you, Councillor. Any further questions? Councillor Stewart.

CAST I guess this could be addressed to the President or any other executive that was present, but I understand the importance of connecting with local governments and that is early in the relationship but it was just a response to the meeting with the mayor's office. I know it's early in the relationship of communication but I'm just curious, do you see the relationship growing and the impact it will have for students. Or ways you can actually work together with the mayor's office and our local government, considering the limited jurisdiction that they have for students that was mentioned in that report.

CH Thank you, Councillor Stewart. President?

PRE Thank you, Chair. I think one of the benefits that we really see in developing that relationship is that it is with the staff in particular and not necessarily simply the representation. While currently we don't have overwhelmingly localised issues that impact students, that is something that will come up in the future, especially with changing transit plans around the area, as well the potential for student housing to become an issue in the next five years.

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So essentially we're seeing this as an investment of our time, building that foundation so when we do have to partake in that future advocacy, that we do have those connections in City Hall, beyond just elected representatives who are going to be here one or two cycles and then out again.

Again, while there isn't a specific issue that we're kind of talking about now, we do feel that it's valuable. I'd also like to point out that we also understand that it's important to focus on issues that are happening currently, which is why we've had several meetings with the provincial government and provincial representatives but we're still going to need the mayor's office.

CH Thank you, President. I'm going to allow Councillor Stewart to follow up if she wishes. Councillor Stewart, any other questions?

CAST Yes, it was just in reference to, is there a way that that relationship with the mayor's office, especially if it wants to be one that is more long-term and more focused on the future, that can be sustained and make sure that that is something that will always happen. That relationship, that communication be continued, beyond the present terms and everything.

CH Thank you, Councillor Stewart. President?

00:32:02

PRE Thank you, Chair. Yes, as a part of our transition, we obviously have someone in priority areas in terms of relationship building and strategic focus. This is obviously one of them. In the past we haven't focused so much on local government but now that we've had started that conversation, we really do believe in something that we're going to continue. We also do a good job of keeping track of where we are in terms of our relationship with other stakeholders. So I'll rely on our staff to be that touch point for future executives as well beyond just months in the office.

CH Thank you, President. Councillor, any further questions?

CAST No, thanks.

CH Thank you, councillor. Councillor Snow?

CASN I'm going to ask this on behalf of her. This is for the VPSL. How does the office of registrar plan how to address gender diversity?

CH Thank you, Councillor Snow. Vice President of Student Life?

VPSL Thank you, Chair. So the office of the registrar is actually not going to be addressing that issue directly. I mainly approach them as an initial touch point. So I wanted to find out from them, I assume I'm referencing my report where I mentioned that I met with them, is that I found out that the university is able to operate gender blind apart from adding statistics. So my hope is that the use of [unclear] can be introduced on the library side of things and that we can also use that information to work with the VP External for lobbying to apply Alberta to make it so that there's more than just the two male and female options. Under we have other at this time for applying to secondary institution. Thank you, Chair.

00:35:54

CH Thank you, Vice President. Councillor Snow do you have any follow up questions?

CASN No further questions, thank you, Chair.

CH Thank you. Any other questions? Councillor Yanish.

CMY I have a question for Vice President External. You just said that you spoke with Jason [unclear]. I was just curious what, if you remember, what he had to say about post-secondary education.

CH Thank you, Councillor Yanish. Vice President?

VPE Thank you, Chair. He essentially just told me to talk his advanced education [unclear]. They're going to be accepting submissions to form their party platform soon. Right now they're actually working on a college budget submission. I'm sure that will make it's way over to our versions of it. That's about it. Thank you, Chair.

CH Thank you, Vice President. Councillor Yanish, any further questions?

CMY Yes. This is for Vice President Student Life. Do you have any more insight into the relationship with post-secondary and what it may look like on campus?

CH Thank you, Councillor Yanish. Vice President?

0035:02

VPSL Thank you, Chair. It is a very new beginning. My hope is that it will increase the indigenisation that happens on campus and within the classroom. Right now it's facing a very difficult conversation of indigenous to tradition of knowledge keepers and what that means coming into MacEwan's environment. Hopefully next month I will have more answers after the indigenous advisory council but at this time I'm just very excited that we're getting more inclusive and that we're having stronger connection, such as that we have in other satellite campuses. Thank you, Chair.

CH Thank you, Vice President. Councillor Yanish, any further questions?

