

2019-03-20 SC – Audio Recording

Speaker Key:

CH	Chair
CDR	Councillor Drummond
VPE	Vice President External
CSTR	Councillor Strayer
VPO	Vice President Operations and Finance
DBO	Director of Building Operations, Darryl Kostash
PRE	President
VPA	Vice President Academic
VPSL	Vice President Student Life
CST	Councillor Stewart
CRU	Councillor Ruiz
DPS	Director of Programs and Services
GM	General Manager of SAMU
DM	Director of Marketing
CHA	Councillor Hassan
CSI	Councillor Simpson
CNE	Councillor Newton
CDY	Councillor Dykes
CBO	Councillor Bouwer
UF	Unknown Female
UM	Unknown Male

00:00:00

CH So, we'll call this meeting to order.

The Students' Association of MacEwan University is situated in the centre of what we call the city of Edmonton, which is called Amiskwaciw 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.

00:01:01

Before we begin, Councillors, we have a number of individuals calling in, so I just want to confirm who we have on the line and where. I believe Councillor Drummond is on the line. Councillor Drummond, can you hear me okay?

CDR Yes, I can.

CH Excellent, and we have the President and Vice President External on the line. Can you hear me okay?

VPE Yes, we can hear you, Chair.

CH Excellent. Do we have anyone else teleconferencing? No? Excellent. Item Two, approvals to Part One. We have a motion? Councillor Ruiz?

CRU I move to approve the agenda for March 20th, 2019.

CH Thank you, Councillor. And the second? Councillor Stewart? Thank you. It has been moved and seconded to approve the agenda for March 20th, 2019. Is there any debate? The question is on the adoption. The motion is read. All those in favour? Please raise your placards. Thank you. And opposed? Motion carries.

Item 2.2. We have a motion? Councillor Strayer?

CSTR I move to approve the minutes of February 20th, 2019.

00:02:14

CH Thank you Councillor. And the second? Thank you Councillor Bouwer. It has been moved and seconded to approve the minutes of February 20th, 2019. Is there any debate? The question is on the adoption. The motion is read. All those in favour? Thank you. And opposed? Motion carries.

Before we move on to the next item, we've got a live studio audience, so I just want to welcome all of our guests sitting in the back there. Too many of you to name, so just welcome. We'll move on to Item Three. 3.1, SAMU Budget 2019–2020. I believe Vice President Operations and Finance is leading this presentation. You have 30 minutes.

VPO Thank you, Chair. Sorry, [unclear]. That's okay. Thank you very much. Okay, welcome. Hello. Nice to see you all here. I am going to do an introduction of the guests that we have here, as they are pertinent to this discussion. So, if we moving from... This is the left side. Left to right, here. We have Darryl, he's our Director of Building Operations; we have Justin, who is our Director of Finance; Gwen, who's our General Manager; Jaime, who is our Director of Programs and Services; Iwinet, who is our Director of Marketing and Communications; and we have Marlena here, who is our Communications Strategist as well.

There may be a time, depending on the question, where I will refer to them, as they are the experts on some of these things. They are also the ones who built the vast majority of the budget, so I will refer to them, as they're the ones who will have more information.

00:04:04

This is my presentation to Students' Council of the current operating budget. Thank you, hello. I am going to discuss briefly the budget process, how we built the budget, what goes into it. I'm going to explain the different components of the budget, what goes into the physical document. Some high-level overview of the changes in the different departments, and those that will be marked in your budget, as well as go over some Board oversight responsibilities that we will be addressing here.

We start building the budget in November. In November, all of the managers in the Association are tasked with evaluating, modifying, and building their respective department budgets. They work closely with their direct supervisor and the directors to ensure that the strategic vision and the reporting structure is there, as well as make sure that their numbers are correct, vetted, etc. In January is where the directors and the GM get together. They review all the departments. They consolidate the budget and balance it, basically. This is where I myself would come in, as technically the Director of Department 11 and 12 at this time, and I come in to present those budgets that I am responsible for to that team, and we balance accordingly.

February is where we had presentations of all the departments to Budget and Finance Committee. Some of the nitty gritty of the budget from each of the directors was given. And here we are, March, is where the presentation of the budget to Students' Council is taking place. Almost six months of work goes into this document. It's something that we're very confident in. It was passed unanimously by BFC when it was recommended, so I have good confidence in this budget at this time. And I want to stipulate that.

00:06:17

The budget is broken up into a series of sections, and I did try to identify these in the brief that was attached in your agenda package. The budget is comprised of two sheets per... Well, two, technically, two sections for each department, one being the goals and strategies and metrics as imaged here, and the other one is the attached GL lines and references. I'm going to be going through this sheet for the most part, for each of those departments.

One thing that I do think is really important for Council to be aware of is the strategic plan. The strategic plan was passed in 2018 by Council at that time. It was seven months of work to put in this strategic plan, and it is made up of the mission, vision, and values of the organization, as well as goals and strategies to achieve those goals.

Specifically within the budget, we focus on the seven strategic goals as listed here. These are the goals that SAMU commits to attempting to achieve throughout their strategic direction and their operation.

Each department, when they create their budget, has a mandate to tie all their expenditures to strategic goals. If we are out of line from our strategic plan and our strategic vision, arguably we should not be spending those funds, which is why we go through the exercise of tying them to our strategic plan, to make sure that we fit the vision of the Students' Association as set by students. That's the fundamental governing principle of who we are, and it's found in this document.

00:08:06

I'm going to go very briefly into a breakdown of some of those components, so the first being fixed costs. Fixed costs can be made up of a variety of things, but they're constant costs, whatever the goods or the services that are produced. An example, specifically in Department One, is salaries. Those are contracted and negotiated, and so, if I wanted to cut the salary budget, can't really do that. So it is listed as a fixed cost for that purpose. We break them out individually to identify them in that section.

Next, we have all of our goals. The goals are clearly identified. They are taken from the strategic plan, and they are the overarching principle that we try to achieve. Within those goals are several listed strategies to achieve that goal, so you have to have a way to achieve the goal that you're trying to get to.

Next to that are metrics. We have to be able to tell, is our strategy successful? Are we doing a good job? Are we tracking what we need to track? There is a metric description about what we are trying to measure, as well as the target for that metric.

