

**January 15, 2020 Students' Council Meeting – Audio Recording Transcript**

**Speaker Key:**

CH	Chair
CCA	Councillor Campbell
VPS	Vice President Student Life
CST	Councillor Strayer
CSTE	Councillor Stewart
VPA	Vice President Academic
VPE	Vice President External
VPO	Vice President Operations and Finance
CBO	Councillor Bouwer
CMI	Councillor Mirza
CDY	Councillor Dykes
CDR	Councillor Drummond
CYA	Councillor Yanish
CTE	Councillor Tesfay
CHA	Councillor Hasan
UF	Unidentified Female Speaker
UM	Unidentified Male Speaker

CH Order. Thank you. Item one, Treat 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 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 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.

00:00:43

Item two, Approvals, 2.1. We have a motion. Councillor Campbell?

CCA I move to approve the agenda for January 15, 2020.

CH Thank you, Councillor. And a second? Councillor Johnston, thank you. It has been moved and seconded to approve the agenda for January 15, 2020. Is there any debate? Vice President?

UF Thank you Chair. I would like to have a motion to amend the agenda to remove 3.1, [inaudible] presentation.

00:01:13

CH Thank you. So, you move to amend the agenda to remove item 3.1, and a second? Vice President Student Life, thank you. It has been moved and seconded to amend the agenda to remove item 3.1. Is there any debate? Councillor Strayer?

CST Why?

CH Vice President?

UF Thank you, Chair. Unfortunately, due to a scheduling conflict the chair, who lives in Calgary, was unable to attend. Then the executive director unfortunately had a conflict as well. I'm hoping to approve them for a presentation in March. They do send their regrets, and they are very apologetic at not being able to come. But it's just a busy time of year, unfortunately. Thank you, Chair.

CH Thank you, Vice President. Is there any additional debate? The question is on the adoption of the motion to amend the agenda to remove item 3.1. All those in favour? Thank you. And opposed? Motion carries. The main motion is amended, so we're back to the main motion. Is there any debate? The question is on the adoption of the motion to approve the agenda for January 15, 2020 as amended. All those in favour? Thank you. Opposed? Motion carries. Item 2.2. We have a motion. Councillor Stewart?

CSTE Thank you, Chair. I move to approve the minutes of December 18, 2019.

CH Thank you, and a second? Councillor Bouwer? Thank you. It has been moved and seconded to approve the minutes of December 18, 2019. Is there any debate? The question is on the adoption of the motion as read. All those in favour? Thank you. Opposed? Motion carries.

00:02:54

Item three, presentations. Nothing there. Item four, for information 4.1, Reports. 4.1.1, Vice President Academic, any oral supplements?

VPA Yes, thank you, Chair. Just one, that the Simplifying Student Research event that's listed in my report has received some progress recently. So today, I booked the event space in the new SAMU building, which is very exciting, and I also have confirmed a meeting next week with the Associate Vice-President in Research to iron out the details of that event. That is all.

CH Thank you. 4.1.2, Vice President External, any oral supplements?

VPE Yes, thank you, Chair. I participated in the Presidential Search Committee this past Friday and Saturday, and this is the MacEwan Presidential Search Committee, might I add. Then I had a [unclear] meeting on the Monday, followed by... I was consulted from the city in terms of the city plan, which for folks who don't know, it's kind of the municipal direction, the [unclear] plan the city is taking. It's two million citizens. [Unclear] input in terms what post-secondary students would like to see in the city.

00:04:05

And then I participated in Executive Committee for a Day, where we delve into our

[unclear] or what our goals consist of. I also met with Councillor Campbell in regard to a question that the councillor had. We had the SAMU building grand opening, which I think is a huge note. That's very exciting. Then we also participated in the moment of silence in memory of victims of the crash... The victims of the Ukraine International Airlines flight 752. We also participated in a safety and.... I am not entirely sure what the title of this is. Security and safety briefing with some folks from MacEwan that pertains to our building. Thank you, Chair.

CH Thank you. 4.1.3, Vice President Operations and Finance, any oral supplements?

VPO Yes, thank you, Chair. Last week we prepped for EC for a Day that has been going on today. I'm looking to YouTube tomorrow as nominations are opening up soon, so promoting and prepping about it. I had a visitation from my counterpart at U [inaudible]. It was a very interesting conversation and talking about future strategies that were in our portfolios and for the future of our fellow ECs. More will be coming in the near future on that to share with folks.

