

2019-05-15 Students' Council meeting – Audio recording transcript

Speaker Key:

C	Chair
VPE	Vice President External
CB	Councillor Bouwer
CDR	Councillor Drummond
CD	Councillor Dykes
CH	Councillor Hassan
CM	Councillor Melech
CN	Councillor Newton
P	President
CR	Councillor Ruiz
CSI	Councillor Simpson
VPSL	Vice President Student Life
CS	Councillor Stewart
CST	Councillor Strayer
VPOF	Vice President Operations & Finance
VPA	Vice President Academic
CY	Councillor Yanish
M	Michelle Ngo
F	Frankie Billingsley
UF	Unidentified Female
UM	Unidentified Male

00:00:00

C Thank you. Item one, treaty six 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 peoples of the treaty six region in central Alberta.

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

00:00:39

Before we move on to item 2, approvals, do we have anyone calling in today or...

UM [Unclear].

C Okay. Councillor Drummond can you hear me okay?

CDR Hi.

C Hi. I'm going to take that as a yes. So if you can't hear just speak up and we'll do something about it. Item 2, approvals, 2.1 we have a motion. Anyone care to make that motion? Councillor Strayer?

CST Move to approve the agenda for May 15th 2019.

C Thank you councillor. And a second? Vice President, thank you. It has been moved and seconded to approve the agenda for May 15th 2019. Is there any debate? The question is on the adoption of the motion to approve the agenda for May 15th 2019. All those in favour? Thank you. And opposed? Motion carries.

Item 2.2 we have another motion. Councillor Ruiz.

CR Thank you Chair [?] I move to approve the minutes of April 17th 2019.

00:01:42

C Thank you councillor, and a second? Councillor Yanish, thank you. It has been moved and seconded to approve the minutes of April 17th 2019. Is there any debate? Question is on the adoption of the motion to approve the minutes of April 17th 2019, all those in favour? Thank you. And opposed? Motion carries.

Item three, we have a presentation. I understand the Vice President of Academic is going to introduce our guest so take it away.

VPA Great. So we do have a presentation on the annual giving campaign today and we're going to get right into it. But on our left here we have Frankie who's the director of student financial aid and to her right will be Michelle, the senior development officer. And I believe I got the titles reversed.

M No that's it. Yes.

VPA Oh that's correct? Okay, awesome. So yeah, Michelle, student development officer of the new alumni project that's going on. So, yeah. Without further ado, take it away.

M Awesome. Thank you very much everyone for having myself and Frankie here today to speak to you guys. Like Shawn [?] has said, Frankie's from student financial aid, I'm from alumni and development. I don't know if many of you guys have heard of that department but we're located at USC in building six I believe. Or building ten or whichever that building is.

00:03:00

So we're here today because we think it's important to talk to you guys about some of the things that we're doing to help students. So right now we're launching our annual

giving campaign. So what that means is we are going in front of as many staff faculty members as we can to tell them about some of our initiatives for this year for fundraising and what they can do to help support it.

So this year we are asking our staff and faculty members to consider supporting our scholarships, awards and bursaries program which affects all students. And so yes, thank you very much for having us here to speak about that.

FB Thank you for the kind introduction. So as Shawn said, my name's Frankie Billingsley and I'm the director of student financial aid. And it's been really awesome to talk to staff and faculty members at MacEwan about the fact that student financial aid has only existed at MacEwan since August of 2017. And a lot of people don't know that and then the question I get is, well why did you even come to be?

I'm pretty sure that MacEwan University was the last post-secondary institution in the country to have dedicated resources to helping students figure out how they're going to navigate their financial journey through school.

00:04:16

In addition to that, we have internal audit staff at the university who choose different areas to audit throughout the year. Financial aid was chosen for an audit four years ago, and their report took over 12 months and it was not very complementary. And one of the things that they said was, you have money advising all over campus and you need to consolidate into one area so that students find it easier to figure out where to go.

We had loans in one area, we had grants in one area, we had scholarships in another area. And they said, you know what, bring it all together. So we did that. And then they needed somebody to run it and they asked me to do that and I was like, okay.

One of the things our office is responsible for is for identifying funding gaps in the student experience. And so I've been working really closely with Michelle's team and here's some statistics that I'm sharing with faculty and staff around the campus that I think that they have found really startling.

One of them is, currently Canadian students are carrying 28 billion dollars in student loan debt. I don't think people really realise that. This does not include consumer debt. This is just student loan debt. I think it's also fascinating for people to know that MacEwan students are accessing the student loan program 7% more frequently than the national average. The national average is 35%. 42% of MacEwan students are accessing the student loan program.

And I can assure you, in the 25 years that I've spent working with you people and people of your age group, if you have a way to pay for your education, you're not going to get a loan. If you don't, you're going to get a loan. 42% of our students are on a loan. That is staggering to me.

00:05:57

The other two statistics, in my world we have common definitions that we use. Scholarships are for outstanding academic achievement, bursaries are based on financial need and awards are in the middle. Awards can be based on community involvement, volunteerism, leadership. This past fall semester we had over 2000

students who applied for a bursary and my office was only able to award 388. Over 75% of students at MacEwan who demonstrated financial need went without money.

These are the kinds of statistics that I'm showing, that we are showing faculty and staff around the university because we're trying to increase staff participation in philanthropy and giving. So these statistics inform the first strategic priority for fundraising which is our student retention bursaries.

Research shows that one of the reasons that students don't graduate is because of financial duress. I personally don't want to see one student leave MacEwan because they can't afford to be here. That to me is unacceptable. But I think that's happening. And research also shows that if financial stress is going to manifest itself while someone is a post-secondary student, it's not going to happen in the first year, it's going to happen in the second, third or fourth. Which is why we are focussing on retention.

00:07:20

On the complete opposite end of the spectrum, I think we were the last post-secondary institution in the country to have a robust, equitable entrance scholarship program. So starting this fall, students who enter into MacEwan, into a degree program with a certain high school average, they will receive a scholarship offer in their admission letter.