So in this example, the number of students to engage with during Leadership and Engagement Committee activities is our description, and we try to hit a target of 50 students every activity. This way, after our activities, we can track... We only engaged with 47. So close, we'll try something a little different. We got a 150. That's great. It's a way for us to keep accountable for the money and our activities, so that we can report on them, improve, change, etc.

00:10:02

The estimated completion date for activities is listed more for operational tracking purposes. It's partially for us to know, are we on track? If we estimate a project to be done, in this third example, by February, and it doesn't happen until May that would be of concern. We would have to be able to identify why. Why did it go this way? What were the factors to that? So, it's a tracking mechanism, mostly for internal purposes.

Then on the far side is the budget rolled up, attached to that specific goal. Some goals may have three or four different strategies to achieve them, and all of the dollar amounts to that are reflected there on the goals spreadsheet. Then, you will also see that goals and strategies are tied to different GL lines in the next page as well, so you're able to find where the money is allocated for each goal and strategy.

A new thing that was asked by BFC this year is to identify variances within the budget. So, in the past we've only ever had the total budgeted amount for that year. This year, we've added the column for the 2018–2019 budgeted amounts and variances, so it wasn't asked of BFC that any variance over \$5,000 was to be identified and provided an explanation as to why that variance exists. Part of it was because our budget is very extensive and long and to read every individual one and identity, oh, this is a \$100 different, is a little much.

00:11:52

It was the feeling of the committee that \$5,000 was an appropriate threshold for council, so rather than any variance at all because a \$100 variance may just be a cost of goods increasing, for example. \$5,000 was the threshold that was determined to provide those rationales for those variances.

I realize I'm going a little bit quickly. My apologies.

So, the next part here I want to talk about is Students' Council and its relationship to the budget. These were also presented to the budget workshop that was put on by BFC, which all councillors at the time were invited to attend. These are some of the overarching guiding principles of board governance in relation to budgets. So, the first one being does the spending align with SAMU's priorities? It should be a reflection of the strategic plan because that's ultimately what we are here to accomplish. If we had dollars that fall outside of that, that would be a concern.

The second one is can we pay our bills? Our revenues projected cover our costs, so if we had a large deficit, that would be a concern. If there were cash flow problems or associated revenue issues that would be a concern as well.

The third falls closely within that, is are we following our spending or our investment policy, so have we allocated the correct amounts by policy into those various funds that we have, and are we meeting our other financial obligations? Are there contracts or leases or agreements that we have to make sure we maintain financially? Are we meeting those expectations as set out in those agreements?

00:14:01

The fourth one here is, is there anything suspect or unjustified in those line items. Is there anything that seems highly unusual that may require a second look, so a... I don't know. I'm not going to come up with an example. I don't want to speculate, but in the event that there does seem to be something suspect or something grossly unjustified, it is the responsibility to address that here at this table.

With that introduction, I am going to go through the different department budgets, highlight some of the things that have changed, some of the things that are new, and that I think Council should be aware of that is going on. These are not new things in information, as generally they will all have been identified through that variance amount or through the colour-coding of new GL lines.

Department One is Operations. This is mostly made up of fixed costs because salaries, benefits, and things for staff, with the exception of the Executive Committee and Students' Council, fall under this department. A lot of those fixed costs make up this department. There is some new money put into our fund developer which is, I know, an interest of this board and to the development of plans for revenue generation and things like that, so special note for that.

00:15:33

We've increased our consultants as well, as we move into our new building. As we try to develop HR practices, for example, that will be an increase of funds that is needed. We have a new dedicated line specific to SAMU Cares, which is our

bursary foundation just to make sure that we track it correctly, that it's stipulated on our financial statements, as it is a fund that we have. And the SAMU building levy is a brand new section because this will be the first year that it actually happens, so it is incorporated in there to reflect that we're moving into the new building in this fiscal year.

Department Two within marketing. One of the bigger changes is they have new building marketing initiatives for the new building, so there's a fund available for them to create some buzz about the building, what's happening, give away some prizes to try and create hype around the building, some marketing initiatives for the space specifically, which I am very excited to see how that rolls out. But there's a fund available specifically for that purpose.

One of the big changes is Department Four is a brand new department here, which is the building operations. It's coloured all blue for new because none of them have existed before this time.

Some of the things captured within this department, but are not limited to the development of retail, tenant improvements, construction, things like that. Health and Safety have the space. Waste Management have the space. IT and tech that we will be having is housed there, as well as other general building operations, so maintenance, all of those kinds of things are captured within this one. So that's very exciting that we get this department now because that makes it all the more real.

00:17:48

Department Five and events. A new one that's very exciting is the introduction of a year-end event. This is something that we have heard from students in the past, saying it would be nice to have a closer event, so I'm excited to see this on our budget. A change in our Winter Fest to a Winter Week introduction as opposed to a one event, a more spread out week event, is a test pilot which I'm also excited about.

There's some new programming. There's a new programming budget line, so our events department can experiment, try some new events out, see how they work. And then our reading break trip, which this year was new programming, now has a permanent spot, which is very exciting.

Department Six is also technically new. It is broken out from Department Ten, so previously Department Ten was programs and services. We felt that it was more appropriate to distinguish the two, as there are two different managers who are responsible for them. Department Six now exists as the Services Department. There's no real dramatic changes in this, other than the increase in breakfast club funding to account for the breakfast club activities in the new building.

Department Eight is Alberta College campus. They have had an increase in their programming and in their events. Our Alberta College campus has great turnout for their events, which is really great, so we want to provide them with more funding to continue to get bigger and better while we have the space available and to engage those students.

00:19:38

We see it as an investment in them because a lot of those students do move over to City Civic campus, and eventually all of them will be. We notice that they are very well-attended and very well-engaging, so we want to invest a little bit more in those programs, which is great.

Department Nine is renamed for Student Groups. It used to formerly be called clubs, but now it's student groups per the policy that we all passed last month.

The only real change here is the Campus Vibe software, which technically does not sit in this department; it sits under the building because it's an IT-related software. But because it is specifically geared for student groups, I've captured it here for your information. It's a software that will be able to do group training and things like that online as opposed to in-person, which is cool thing that we're going to be working on.