I had a visit from the dean at Alberta College Campus about students moving over to Allard Hall, and what membership fees might look like for them. It wouldn't be much change at this time, very likely, as it's pretty close to the time as to when they would be submitting their information to the government, and they would [unclear] moving time. The president's team at MacEwan came by for a building tour, so the Director of Building Operations and I gave them a walk through.

We had our SAMU grand opening yesterday, followed by two meetings about the building now that it's opened, which continued on into today with the security briefing now that the building's open. And something we touch on about the SAMU Joint Steering Committee and the bi-weekly meeting. Then we had our EC for a Day today, and now we are here. Thank you, Chair.

00:06:42

CH Thank you. 4.1.4, Vice President Student Life, any oral supplements?

VPS Yes, thank you, Chair. On Monday, I had my first meeting as a member SVPEC, which is the Sexual Violence Prevention and Education Committee [unclear]. We reviewed the operational plan from now until 2026. Really rewarding experience. I was also able to provide some meaningful feedback. Also, EC for a Day... Yes, that's it. Thank you, Chair.

CH Thank you. Items 4.1.5 through 4.1.11, so the Appointment Advisory Committee, Audit Committee, Bylaws and Policy Committee, Budget and Finance Committee, Executive Committee, Governance Remuneration Advisory Committee, and Leadership and Review Committee, those reports are in your package for your information.

4.2, Executive Committee minutes of December 11<sup>th</sup> are provided in your package for your information. Item five, 5.1, Written Questions, were distributed earlier today. 5.2, Oral Questions. We'll take questions now. Councillor Stewart?

00:07:48

CSTE Thank you, Chair. I just have a question for the Vice President Operations and Finance, so the follow up to one of my written questions. I'm just curious when they give that information [inaudible] or when it was approved for the fundraiser position that they would be partnering with MacEwan to help pay for, and then if that has been approved

by MacEwan yet or what the next steps are.

CH Thank you, Councillor. Vice President?

VPO Thank you, Chair. We'd have to follow up with the general manager on that because it's just still pre-discussions. There hasn't been yet an advertisement, last I heard, put out for that position. Thank you, Chair.

CH Thank you. Councillor Stewart, anything further?

CSTE Not at this time, thank you, Chair.

CH Thank you. Other questions? Councillor Strayer?

CST Thank you, Chair. This question is for the Vice President of Operations as well, regarding the supplemental health coverage. Is there an opt-out for the supplemental health care? Thank you.

CH Thank you, Councillor. Vice President?

VPO Sorry, thank you, Chair. Is this regarding international student protection coverage? Thank you, Chair.

CH Thank you, Vice President. Councillor Strayer?

CST Yes, it is.

00:08:56

CH Thank you. Vice President?

VPO Thank you. As per my submission to [unclear], no there wouldn't not be an opt-out at this time. The reason that being is that both at the MacEwan side of Senior Risk Management Administration, our brokerage, and other places brought forward under universities and students' unions, we realised that a lot of times what happens, unfortunately, is that students cannot always get comparable coverage.

Just like when we are opting out for health and dental, you can sometimes claim you do and you don't, and then they've had risk to the student. It's been critical or death, and then their families were left with the bill. And that's all there is at this point. Thank you, Chair.

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

CST Yes, thank you, Chair. Has Gallivan provided us with post-mortem repatriation statistics? That's a hard word. Thank you, Chair.

00:10:04

CH Thank you, Councillor. Vice President?

VPO Unfortunately at this time, no. Thank you, Chair.

CH Thank you. Councillor Strayer, anything further?

CST No, that's it for now. Thank you.

CH Thank you. Other questions? Councillor Bouwer?

CBO Thank you, Chair. This next question is for the VP Ops and Finance. Also, regarding the protection plan, does the \$100 fee... Just because I wasn't sure if I was reading all the writing correctly, so is it a once-off fee or is it a per semester situation? Can you elaborate on that? Thank you.

CH Thank you, Councillor. Vice President?

VPO Thank you, Chair. No, it would just be per year, per the 12-month academic year, not per term. Thank you.

CH Thank you. Councillor Bower, anything further?

