

**Minutes for the Students' Council Meeting of the  
Students' Association of MacEwan University  
December 19, 2018 at 6:00pm in room #7-218**

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**In Attendance:**

Andrew Bieman, Vice President External  
Ruan Bouwer, Councillor  
Rachelle Drummond, Councillor  
Jackie Kent, Vice President Academic  
Emma Patterson, Vice President Operations  
Parvin Sedighi, President  
Tansy Spyker, Vice President Student Life  
Alycia Stewart, Councillor  
Kent Strayer, Councillor  
Luis Ruiz, Councillor

Matthew Yanish, Councillor  
vacant, Councillor  
vacant, Councillor  
vacant, Councillor  
vacant, Councillor

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

**Absent:**

Lee Burton, Councillor  
Jaden Melech, Councillor  
Spencer Newton, Councillor  
Lukus Ratz, Councillor

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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 DECEMBER 19, 2018**

**RUIZ/VPE**

**CARRIED**

**2.2 MOTION**

**TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 21, 2018**

**VPO/DRUMMOND**

**CARRIED**

**3. Presentations**

**4. For Information**

**4.1. Reports**

**4.1.1. President**

Provost hiring update.

**4.1.2. Vice President Academic**

**4.1.3. Vice President External**

**4.1.4. Vice President Operations & Finance**

SAMU building planning update.

**4.1.5. Vice President Student Life**

**4.1.6. Audit Committee Work Plan**

**4.1.7. Appointment Advisory Committee Work Plan**

**4.1.8. Bylaws & Policy Committee Work Plan**

**4.1.9. Budget & Finance Committee Work Plan**

**4.1.10. Executive Committee Work Plan**

**4.1.11. Governance Remuneration Advisory Committee Work Plan**

**4.1.12. Students' Council Review Committee Work Plan**

**4.1.13. Leadership & Engagement Committee Work Plan**

**4.2. Executive Committee Minutes**

Minutes of November 14, 21, 22, 28, and December 5, 2018 provided.

**5. Question Period**

**5.1. Written Questions**

Stewart - In regards to the Academic Planning & Priorities Committee (APPC) updates in their report, it is mentioned that they are recommending that Open studies students are limited to a part-time course load. If this is put in place would students be able to apply to take more classes with justification or something? Although I understand the reasoning behind it, I think this limits students abilities to choose what works for them especially if they need a few more classes and can handle that, especially if they do get access to the advising, perhaps the advising can recommend a part-time course load but also help them manage more courses if needed. What are your thoughts?

Vpa - Thank you for your question Councillor Stewart.

The proposed outline does allow for exceptions to the course load requirements for Open Studies students categorized as 'exploratory'. Exceptions explicitly outlined include if a student needs a certain number of credits (and only has 3 courses left in one semester, so they would probably make an exception) to be considered for a program and student athletes who haven't been accepted into a program but need to maintain full-time status as per sporting regulations. All exceptions would be handled on a case-by-case basis, as per the proposal.

The main argument for limiting courses for Open Studies students is that with the open credit availability (ie basically can take as many as a full course load can handle), many students ARE advised against a full course load (due to their academic success, or lack thereof) and yet they continue to take full course loads - which isn't necessarily in their best interest academic performance wise.

The majority of the students who are in this category of Open Studies are trying to get into a credit program - many of them are successful, but just as many of them are not academically successful enough to get into a credential program. On another note, the university also wants to limit the number of courses students pay for that may not apply in the end to a credential program that we do have. For example, if a student in Open Studies takes a bunch of Arts/Science courses, and is successful with admission into Nursing, many of the courses they have taken will not be able to be used for their degree.

Advising for these students would be provided by the Office of the University Registrar, and would be for providing guidance on which courses to take to get into certain MacEwan programs, which courses are available, etc. It is not intended to assist students with help in the courses they are in.

I understand what they are proposing and why, but I am not sure if I agree yet.

Hope this answers your question.

**5.2. Oral Questions**

**6. In Camera Period**

**6.1. Building Update**

***MOTION TO GO IN CAMERA***

***PRES/VPO***

***CARRIED***

***MOTION TO GO OUT OF CAMERA***

***PRES/RUIZ***

***CARRIED***

**7. Motions & Business Orders of the Day**

**8. Consultation**

**9. Evaluation**

**10. Recognition**

**11. Adjournment**

***MOTION TO ADJOURN***

***YANISH***

***CARRIED***

Next Meeting Date: January 16, 2019

Meeting adjourned at 6:28pm.