Department Ten is renamed Programs from Programs and Services. The student refugee program has been moved into this department. There's an increase in money for sustainability, specifically sustainability audits of various departments, as well as increased fundraising for artworks and the great gallery, which is a service that we feel is a little under-utilised, so we want to try to increase that.

Department 11, Advocacy, you may have noticed no longer exists. Department 11 was collapsed, and the vast majority of it moved into department 12, Governance. So, we, we meaning myself, I guess, absorbed department 11. Things like travel costs for the Advocacy Coordinator, the affiliations and memberships of our advocacy organisations, advocacy campaign costs, as well as external government relations, all now sits in department 12 as opposed to 11.

00:21:55

We also divided the elections GL into two, one for Students' Council and one for Executive Committee, so that we could just track them a little bit better. We increased the conference grants as well for students, which is really exciting. We've seen a great utilisation in those. We've increased the SAMU legal fees substantially, partially because we have a lot of legal needs in the next year with the building, so around tenant leases, agreements, HR signing, all of those kinds of things will require legal opinions. We want to make sure we have funding available to cover those bases.

I didn't go through all of the departments. I went through the ones that had substantial enough change. The ones that I did not mention are still important, but they weren't substantially different that I felt it needed to highlight, just for your information.

If we look at the high-level projections for this year, this is our fiscal breakdown. Our revenue at 6.4, our expense at 6.3. We net approximately \$175,000 at this time.

00:23:20

Here is the five-year projection. This is not new information. This has been chaired with you previously in other discussions, but here it is again for you here over the next five years, assuming a slight increase in costs, increase in the student fee as

is stipulated in the policy, and then a slight increase in expenses at the same rate, so this is our five-year projection for the budget.

The high-level board oversight is about the goals, strategies, and the strategic direction, as I've listed previously in those four points. I want to make sure that that is clearly identified, that I believe that our focus should be sitting within these sections of the budget. I think that that is where our responsibility lies.

With that, that is my presentation on the operating budget. I am able to take questions at this time. If it's specific to GLs or more specific to the budget, I personally believe that it should sit within the motions and orders of the day when we go to the budget, but I will take any questions at this time about the presentation or other things about the budget you would like to discuss. Yes?

CST I just had a quick clarification of that in regards to when you say the 2018–2019 budget that was the previous budget cycle. The total is indicating this budget, correct?

VPO Yes, so the total column is listed as the budgeted expense for the 2019–2020 budget. The 2018 column is for the budgeted amounts. They are not actuals. They are budgeted.

00:25:30

CST Thank you.

VPO Yes?

CSTR Vice President Operations, I've just got some concerns about the revenue that we're generating off the new building. I'm curious if you would talk a bit more about that, please.

VPO Can you please be more specific.

CSTR In my personal opinion, there's more opportunity for revenue to be generated. The amount right here shows that it's fairly limited April through June 2020. That's a very small sum. What more is being done in the future to increase revenue for the building?

VPO That's a good question. I may direct it to Darryl, if he would like to speak to it.

DBO So if you notice here, you just noticed April to June. We have [unclear]. That doesn't [unclear] be paid out. We don't have money for [unclear], so what we're doing is free rent and a little bit of incentives. June, July, and August are rent-free period as well, so they won't generate revenue.

00:26:40

The following year [unclear], so they pay per square foot, and then they'll be paying a percentage on top of that. That's how we're going to increase that, but for the first year, we don't have a lot of cards on the table for getting a quality tenant. That's where you're at with that. Does that answer your question?

CSTR Yes, to a certain extent. Right now, as it currently sits, all I see is RBC as a prospective tenant. Is this [unclear]?

DBO Pardon? No, we have five short-listed right now, and we got that [unclear] that's [unclear]. RBC was never a plan for this building. It was something we just thought about. We had a space that wasn't really being utilised, so that's actually extra.

That was basically never used, but we use it for the SAM Centre. But the SAM Centre really isn't generating anything, where RBC can come in and be here for the students. And it's not a bank; it's more of a learning centre for them, and they're going to be paying rent and [unclear]. Again, RBC actually wanted a lot of money for incentives, and we hard lined them with, no, we don't have incentives for you, and they're still coming.

CSTR Sorry, may I continue?

VPO Yes.

CSTR So the U of A has the Daily Grind. The Daily Grind generates roughly, I think it was \$200,000 a year in profit, which is fairly substantial. Don't quote me on the number, specifically, but it's give or take something like that. What thoughts have been going into having a Students' Association-run business client?

VPO It was considered. We don't have the capacity at this time.

00:28:42

CSTR The kids would be all over that.

VPO Well, a brand new space, it requires a large investment, an investment that at the moment, we don't have the capacity to support. Is it something that we could look into in the future? Sure. It's not another risk that we want to take, given that there are other risks associated with opening a new space for the first time.

CSTR How long is the tenant agreement for... Sorry, I'm recognising that this is operational, but I think this is [unclear], too approve this. How long is the tenant agreement for [unclear]?

VPO Depends on the negotiation. I don't have details.

CSTR I'm sorry. I'm going to need more than that.

VPO The tenants have negotiated on their agreements, so I don't have negotiated details to stipulate how long they would stay.

CSTR Hypothetically, three years from now, we could start having discussions about having a student-operated business [unclear]?

00:29:46

VPO Potentially. Other questions? Okay. I think my time is up.

CH Thank you for the presentation. We've finished with two minutes to spare. Okay. Are we recording? Okay. Item Four for information. Item 4.1 Reports, 4.1.1. President, any oral supplements?

PRE Yes, thank you, Chair. Just to add to the regular report that I provided, the VP External and I are currently at the Canadian [unclear] Students' Association at a meeting conference in Halifax, Nova Scotia. This, you will recall, [unclear] is 9:34

pm local time, and we will be working on a number of different updates and reviews for the year.

[Unclear] will be working on a couple of policies that I have the time to work on this year, including our sexual violence policy, as well as a mental health policy. So, that's where we're at, and that's really the only addition I have to my report. Thank you.

CH Thank you, President. Item 4.1.2, Vice President Academic, Any OL supplements?

VPA Yes, thank you, Chair. At my meeting on Monday with the Information and Technology Management Committee, we were given a presentation on the new rollout of the academic calendar on the website. This is more so just for your information because I think it's cool how they've done it.