And I can tell you when I presented this to student council three years ago, every member of the council was like, man I wish that was in place when I started, right? It's just a really great... I wish I had more money because I would extend that opportunity out to diploma students and certificate students as well. But right now I only have enough money for degree students.

And I'll tell you, it's been really awesome for us to talk to staff and faculty about these things because I feel really blessed that I ended up in this role. Because my brothers and I wouldn't have been able to try post-secondary education if it wasn't for an entrance scholarship program. Like, my parents couldn't afford for us to go, we didn't qualify for student loans at the time.

So just think about that for a second. Think about a really strong, academic student out of grade 12, that wouldn't even be able to try school if it wasn't for that. Right? And with retention bursaries, by the time I was in year three, my parents could only afford one bus pass. And all of my brothers were also scholars as well so we had to figure out how the three of us were going to get to school and keep our scholarships.

So my brother had the largest one so he scheduled his courses on Monday, Wednesday, Friday. My other brother and I scheduled Tuesday, Thursday. And so, think about that. I missed 50% of my classes in one of my semesters just because I couldn't afford to get there.

00:09:07

So I tell faculty when we present to them, do you realise that some of your students can't actually get to school? Do you realise that when they're here they might be hungry? They might be worried about paying for their rent? I think you all know exactly what I'm talking about because you see these students, you've talked to these students who are financially stressed.

And one of the great things about talking to everybody who works at MacEwan... We got a lot of people who work in places that they never interact with students. We got human resources, we got IT, and I say to them, regardless of where you work, none of us would be here if it wasn't for you. So this is a good reminder that it's all about the students.

M Thank you Frankie. So you know, what we're really trying to tell our donors is, we want them to be engaged with us, to help support our scholarships, awards and bursaries program, and to help you guys, the students here at MacEwan. So that you guys can succeed and move forward with your careers and whatever your dreams are, right?

00:10:05

I think it's really cool that MacEwan is able to embrace so many of these things like smaller class sizes, diversity, inclusion, optimism and change, because we are a downtown university. Because we are smaller, we're more of a tight-knit community. We're able to offer these things and help elevate our students' success here as well as our student experience.

We want to try and find ways to inspire donors to give and one way to do that is by encouraging our internal people to start giving and to start participating. Because imagine the impact of a message that we can give them if we can tell them that we have a 100% internal staff participating in our initiatives.

FB And they ask all the time. Like every donor meeting that I've been, whether the donor is talking about \$1,000, 25,000, 425, it doesn't matter. At some point in the conversation they say, well what's MacEwan doing? So just so you all know, before this campaign started we had less than 1% staff participation. Less than 1%. Four months later we're at 3%. Hey, it's not bad. We've doubled, that's great. But just so you know, the industry standard is 10%. So we got a long way to go but hopefully the strides we've gained this year, we're on an upswing.

M For sure. So alumni and development, if you don't know who we are, we work with donors to help find money for our students, to help find money to build our hall, to help find money to build any future projects and buildings that might come through MacEwan.

Through this campaign we are trying to encourage our donors to be more engaged with us, encourage our staff and faculty members to help us make an impact. And through the campaign we want to raise awareness about some of the university needs, strengthen the culture of philanthropy here at MacEwan because it is quite low. But also to increase the staff participation in general.

00:12:02

Our role here is to help our donors connect with MacEwan and their priorities, help them fulfil their philanthropic goals, and help them figure out how they can invest their money in our students here at MacEwan so that they can see our students succeed. Because really, you guys are our future, right?

So what are we telling our staff and faculty members to do? We are asking them to consider giving to our scholarships, awards and bursaries program by just signing up for a payroll deduction. If everyone of them were able to give a minimum of \$5 per bi-

weekly pay period, we would raise over \$300,000 towards bursaries, which is double the amount that we would have given out last year.

So it's a small amount that we're asking for from our staff and faculty members but we're really making the most important is the participation.

We do have a donor giving website. If you have not had a chance to take a look at it, we have lots of donor stories, lots of student stories. If you know of alumni or alumni stories that you can share with us, we'd be more than happy to work with them to maybe feature them on our website as well. We're always trying to engage with our alumni so if there are opportunities there we invite you to reach out to us and we can work together on that.

00:13:21

I guess [unclear] you don't really need to know but... That's pretty much all that I have right now. Yes, it's really easy for them to sign up, we invite them to go to our website. There's tonnes of things to support other than these two priorities. If you don't know about our scholarships, awards and bursaries program please visit our website, there's tonnes of information there.

And yes, we really just wanted to engage you guys, let you guys know what we're doing because I remember when I was a student, I didn't realise... Well, I guess I didn't really understand where our scholarships, awards and bursaries came from. And I don't know if a lot of students know that those things come from donors. They come from people who have money that they want to spend to help invest in our students. So I don't know if Frankie has anything else to add.

FB

Yes, I think it's really awesome for you to know what we're talking about with faculty and staff related to student initiatives. And this is impacting you and all of your colleagues and classes. And for me, like I said, my goal is, I don't want to have one MacEwan student leave school because they can't afford to be here.

We're starting a new program where we're trying to identify students who are at their maximum student loan lifetime limit. Which, for those of you... Who's on a student loan? One person. Two. That's amazing out of this many students considering 42% of students are in it.

00:14:47

But the lifetime maximum is \$75 000 and it's staggering to me how many MacEwan students are at that limit. And we need to find out where they're at in their program, how much longer do you have to go, how are you going to finance that? Because I want people to finish. You know, and thanks to you, the students' association does fund a couple of different really awesome pots of money.

We have an emergency bursary about \$15,000 and just so you know, some of the people who have received that funding... We had a student whose house burned down. We had a student whose dad had a stroke and they had to drop some classes because

they had to be the primary caregiver. We had a student who fled a domestic violence situation.

Like, we've got students that... Life happens. And school is just one part of what you're doing. And so if our office can help, awesome. And if we can get staff to participate to give me more money, that's even better. Does anyone have any questions at all?

UF Most organisations that ask for money have qualified for like a gift matching program. Do you know if MacEwan has anything like that? So if you go to a company and you say, hey, would you like to donate? What if through some portal, they can match the donations they make? Does it mean that we, as an organisation [unclear]?