CBO No, thank you, Chair.

CH Thank you. Other questions? Councillor Mirza?

CMI Sorry. My question is for any [unclear]. I was just wondering how the president's search is going. [Unclear] updates [unclear]?

CH Thank you, Councillor. Are any councillors able to answer that question? Councillor Dykes.

CDY Yes, so we the AAC have met, and we need to find, essentially, a person to replace the president by the 17<sup>th</sup>. Because that isn't really feasible, it's a hard position. So, the 17<sup>th</sup> is the add or drop date. If we were soliciting a qualified candidate after, we would either have to reimburse them for lost tuition, or they would have to forfeit that lost tuition. So, yes, that is where we stand currently.

00:11:43

CH Thank you, Councillor. Councillor Mirza, anything further?

CMI [Unclear].

CH Thank you. Other questions? Councillor Strayer?

CST Thank you, Chair. Did AAC meet? Thank you.

CH Thank you, Councillor. Councillor Dykes?

CDY Yes, we met on Monday, I believe.

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

CST No, that's it. Thank you.

CH Thank you. Other questions? Vice President?

00:12:12

VPA Thank you, Chair. For AAC, what strategies have been used to find a president? Have there been any kind of callouts or any kind of soliciting or advertisement that the position is vacant and accepting appointments? Thanks, Chair.

CH Thank you, Vice President. Councillor Dykes?

CDY Sure. Given that over the holiday break we weren't doing anything with regards to that because we were all absent. I was out of province. Everybody else had a well-deserved break. And so, when we returned, we were all quite busy. We met on Monday, and since

then it's been... Since Friday, we haven't been able to solicit because that would involve [unclear]. So, it doesn't look like anything else is going on.

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

VPA No, that's all, thanks Chair.

CH Thank you. Other questions? Okay. Move on. Item six, In-Camera Period, nothing there. Item seven, Motions and Business Orders of the Day. We have a motion, item 7.1, International Student Protection Plan Referendum. Vice President Operations and Finance?

VPO Thank you, Chair. Motion to approve the International Student Protection Plan Referendum question to be included in the March 2020 election.

CH Thank you, Vice President. And a second? Vice President External, thank you. It has been moved and seconded to approve the International Student Protection Plan Referendum question to be included in the March 2020 election. The motion was included in your package, so Vice President Operations and Finance, did you want to start debate, or would you like me to turn it over to the floor?

00:13:51

VPO You can turn it over to the floor.

CH Thank you. Okay, we'll take debate now. Councillor Strayer?

CST Thank you, Chair. I took a good amount of time looking over this. I did a little bit of research, to the extent that Councillor Stewart and I even went to the office of international students to talk to the lovely people that are there. I won't speak for Councillor Stewart, but I personally learned a lot of interesting information. I can't in good faith vote for this as it currently sits. I keep myself open to the further debate [unclear]. But as it currently sits...

So as per point two here within the submission, coverage for when they arrive and are waiting Alberta Health Care to be activated, which can be three or four weeks during peak times, that unfortunately isn't entirely true. And I'll cite another piece from Alberta Health Care website, if your application is received within three months of your arrival, your coverage will start on either the date you arrived in Alberta or the date you signed your study permit, whatever is later. I'll repeat that. The day you arrive in Alberta. So effectively what this coverage would cover is literally the flight. So, they leave from country A, and then they land on country B.

00:15:22

Now I don't know about you, but there's not a lot of flights that are actively going down. Maybe in recent times, but flying is still statistically the safest mode of transportation. This is a lot of money that students are being asked to pay for, \$100 for something that is effectively covered by travel insurance. You buy travel insurance, it costs you \$20, if that, for a week, and then you fly home.

So, I'm curious mostly about the repatriation of... Yes, it's a [unclear]... Post-mortem. While that is an effective argument to make for that \$100, according to MacEwan International, just international norms, there is consular services for these people to repatriate a body. This is just too much, and I can't in its current state vote for it. Thank

you, Chair.

CH Thank you. Vice President?

VPO Thank you, Chair. I would just like to point out that this is in terms of the referendum question, not actually approving the protection plan itself. I'm a strong believer of students voicing their own opinion, especially when I am not an international student, and yet I live with one. And I think it's important they have the option to voice their opinion on what they want because it's all well and great that we can look at the data. We don't know the lived experience of these folks.