It used to be printed in a book; however, now it's actually fully online and you can navigate all of the pages, which is super user-friendly. I think it's calendar.macewan.ca, so you can do everything from the academic schedule, as well as Students' Services on campus and courses and program outlines of study. Basic outlines of study. So, that's really cool.

00:32:17

Yesterday we had our... Well, I guess now it's called our General Faculties meeting, so as at February 1st, the changes to the Post-Secondary Learning Act, which we've mentioned in previous reports, have become official. We will now be referring to Academic Governance Council as General Faculties Council. At this meeting, the event and governance shifts that will be going forwards due to this legislation.

At this meeting as well, the Bachelor of Fine Arts proposal from the faculty of Fine Arts and Communications was approved at General Faculties Council. I'll say at this point, with some certainty, that Board of Governors is the next step, but in future, for the future degree and program proposals, that will no longer be the case. The General Faculties Council will be the final institutional body that decides academic matters at the institution, so that's really cool.

We also were able to view the Alumni Association Charter and Policy for discussion at this meeting. As part of the Post-Secondary Learning Act, an alumni association is required to appoint a chancellor and to appoint two alumni to the new Board of Governors seats on the Board of Governors. So it was really cool to look at the outline charter and policy that they've drafted up. So, that's all, Chair.

00:33:53

CH Thank you, Vice President. Item four one three, Vice President External, any OL supplements?

VPE No, [unclear]. Thank you, Chair.

CH Thank you. Four one four, Vice President Operations and Finance, any OL supplements?

VPO As presented. Thank you, Chair.

CH Thank you, and four one five, Vice President Student Life, any OL supplements?

VPSL No, thank you, Chair.

CH Thank you. Four one six, Town Hall, is in your package for your information, as is Item 4.2 Executive Committee minutes of February 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th, and March 6th, 2019. We've been busy.

Item five. Question period. 5.1, written questions. I believe there were none; at least, none came my way. Item 5.2, rollout questions. We'll take questions now. Councillor Stewart.

CST Thank you, Chair. I just have a question towards the President in regards to the Board of Governors' meeting mentioned in their report; I'm just curious what they mean when it says that there's a paring down of the number of board committees and why that was done? Thank you, Chair.

CH Thank you, Councillor. President?

00:35:02

PRE Thank you, Chair. Yes, so the Board of Governors went through a really comprehensive review, and they hired an external governing firm, essentially, to do that review, the reason being that compared to institutions of our size, we have almost double the number of committees at the Board of Governors level. What this meant was board members were typically on at least two board committees, and so they would have to take on [unclear] chair.

It became really difficult for that to manage and for committees to meet regularly and in order to be effective. What the Board was recommended to do by the report that was released by this firm, was to cut down on the number of committees that we had to emulate a little bit more what the industry standard is for institutions of our size and the boards of our size.

We also introduce, and this is something I had mentioned in my report, but we also introduce a vice general, which we did not have previously, but again was fairly common among institutions of our size and of our mandate. So we moved more toward that way to be a little bit more consistent with what the post-secondary standard is in Canada and to make the workload of the Board both more manageable and more relevant to the mandate. So that's where we've landed on, and so the number of committees reflect that.

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The one question that did come up during that time is which committees that constituency members, so that's myself, the Staff Association member and the Faculty Association member, could sit on, and there's still continuous resources enough to ensure that... Because historically, day-to-day, we'll sit on committees dealing with HR or HR audit just because [unclear]. So there's a resource ongoing to ensure that, again, we're up to par with the industry standard on those fronts as well, but so far this is where we've landed on [unclear]. Thank you, Chair.

CH Thank you, President. Councillor Stewart, anything further?

CST Yes, Chair. I just have another question in regards to the paring down of those committees. I think that makes a lot of sense, especially if that reflects the industry standards, but I'm just curious if this will have any potential effects on students or on MacEwan when it comes to committees. Is anything going to be passed over now or not looked at because of this paring down or is anything going to be swept under the rug or anything because there's going to be less committees potentially focusing on them? Does that make sense? Thank you.

CH Thank you, Councillor. President?

PRE Thank you, Chair. So much like our own Students' Council committees, the committees of the Board only make recommendations to the Board, so they don't make final approval on anything, which means that everything that they provide or recommendations will come to the Board for approval of which students or members, obviously, currently a single student and a teacher really connect to students.

00:37:56

There won't necessarily be as much of an in-depth engagement at the committee-specifics level. There's all kinds of opportunity for asking questions or engaging with those items. There's really nothing that will move forward without the entire Board giving their consent on that, or rather, majority, when it comes to consent on those issues. Thank you, Chair.

CH Thank you, President. Councillor Stewart, anything further?

CST No, that's all. Thank you.

CH Thank you. Other questions? Councillor Ruiz.

CRU Thank you, Chair. I have a question for the Vice President Academic. I was wondering if you could elaborate a little more on the new measure tool for the chancellor and the Alumni Association within Board of Governors.

CH Thank you, Councillor Ruiz. Vice President?

VPA Thank you, Chair. So, as I mentioned before, as per the Post-Secondary Learning Act, it explicitly stipulated that an alumni association must nominate the alumni members on the Board of Governors, I believe. So, in doing so, we will need to create an alumni association.

00:39:16

Essentially what we were viewing at Academic Governance Council is the charter of what the alumni association would be. Essentially, it is very similar to the Students' Association is what they propose, so anyone who is considered an alumni based on the policy, is a member of the Alumni Association, similar to us. The average student who pays student fees is a Students' Association member.

The governing body of the Alumni Association would be the Alumni Advisory Council who would purely act as an advisory council on potential issues that come up or are raised to that board. We have never had one before, so unfortunately I

can't give specifics as to if there's anything changing because this is something that's brand new to us.

The Alumni Council and the Association would not collect and fees. They don't have their own budget. The chair of the Alumni Advisory Council is the Vice President of University Relations. It's less so of a governing body and more so of an association and way of classifying our alumnae, to my knowledge. Thank you, Chair.

CH Thank you Vice President. Councillor Ruiz, anything further?

CRU Yes, Chair. Just to clarify that, that will mean the Alumni Association and SAMU will be completely different or will they still intermingle or be connected to each other?

00:41:01

CH Thank you, Councillor. Vice President?