00:16:08

M Yes. So we can work with people who work at other companies that offer matching programs. MacEwan currently doesn't do the matching. I know we've done it in the past for certain projects and certain initiatives. Right now we don't. But if you do know of people outside of the MacEwan community that really want to help MacEwan students and they do want to donate to something, and if their organisation has that matching opportunity then we can definitely work with that for sure.

FB We're in a tough situation there because it's publicly funded money. So although it would be going to students, the core business of a university is teaching. Right? So making sure that that academic mission is taken care of first is the most important. And I would also say that until we kind of know what's happening with the current government, budgets are tight. So a matching program wouldn't be something that there would be an appetite for right now for sure. Maybe in flusher times, but not right now.

M In [unclear] to that, I'm not sure if you guys heard of our pass it on campaign. Has anyone heard of our pass it on campaign? Okay, so we started it last year and essentially it's to help engage our students who are becoming alumni, helping them take their first step into philanthropy here at MacEwan.

And so last year what we were asking our new alumni was to donate a minimum of \$18 and they received a special silver tassel that they got to wear as they crossed the stage and that was a donation to our alumni legacy fund and that legacy fund will provide a scholarship to the future students here at MacEwan.

00:17:46

This year we are happy to say that our alumni office will be doing a matching type program for this campaign.

FB Pretty riveting stuff, huh? It's been pretty awesome. How many presentations have we done? We've probably done close to 15.

M 15 or something. Yes. As a team I think we're pretty much almost done. We have a few more departments left but MacEwan's a big campus.

UF I just have a quick question. You mentioned alumni can share their stories. Is there opportunities for current students or potentially anonymously or get involved too with helping to spread awareness about these campaigns?

And then two, if students are having trouble navigating applying for scholarships or bursaries, it's probably fairly comprehensive on the website, I've done it [?]. But if they have troubles are they able to access you guys in your office in [unclear]?

M Definitely. For sure.

FB Yes. So with the latter part, if people are having troubles with anything related to money, the financial aid advisors are available 8:30 to 4:30 downstairs. Yes. If you're facing the registrars office their on the far right. They're right beside fees. We thought it made sense to have all the money together so finance and fees are together. And then with...

00:19:05

M Yes, with the alumni stories we do have an alumni office [?] too. So I'm on the development side, we have an alumni side of two people. But if you do have interesting stories that you want to feature or you want to share, connect with us and we can chat further on that. And there are lots of stories online so we can [unclear].

I will be sending out the presentation and my email will be there so if you guys have additional questions or questions in the future I'm more than happy to work with you guys through those.

FB Yes.

CR I don't really have a question but I wanted to say that it's really great that after, as you said, like you you came [unclear] in three years. [Unclear] that program now that you're giving to first year, it's really great and I'm hoping that that will make a big difference for people to try out the MacEwan experience. So I wanted to congratulate you on your achievement.

FB Oh thank you. It's been really great going around campus and talking to people about this. I can assure you that especially when I'm talking to people that teach here, when we leave the room, I know that they've been impacted by things that we've said. Because I don't think that they really think about the fact that you all have your own lives and you all have stress.

I think they get it but when they have these staggering statistics in front of them it really hits them and it's impactful for them. And that's been one of the best things for me, is I know that every time we leave a room that people have learned something and they are thinking about your experience in a different way.

00:20:50

And I think the thing that people love about MacEwan is we are about students. And people really love teaching and they want to make sure that the student experience is paramount. So if they can assist with that I think they want to do that. So I think we're going to see some huge strides over the next little while. This is just the beginning. I think we have a 50 year campaign coming and I think scholarships, awards and bursaries are going to be a part of that.

But thank you very much. It's been a really great experience because this is a completely different way of asking people on campus for money and it's not easy to do that. But you know what's easy to talk about? Is you. It is really easy to talk about

students and what they're going through and I have the data to support why we're doing what we're doing. So it's really hard to argue with that. So it's been pretty awesome but thanks. And thank you for the time.

UM It's not my time, it's theirs.

M Awesome. Yes. That is it from us. Did you have a question, comment?

UM No, I was just about to clap.

M Oh. Thank you [unclear]. Thank you so much.

00:22:08

FB Enjoy the rest of your meeting.

M Please enjoy the cookies, I'm not taking them with me.

C Okay councillors, move onto item four for information. 4.1 reports, 4.1.1. President, any oral supplements? Where's the president? Oh there you are, I'm sorry.

P Thank you chair. So I just read off of my report?

C No, anything in addition to the report that you provided? No?

P Thank you.

C You're welcome. 4.1.2 Vice President Academic, any oral supplements?

VPA Yes. Quite a bit happened between when I wrote the written report and now. I'm just going to summarise really quick. GFC [?] did happen. I spent hours reading that [?] hundred page agenda about the GFC. Very interesting to see the strategic plan effects five years come out of GFC. Which is heavily in favour of students lodging [?] things that they think are prioritised by student [unclear], small classes, these kinds of things. [Unclear] doing research.

Really good to see that stuff but can't give you any details now. Just a take away from that generally, the provost I think is a massive benefit for students at MacEwan and a huge ally to student interests. And when you talk to the [unclear] at least in my role, I've noticed from meeting them that we couldn't possibly have a better person with the interests of students in mind in that role. He made it clear at GFC. And he advocated for SAMU so that's nice.

00:23:46

I met with the Dean of Nursing the next day on the Friday, Dean of Nursing gave me a lot of feedback [unclear] on my goals which was awesome.

Student research [unclear] that meeting was on the Monday. Basically I've been to Student research day three years in a row so kind of trying to deal with some criticisms and feedback that can make me better, but also it's mostly really good so I was congratulated on how well it's done. But there's some ideas about moving things to be bigger and trying to figure out scheduling and rooms.

AVP [?] research candidate. I believe I'm not in my mandate to say something that all of us want to but I'm going to [unclear] a mention. AVP research candidate number one was interviewed on Monday, yes Monday. So AVP research is kind of the head of

the research department here and now they are hiring a new one. And we just interview them and go to their public presentations which is really interesting.