While I hear Councillor Strayer's point, I also truly believe if you're an international student coming to Canada to study, \$100 extra a semester, though I completely agree and I am always sympathising with the financial struggles of students, if you are unable to supply \$100 towards your own safety, you should be... I'm not phrasing this correctly, but I feel like if there's a financial struggle, \$100 per year, potentially them remaining in Canada would be a financial barrier in general. And they probably wouldn't be inclined to come to Canada to study if \$100 a year would be that big of a barrier.

Ideally, I want the students to voice their own opinion because as someone who's not an international student, it's very important that they get the opportunity to voice their opinion if this is something they would want. Thank you, Chair.

00:17:44

CH Thank you, Vice President. Councillor Boucher?

CBO Thank you, Chair. I guess this is another question for the VP Ops and Finance. What kind of considerations... I'm curious as to what... If you were giving a breakdown of what each of these components cost and which ones have weighed the most heavily on international students in the past because I believe it was mentioned that families have suffered with the cost of repatriation post-mortem for whatever reason in the past. I was just wondering if you have any data on the frequency of each one of these things and the costs? How much of each one of them goes into that \$100? Thank you, Chair.

CH Thank you, Councillor. Vice President?

VPO I don't have the data on the exact components of... Right now, for how many... Sorry, can you clarify the question again? Are you asking about the frequency that this has happened?

00:18:55

Again, as I said to Councillor Strayer, they did not get back to me with those stats, but, however, even when the dean was visiting from Alberta College Campus, she says it happens more than you know. It's really sad what happens. We both shared a story. It's very confidential, so I'm not going to share it here. But the university didn't want to pay this. You didn't want to pay. Guess who paid? And the student was sent home. And it happens more than we know is all I've been told by MacEwan senior management and so on.

As much as everyone push on all of us, the ECs can speak to this that we should just implement it. Even a former SC, who is on health and dental, where he's at, they just went ahead and did it because it was, one, a dutiful care; two, a liability issue. And to

just take that away, instead of this poor family like, just give us our child back. And then they get the bill anyway and [inaudible] this person. Thank you.

CH Thank you, Vice President. Additional debate, Councillor Stewart?

CSTE Thank you, Chair. At first I have a question, and then, as well some other things I'd like to mention. First, my question is for the Vice President Operations and Finance. What is the plan, if we approve this referendum, to make sure as many international students [unclear] take part in this referendum?

CH Thank you, Councillor. Vice President?

VPO Thank you. Already the governance advisor and I, just because the potential for this to be approved and brought forward, we immediately go through the list and all the students get that information that this is coming to them and that the representative at Gallivan will be present and just to give them as much information so they can decide for themselves, no, or yes.

00:20:44

And either way giving them that power of recognising what this all means so they have all that information. I'm not an international student, but I recognize the service is being offered to them. And that's just one of the big things, [unclear] of it, and that it's there for them. And if then they say no, more power to them. If they say yes, that's great too. Equal weight, from where I stand.

CH Thank you, Vice President. Councillor Stewart, you had some other points you wanted to make?

CSTE Yes please, thank you, Chair. I think this international protection plan can fulfil a gap, and that is to be recognised, in current services. But there is still a point where it currently stands, that second point that Councillor Strayer mentioned, where it says that it would be covering them for a few-week period where it is, I would say, slightly misleading where it says they aren't currently covered by Alberta Health, when indeed they are. So that's one piece I would be a little hesitant on, that wording. I don't know if that is comparative to us passing this motion or not, but I think that's an important piece.

00:21:51

Another thing too, as much as I recognise, I am not an international student, but I want to best represent them. That's why we had the meeting with MacEwan International. In looking at, although this might be a small fee, it would be a fee that was mandatory every year. So according to the manager of MacEwan International, the majority, if not all, international students coming here are to live here permanently. So, it's only really the one flight over. Maybe they need to go back. Obviously, that's a case-by case basis. Obviously there is the appreciation of, how do you say it, fees that can be covered in other ways, through travel insurance, through a family's insurance or whomever they are with. So, there are other options that the individual may have, or through an embassy or consulate.