VPA The Students' Association is made up of current students, whereas the Alumni Association is... These are all people who've left the university. Anyone who graduates, anyone who completes a transcript program, and there's one more definition in there for alumni as well. They're not related to the Students' Association whatsoever. They're a new body being proposed.

CH Thank you, Vice President. Councillor Ruiz, anything further?

CRU Not at this time, thank you, Chair.

CH Thank you. Other questions? Councillor Saylor?

CSTR Thank you, Chair. This wouldn't be an inappropriate time to ask budgetary questions continued, correct?

CH I think, Councillor, let's deal with that during the motion.

CSTR There's an opportunity for that?

CH For sure. Yes, during the debate.

CSTR Cool, thank you.

00:42:00

CH Any other questions? Councillors? Okay, we'll move on to Item Six, in-camera period, 6.1 Chair of Student Council appointment. We require a motion. Councillor Ruiz?

CRU I move to go with in-camera.

CH Thank you, Councillor, and the second? Thank you, Vice President. It has been moved and seconded to move in-camera. Is there any debate? Questions on the adoption of the motion to move in-camera? All those in favour? Thank you, and opposed? We'll move this body in-camera. I will step out, and Councillor Ruiz will take over, and I expect you to offer him the same courtesy that you do me. Thank you.

Order. Thank you. Item Seven, Motions and Business Orders of the Day. Item 7.1, SAMU Budget 2019–2020. Vice President Operations.

VPO Thank you, Chair. I move to approve the 2019–2020 SAMU Operating Budget on the recommendation of the Budget and Finance Committee.

CH Thank you, Vice President. And a second? Councillor Dykes? It has been moved and seconded to approve the 2019–2020 SAMU Operating Budget on the recommendation of the Budget and Finance Committee. Vice President, do you care to speak to your motion?

VPO Sure, thank you, Chair. I've given a 26-minute presentation already this evening, which I appreciate you indulging. I also want to reiterate that this did come at an unanimous recommendation from the Budget and Finance Committee and that those who were appointed to that committee by this council voted in favour of it.

00:44:02

I believe that there has been significant due diligence for this budget. I believe that it is reasonable. I believe that it accounts for the risk that we undertake in the next year with the various endeavours and building projects that we are engaged in. I have confidence in this budget as it is presented. Thank you, Chair.

CH Thank you, Vice President. Is there any other debate? Councillor Strayer?

CSTR Now's my time?

CH Yes, go ahead.

CSTR I've just got some questions to do with the operations mode of events. Fall Fest seems to be losing some money. Winter Fest looks to be losing some money. I recognize that these things cost a lot of money. The market, for instance, isn't going to be a big revenue generator. The building does have an opportunity to be a revenue generator. Why do these events, as through the past couple years, continue to lose money?

CH Thank you, Councillor Strayer. Vice President?

VPO Thank you, Chair. I will speak to the best of my ability, but I may pass off to our Director of Programs and Services. Part of events and Fall Fest function is as a service to students. While revenue generation is [unclear], it is not the entire purpose for which it is created. First and foremost it is a service, and so we try to produce a quality service for the students who access it.

00:45:36

There are other circumstances, such as this year with weather, that affects that revenue opportunity, but first and foremost it does act as a service that we provide. And so the revenue generation is not the largest component of it. If I may direct to the Director, is she has anything to add.

CH Certainly.

DPS Yes, first and foremost it is a service, and it's obviously a service for students. So our outlook is obviously to bring entertainment to students at a very low cost

because you're already paying a lot to attend school. The purpose is not to charge you market value of \$90 a ticket to attend a concert specifically, and closed off specifically, only to students. To get into an event that we do have at a lower cost if there is a general public ticket, it is quite a bit more expensive. Normally about five times that cost.

We also do have a plan to move Fall Fest indoors at which point it will become a larger revenue generator because there will be a ticket price to it to make it a little more exclusive. That ticket price will still remain very small because we don't want students spending more money. Unfortunately, that plan cannot come into effect until 2020, so we will continue Fall Fest in the same way that we do now, which is open concept. So students can come and go.

The location we have right now, we can't ticket it because it's not closed off well enough, so we just keep it open to all students, and we keep it free. So you're coming into to get all your swag and things like that, but it is something that has been discussed and will be looked into in the future.

00:47:28

CH Thank you. Councillor Strayer, anything further?

CSTR Yes, thank you Chair. Just for clarification, between all students and then just random students, so other students from other campuses, and then the ticket price. Is the ticket price... And again, I realize this is operational, but I'm going to go at it. The ticket prices given before including MacEwan students or this is going to be for outside...

DPS Sorry, I need a little clarification on that.

CSTR Students that are MacEwan students are going to be able to have access to it for free or it's going to be a ticket price for everyone.

CH So Councillor, I'll let this one question go because I think we've gone down this road. That's, seriously, an operational question. We're here to discuss the budget, so go ahead, Director. Vice President of Operations, I'll give you the first opportunity to respond because you're a member of this council, and then we'll direct it to the Director, if you so choose.

00:48:34

VPO Thank you, Chair. I will speak to it to the best of my ability. I think the intention is always to make sure that MacEwan students have priority and they are our focus. If we move to ticketing and things like that, I assume it will follow a similar structure to what we have now. But the MacEwan students and those that we are in charge of are our priority, so whether they are free or whether they are discount at this point is not consequential, but they are the priority and will remain that way in the decisions that we make for those events. Thank you, Chair.

CH Thank you, Vice President. Councillor Strayer, anything further?

CSTR Just a comment, Chair. Our student fees are going up exponentially. This was part of the emergency meeting that we had recently. We need, as a Students' Association, to find means of reducing the student fees as much as we can. The

students aren't rich. Cutting costs, making things as feasible as possible is prudent to the student experience. If we're not doing everything we can to generate revenue, then we're not doing our student body justice. Thank you, Chair.

CH Thank you, Councillor Strayer. Councillors, is there any further debate? Councillor Stewart.

CST Thank you, Chair. I will direct this towards the Vice President of Operations, as in Department One of operations in the budget, rule number four, enhance student experience, part B. I just have a question in regards to the metric description and some clarification on it.

B reads, provide students with disabilities to fair and easy access to SAMU-led events, programs, and services. I say that's really an awesome strategy to have. And I'll also say, above that, it mentions in A, support [unclear] by dedicating funds towards scholarships, sponsorships, and grants, and in the metric description for both of them, unfortunately, is the same. It says maintain investment level for scholarships/sponsorship.