There's another one on Thursday. And the next third finalist is next week and we get to decide. Not us specifically but the committee decides on the pros and they hire. Jennifer was good but we'll just see whether they [unclear] you or not. She's from York I think, does research in Psychology. On vision and it's kind of cool.

00:24:53

RAB [?] appointments happen like committee appointments as usual and I'm planning my conference for next week because I will be gone in Massachusetts. To learn more about OERs [?] which... Oh, last thing, at the GFC they did mention there's five OER pilot projects going on right now so through this year there's five pilot projects. I think they're all in different faculties, except there might be two in one faculty.

And they're all five grand, and there's five of them. Meaning five courses are getting a trial through textbook being created for... I think over the fall semester [unclear]. Really cool to see and we're kind of going to monitor that and see what they cost and what's left over and how the OER project goes. Sorry it's a bit long, [unclear].

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

VPE Yes, thank you chair. President and I went to CAUS [?] change over. So that's the Council of [unclear] University Students. Write that down. We were there until yesterday and it was great. We met a lot of our counterparts from the UASU so University of Alberta, ULSU, University of Leftbridge, SAMRU which is Mount Royal, SAMU which is us. And missing one. UFC. UCFC is the University of Calgary.

Met with them, our counterparts and it was really great to start that discussion and we just talked about our priorities and it's all preliminary now but it was a really great meeting. Then we had lots of department meetings today just with people throughout SAMU just discussing [unclear].

00:26:30

We also had BSC meet today where we discussed finances and investment. And that's all I really have to add.

C Thank you. Item 4.1.4 Vice President Operations and Finance any oral supplements?

VPOF Thank you chair. Since my report last Thursday, Friday I met with the project manager of the building just to get some one on one time and review slash have any questions or concerns either of us had going forward. Then as Vice President of Academic mentioned, ADP research on Monday, I attended the interview and the presentation with Academic and GPSL [?] and so I'll get to meet the other candidates. So that's pretty exciting.

Staff meeting SAMU yesterday, and then today we've been getting presentations from the staff at SAMU just to go over the intricate details of what everyone does, what their [unclear] are, what their goals are. So we get familiar with the whole department. And then [unclear] first budget and finance committee meeting today to take a look at adjusting the budget and finance policy just with the new building in mind.

And building operations also did a presentation today and now we are here. Thank you.

00:28:05

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

VPSL As presented, thank you chair.

C Thank you. 4.1.6 audit committee. I understand there are some oral supplements so I'll turn it over to the chair, Councillor Ruiz.

CR Thank you chair. So as per my brief before, we do have a vacancy and I'm hoping to fill it up by next meeting. The reason why I chose not to fill it right now is cause we do have some vacancies so I wanted to give the opportunity to potential new councillors to also join our committee.

But that is coming up so if you guys still have any questions or want to know more what the audit committee does, feel free to reach out to me or to one of our members. And [unclear] they're here for you.

Now I will pass it on to either Councillor Yanish or Councillor Stewart if they want to add something else to the report.

C Councillor Yanish?

CY No thank you.

C Councillor Stewart?

00:29:11

CS Yes I did have a quick thing that we had discussed in our audit committee that wasn't part of that report. And it was just that we are also looking at expanding the scope of the audit committee training to provide more insight into what we should know when we review our reports as well as review regularly our policies and procedures relevant to the audit committee so that we can better address that part of our mandate.

So that is part of our mandate and we're not currently, or not that I know we've ever really talked about those policies and procedures and really reviewed them. So that might be something that the audit committee really looks to do and really doesn't fill that part of our mandate. And that's all, thank you.

C Very good, thank you. Item 4.2 executive committee minutes, the minutes of April 9th, 17th, 25th and May 3rd 2019 are in your package for your information. Item five, question period. 5.1 written questions. I understand there were no written questions this time around, it made me sad. Item 2, oral questions. We'll take questions now. Councillor Stewart?

CS Thank you chair. I just have a couple of short questions. The first would be directed at the Vice President Academic and just asking, they used the acronym USRI and I was just wondering what that stood for?

C Thank you councillor. Vice President?

00:30:30

VPA Sure. The USRI is the Undergraduate Students Research Initiative. So it's like whether you're disseminating at a conference or you're doing research yourself, you can apply for grants for that. And, it's funny, they're usually not all taken up. So there's a big... Some of my [unclear] students doing research and students should probably know more about it because they never use all their funds. But it is there for both dissemination and for research to support undergraduate students doing research.

I think, if I'm not mistaken, one or two councillors are or have applied for that grant. So some people are kind of familiar with that.

C Thank you Vice President. Councillor Stewart?

CS I guess a follow up would be, VPA did mention that maybe more students should know about this. Is there a role within SAMU and our [unclear] to help students know about some of these campaigns and some of these initiatives?

C Thank you councillor. Vice President?

VPA Definitely. This is one of the things that information campaigns are critical and marketing is critical to actually have students be aware of them. There's frankly a few things that are underused in terms of grants or even like in terms of committee opportunities for students. And the more visible SAMU is the better.

So as far as the logistics of that, will be worked out closer to July, August. And especially that one in particular is not in the top ten priorities. But marketing could go a long way with those things, I think they're not nearly well known enough. And awareness needs to be brought to them.

00:32:10

C Thank you. Councillor Stewart?

CS Thank you chair. I also just have a quick question for the Vice President of Student Life. They mentioned in their report attending the Social Innovation Institute advisory council. I was just curious if they could elaborate more on social innovation and maybe what that advisory council role actually is. To me the name... I'm not really sure what that sometimes means. So what the role of that advisory council is and what they're hoping to do with social innovation. Thank you chair.

C Thank you councillor. Vice President?

VPSL Yes. So the social innovation institute works in partnership and kind of overseas roundhouse. I'm not 100% clear on how they interact together but I know the Social Innovation Institute is working with Roundhouse to see how they can become more engaged with the community, particularly looking at getting more involved with affordable housing for low income folks and for their outreach to marginalised communities. I hope that answers your question, kind of.

C Thank you Vice President. Councillor Stewart?