Of course, we don't want to leave students high and dry. I don't think we ever want to... We want to do it in their best interest. On average, if the student is taking a full course load, tuition might be up to \$10,000 or the average tuition fee for an international

student could be over \$18,000. That's a lot of money. If we're getting them to keep adding on, especially with fees increasing and tuition increasing, especially for something that \$100... I don't know if that's... That can be quite pricey for what we're asking it for and [unclear] low risk.

Of course, paying into your medical care is super important, but there might be cheaper options for them. I think we need to give them the opportunity to opt out, or, obviously, this is a referendum, so we're not making this decision for them. But if you look at our statistics, last referendum, and this was for the U-Pass, 35% or so of students voted. Usually it's about 10% of students who vote in these elections. If this referendum question is included in that amount, what percentage of that is international students? Probably a very small amount. And what percentage of that is actually of the international students in our community?

00:23:48

I don't want us to have this referendum and although we might get a majority of people who vote, I want to make sure that's actually the majority of the international students. I know that's not always so possible at this table, but if this is going to be a mandatory fee that's going to impact them, I know it might seem minimal, I think it is still important to consider how we're going to be reaching out to them with this question, that this is a referendum and the terms of agreement, the language in it. I think those are all things to be considered.

If it wasn't an opt out or if we didn't have an assurance that it would be a super majority or something... I know I spoke to Councillor Dykes and Councillor Mirza, as well as [unclear] about this, I would feel hesitant just because gauging for another large amount... \$400 is quite a bit over four years, if that's not necessary. [Inaudible] a smaller amount, especially if that second point is to be taken back or something. Those are just my... My perspective here. Thank you, Chair.

CH Thank you. Any additional debate? Vice President?

VPO So really interesting, the Executive Director of International was involved in these discussions as well. He felt the exact same way as us that they wanted this to be offered to the students and a majority to vote on as well. They were of the same mind as us.

00:25:09

I daresay, when MacEwan and the brokerage really wanted us to move with this, and they too felt like we should let them know. But we want as many to vote on it as possible because there could be, in the future, that it is taken out of their hands, and they don't get a vote. And it's going to happen in some places. So, they, too, were also of the same mindset. We want to give them the option that way. We agree with you on that as well. If we offer this, we don't want to [inaudible] that they didn't decide, and that the majority vote on as well. So, they are aware of it, and they were involved in the discussions as well.

CH Thank you, Vice President. Councillor Dykes?

CDY It's the \$100 for covering the travel to Canada, then also the repatriation, which I think is extremely important. And then the \$100 also covers something that it really isn't valid in Alberta. I'm very supportive of this measure because I think repatriation is very important. Consular and embassies have certain agreements between different

countries. I know a lot of the European countries would be in that case where they probably do it barrier free, but then there's least-developed countries. We probably have some international students from those countries, where the consular services may not be as developed.

So, I think repatriation and then travel coverage are very valid in this case. However, the portion of the \$100 fee that goes towards paying for their coverage while they're waiting for their Alberta Health Care coverage, it doesn't really apply in Alberta. I think that we should have the vote upon it, but I feel like they would be charged another fee for something that doesn't really apply in Alberta. I'm not too sure, maybe if Gallivan offered this to students' unions, that they'd fight it nationally. Because I've heard that's the case in Manitoba, is that it doesn't cover retroactively, but apparently in Alberta it does. That's all.

00:27:04

CH Thank you, Councillor. Who have we not gotten to? Councillor Drummond.

CDR Thank you, Chair. I agree with what Councillor Dykes just said. I think its kind of, to use a less formal term, sneaky to make it seem like, for \$100, we're getting covered, but for all this time you're not usually getting covered. For them to come into Alberta and already have that and not need that doesn't really make sense to me, but enough on that note.

My second thing was if this is going into the March election, is this going to be an available vote for everyone to participate in or just the international students?

UF International students.

CDR Thank you, Chair.

CH Thank you, Councillor. Others? Vice President?

VPA Thank you, Chair. I think there's been really good points made on both sides. I would like to commend the meeting of the councillors with MacEwan International and pointing out that Alberta health coverage does come into effect when the student arrives in the province. That's important to consider when we're voting for this, but on the other side of the matter, it's also really important to consider that although our insurance will only cover repatriation and the flight, the cost of repatriation is extraordinarily high. There are some countries to which repatriation could cost as high as \$10,000. Although \$100 is a very small percentage compared to the total tuition and fees paid by an international student, \$10,000 is quite a lot.