00:50:46

My question is in part B, when it talks about addressing students with disabilities, securing easy access, the metric is still maintaining investment level for scholarships and sponsorships, and I do not see how those correlate.

When it says, again, to provide students with easy access, I understand how sponsorships can be important for students coming to campus and being a student here, but I do not see how that relates to them participating in our events and providing accessibility when it comes to ramps or an interpreter at such an event and those expenses, how that would relate to a sponsorship or scholarship when it comes to addressing disability. Hopefully that makes sense, but if they could elaborate on that metric description, that would be great. Thank you, Chair.

CH Thank you, Councillor Stewart. Vice President?

00:51:49

VPO Thank you, Chair. I will answer, again, the best that I can, but I may direct to the General Manager. This is more specific to bringing in an interpreter to an event or things like that. It creates ease of access for students who have a barrier fully engaging in those activities. For the metric to maintain that level, we want to maintain it and thereby utilise it. We don't want to see a reduction in that investment for students to utilise.

So while they may have a similar metric, they do have different objectives, but they still can be measured the same way. Receiving a grant is one way to increase accessibility to education, whereas providing an interpreter, for an example, is another form of increasing access for students to participate. They have similar objectives, which is why they're so close together and their metrics are measured the same, but they are two different activities that are stipulated separately. Thank you, Chair.

CH Thank you, Vice President. Would it be reasonable to assume that Councillors could understand the inputs into those metrics and to understand what is going into those measurements, so that question could be parsed? So, you're not only looking at the sum total, but what has gone into the actual measurement.

VPO Unfortunately, I don't know that I understand the question, but I will direct to the General Manager.

CH No, that's okay. That's fine. I can follow up with you later, and then perhaps we can have a conversation. Councillor Stewart, is there anything further?

00:53:34

CST Yes, Chair. If I could address that again, I still don't understand the metric description for that strategy, but maybe the GM can provide an explanation. Because again, I understand to provide an interpreter at an event, but why would the metric description be maintaining scholarships? If you mean provide a scholarship for the interpreter or for the student to provide that themselves, it would be providing investment into those services for students potentially, rather than a scholarship.

CH Thank you, Councillor. Vice President, could you offer clarification?

VPO I will direct to the General Manager.

CH Thank you.

GM You have identified a cut and paste issue because it's maintain the investment level in support our students. So this is for students with disabilities.

CH There's an answer to that question. Excellent, thank you, General Manager. Councillor Stewart, anything further?

CST If we were to approve a budget that has an issue like that, how does this work?

CH I think that that's a clerical error that could be addressed, and it's been admitted here, so that should be fine. Vice President?

00:54:52

VPO Thank you, Chair. All I would say to that is it doesn't change the intention of it, and the reporting of this is done internally, so internal operations can understand what it means. It will be reported on correctly, so the intention remains the same. Thank you, Chair.

CH Councillor Stewart?

CST Thank you, Chair. I have a question. So we had a presentation earlier in regards to what the total is, and I asked about the totals on the budget. It was also mentioned that the fund development expenses were going to increase for the upcoming year. Correct me if I'm wrong, but in the budget it says, total is \$7,800, but in the 2018 budget it's \$30,000, and the variance is decreased by \$22,200. But then the variance would be [unclear] increasing activity. I wonder if that's an error as well or if I'm interpreting this incorrectly.

CH Thank you, Councillor. Vice President?

VPO Thank you, Chair. So the original budget from last year was most heavily a fundamental consultant and audit, so a large part of that cost went to a third party who audited and provided a recommendation. The hiring of that individual falls under salaries, which is why it is not calculated on this specific line, and so the bulk of that activity was for that consultant. Now that it is a highered position, that activity cost goes down because it is not a third party. Thank you, Chair.

00:56:42

CH Thank you, Vice President. Councillor Stewart, anything further?

CST One more question. One second, here.

CH Councillor, can we come back to you?

CST Yes.

CH Councillors, is there any other debate? Councillor Strayer?

CSTR Thank you, Chair. I'm going to go back to events. It says under goal one that we are going to be aiming for six students to perform at events. Over a eight month, two-semester school year, that works out to less than one performer every month. To me, I would equate student performers as the same as scholarships or grants. Is six performers enough? Can we do more to promote our student body and promote the talent we got. Thank you, Chair.

CH Thank you, Councillor Strayer. Vice President?

VPO Thank you, Chair. I may refer to the Director, but I believe it is six students per event, so there's not six students over the year, but...

DPS It is not six students per event. It is six students. The numbers have been lower in the past, and we are growing that, so that six number is two more than we had in the previous year. We're also not including just the performers or music showdown.

00:58:24

And then the new programming line is also another student performance line, so we do have expectations that that number will get higher. We've given ourselves a higher goal than last year, but still an attainable goal because we need to be leery of the new programming line because we never really know how that will truly pan out. Yes, there is big intentions of more student performers next year listed within the events that we have, so we are continuing to grow that number.

CH Thank you, Director. Councillor Strayer, anything further?

CSTR No, I don't have anything. Thank you, Chair.

CH Thank you. Councillor Stewart, did you find your question?

CST Yes.

CH Okay, go ahead.

SW It was said that a Winter Week was going to be happening next year, but in the event budgeting, I'm just curious about the difference between the total again, and the budget from last year being half, or almost half... The budget for this year is almost half of what it was last year, but they said they're going to increase the Winter Week. I'm just curious about that change.

CH Thank you, Councillor Vice President?

VPO I'll refer to the Director, please.

CH Thank you. Go ahead.

00:59:50

DPS What we did is, Winter Fest was double the amount because it was outdoors, and there was a lot of logistics to it. The logistics end up taking up a lot of money. So the events team and myself sat down and figured that if we split that budget, that's what we put into the new programming line.

We could bring a whole new event to the Events Department, so half of that budget line went there. We weren't raising the total cost of the events budget overall. The Winter Week we are bringing indoors just because we've had so many issues with weather in the past, and we're spreading out by smaller events across campus throughout.

So to answer it, the logistics of having an event outside in the winter costs a lot more, so we decided to be more fiscally responsible and for the safety of students we would bring them indoors and spread it out over the week. Then take that half and put it into the new programming lines. We are not raising the overall costs of the event [unclear].