CS A quick follow up would be, I'm guessing those initiatives are focused on student... Those are projects focused on the student community not just the broader community?

00:33:27

VPSL Yes.

C Thank you Councillor Stewart, Vice President?

VPSL Yes. It is kind of an integration between the student community and the broader community. I believe the Social Innovation Institute is trying to engage some external stakeholders to get more involved in Roundhouse. So that's definitely a piece of that. But they are still central to the student community.

C Thank you Vice President. Councillor Stewart?

CS Thank you very much.

C Thank you Councillor. Other questions? Councillor Strayer?

CST Thank you chair. So I'm going to try and word this without being offensive to as many people as possible. I recognise this is going to be a rather contentious topic and people could take this potentially the wrong way. My intention with this question isn't to offend current councillors who sit on this committee. This is in regards to leadership and engagement.

So I had a look at the minutes from the past two meetings. The TOR says that the leadership and engagement is supposed to meet once every month. In the past seven months it met twice. That's not an indictment on the current councillors that are on that, I think it's a matter of leadership, that's on the committee.

00:34:45

My question is directed at the current president of this committee or the current chair of this committee which is the president. I'm curious what her plan is for leadership engagement to make this committee as effective as it quite clearly has the ability to be in within the [unclear]?

C Thank you councillor. President?

P Thank you. Thank you for bringing this to my attention. Today was the first day that I've heard about this to be real honest with you. I understand that I am on this committee, I do chair this committee. However, that hasn't been completely transitioned. So I didn't get much training in regards to it which makes sense because we only met twice last year.

But I do want to move forward and follow new terms of reference and make sure we do meet as per required. That is definitely something that I'd be interested in going forward with in the future.

C Thank you President. Councillor Strayer?

00:36:02

CST Thank you, that appeases me. To follow up on that, within the work plan, they talk about councillor day. Councillor days has mandated within the roles and responsibilities of student councillors and the executive. There's no specific outline within the roles and responsibilities though within the workplan of leadership and engagement, does say to meet... Sorry, to create councillor days monthly.

Within the TOR, it also says, to create a schedule for student councillors office hours. I'm curious if that's part of your mandate for the future and I think that would also pertain to the VP of student life to a certain extent.

C Thank you councillor. We can assume that if it's in the terms of reference then it's part of the mandate. I don't know if you want to expand on that President? Go ahead.

P I feel as though we should meet one on one to discuss this further because I don't feel as though we can really figure something out in this specific setting. Thank you chair.

C Thank you President. I think we shed some light on that issue. Thank you councillor. Councillor Strayer, anything further?

CST One last thing. This is for VP of Academic. I'm interested in details of GFC if you can do that for me?

VPA Sure.

C Sorry, Vice President. Council meetings aren't a conversation. So if you direct the question to me please and then I will cede the floor to the appropriate individual. So thank you councillor. Vice President?

00:37:48

VPA Thank you chair. Apologies for [unclear].

C No that's quite all right. Go ahead.

VPA But thank you chair. Appreciate it. There's a lot so I'm going to maybe start with the most important things. Because GFC is naturally a really long meeting with a lot of topics. And there was two like back to back. Both made their way into my report because they were on the [unclear] typically they're a whole month apart.

So it's an interesting [unclear] if I go over the most recent one because the topics addressed in the last one were on the agenda that Jackie [?] would have seen and probably would have brought to your attention. Mostly the things are on faculty [unclear] so I'll just touch on the most recent GFC.

The best thing that I can see in student interest that has come out of that is the OER fellowships that were mentioned by the provost so we already went over those. But essentially the details of that is that there's five grand for five different pilot projects in five different programs. And they're trying to [unclear] to see how much they're going to cost as a first test. So what the provost has said, has committed to, is that 25K as a total will never change.

So let's say some of these OER programs take less than five grand. Let's say they all take 2.5. Then you can double the amount because the total amount, the total of 25 grand is never going to go down. Even if these projects cost less, they won't do less projects, it will be more projects that each process individually [?].

00:39:12

So you have this 25 grand going forward, to stay annually, to put forward programs like this to get OERs working. To me, because of the courses they're picking that are heavily used by students, it's going to save students a lot of money [unclear] a really

fantastic initiative. So we're going to kind of monitor it to see what it costs and look at it as an experiment.

Another thing I really liked about the meeting was a discussion about how to [unclear] additions to our outbound [?] funding. So outbound experiential opportunities, whether they are credited or non-credited the [unclear] has said. So whether they're clubs or classes. Are going to be top of my first priorities when it comes to funding and they have made their way to the strategic plan.

So these kinds of things have made their way in [unclear] to the top eight goals. I think that's fantastic because there's lots of non-credit and credit opportunities for students [unclear] which is awesome.

Also MacEwan now has a chem major so I'm not sure if it's starting... I believe in about 19, 20 or 2021. They did pass a chemistry major. It doubles as a professional entry certification. I thought that was excellent and it passed without any questions, it was really easy.

We also voted on the strategic plan for the next five years. Or sorry, no we talked about the goal we take in September. Because there's some final stakeholder consultation that has to be done. It was really cool to see the next five years strategic plan in being so in line with the interests of students.

00:40:41

The focus on small class sizes while still developing [unclear] while not reducing teaching load on professors, is really interesting to see because you could see, you know, a five year strategic plan that focuses on research going a bad way where students aren't prioritised any more. And I thought that was really, really excellent.

Lastly, there's a bit of worry about lean [?] times. They're talking about [unclear] but well frankly it was discussed that they were a bit nervous about that which came up. And the last thing that I would say is that the provost did approach me about the new GFC structure.

So some of you are aware the PSLA has changed somewhat with the government structure of the university being required to change in response to that. So the post-secondary learning act defines what our government structure is, it's moving to a bi-[unclear] system which means all the seats, all the membership, all the committees are in potential risk of changing. Either the seats are being dissolved or new ones being created. There's a lot of flux. Which means student seats are at risk.

00:41:55

Jackie I believe covered this last time, that all student seats are being removed from GFC except for two which would be the one allocated to me and the one allocated to the President of SAMU. So the provost did approach me about his interest in having maybe a few more student seats there. Making sure student seats are kept in other sub-committees.