00:28:37

So, it's important to consider when we vote, both the fact that sure, their coverage comes into effect when they come into Alberta, but at the same time that if repatriation is not covered, that's a \$10,000 charge. Maybe it's worth it covering something that's that expensive. Of course, that depends on how often repatriation happens.

The last thing I would say around that is there's actually a premium if you wanted to expedite repatriation, so some religious traditions require hasty, immediate burials to occur. Then those people would be charged a premium on repatriation for, essentially, an expedited process. So, there's a lot here and it's hard to interpret all the data or to

come to a definitively correct solution. I think it's really nuanced, but I wanted to underline some points on either side of the argument that we have to consider when we're voting.

Frankly, I think this is going to be a tough vote to make, but ultimately, we should remember that there's a second vote, the referendum itself, that will put this in the hands of international students solely to respond to whether or not they want this. Hopefully we can provide them with all this information when we come to that referendum.

CH Others? Councillor Bouwer?

00:29:45

CBO Thank you, Chair. Would it be possible for us to...? I guess this is a general question [unclear] councillors. Would it be possible for us to delay the vote on this until such a time that they can basically go to Gallivan and maybe consult with the MacEwan International again and see if we can remove that second point, how much it would bring down the cost?

Because I think that as much as... I totally take the point that this is a question that should ultimately lie with international students to answer. It's our job. They don't have a, yes, we like this part. We don't like this part option. We have to give them the best option that we can offer them, really. So, I think to vote on it now, I think we have too much of a split room, and there's too much uncertainty about some of the details here for us to really do that in good conscience. So, I think that we should delay the vote until such a time that we could possibly amend it to perhaps change the cost, remove the second point, and even bring up the cost of an expedited repatriation.

CH Councillor Bouwer, just because we're talking about procedure here, if that was your intention, which would be to change the question, my advice to council would be to defeat the motion and then to simply bring a motion forward at a future meeting with an amended question. Vice President?

00:31:14

VPO Something to add to that. The original coverage price that they were going to bring to us was already higher for this. They went to their underwriters and asked it to be much lower, so we would be one of the lowest, versus other people who are in programs like this. I can't see it for the amount it would cover if something happened. I'm just playing devil's advocate here. The others could speak to this as well. They were there, and they dropped it almost three times lower. Just to point that out there. So just devil's advocate, that was one of the things they were able to do for us in going to the underwriters. Thank you.

CH Thank you. Just before we... I know we've gone to a second now, but is there anyone else that hasn't spoken that wishes to speak? Councillor Campbell?

CCA Yes, just [unclear]. To your knowledge, has there been any other institutions that have used this kind of coverage?

CH Thank you. Councillor, Vice President?

VPO I don't know which ones specifically have yet. I think U of C is because they did have an

incident, which is one of the reasons they bought this [unclear] protection. Without going into confidentially, they are [unclear]. Last I heard was because it was really bad. Thank you.

CH Thank you. Other debate? Councillor Strayer?

00:32:36

CST Just a note that in my own personal opinion that all of this can be solved with a simple opt out. For the students that want to have this, they can choose to stick with it, just like our health and dental plan. If they don't want it because they have supplemental coverage via own health care provider, they can choose to opt-out. Unfortunately, that's not an option [inaudible]. I fundamentally believe that it should be, just like any other insurance program. Thank you, Chair.

CH Thank you. Other debate? Councillor Yanish?

CYA Thank you, Chair. I respect Councillor Strayer's point he just made, but if I may risk being so callous, it's \$100. I'm really not going to sit here and think that \$100 is anything more than a drop in the bucket with respect to the overall tuition that would be paid by an international student.

In addition to that, I see the greatest value with this \$100 being the repatriation being covered. Frankly, opting out is a fair point, but nobody plans on dying and that's why we have these. We all know this, but that's why we have insurances and things of the like, to account for the unexpected. So again, just to reiterate, it's \$100, and frankly, I think a yes no vote can give them a good option as it stands right now. Yes, it could be better, but frankly, it's not like it's \$1,000 and maybe we can knock it down to \$800 if we amend it. It's \$100. I'm sorry. Even at minimum wage, that's not... I just don't see it as a huge financial barrier, but that's me, not an international student. Thank you, Chair.