CMY No, that's it.

CH Thank you, councillor. Other questions? Okay, good question period.

Item 6.1: SAMU Building Update. We need a motion to go in camera. Councillor Sheppard?

CVS I move that we move into camera.

CH Thank you. And a second? Councillor Millions, thank you. It has been moved and seconded to move into camera. Councillors will move on to debate, assuming that it includes allowing my assistants to remain, as well as the general manager. Anyone else? That's fair? Okay. Is there any debate? Question is on the adoption of the motion to camera. All those in favour? Thank you. And opposed? Motion carries. Shut the door and our guests to come back in.

00:37:20

Item 7: Motions and Business Orders of the Day. There are none.

Item 8: Consultation. 8.1 question period effectiveness. Vice President External, over to you.

VPE Thank you, Chair. So as the chair at SCRC, we received on the evaluation forms, about question period. We are figuring out how we can improve that, if there's something wrong with the question period or if there's nothing wrong with the question period. So I'd like to hear from people around the table if there is something wrong with question period. If there isn't something wrong with question period and why is it wrong or why is it not wrong. Thank you.

CH So councillors, I'd remind you that you each have one opportunity to speak so make it count. Vice President

VP Thank you, Chair. I will use my one speak to ask Vice President External to provide more contextual information about the question and just to clarify the information that the committee is seeking in this room. Thank you, Chair.

CH Thank you. Vice President?

00:38:24

VPE Thank you, Chair. We're trying to figure out, is question period actually an issue or is this coming up as a one-off thing from an evaluation point. Or if people feel that they're reading the agenda packages and they just feel like everything in there is crystal clear and they don't feel they need to ask questions. Because they know that everything is good, they don't need to ask questions anymore because they know what's going on. Or if it needs to be more of a board discussion around question period, how we can increase more questions, with the exception of today.

CH Vice President, thank you. And Vice President, as per the policy, you may temporarily yield the floor to have question and answer so if you would like to speak your opinion, you may do so now.

VPO Thank you, Chair. I think in this regard, I fall to, just because there are no questions does not mean that it is not ineffective. If councillors feel that they've received the information that they desire, or if they utilise other informal methods to ask questions to receive information, then they don't submit questions, or they don't ask questions in the meeting, I don't necessarily see that as an issue.

I think the issue would then be if councillors feel that they do not receive information and then choose not to ask questions. At least to my knowledge, I don't hear a lot about the things that are discussing at SCRC or some of the feedback that is given. I think another point to that would be interesting for that committee is to maybe a reporting mechanism of some kind. So that if there is feedback on an informative nature of reports and things, are the councillors receiving the information? That would also help to inform this question and also inform those of us who write reports to be more informative or to be able to solve some of those other extenuating issues. Thank you, Chair.

00:40:50

CH Thank you, Vice President. Councillor Sheppard?

CVS Thank you, Chair. Just to echo some of what Vice President of Operations and Finance just mentioned, I find that a lot of councillors, especially new coming into this room can be quite intimidating and the process is quite intimidating. And learning, not only how to deal with council but also how to interact with the executive, that sometimes, yes, those questions do come more informally. And they get more of a clarification.

It might not be something that needs to be addressed in council, it might just be a clarification. Like they just didn't understand what cause was or clarification like that. So they may feel intimidated to ask those kinds of questions in a question period and would feel more comfortable doing that directly. Thank you, Chair.

CH Thank you, councillor. Other councillor, comments? Thoughts or whatsoever?

CJM Thank you, Chair. I think it's mostly comes down to the relationship with the executive. Like if you feel comfortable or not, after here, you can go to their office and ask questions. They're more approachable, it's easier to ask them informally just to get clarification. You don't have to ask in a meeting. Or I find that if it's not a heavy meeting, we tend to not ask questions. This when we talk about the building, we talk about the building in camera. The details about it, we'll ask more questions about it because of it. So engage more related topics. It's just people, most of them hardly understand the question. Which is fine because we all have [unclear] of asking the question. Thank you.

00:42:20

CH Thank you, councillor. Councillor Strayer?

CKS As a member of SCRC I would love to speak to this piece. I understand what Councillor Marler is saying, I would love to have the importance of asking questions here, even if you have talked to an executive in their office. There's a lot of times when we ask a question, just like councillor Newton followed up a question that I would have never thought of as a departmental question. We need to be comfortable with being able to discuss things with each other, regardless of whether we know the answer or not. We're not always going to know.