CH Thank you. Councillor Stewart, anything further?

CST I don't believe so.

CH Councillors, is there any other debate? I just want to offer other councillors an opportunity, Councillor Strayer, if there are others. Councillor Ruiz?

01:01:12

CRU I would like to, first of all, speak in favour of the motion. The budget looks pretty good, and I think that if Budget and Finance Committee passed it unanimously, that speaks volumes.

I also wanted to bring a little life to points for information. One is that as some people have said, the point of the budget, is not to nit-pick every single dismal detail, but look at it as a whole. From the numbers that I'm seeing, it looks like, as a whole, it's seems to work and it seems like a good improvement from the previous years.

And also, I just want to remind Council that should the budget pass, we can make some recommendations to Budget and Finance and it will come to us, but if it fails once again, then we will refer back to last year's budget. So when it comes to a vote, I suggest you all think about it. I really support this motion as a whole. Thank you, Chair.

CH Thank you, Councillor. Councillors, is there any other debate before I go back to Councillors Stewart and Strayer? Councillor Strayer?

CSTR Chair, I was going to move for a short recess, but I think I'm content.

CH Thank you. Councillor Stewart?

CST Yes, just one question. One more question. I know it's a bit more operational, but again, in Department One of Operations, I'm just curious about the staff health and dental benefits. What does it mean when it says in the [unclear] explanation that it's moved to self-funded benefits? [Unclear] about coverage. I just wasn't sure what self-funded benefits meant, if that's okay.

01:03:17

CH It's certainly okay. If it's in the budget document, you can ask about it, Councillor Stewart. Vice President?

VPO Thank you, Chair. Similar to how the student health and dental plan is self-funded, the staff one has moved to a similar model. I can't speak to the official coverage to that, as it is a HR-related issue. The only change is, really, how it is calculated for staff. The coverage is the same. It's just a slight shift in how the policy is worded [unclear]. I think that's about as much as I can give. It's just to follow a similar structure to the student plan with the same providers. Thank you, Chair.

CH Thank you, Vice President. Councillor Stewart, anything further?

CST No, thank you, Chair.

CH Thank you. Councillor Strayer?

CSTR Thank you, Chair. The griff represents a very small portion of our budget. I think it's important for our student experience. How has been the down take of readership, and has there been more to be done to generate revenue off the griff? Thank you, Chair.

01:04:32

CH Thank you, Councillor. Vice President?

VPO Thank you, Chair. I'll refer to the Director of Marketing.

CH Thank you. Who is that director?

DM I am. The question was about revenue for the griff?

CH Yes, revenue generating with respect to the griff.

CSTR And readership.

DM Readership, okay.

CH Let's stick to a budget discussion. I think that the revenue speaks to what you see in the budget. You can comment on the readership if you like, but we're here to discuss the budget, Councillor Strayer. Go ahead, Director.

DM Revenue plans for the griff is pretty much where it is right now in terms of averaging. We're averaging about \$10,000 dollars per year. Even though that's found in the budget, we do have some flexibilities for that to increase, and we're hoping to increase some of our off-site racks so that we can have more advertising opportunities. So yes, there's a plan to increase revenue for the griff. As it was mentioned, it's a small portion, but within marketing it is our responsibility to make sure that I can find revenue opportunities where possible.

01:05:48

CH Thank you. Councillor Strayer, anything further?

CSTR If I may, Chair, I believe readership does pertain to the legitimacy of programs existing.

CH Councillor, we're talking about a \$7 million dollar budget here. I think that we need to understand... I think we need to appreciate the scope each point of discussion, so my job here is to move the conversation along. If we're going to get into fine-level details like that, we're going to be here all day. I respect the question. I don't think that it's pertinent to the decision that we have here in front of us with respect to the budget, and I think it's something that can be taken up with the Executive at a later time. Okay? Councillors, is there any further debate?

Okay. The question is on the adoption of the motion to approve the 2019–2020 SAMU Operating Budget on the recommendation of the Budget and Finance Committee. All those in favour? Thank you, and opposed? We'll note the one opposition from Councillor Stewart. The motion carries.

Item 7.2, Students' Council Review Committee. Councillors, we have a vacancy on the Students' Council Review Committee, and Councillor Dykes, is that how you pronounce your name? Yes, okay. Thank you. Councillor Dykes has put his name forward; however, as is our custom, we will accept nominations from the floor. So we'll open a period of nominations right now. Would you care to nominate yourself or a colleague? Councillor Stewart?

01:07:37

CST Thank you, Chair. I would like to nominate [unclear] Hassan. [Unclear] great for people to be up for the position.

CH Thank you, Councillor. I'll just note that as is our custom here, we refer to each other as Councillors, so Councillor Hassan, do you accept the nomination?

CHA What I would like to say is that if everyone is entrusting me in this position, then I would absolutely like to. Hopefully I will make you proud.

CH Excellent. Are there any other nominations? Councillor Ruiz?

CRU I would also like to nominate Councillor Simpson. I think for nominating two out of the three new people that are here, I think that Councillor Simpson should also consider it, and I think it will be good to still have one of our new members as part of the committee.

CH Thank you, Councillor Ruiz. Councillor Simpson, do you accept?

CSI I accept.

CH Thank you. Councillor Strayer?

CSTR I would like to nominate Councillor Dykes, please.

CH Councillor Dykes is already nominated. Has already put his name forward. No, that's all right. We just need to be sure that you're on the list. Councillors, are there any other nominations? Vice President?

VPO Thank you, Chair. I would like to nominate Councillor Newton.

01:09:09

CH Councillor Newton, do you accept?

CNE I'll pass, thank you.

CH Thank you. Councillors, any other nominations? Okay, so this is the way that it's going to work, and I recognize that all three of you are new. So, we will start from the top with Councillor Dykes, and then proceed to Councillor Hassan and Simpson. You will each have 30 seconds to plead your case to this council, and then we will distribute the ballots for voting. Councillor Dykes, stalling here to give you a minute. Your 30 seconds will begin now.