As well as changing the term [unclear] GFC seats. That one's complicated but basically Riley [?] and I can't vote on GFC until September even though we joined last week. And the provost is concerned about this over the summer in case there is a controversial

vote that has students interests on the line. Whether or not students can vote during those summer months.

Because you can see kind of what he's saying. You can see potentially if there's a controversial vote that effected students they could slot it in and students not get a vote during the summer. So maybe changing that term limit or adapting it so that the students term can start a different time than faculty terms would help and then we could vote over the summer.

Because Riley and I... There's was nothing contentious that came up that we would have had to vote on but Riley and I do want [unclear]. So what. Yes. But [unclear] is awesome, OER funding is awesome, chem major, [unclear] and student seats. That's the gist of it.

C Thank you Vice President. Councillor Strayer I'll get back to you. Just a couple of things councillors just to be reminded of. We refer to each other by our titles at this table and secondly, you know, many of you likely aren't familiar with the student council meetings policy, however, I am. And we do have restrictions on questions and answers in question period.

00:43:40

So you are restricted to two minutes for a question and three minutes to an answer. And, you know, generally we don't get to that. But, you know, that is something to consider. And I'll play loose and fast with that a little bit but I might reign it in. So just be aware of that. Councillor Strayer?

CST Yes. Thank you chair. Those were very informative so I appreciate it. As per GFC, you said we don't have a vote until September. I've got concerns in that MacEwan is going through policy reformation with all of their policy for that matter. Is there a possibility that that reform in overall MacEwan policy is going to come into contention with our inability to vote? Thank you chair.

C Thank you councillor. Vice President?

VPA It's a great question. I would say no because there's on committees that are under threat of all student seats being removed. Students will always have some seats on committees. They just seem to be being reviewed [?] right now.

However, I don't think it's going to completely eliminate our vote for one big reason which is that students went from five seats to two seats in the GFC, whereas librarians and others went from three or four to zero. So fortunately we did get off better than some other groups. In the interest of time, I'm going to cut it off there.

00:45:11

But no we're not at risk of losing all our seats, we'll always have a vote and the provost is in favour of us keeping as many as we can.

C Thank you Vice President. Councillor Strayer?

CST I'm content, thank you chair.

C Thank you. Councillors any other questions? Councillor Stewart?

CS Thank you chair. I just want a quick clarification on the GFC rundown that the Vice President Academic gave. Just in regards to, from my understanding, from our previous meeting with the previous VPA, that those student council or those student seats were just going to be [unclear] for the next year and then put in just as they're doing the reformation but that it wasn't being removed all together. I just wanted to clarify if that was the case or if it was just for the year or if it was all [unclear]?

C Thank you councillor. Vice President?

VPA Thank you chair. That is the hope. So it's open to edits. Which is why I say I'm in favour and the provost is in favour of us keeping as many as possible. However, for the next year, we are down to two. What they're calling it is a bare bones approach to begin with and then we'll build off of it from there.

C Thank you Vice President. Councillor Stewart?

CS No that's all, thank you.

00:46:23

C Thank you. Councillors, any other questions? Councillor Yanish.

CY My question is for the Vice President External. I realise this would be about your predecessor so if you do not know that is completely okay. I was just curious why the meeting with the director of corporate stakeholder relations of Edmonton economic development needed to happen at the Arianna Grande concert?

C Thank you councillor. Vice President?

VPE Thank you chair. So it's my understanding that... I can't quite remember the full name of it right now, but the thing that Councillor Yanish has just mentioned. From what I understand there was correspondence via email, they had the tickets and thought it was a good opportunity to discuss student leadership opportunities. Just seemed like a medium for them to meet there.

Tickets weren't purchased from SAMU from my understanding so it was no loss of money from us. Simply, it was an invitation to facilitate that relationship from my understanding. But it's a little vague. Thank you chair.

C Thank you Vice President. Councillor Yanish?

CY Thank you. Yes, as long as students council wasn't paying for concert tickets I'm more than content. Thank you.

00:47:28

C Thank you Councillor. Councillors any other questions? Sounds like we've got a few content people at the table today so that's a good thing. Everyone else undecided. Okay. Item six, in camera [?]. 6.1 chief returning officer consultations. So we need a motion, sorry. Councillor Ruiz?

CR I move to go in camera.

C Thank you councillor. And a second? Vice President, thank you. 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? Motion

carries. We'll just have our guests leave. Item seven, motions and business orders of the day. Item 7.1, budget and finance committee.

So councillors, for those of you who are not familiar, we have some committee openings and we need to place some individuals on those committees. So I will review the process with you. So I believe that for one of the committee openings we have a person who has submitted their name. For the two others we will have to take nominations from the floor.

And so what we will do, I will call for nominations from the floor and you are free to raise your placard, I will recognise you and you can either nominate yourself or another individual who is a member or council. If you nominate another individual who is another member of council I will ask that individual if they accept the nomination and if they do they will be added to the list. And so we will do that until we have one or more... Until we have run the course and no more nominations are put forward.

00:49:56

And then what we will do is in the order in which people were nominated, we will have 30 seconds of speeches for each candidate and at the end of all of the speeches, we will pass around the ballots and you will select the candidate and the candidate with the majority of the votes will be selected for the committee. Is that clear to everyone? Are there any questions? Oh to be clear, I count the votes with Alan [?] overseeing.

Okay, so we will move to the budget and finance committee. So we will open nominations now. Vice President?

UF I would like to nominate councillor Dykes.

C Councillor Dykes do you accept the nomination?

CD I would like to decline the nomination.

C Thank you. Any other nominations. Councillor Yanish.

CY I would like to nominate Councillor Newton.

C Councillor Newton do you accept the nomination?

CN Sorry, so for clarification no one is currently running for this...

C Yes we currently have no known candidates.

CN Then yes. I do accept.

00:51:09

C Thank you councillor Newton. All right. Councillor Dykes?

CD I'd like to nominate Councillor Hassan for the budget and finance committee.

C Councillor Hassan do you accept the nomination?