As a member of SCRC, I was doing a bit of research on this and to me, it came down to a couple of different reasons why we might not be getting the questions that we might want or the questions that we need. There's no reason why a meeting should last 20 minutes. To me it comes down to either people are not reading the agenda material and they don't know what to ask. Or they are reading the agenda material and they don't know what to ask because it's too informative, there's all the information that they need or there's not enough information in the agenda material.

00:43:41

To which, in my personal opinion, is a fantastic opportunity to ask questions. Because if there's a lot of material on it, then you should be able to find content to ask a question. What happened in the agency? What did you guys talk? There's ample of opportunity. So why does a meeting only last 20 minutes? Are we doing our due diligence to students when a meeting only lasts 20 minutes? Shouldn't we be able to discuss anything? Even if it gets to operation, certainly we're asking questions as due diligence.

So I was doing a bit of research on the TOR for committees. I'd be curious to hear what the other councillors believe in on standing committee submitting reports only in October. So this is a section of the TOR committees, standing committees submit reports to SC in October. Is that enough? Should it be separated out into a quarterly basis so that we know what's happening in committees? So that we have more opportunity to ask questions on the content of what's happening within in committees. Do you guys know what's happening in relationship engagement? Specifically. And that's not an indictment on relationship engagement, that's just an indictment on the situation. Thank you, Chair.

CH Thank you, Councillor Strayer. Councillors, any other comments? President?

PRE Thank you, Chair. I think the issue of questions and folks involved in the question period has been around for as long as I've been at this question table which is my third term as an elected representative here. And I'm sure well before as well. I don't see this as necessarily as any kind of structural issue. I don't think that there are procedural things that we're not doing correctly, as far as, are we getting people enough time or things like that.

00:45:41

I think there might be an issue intimidation here for sure but I think that as a former chair at SCRC, there's nothing more frustrating than seeing people say that, for example, reports are not informative enough or that they're not getting enough information. Again, the other comment of people not asking enough questions. So I think that there needs to be an acknowledgement of need for balance and that if folks are not being informed, that it is their responsibility to come forward and ask for that information because that's how they keep the executive and the organisation accountable.

I don't necessarily agree with the sentiment that a short meeting means that we're not doing our job correctly. I think sometimes there's only 20 minutes of business to discuss. So I think that that's not necessarily indicative of how well we're doing. We could spend two hours at this table asking questions that don't necessarily further any positive ends for the organisation.

I think in terms of the effectiveness of question period, the way it might be improved is if councillors could potentially communicate what is it that we're doing that does empower them to ask questions. Can we go on and make that something that we could replicate? Did you find that a particular executive writes reports very well and can the rest of us emulate that in our report and so on and so forth?

00:46:53

So again, I don't see any structural change needing to be made but I do think that perhaps it's a culture issue that we need to tackle in some other way. Really communicating well that asking questions and holding executives to account is essentially your job around this table. And if there's a barrier, it's your responsibility to speak up and knock the barrier and acknowledge. Those are my comments, thank you.

CH Thank you, President. Councillor Millions?

CJMI Thank you, Chair. In regards to the Vice President of External's question about the effectiveness, I personally feel that the effectiveness of question period is very very good discussion. I can't speak for the last meeting, but this meeting and the one before the last meeting, have been very good in my opinion. I don't feel that most of the new councillors are intimidated. Councillor Yanish and Councillor Stewart ask a couple of questions, no problem, I don't think they're too scared, it could just also be themselves.

But I don't think there's really a problem around here in meeting. Like Madam President last spoke, if it only needs 20 minutes, it only needs 20 minutes. Just because there are no questions doesn't mean there's nothing that needs to be said or that things have to be said. It's a waste of time when people repeat their questions.

I did find that for a meeting that seemed to be nothing but I counter that to Councillor Ziegler where he asked all the questions and there was a lull where nobody asked questions and they said, crap, we should ask questions. So then everybody started submitting questions and everybody filled that void. I feel like it's been a lot better since then.

00:48:29

CH Thank you, Councillor Millions. Councillor Snow?

CASN Councillor Snow wishes that the deadline for written questions were longer and that it should be encourage for people to try and address their questions in advance more often. So coming to executives in their office or emailing executives throughout and not just in council time. Thank you, Chair.

CH Thank you, Councillor Snow. Councillor Masson?