CDY Thank you, Chair. I really want to be more involved with the Students' Committee, on a committee on the council, and I feel as though through my volunteering history, I have the appropriate skills to analyse it and go forward with it. I've served on three volunteering boards, and I'm currently an executive in the [unclear]. I think this speaks to my knowledge of working on a committee, especially, and being able to collaboratively work. That, I suppose, is all. Thank you, Chair.

CH Thank you, Councillor Dykes. Councillor Hassan, your 30 seconds begins now.

01:10:29

CHA Sure, [unclear] you guys [unclear] I like to solicit feedback and provide feedback. I'm not afraid to. If anyone knows me, or has the opportunity to get to know me, they know I'm loud. They know I'm not afraid to speak up. Ultimately, what I would like to do is develop a culture of feedback, where no one is afraid of sharing their thoughts because I think a culture of feedback is what's going to bridge [?] us over. Thank you.

CH Thank you, Councillor. Councillor Simpson, your 30 seconds begins now.

CSI Thank you, Chair. I believe that my experience with leadership throughout high school, as well as leadership within my church community, would give me appropriate skills to be on this council. I would very much enjoy the opportunity to do so. Thank you.

CH Thank you Councillor Simpson. So we will distribute the ballots. I think Allan's just hurriedly writing in all the names here. Maybe we'll just hand them out right now.

Order. Thank you. Vice President External, you're on the phone, so maybe we'll look to someone else to make this motion. Vice President, care to read the motion?

VPO Yes, thank you Chair. I move to appoint Councillor Dykes to the Students' Council Review Committee for the 2018–2019 year.

01:14:41

CH Thank you, and the second? Councillor Ruiz? It has been moved and seconded to appoint Councillor Dykes to the Student Council Review Committee for the 2018–19 term. Is there any debate? Questions on the adoption of the motion is read. All those in favour? Thank you, and opposed? Motion carries.

Item 7.3, Chair of Students' Council. We have a motion. President, do you care to read the motion?

PRE Yes, thank you, Chair. I'm just going to pull it up here on my phone. I move to appoint Timothy Jobs as Chair of Student Council from term of May 1st, 2019 to April 30th, 2020.

CH Thank you, and the second? Councillor Strayer, thank you. Councillors, before I move this to debate, I think there's an obvious conflict of interest that I need to declare. I feel that this conflict of interest does not impede my ability to chair this portion of the meeting; however, I will defer to you. If there is anyone that objects to me chairing this motion, then I will step aside.

No? Okay, it has been moved and seconded to appoint Timothy Jobs as Chair of Student Council for a term of May 1st, 2019 to April 30th, 2020. Is there any debate? The question is on the adoption of the motion as read. All those in favour? Thank you, and opposed? Motion carries.

Item 8, Consultation. Nothing there today. Item 9, Evaluation. Pass out the forms.

01:16:31

Order. Thank you. Item 10, Recognition. Open the floor to recognition. Vice President?

VPO Thank you, Chair. I would like to recognise all those who ran in the past executive election, and also for those successful candidates, specifically those who were able to attend this meeting this evening. I think that that shows real initiative for their positions, and I look forward to seeing what they do. Thank you, Chair.

CH Councillor Bouwer?

CBO I would like to recognise Councillors Strayer and Stewart for asking a solid amount of questions that I feel relieved some of it from the rest of us. Thank you.

CH Councillor Hassan?

CHA I just want to recognize Emma and everyone she has partnered with and everyone that she has had communication with to present a budget in such an easy way for people to understand.

I don't think it's that easy an undertaking to take a \$7 million dollar budget and to break it down easily, so not only can it be read and understood but links can be

[unclear] in between. I think it answered more questions than it made, or for people to ask. I just want to recognize how the approach was how can I answer more questions, than make people ask. I think that's a huge undertaking and I think you did really well. Thank you for doing it.

CH Other recognition? Councillor Ruiz?

01:22:15

CRU Thank you, Chair. I would like to congratulate all of council for passing all of these motions that were very important, both the budget as well as reappointing Timothy as our Chair for an extra year. I think that's very solid work, and I also want to take this opportunity to welcome the new faces at the table as well as three of our new executive committees. Thank you so much.

CH Councillor Stewart?

CST Thank you, Chair. Just wanted to recognise the Budget and Finance Committee for putting in all the work as well, with the executives' help, to put this forward, as well as the other people who [unclear] for [unclear] to answer questions and all the work that they did to put into their own budgets in each of the departments. Just want to give them some recognition and some love. Thank you.

CH Vice President?

VPO Thank you, Chair. I neglected to say something earlier; if you'll allow me. I would also like to recognise the President and the Vice President External for calling in from the east coast. It is several hours past where we are, so [unclear] and I appreciate them doing that. Thank you, Chair.

CH Councillor Strayer?

01:23:45

CSTR Executive, could you pass on to the directors that we appreciate them being here, just so we [unclear] whatever, at them during those times. We appreciate you being here. Thank you.

CH Other recognition? Councillor Stewart?

CST Thank you, Chair. I would just also like to recognise Councillor Dykes for getting onto the committee. That's really exciting. And then also for Councillor Simpson and Hassan for entertaining us, making them having to be put forward for the position as well, and doing a really good job participating in this meeting. Thank you.

CH Councillor Ruiz?

CRU Thank you, Chair. And another recognition goes to Madam Vice President of Student Life. Thank you for having taken the [unclear] of chair so that I could go [unclear] in-camera period. That was really appreciated.

CH Councillor Stewart?

CST Can I say one more thing? Thank you. I wanted to give recognition to all those involved in the executive committee or any councillors who participated in the party

that just happened. That's really awesome, and it's good to [unclear] to also be involved in it. Thank you.

CH Vice President?

VPA I'll toss one in too. [Unclear] related. I would like to recognise the AGC Student Representatives who stayed for the whole meeting last night, which ended at about 8:30. That was really cool. Those students are not remunerated, and they stayed because they just love academic governance, I can imagine. Shout out to them.

CH Other recognition? Councillors, I appreciate your vote of confidence in appointing me again for another year. It's truly been a pleasure to serve you, so I look forward to the upcoming year.

With that, we'll move on to Item 11, Adjournment. Councillor Ruiz?

CRU I move to adjourn.

CH Thank you, Councillor. This motion only requires one mover. It is not debatable. All those in favour? Thank you, and opposed? Motion carries. This meeting is adjourned.

01:26:22