CH Sure.

C That's a confident yes. Okay. Any other nominations? Vice President?

UF I nominate Councillor Stewart.

- C Councillor Stewart do you accept the nomination?
- CST Well I'll politely decline, thank you [unclear].
- C Thank you. Any other nominations? Councillor Ruiz?
- CR Thank you chair. I would like to nominate Councillor Simpson.
- C Councillor Simpson do you accept the nomination?
- CSI I would like to decline this nomination today.
- C Thank you. Any other nominations. Okay. So we will proceed to speeches. First with councillor Newton and second with Councillor Hassan. Councillor Newton your 30 seconds begins now.
- 00:52:08
- CN All right, thank you chair. Yes so I would like to run for the budget and finance committee because I think I'd be a good contributing member. Unfortunately back in fall I ran for committees and wasn't elected onto any so I feel kind of like a lame duck, so it would be nice to be a part of at least one committee. And yes, I've never ran for budget or finance committee before so I think I would be able to bring some new insightful commentary to debate. So yes, thank you chair.
- C Thank you councillor. And Councillor Hassan, your 30 seconds begins now.
- CH Awesome. I had a good opportunity to connect with the last vice president of finance and operation, and I felt like I built a good relationship with her to understand what she goes through when she does her day to day budget and finance meetings. I know it can be incredibly stressful. I think having a new member on the committee would be something that would help the committee to just bring new insight and just see we're advocating the right way for students. Thank you.
- C Thank you Councillor Hassan. Okay, so we'll pass around the ballots. The way this will work is you will write in the name of the candidate that you wish to select for the committee. So I repeat, you write in only the name of the candidate that you wish to be on the committee.
- Just waiting for the computer to come back up here. We're at the mercy of technology. Okay. Vice President Operations and Finance do you care to read the motion?
- 00:55:54
- VPOF Thank you chair. Motion to appoint Councillor Newton to the budgeting and finance committee by for a term ending October 31st 2019.
- C Thank you councillor, or thank you Vice President. Do we have a second? Councillor Dykes, thank you. It has been moved and seconded to appoint Councillor Newton to the budget and finance committee for a term ending October 31st 2019. Is there any debate? Questions on the adoption of the motion as read, all those in favour? Thank you. And opposed? Motion carries.
- Item 7.2, by-laws and policy committee. So we have one position, nobody has put their name forward to this point so we will open nominations now. Vice President?
- UF Thank you chair. I nominate Councillor Dykes.

C Thank you. Councillor Dykes do you accept the nomination?

CD I decline the nomination.

C Thank you.

CD I thank everybody for the nomination but I guess you'll see later why I declined.

C Thank you Councillor Dykes. Councillor Stewart?

CS Thank you chair. I would like to nominate Councillor Simpson to this committee. Thank you chair.

00:57:06

C Thank you. Councillor Simpson do you accept the nomination?

CSI I accept the nomination.

C Thank you. Councillor Yanish?

CY I would like to nominate Councillor Hassan.

C Thank you. Councillor Hassan do you accept the nomination?

CH Yes.

C Thank you. Other nominations. Vice President?

UF I would like to nominate Councillor Bower.

C Councillor Bower do you accept the nomination?

CB I already sit on the committee.

C Any other nominations? Councillor Strayer?

CST I'd like to nominate Councillor Newton [unclear].

C Councillor Newton do you accept the nomination?

CN No thank you chair.

00:57:42

C Thank you. Councillor Ruiz?

CR I would like to nominate Councillor Melech.

C Sorry, thank you. Councillor Melech do you accept the nomination?

CM I decline, thank you.

C Thank you. Any other nominations? Okay, so two nominees. Councillor Simpson and Councillor Hassan. Councillor Simpson your 30 seconds begins now.

CSI Thank you chair. Currently I'm not sitting on a committee, I believe that I can put effort towards this committee in a good size. I have participated in many leadership capacities throughout my years of high school and community involvement where I had to be in line with different by-laws and policies. And I believe that I can stay in line with these by-laws and help create new policies and by-laws to help us to streamline

the process of student council as well as different activities going on in campus in the future.

C Thank you. Councillor Hassan your 30 seconds begins now.

CH Yes. I think as someone being a potential member of the by-law and policy committee I think we have a unique opportunity to make sure that we are aligned with things that [unclear] and there is an opportunity to change any of the policies and by-laws to reflect, you know, the current student body. I think we need to act on that really quickly and I think [unclear] incredibly engaged with students and have a great opportunity to bring that forward to the committee. Thank you.

00:59:17

C Thank you Councillor. So, again please write in the name of the candidate who you wish to be on the committee.

UF Thanks.

C Okay. Vice President Operations and Finance?

VPOF Thank you chair. Motion to appoint Councillor Simpson to the by-laws and policy committee for a term ending October 31st 2019.

C Thank you. And a second? Thank you Councillor Bower. It has been moved and seconded to appoint Councillor Simpson to the by-laws and policy committee for a term ending October 31st 2019. 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 7.3. Leadership and engagement committee. So we have one position and Councillor Dykes has put his name forward so we will add his name to the list. Any other nominations? Councillor Ruiz?

CR I would like to nominate myself.

C Councillor Ruiz we will add you to the list. Thank you. President?

P I would like to nominate Councillor Bower.

01:02:16

C Councillor Bower do you accept?

CB Sure.

C Thank you. I feel like that was a quote from The Bachelor. Do you accept? Why am I asking you? Sorry. I don't watch The Bachelor. I'm sorry councillors. Councillor Stewart?

CS I would like to enthusiastically nominate Councillor Hassan for this position.

C Thank you. Councillor Hassan do you accept?

CH I accept.

C Thank you. Any other nominations? Councillor Yanish?

CY I would like to unenthusiastically nominate Councillor Newton.

- UM Unenthusiastically?
- C Sorry Councillors. Thank you councillor. Councillor Newton do you accept?
- CN No thank you.
- C Thank you. Any other nominations? No, okay. Councillor Strayer?
- CST I'd like to nominate myself please.