CSM I am in agreement with Council Strayer. The fact that it's a possibility that some councillors do not know what questions to pose. But as I've been informed that with more training, I feel confident that this will help those questions arise. I believe it's important to have both oral and written questions available. As well as utilising asking questions in the student councillors and VP's offices. I think it's important considering that we only meet on a monthly basis that we do have the opportunity to ask questions, either written or oral, as responsibly to us as the student body. But it's also the right the students have to have their voice heard and us to represent each of them. That's all, thank you.

CH Thank you, Councillor Masson. Any other comments? Councillor Stewart.

00:50:11

CAST I think in regards to the question being brought up by Vice President External and the committee that they sit on in regards to the effectiveness around question period, there should always be opportunities for any questions and around questions. Even if there's no questions for that particular meeting, we still need to have that space for maybe someone who might need clarification in the future. There should always be options and availability for communication, and we're talking with one another and for that to be open and for that to have a place in a meeting that can be facilitated.

In regards to my very recent experience or lack of experience rather on council, I found it somewhat intimidating. I think you have to get used to how the structure is, what kind of questions are being asked and look into fellow councillors in regards to how they're doing it, in regards to how they're asking questions. Seeing them make it happen is really great to learn from and I think you have to experience that first hand.

As well as take the responsibility to track some of the previous councillors or executives to find information that you feel you may need or to help you facilitate or help you be engaged or know how to answer those questions. So whether it be finding information that might help you be more operational or learning how to ask questions, to learn you can ask. Hopefully that's making sense.

00:51:54

Again my very recent experience so far, so this might not be a real issue or might not be acted on, but perhaps having an option towards the end of our meetings or having a short couple minute recess period before a question period. If it is possible could be something that I was thinking would be needed. In terms of sometimes things might come up in from where the executive can give a little bit more updates onto their previous report that were already submitted.

Maybe other things may inspire questions from councillors or prospectors or things that were shared previously in council or through discussions being raised. Just need a little time to sit with, not days' worth but just a few minutes to think of how to articulate that question properly. That's all I have to say in reference to the question period effectiveness.

CH Thank you, councillor. Any other comments?

Item 9: Evaluation. We'll distribute the forms.

Item 10: Recognition. Vice President?

VP I would like to recognise our governance assistants and hope they'll come back.

CH Councillor Sheppard?

CVS Thank you, Chair. I would like to recognise the President and Vice President of Operations and Finance for their in-depth preparation and presentation.

CH Councillor Mason.

00:55:08

CSM She would like to recognise the willingness to ask questions and oral question period and thank everyone for participating. She would also like to thank and recognise the new councillors for their input and all those that are written and oral.

CH Councillor Ruiz?

CLR Thank you, Chair. I would like to recognise everybody that provided some input in the consultation item on behalf of the committee. We saw interesting feedback which we can use to make question period a lot better.

CH Councillor Strayer?

CKS I would like to recognise Alan. Alan was integral for VP External and the rest of the Student Council Review Committee in creating that consultation so props to Alan.

CH Councillor Stewart?

CAST Thank you, Chair. Although they're not here anymore I'd like to give recognition to Career and Developmental and Experiential Learning and for Vice President Academic for their presentation. Well done, thank you, Chair, on behalf of the students.

CH Any other recognition? Councillor Millions?

CJMI Thank you, Chair. I'd like to recognise everybody for making it even though it's a Blade Runner 2049 world out there, [unclear] whether you're humans or synthetics.

00:56:57

CH Any other recognition? Councillors, if you would all indulge me, I'd like to recognise Councillor Ruiz for filling in for me last month, from all accounts did a wonderful job, thank you. We were texting back and forth from Idaho with my spotty internet connection, I think the Wi-Fi was on a cow or something. But thank you very much, Councillor Ruiz. And thank you to the councillors who made it out in the middle of the summer, I'm always impressed. In the years that I've been here, this council continues to meet over the summer and the attendance is so high. Perhaps it's because of policy but I'd like to think you're all here because you want to be here. Or perhaps it's because you want to hang out with me for a couple hours.

Moving on to Item 11: Adjournment. Do we have a motion? Vice President.

VP I move to adjourn.

CH Thank you. This motion only requires one mover and is not debatable and adoption of the motion to adjourn, all those in favour? Thank you. And opposed? Motion carries. Meeting is adjourned.

00:58:08