

Minutes for the Students' Council Meeting of the
Students' Association of MacEwan University
June 19, 2019 at 6:00pm in room #7-279

In Attendance:

Cole Baker, Vice President External
vacant, Councillor
Ruan Bouwer, Councillor
Rachelle Drummond, Councillor
Myles Dykes, Councillor
Ahsan Hassan, Councillor
vacant, Councillor
Jaden Melech, Councillor
Spencer Newton, Councillor
Ryley Osadchuk, President
Luis Ruiz, Councillor
Michael Simpson, Councillor

Aubrianna Snow, Vice President Student Life
Alycia Stewart, Councillor
Kent Strayer, Councillor
Andrea Turner, Vice President Operations
vacant, Councillor
Sean Waddingham, Vice President Academic
Matthew Yanish, Councillor

SAMU Officials and Council Support:
Timothy Jobs, Chair
Alan Honey, Governance Advisor

Meeting called to order at 6:00pm

1. Treaty 6 Land Recognition

We would like to acknowledge that this meeting of the Students' Association of MacEwan University is taking place on the traditional territories of the people of the Treaty 6 region in Central Alberta.

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

2. Approvals

2.1 MOTION

TO APPROVE THE AGENDA FOR JUNE 19, 2019

STRAYER/VPO

MOTION **TO AMEND THE AGENDA TO ADD 6.1 COUNCILLOR VACANCIES AND 7.3 COUNCILLOR VACANCIES**

VPSL/DYKES

CARRIED

MOTION **TO AMEND THE AGENDA TO MOVE 7.1 TO 7.4**

RUIZ/STRAYER

CARRIED

CARRIED

2.2 MOTION

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MAY 18, 2019

RUIZ/NEWTON

CARRIED

3. Presentations

4. For Information

4.1. Reports

4.1.1. President

As presented.

4.1.2. Vice President Academic

OER conference update.

4.1.3. Vice President External

As presented.

4.1.4. Vice President Operations & Finance

As presented.

4.1.5. Vice President Student Life

As presented.

4.2. Executive Committee Minutes

Minutes of May 8, 13, and 22, 2019 provided.

5. Question Period

5.1. Written Questions

Newton – for the VP External, what input did you provide to the GFC in regard to the proposed actions for the Freedom of Speech/Expression policy? Furthermore, to what extent have you consulted students on campus regarding this policy?

Vpe – I asked GFC what method is being proposed to discuss the creation of policy and how students are being involved. For example, I asked if an ad hoc committee was being formed or if student groups would be consulted. The vote at GFC wasn't regarding the method/ who was involved with the policy making, more so regarding them deciding to do something – What that something is has not been decided as of yet. I have not consulted students at this point as the government has not released the specifics of the ask for the policy and it doesn't make sense to consult with students when the full picture is not clear for anybody at this point. What I have done is bring this up at the SAMU EC/MacEwan President and Vice-Presidents team meeting and I reiterated the importance of the student voice and its necessity when creating policy. John McGrath and Michelle Plouffe have personally guaranteed to me that there will be student representation or consultation (Depending on the format chosen) once the specifications of the ask are released.

Dykes - I want to ask all members of the EC what their election goals were, how they have changed, and how far they have come on them.

Vpe – I have my platform fully printed on my office wall and it is colour-coded with what has been completed, what is to be done, and what has not been started. In addition to that I also have issues brought up from the FB AMA on there as well as a daily reminder of the commitments I have made to students. I have quite a lengthy platform in which I would be more than happy to go over with anyone who wishes to see my progress as I have either

started or completed everything on my list with the exception of my point 4: Advocating for continued transportation and accessibility for students. This goal is contingent on if the Edmonton Students' Alliance (ESA) reforming because its proven quite difficult to advocate to the municipal government about these issues without the backing of Edmonton's institutions. I do have a meeting on the way with ETS in regard to bus routes changing and the effect on students so I am actively working on this goal, but it is proving difficult. Below is my platform:

Platform:

