Speaker 1: Chair

Speaker 2: Campbell

Speaker 3: VPOF

Speaker 4: Dykes

Speaker 5: Stewart

Speaker 6: Bouwer

Speaker 7: Strayer

Speaker 8: VPSL

Speaker 9: VPA

Speaker 1: Order

# Thank you, item number one 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 Amiskwaciy, Waskahikanor Beaver Hill House in Nehiyawewin . This is the traditional home of the Nehiyaw and Michif, and meeting place for many Indigenous peoples including the Nakawe, Siksika , Nakota Sioux and other nations.

Item two approval’s, item one, we have a motion a councillor Campbell

Speaker 2: I motion to approve the agenda for November 7, 2019

Speaker 1: thank you, motion to approve agenda for November 7, 2019, thank you councillor and a second? Vice president of operations and finance thank you. It has been motioned and seconded to approve the agenda for November 7, 2019, is there any debate? Councillor Stewart?

Speaker 5: thank you chair I noticed on the agenda there umm that where it supposes to say 2019 it says 2016.

Speaker 1: councillor Stewart the motion was as read, it will read in the minutes as appropriate. Is there any further debate? Okay the questions on the adoption to motion to approve the agenda for November 7, 2019 all those in favour? Thank you. Opposed? Thank you, motion carried. Question period 3.1 written questions, they were in your package for your information, 3.2 any oral questions still? We can deal with them in the motion. Okay moving on item 4 in camera period, nothing there. Item five, motions and business orders of the day, five-point one committees’ policy, we have a motion, who’s the chair of the committee who is bringing this forward? Vice president of operations and finance.

Speaker 3: thank you chair, motion to approve the committee’s policy on the recommendation of the bylaws and policy committee.

Speaker 1: thank you vice president, and a second? Councillor dykes thank you, it is moved and seconded to approve the committee’s policy on the reccomdation of the bylaws and policy committee, is there any debate? No debate councillor’s? Councillor Stewart.

Speaker 5: thank you chair, I had asked quiet a few questions in the written questions, and I guess one that I didn’t get to was, one in regards to the the fact, well I guess a follow up if that’s okay chair?

Speaker 1: certainly

Speaker 5: in regards to my first question, that there are only thirteen council positions if this policy is passed, I think that its important for all the councillors who are at this table to be involved in committees as it is part of our role, as well as many councillors and in our training it has been stressed that a lot of the work is done in that role and in that time, I wouldn’t want to see any individuals excluded from that experience, or multiple individuals if a council was appointed to more than one committee, so I guess a concern I had and maybe question of how we would figure that out or maybe an opportunity in the future that maybe we can amend the policy to say that maybe councillors are only able to sit on one committee unless there a vacancy, essentially that nature or note to council for us to beware if this goes through, I guess that my question, how can we encourage more councillors to be involved and beware that we may need to put a restriction on how many sit on

Speaker 1: thank you, thank you councillor, and just so council knows I mean during debate you don’t have to ask a question, you can make a statement as well, is there a member of the committee that wishes to take it? Councillor Bouwer.

Speaker 6: thank you chair, so um regards to the question councillor Stewart brought up, with regards to their only being thirteen spots for fourteen councillors, this is something we are acutely aware of right as we were tallying up the tail end of the policy, the biggest reason we didn’t push harder for the fourteen number as a minimum, because we basically the time to review all the standing committees, and kind of go through their mandate, their composition and go through their policy. We did not however make it through the majority of sub committees and ad-hoc committees, and we will given re appointment and everything, we fully intend to carry through our work plan to finish out those and we take the count of councillor positions a lot more seriously, at that tail end, we just didn’t want to create an extra position and throw off the voting structure or create a position for the sake of having one to temporarily make us feel like there is the right amount. I do agree we should have an informal rule that none of us take more than one position on a committee, but it is a fair assumption, that one of us will have a busy enough schedule that it might be a relief for them to not sit on one. Thank you chair.

Speaker 1: thank you councillor, councillor Strayer.

Speaker 7: I also sit on this committee, I can identify a couple committees here that one councillor currently sits one, health and dental subcommittee has one, grant allocation subcommittee has none, awards subcommittee has one councillor on it, again we didn’t want through one councillor on to any one of these, but clearly reviewing it as councillor Bouwer said, but if re appointment I fully intend to make sure that every single councillor is full engaged in the committee structure or at least has the opportunity to engage in it, as I said in my response that doesn’t mean that any subcommittee or committee for that matter can create sub committees within themselves if they feel their work load is too strong, there are solutions to this if somebody doesn’t feel included, that also doesn’t preclude every single councillor to attend in a nonvoting capacity, I’ve attended a couple different committees and its fascinating to see how they are run, thank you chair.

Speaker 1: thank you councillor, councillor Dykes.

