

**Minutes for the Students' Council Meeting of the
Students' Association of MacEwan University
November 7, 2019 at 6:30pm in room #7-297E**

In Attendance:

Cole Baker, Vice President External
Ruan Bouwer, Councillor
Colin Campbell, Councillor
Myles Dykes, Councillor
Blake Forbes, Councillor
Kiran Mirza, Councillor
Ryley Osadchuk, President
Stephanie Ouellette, Councillor
Aubrianna Snow, Vice President Student Life
Alycia Stewart, Councillor

Kent Strayer, Councillor
Andrea Turner, Vice President Operations
Sean Waddingham, Vice President Academic
Matthew Yanish, Councillor

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

Absent:

Rachelle Drummond, Councillor
Ahsan Hassan, Councillor
Hale Johnston, Councillor
Spencer Newton, Councillor
Alem Tesfay, Councillor

Meeting called to order at 6:30pm.

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 Amiskwacyi 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.

2. Approvals

2.1 MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA FOR NOVEMBER 7, 2019

CAMPBELL/VPOF

CARRIED

3. Question Period

3.1. Written Questions

Stewart - Why are there only 13 council positions available for committees when there are 14 councillors?

Strayer - This was an unintentional byproduct. Bylaw and Policy committees main focus was efficient use of committee time by amalgamating committees, adding previously non-existent student-body-at-large positions, and effective reporting structures. This does not preclude the ability for councillors to create ad-hoc committees. Furthermore, not every councillor might have the ability to allocate time to committees. It is easier to identify a committee and add positions than it is to eliminate positions in the middle of an elected term with the approval of this policy. Our intention was not to be exclusionary.

Bouwer - Questions 1 and 4 actually have the same answer, which is that we wanted to address the issue of standing committees as bare minimum before the members of BPC risk not being reappointed in the new cycle. Assuming reappointment, we fully intend to review sub-committees and ad-hoc committees, and we thought it was pointless to try getting the "right" number of councillor spots before those changes have been tackled as well.

Stewart - With the combination of the Leadership and Engagement committee and the Student Council review committee many councillor positions were lost, how do you suppose the committee will meet its goals now with double the workload and less people to do it?

Strayer - These two committees were often dealing with similar topics. The head and the tail per say. While Leadership and Review Committee(pending on approval) will have less total voting members than Student Council Review Committee(Current) and Leadership and Engagement Committee(Current) combined, it does not prevent the Leadership and Review Committee from creating sub committees to add outside councillors to. These subcommittees can be dependent on how heavy a work plan the committee creates for itself at the beginning of the term. Bylaw and policy is by no means opposed to adjusting the number of sitting councillors on this committee if needed.

Bouwer - one of the issues was the absence of a full workload in LEC, and our evaluation within BPC was that their mandates were complimentary enough to justify the merger. Reviewing the performance of SC and organizing training sessions and other opportunities for councillors would ideally not be separate issues. This way the opportunities presented can help to address potential shortfalls that manifest in council meetings.

Stewart - As much as I am excited to see more students at large sit on committees with this being a new addition that the appointment committee will be tasked with and that will take time to appoint students too and for marketing to support, what is the proposed solution for committees that will not have the students at large yet? What is the plan for the committees as they develop their workplan if they do not have those voices at the table yet and to get them on the same page/trained once they are appointed? Is there an opportunity for councillors to temporarily fill the student at large positions as we work on adapting to this new policy if approved?

Strayer - Bylaw and Policy is very excited about the new potential with this committee. We intent this committee to engage with faculty, deans, and chairs to identify students whom are prime candidates for these new positions. The leadership of Committee Chairs along with experience of Councillors will be necessary to ensure Student-Body-Members-at-Large are effective members of a committee. We hope with a little bit of initial effort, the ball will self perpetuate with a little bit of help.

Bouwer - We are aiming to make student-at-large positions more accessible by not asking for firm commitments beyond one or two meetings, and expanding the way that we seek out students to fill those spots. Advertising doesn't suffice by itself, which is part of the logic behind AAC's new mandate. While we would love to have those students on committees from the very beginning, this would depend on how quickly AAC could fill the spots, and I suspect that it's more likely that the student spots will be phased in as they are filled, as the alternative would be a committee standstill until AAC has filled every position. This question is one that I want everyone to help us answer, so if you have any proposals about how to manage the transition we would be happy to hear them!

Stewart - How come no adjustments were made to some of the sub committees for instance is there a student at large that would be more likely considered for the health and dental subcommittee? (I'm assuming time to update policy was a factor?)

Strayer - Great question. We ran out of time. Bylaw and policy is entirely committed to ensuring subcommittees are reviewed thoroughly. We expect the work plan from Bylaw and Policy Committee to reflect this. We did spend time ensuring that the changes made in the proposed policy did not have consequences to subcommittees. Currently Health and Dental Sub Committee already has two student body members at large.

3.2. Oral Questions

- 4. In Camera Period**
- 5. Motions & Business Orders of the Day**

5.1. Committees policy

MOTION TO APPROVE THE COMMITTEES POLICY ON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE BYLAWS AND POLICY COMMITTEE

VPOF/DYKES

FAVOUR: OUELLETTE, CAMPBELL, STRAYER, PRES, YANISH, FORBES, MIRZA, STEWART, VPA, DYKES, BOUWER, VPE, VPOF, VPSL

CARRIED

- 6. Evaluation**
- 7. Recognition**
- 8. Adjournment**

MOTION TO ADJOURN

BOUWER

CARRIED

Next Meeting Date: November 20, 2019

Meeting adjourned at 7:54pm.