1. Increasing transparency and ensuring that MacEwan student's interests and concerns are heard
 - a. Facilitating an open-door policy
 - b. Encouraging other VPs and the President in engaging in an open-door policy
 - c. Creating a campaign where students can engage with the VPE in a more personable way
 - d. Promoting the position in order to create awareness and education surrounding the title so students know where to go
 - i. Promoting the VPE/SAMU Executive Committee office space
 - ii. Promoting the VPE reports and where to find them
 - iii. Promoting the Students' Council posted audio records
2. Working with local, provincial, and federal government, as well as other institutions, in order to share best practices and build upon existing frameworks
 - a. Attending conferences and meetups to build relationships and understand best practices
 - b. Collaborating with other institutions and strengthening the student voice to the government
 - c. Attending political meetups, regardless of political positioning, and advocating on your behalf
3. Building relationships with the newly elected members of government in power, post federal and provincial elections
 - a. Securing a good working relationship with government officials in order for our voice to be heard
 - b. Under the Post-Secondary Act section 93, it states that all post-secondary institutions (with 1 exception) shall establish a Students Association. With this potentially being brought into question, I will work on establishing a connection with the government in power and demonstrate our importance as an association and our impact on students
 - c. Attending events where representatives are present and advocating on behalf of students
4. Advocating for continued transportation and accessibility for students to get to the institution
 - a. Demonstrating the need for accessibility to the school given that students already incur large costs to attend MacEwan University

- b. Collaborating with the municipal government in efforts to demonstrate and advocate for said need
- c. Promoting accessible transport options for students who require transport services, such as DATS

5. Advocating for continued mental health support

- a. Demonstrating to the government the continued need for mental health support/services
- b. Advocating for continued funding

6. Advocating for predictable tuition and work experience for international students

- a. Building upon Bill 19, which has made tuition predictable for domestic students, creating a similar framework for international students
- b. Advocating for the increased ability and accessibility for international students to work/ participate in coops, and internships

Vpsl - My election goals were to raise awareness of the essential programs and services that SAMU provides to students and to continue advocating for increased accessibility to a great university experience for students of all backgrounds and abilities. I also campaigned on improving mental health services and creating a more open culture in discussing some of the struggles that students are facing.

My goals have since largely remained the same, though I have also decided to add reviving Sex Week to the list of things I hope to accomplish this year. Planning of that initiative is going extremely well. My goal of raising awareness has also been going well. We're looking at rolling out an awareness piece in the agenda for the coming year, and I've also been discussing ways to expand the reach of this campaign into MacEwan's online territory. Obviously, a big piece of this goal will come once students are back on campus in the fall and the rest of EC and I can get out and interact with folks on a face-to-face level.

The accessibility point is a goal that's somewhat less tangible, but I feel that I have been making progress on it. I've had some meaningful discussions on accessibility, both with staff around the office and with folks from MacEwan. Nearly everyone I've spoken to on the subject has also identified this as a goal of theirs, which is promising. I'm hoping to be able to partake more in various accessibility initiatives throughout the year, and I will keep Council updated on my progress.

My goals related to mental health have also been an ongoing process - I had some very meaningful conversations with folks at Gallivan (our insurance provider) about the importance of providing reliable mental health services to students and their capacity for future growth of their services in this area, and I've also connected with Wellness & Psychological Services on how we might work together in the coming year. As well, I feel that I've been contributing to a more open culture around mental health and student accessibility issues in my sharing of some of the struggles that I've faced in adjusting to university life; and as always, my door is open for anyone who would like to discuss any piece of this or any of the struggles that they may be facing!

Vpo - Goals:

- The new building is still the largest part of the portfolio, and will continue to be even after it opens. We anticipated more meetings closer to opening with all committees

involved in the project. Now, already, there is greater frequency than foreseen, and it is good. More meetings with parties involved keeps all communications open and the ball rolling smoothly.