00:34:30

CH Thank you, Councillor. Councillor Tesfay.

CTE Also to add to Councillor Yanish, I feel like if students had the option to opt out, wouldn't that increase the overall premium? Like insurance, if more people opted out, that would mean the premium would go up because there's more cash flow going to the insurance, right? Or am I wrong?

CH Thank you, Councillor. Vice President?

VPA I think both Councillor Yanish and Councillor Tesfay make a good point because yes, as a percentage of international student tuition, if you look at the numbers, international student tuition is exceptionally higher than a domestic student's tuition, so it is a very small percent of the tuition. I think that's worth considering.

Also, I think Councillor Tesfay is correct as well because U-Pass is a good example of a system where if we had opt out, we wouldn't be able to afford it because it would simply be too much of a cost for our plan to be worth it if we allowed students to opt out. And it wasn't a [unclear] system. So, I think the opt out needs some scrutiny because I think either the coverage would go down, but our premiums would go up. But either way, the pool of funds for the insurance company for Gallivan would be smaller. Yes, both

excellent points. This is a very tough issue. Thanks, Chair.

CH Thank you. Councillor Dykes?

CDY I largely agree with the sentiment that Councillor Yanish and Councillor Tesfay mentioned. I just do think that, however, for the referendum question, they should be voting on information that is correct and applicable. That is my only concern, having that one line scratched out about while there here. I think it's not the largest amount. It could be more. It could be less. However, I think that when they are voting on the referendum, they should be presented with full information. Yes, thank you, Chair.

00:36:23

CH Thank you, Councillor. Councillor Drummond?

CDR Thank you, Chair. I was basically just going to say what Councillor Dykes said as well. With the students having accurate information as well to make their decision, I think us as councillors need some more information as well, such as repatriation, how much it occurs, and other information like that. I think that's important for us to make our informed decision, as well as the students to have their information and accurate information to make their decision. My concern is not necessarily the \$100 cost, it's more so that everybody involved, including us, is being informed properly to make their decisions. Thank you, Chair.

CH Thank you, Councillor. Councillor Campbell?

CCA Thank you, Chair. I just want to quickly ask Councillor Strayer, could you just repeat the information that you have from the Alberta Health website?

CH Thank you, Councillor. Councillor Strayer?

00:37:14

CST Thank you, Chair. I literally did a Google search. I Googled Alberta health services international students. The second link was... You can go down a little bit, and it says When to Apply for Alberta Health Care. So, I'll just repeat that that I said earlier, if your application is received within three months of your arrival, your coverage will start on either the day you arrive in Alberta, or the day you signed your study permit, whichever is later. There is another line here, if you do not register within three months, yada, yada, yada, you're [unclear]. Does that answer Councillor Campbell's question?

CCA Yes, and just from my experience just from going abroad, sometimes things took three months. Sometimes things are less than three months. That's [inaudible], and that might have been [unclear]. That's just from my experience from going abroad. Sometimes I won't get that information until very shortly. I never received my information until my second week abroad [unclear]. So sometimes it can be very complicated.

CH Thank you, Councillor. Vice President?

UF Thank you, Chair. That's the point that Gallivan was making when we had that meeting, was that this information sometimes doesn't convey to students appropriately or there's a miscommunication, whereas this coverage would immediately extend them until their coverage started. So, this is just like a coverall just to make sure our students are safe. Once, again, I think it's important that our students make the decision.

I think this is a really great debate, and I'm really grateful for everyone's hard work on this. But from what I remember from that presentation that Gallivan made, that was a question that I had too. It had to do with students not applying for the Alberta Health Care coverage, and then getting in trouble. So that's just some context on that. It's all well and great that we looked at the Alberta Health Care website, but in fact, maybe the international students haven't. That's a barrier that we're trying to overcome. Thank you.

00:39:46

CH Thank you. Councillor Stewart?

CSTE Just when it was first read out by Councillor Strayer, sorry. I thought it was mentioned that even if it was past a few months, it can be retroactive or whatnot.

CH That's my understanding, Councillor Stewart, yes.