Speaker 4: I would just like to echo, I know there’s some councillors on that currently can’t sit on committees, and its happened in the past too that I’m aware of, like overall, regardless I don’t think it’s a problem if there’s only thirteen spots, cause life happens cause sometimes councillors can’t sit on committees. I don’t think it impedes on our ability to do our job as student councillors I don’t think we need to sit on a committee to be able to do work, I guess that’s what I would like to iterate I guess.

Speaker 1: thank you councillor, another debate. Vice president

Speaker 8: I just like to reiterate and add to the benefit of council that we despite having enough positions for every councillor hasn’t meant that every councillor has gotten on a committee, for example I spent my first half a term as a councillor on no committee just because I didn’t get voted on to one, some people had two or three spots and it was fine it still felt very productive, we got a lot done as a council, I don’t really see any issue with that, thank you.

Speaker 1: thank you vice president, any other debate? Councillor Stewart.

Speaker 5: thank you chair, I guess I wanted to say I really apricate all the work the bylaws and policy put into this, I think it’s really great because this is a working document still. Like its still something that bylaws and policy can come back to, can make some of these changes to and as committees grow and are going through that growth it will be all to revisit these policy in the future, and I think they take away and discussions, with people on the committee and we get those more student at large positions, I still have a little bit of a concern on how the appointment committee will, in terms of a time line, and we know how fast January and December slips away from us. Especially as students and trying to find and fill vacancy, in the past took some time, to get those students at large engaged, I think if that is passed in the future it will be a bit easier because we will have a bit more time to prepare for that and fill those spots for students at large. But at this time, I think it will be a struggle to get those filled. Otherwise I’m really excited about some of these changes, and we just have to wait and see how things go if this is passed.

Speaker 1 : thank you councillor, councillor strayer.

Speaker 7: I’m going to respond to that, this is going to require a group effort from all of us, I wonder if our vp academic has as he has much experience in the past couple months filling, those positions if he has any insight on that.

Speaker 1: thank you councillor, vice president.

Speaker 9: thank you chair, so your referring to, just for clarification, the recruitment process? On how to get students on there?

Speaker 1: I think so vice president, ya.

Speaker 9: okay, I have to be frank it is a challenge, and statically has proven to be a very difficult thing, I managed to get more seats filled with higher attendance rates. Of course, were only so far into the year so we will have to see how attendance is for the rest of the year, but I think compare to last year, we do have higher attendance, so I do have some idea how to do that. But I have to be honest there are still seats that are vacant. Health and community studies those students are super busy, their faculty council does have student reps on it, there certain faculties where students have higher workloads where it is harder to get this done, and also as I think we all know with the voting turn out and our social media and other marketing strategies don’t reach a lot of students. We have to be wary about the logistics, however I think its worth a shot for two main reasons. The big one is that quorum only really requires council to be present, so the quorum for all these committees being proposed, means that even if the seats are vacant, we can still get the work of the committee done. Still have votes go through and have committees come to resolutions. I think that’s clever because at certain times were not going to fill those seats, I can get into more detail later with strategies for recruitment, our website has been updated since I’ve come in and changed that one thing to do and there are certain ways you can attract students, through marketing materials now and we offer compensation those kind of things, I think it’s worth a shot, it’s not going to threaten the work of the committees, and we have to be wary of the challenge but I think we can rise to the challenge of engaging students.

Speaker 1: thank you vice president. Vice president.

Speaker 3: I’m just adding to that because it’s really resonated with us for some time that, both present ec, re-elected sc, and newly appointed sc who have been very active on campus, the one thing, we do recognize the challenge in this. I think vp academic put it greatly, however everyone has been very up to spreading the word of SAMU, getting recognition for SAMU, you guys filled the seats, congrats again, working hard to spread the word, especially right now with the economic and political climate, we recognize and you know keep drawing people in. so one of the intentions, was the long term goal aligned with the strategic plans of the committees will always resonate , reaching out and getting students involved, and thus growing and thus in turn meeting the needs of students consistently and so that was something I wish to add on as well.

Speaker 1: thank you vice president, any further debate? Vice president.

Speaker 9: I just want to make one last comment, about students at large being involved, I’ve noticed at even committees I sit on as vp academic because I sit on 30-40, sometimes the ec or sc member on that committee isn’t able to be the most specialized in it, because they have so many things demanding their attention, so when you have a student sitting on one committee and their all consumed in that, sometimes they come up with really good ideas. Stuff they pay attention more on and I think that’s something worth recognizing, when their laser focused for that committee they sit on, sometimes they actually preform just as good, than the elected representatives, so that’s just an argument in favour of that.

Speaker 1: thank you vice president, does anyone care to speak in opposition to the motion? Councillors any further debate?