01:03:11

- C Thank you. Add Councillor Strayer to the list. Thank you. Any other nominations? Okay, we will close the list there now. So we will proceed with speeches in the order as you see them at the top of the screen. Councillor Dykes, Ruiz, Bower, Hassan and Strayer. So Councillor Dykes your 30 seconds begins now.
- CD Thank you Chair. I have a history with leading, leadership material and personal development. For the past four years I've been a sessional facilitator for Rotary program for enrichment and for the past two years I've sat on the committee for that.
- I know currently the committee isn't meeting it's mandate and with my knowledge and background I hope to wilfully, or knowledgably contribute to the environment and help other council members ensure that it is meeting it's mandate and that students are becoming engaged and student council is really engaging with the electorate.
- C Thank you Councillor Dykes. Sorry I'm going to cut people off at 30 seconds so don't hold it against me. Councillor Ruiz your 30 seconds begins now.
- CR Thank you chair. I would like to run for this committee because as some members have probably seen it is currently not doing its mandate. I have had the privilege of working with four other presidents and I want to bring all of the positive stuff that they have done with the committee and I want to be able to fix all of the problems, or try to fix on the last few months of my term to make it better for the next incoming councillors. Thank you chair.

01:04:50

- C Thank you Councillor Ruiz. Councillor Bower your 30 seconds begins now.
- CB Thank you chair. So I think I'm happy to put my name forward to offer an alternative. I think that this role should realistically should probably go to someone sitting on fewer committees, maybe only one at the moment. But yes, I think this committee needs rejuvenation, I think a lot of us recognise that. And once again, I'll happily put my name forward and say that I hope that it gets the rejuvenation that it needs. Thank you.
- C Thank you Councillor Bower. Councillor Hassan, your 30 seconds begins now.
- CH Awesome. I do have extensive experience with leadership, I used to be an army cadet officer. In my position as a master of ward [?] officer, I had many cadets under me. You know, they were under my mentorship, they were under my leadership. I think that went really well.
- And the engagement part, I mean, that's one of the reasons I joined this committee, I think we have an opportunity to reach out to students and build that engagement. I

think students have a right to know who's representing them and I think that's not being done right now. Or maybe could be done better. And I think that's something we definitely have to focus on and I hope to bring that to you [?].

C Thank you Councillor. And Councillor Strayer, your 30 seconds begins now.

01:06:03

CST My first platform when I first joined student council was based off of engaging students. I pledged that year to meet with students once a month every single month with councillor days. I fulfilled that mandate. Every single councillor days [?]. I think that speaks to my ability to be a leader and to be engaged in this committee. I'm committed to this committee, I think it has lots of opportunity and I hope you enjoy making this committee better.

C Thank you Councillor Strayer. Okay, we will distribute the ballots. So what you will see... Oh, excellent. So please just write in the name of the individual who you would like to have sit on this committee. President?

P Thank you chair. I would like motion to appoint Councillor Hassan to the leadership and engagement committee for a term ending October 31st 2019.

C Thank you and second? Councillor Simpson, thank you. It has been moved and seconded to appoint Councillor Hassan to the leadership and engagement committee for a term ending October 31st 2019. Is there any debate? Question is on the adoption of the motion as read, all those in favour? Thank you. And opposed? Motion carries.

Item eight, consultation. Nothing there. Item nine, evaluation. We will pass along the forms. Well you lost [unclear]. The Vice President was right, she [unclear] you over. It was close though, right. [Unclear]. You were right, you win the prize.

UF What can I say, I'm psychic.

01:12:17

C There you go. Do you ever watch The Last Week Tonight with John Oliver?

UF No.

C He did a good one on psychics and how they do the work. It's so funny. He uses [unclear]. Anyway, it was funny.

UF Maybe I'll have to check it out.

C Yes, well I mean if you're interested in psychics. [Unclear].

Okay, we'll move on to item ten, recognition. Open the floor for recognition. Councillor Hassan?

CH I just wanted take a quick moment to share my gratitude with the people of this council. I don't think there's ever been a single position that's been open that I haven't been nominated for so thank you for that and thank you for the nominations. And thank you for the vote of confidence. I think I can honestly say that that's a position I would be most successful in and make the greatest impact. Thank you.

C Any other recognition? Vice President.

UF I would like to recognise everybody who put their name forward for committees tonight and accepted nominations. I know that takes a lot of guts, to speak in front of the group so cheers, good job y'all.

01:14:39

C Councillor Ruiz.

CR Thank you chair. I would like to recognise the incoming executives. I've found all of their reports to be really really good and that's saying a lot from people that perhaps they didn't have the experience at a council level. I also want to recognise the chair for running the meeting pretty great as always. And I want to thank everybody that did oral questions, they were really good and informative.

And lastly, I want to congratulate everybody that got into committees because they were councillors that were not sitting on a current committee, so it was great that now we have at least every councillor sitting at at least one committee. So thank you chair.

C Councillors, any other recognition? Vice President?

VPA Thank you very much chair. I would just like to really briefly recognise Councillor Strayer's point towards the committee that is being reformed putting back on track to its TOR. And just kind of bringing up those hard questions when it's not super easy to bring up something that's contentious.

C Councillors, any other recognition? No. Council I'd like to recognise the table, I think that we had a productive meeting today with good questions. We dealt with emotions and business orders of the day expeditiously and I think in general a good meeting for having some new people around the table. Well done. I'd like to see some written questions next time so the challenge is to you. If we can get those. But if not, that's fine too.

And just as an aside, I work for the government of Alberta and I think our premier is putting forward something in the house to get rid of desk thumping. So all of this desk thumping during recognition kind of tweaked me to that. But that's a hundreds year old tradition so there's a piece of trivia for you. You can say it was in 2019 when Alberta got rid of desk thumping. And if you need to phone a friend, you can phone me. If you're on the TV show. That was another dad joke.

Item 11, adjournment. Do we have a motion? Order, please. Order. Councillor Dykes?

CD I move to adjourn.

C Thank you. This motion only requires one mover and is not debateable. The question is on the adoption on the motion to adjourn. All those in favour? Thank you. And opposed? This meeting is adjourned.

01:17:48