- Reviewing policies and procedures as our building comes to fruition. Investigating if there any adjustments or improvements to be made is ongoing.
- All gender washrooms for buildings 9 and 11, and we have had very good news on that front. That is a-go!
- Accessibility, and always improving that accessibility at MacEwan is important to all of us students. SAMU staff and my predecessor have assured VP Operations & Finance that our new building was created in mind with both sustainability and accessibility in mind. However, it does not hurt have some foresight for any potential gaps. I am also not only keeping it in mind for our SAMU building, but MacEwan's Master Plan as well. Improving ourselves all the time never hurts.
- Getting students involved and raising awareness of what the Student Association can do to help them is important. Especially when someone face trying times. Knowing SAMU resources and where to find them can aid greatly. As someone who is in an Internal Affairs position versus the other Execs I was excited to discover Councillor days, and being able to visit folks on campus. Adding to my goals, is going mobile once a month to connect with the students of my role and what SAMU can do.
- As per my above goal, getting students involved through running for EC and SC by running the Campaign Workshop 101 again, and seeing room for improvements on that front. More students in elections enhances involvement. Though that is some ways off, starting by networking with my peers I believe will boost this goal long run.
- Sustainability in both greener practices and diversifying revenues is a big part of my research and planning both with staff and other sources. I have presently been in touch with fellow VP Operations & Finance Executives in sharing information in successes in these areas of their portfolios. Discovering the most viable options.

5.2. Oral Questions

6. In Camera Period

6.1 Councillor vacancies

MOTION TO GO IN CAMERA

VPSL/DYKES

CARRIED

MOTION TO GO OUT OF CAMERA

DYKES/BOUWER

CARRIED

7. Motions & Business Orders of the Day

7.1. Audit Committee

**MOTION TO APPOINT COUNCILLOR MIRZA TO THE AUDIT COMMITTEE FOR A TERM
ENDING OCTOBER 31, 2019**

RUIZ/DYKES

**MOTION TO POSTPONE THIS ITEM UNTIL AFTER WE DEAL WITH THE NEXT TWO
ITEMS**

RUIZ/HASSAN

Favour: Vpe, Bouwer, Drummond, Dykes, Hassan, Melech, Newton, Pres, Ruiz, Simpson, Vpsl, Stewart, Strayer, Turner, Vpa, Yanish

CARRIED

Nominee: Mirza

Favour: Vpe, Bouwer, Drummond, Dykes, Hassan, Melech, Newton, Pres, Ruiz, Simpson, Vpsl, Stewart, Strayer, Turner, Vpa, Yanish, Mirza, Vasquez

RUIZ/HASSAN

CARRIED

7.2. Councillor Vacancies

**MOTION TO APPOINT STEPHAN VASQUEZ & KIRAN MIRZA AS COUNCILLORS EFFECTIVE
JUNE 20, 2019 FOR A TERM ENDING OCTOBER 31, 2019**

VPSL/PRES

MOTION TO AMEND THE MOTION TO STRIKE '20' AND ADD '19'

VPSL/SIMPSON

Favour: Vpe, Bouwer, Drummond, Dykes, Hassan, Melech, Newton, Pres, Ruiz, Simpson, Vpsl, Stewart, Strayer, Turner, Vpa, Yanish

CARRIED

*Motion now reads:

**MOTION TO APPOINT STEPHAN VASQUEZ & KIRAN MIRZA AS COUNCILLORS EFFECTIVE
JUNE 19, 2019 FOR A TERM ENDING OCTOBER 31, 2019**

Favour: Vpe, Bouwer, Drummond, Dykes, Hassan, Melech, Newton, Pres, Ruiz, Simpson, Vpsl, Stewart, Strayer, Turner, Vpa, Yanish

CARRIED

7.3. Finances and Investments policy

MOTION TO APPROVE THE FINANCE POLICY ON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

VPO/NEWTON

*Recess for 5 minutes

Favour: Vpe, Bouwer, Drummond, Dykes, Hassan, Melech, Newton, Pres, Ruiz, Simpson, Vpsl, Stewart, Strayer, Turner, Vpa, Yanish, Mirza, Vasquez

CARRIED

8. Consultation

9. Evaluation

10. Recognition

11. Adjournment

MOTION TO ADJOURN

VPO

CARRIED

Next Meeting Date: July 17, 2019

Meeting adjourned at 7:15pm.