Speaker 5: I just have a point of information.

Speaker 1: go ahead.

Speaker 5: it was mentioned by vice president academic that we would reach quorum, which that is true if there are no, I just want to make a point to council, that if there are no students at large at the meetings, they can still proceed because majority will still be there if all the councillors positions, if all the councillors and the chair showed up. I guess I just wanted clarification if the students at large are still voting member thought, if their presents will still be like important, I mean obviously we know it’s important, still be counted and not, if you were missing one less councillor if it was a committee of 5 and 2 councillors and 1 chair, 2 students at large , if you were missing one councillor and students at large you cannot have the meeting.

Speaker 1: my understanding councillor is that the students at large are voting members, that’s correct? Anyone correct me if I’m wrong, that answer your question?

Speaker 5: yep, thank you.

Speaker 1: councillors any other debate? Okay question is on the adoption of the motion to approve the committee’s policy on recommendation of the bylaws and policy committee, all those in favour? Thank you, and opposed? Motion carries, we will note that, that was unanimous, item six evaluation, do we have evaluation today Alan? (in audible) Open your devices and I think you will have it, the link in there, anyone not have the link, councillor Mirza, can someone give her the link?

Speaker 9: I sent it to the what’s app chat.

Speaker 1: Councillors is everyone done? I can never tell if your done or trolling hot or not. ( in audible) your all done so that’s good, item seven, hot or not that was big when I was in high school, ( in audible), item seven recognition, vice president.

Speaker 3: thank you chair, I would like to recognize here, past and present like were missing councillors that were present during a lot of addressing changes during the committee and everyone’s here now and ec’s who verses myself were apart of these committees long time and recognize the structure and what was becoming, redundant and ineffective, verses how we can be more effective especially long term, myself did a lot of homework behind the scenes and brought it forward, but also the councillor Simpson, Bouwer, Strayer, really worked behind the scenes too with their experiences and did homework as well and we came together. And we really hope this helps everyone long term, to continually be an effective SAMU.

Speaker 1: other recognition councillor dykes.

Speaker 4: I would like to recognize the hard work of the bylaws and policy committee; I know reviewing policy and mending it might not be the funniest thing. But to councillor bouwer I’m sure it was.

Speaker 1: vice president.

Speaker 8: I would also like to recognize the bylaws and policy committee particularly, our lovely councillors and VPO for all their hard work on this and also I would like to recognize council for thinking critically about this and putting the time and effort to really ask those questions and knew what you were approaching, so thanks y’all.

Speaker 1: councillor Strayer.

Speaker 7: I would like to recognize three individuals, groups, first the bylaws and policy, um we worked really hard, we had fun, was a lot of work, second, ex former councillor Simpson he is not here right now but he attended all the meetings and killed it, he was the median voice between councillor bouwer and I who often times came from two different sides, but meet in the middle with all sorts of good solutions and councillor Stewart, I did not do the math on the amount of councillor’s till the very last meeting we had, the fact that u picked up on that I thought was real good of u and it shows how through you are and you go through the policy’s and agendas we have, so well done.

Speaker 1: vice president.

Speaker 9: thank you to be the fifth or sixth recognition, but I really think I need to say that I think that the committee structure in SAMU, is at the heart of a lot of what we do so reforming it in such a large way is really critical, have to say EC was looking at a reform in the exact same way you guys were and it was just too much for us to handle, so having it passed along to BPC and seeing it carried out like this, all three of you plus Simpson that’s really excellent to see come through, because we were having a hard time with coming up with what to do and I’m really impressed with the ideas, further I attended the first BPC meeting and the two councillors who spoke to the motion today, came with stuff already prepared, at least an hour or a few hours of work being completed already and that really helped, kick things off in the right direction, so the first recognition is to BPC and second recognition is to councillor Stewart I think I want to echo what councillor strayer said, I think I have indicated how big of a change this is and this fundamentally changes the way that decision, obviously were not uprooting all of the committee structures but every committee changing a little bit, so I think that it’s important to hold our member to account to put this forward, and as some of those tough questions and go through with a fine tooth comb, I thought there would actually be more questions today, I appreciate the excellent work of BPC and the questions coming from councillor Stewart.

Speaker 1: President.

Speaker 10: I’m going to be that person, I mirror everything everyone else said, I also want to acknowledge that I’ve been here since 6:30 in the morning, so let’s go home

Speaker 1: any other recognition? I want to recognize the governance advisor for increasing the font size on the card. Old eyes there’s a song about that I’m sure but it was before even me, so any other recognition? Item eight adjournment, I need a motion, um councillor Bouwer.

Speaker 6: I move adjourn chair.

Speaker 1: thank you, this motion only requires one mover and is not debatable, all those in favour, thank you, and opposed, motion carried, meeting adjourn.