CSTE Yes, so there is [unclear] is still my understanding, if I could make note as well. So again, I still think there's some misunderstanding. And also, I'll just briefly point out that MacEwan International provides a lot of information to their international students on their health coverage. They provided us with an example of what they give. They showed us online of how they present the information of how our insurance works. But that's aside to the point.

I just wanted to mention that if it is [unclear] I just want [unclear] for information on that info session or the consultation for the information that students receive if this referendum is approved or when it is because that's really important.

00:40:49

If Gallivan is just running in and presenting it from their perspective or from a presentation they've given to other provinces, we might have to correct examples. It's important for them to provide the information of how it works, and also to give an unbiased perspective because they're also making money from this as well, and that they do receive a full education on what this means for them, what are there other options if they do say no, what currently exists, and also just to mention as well, through our current opt-out system, if this was a potential option for this, for our current one, they do have to provide information that they do have supplemental insurance.

We won't be ever leaving someone high and dry; I would hope. Again, just some of the wording, I just want to make sure that there's information that's accurate and that we are getting as much of their feedback as we can. Because as we all realised, we aren't international students, so we need them to vote on this matter. Thank you.

CH Thank you. Other debate? Councillor Hasan?

CHA I just have a question. If we look at the MacEwan page, and we look at the breakdown of all the fees, there are some fees that are mandatory, and then some that students can opt into. So instead of talking about students being able to opt out, why don't we offer something that they can opt into, just like how we would be able to do it when you're traveling?

CH So, councillors, and others, I think this type of debate is important. But at some point, we need to get down to whether or not we're going to approve the referendum question.

And so, the discussion of options, while I think is important, could go on in perpetuity. So, I think that we need to decide as a council today whether or not to approve or not approve this question. Presumably, if the question is not approved, then other options can be explored in which a discussion can take place as to what should be included in that amended question. Councillor Strayer?

00:42:58

CST I would agree with that sentiment from the Chair. We got to ask this question because I don't think enough of us entirely agree on either the wording on this, the amount paid. We all have some problems with this in some way or another. We're not in a rush for time. We still have two more meetings before the actual election. Sorry [unclear].

CH That's correct.

CST Yes? So, we have some time here. You know my feelings on this. I'm going to vote against this. But we have time. It's not a bad thing to defeat this. Thank you, Chair.

CH Thank you. Vice President?

VPA I think it's worth defeating and revisiting just in order to check out the option of a opt out. Thanks.

00:43:53

CH Thank you. Any other burning debate? We've run around the horn here a few times. Councillor Campbell?

CCA I would suggest that we defeat it. Just do some consultation with some of the other institutions in Alberta to see why they are or aren't [inaudible].

CH Thank you. Any other debate? Okay. The question is on the adoption of the motion to approve the International Student Protection Plan referendum question to be included in the March 2020 election. All those in favour? So, I'll just read those in favour because we need to record this, so Vice President Operations and Finance, Councillor Yanish, Councillor Tesfay, Vice President Student Life, and Councillor Newton. All those opposed. I think the minutes can read the rest. The motion is defeated.

Item eight, Consultation, nothing there. Item nine, Evaluation. You have a link in your forms. [Silence].

Councillors, is there anyone still filling out the form?

UM It's not loading the survey for some reason. [Unclear]. [Silence].

CH Excellent. While I like the online business, I can never tell if you guys are trying to renew your Napster subscriptions or something like that. Item ten, Recognition. Councillor Campbell?

CCA I'd like to recognise the ECs for the amazing job. I was there today. I was the EC for a day. So, roundtable was great. It was an opportunity to ask questions. Everyone was very involved. I came to participate, and the ECs did a great job answering questions and letting people know about the EC positions.

00:51:52

CH Councillor Dykes?

CDY I would like to recognise the Vice President Operations and Finance and the Executive Committee for their hard work on the policy for the international students' plan. Although it was defeated, I think you put a lot of work into it, and there will probably more work that goes into it. And I just want to thank you for that.

CH Councillor Yanish?

CYA Thank you, Chair. I would like to recognise Councillor Strayer and Councillor Stewart. Even though we obviously disagree on the previous debate, the fact that you two approached this from a very different angle than I do is very valuable because if we all approached it like I do, or all approached it like you do, we wouldn't have a production conversation. So, I appreciate it.

CH Councillor Drummond?

CDR Thank you, Chair. I would just like to recognise and congratulate all the EC and councillors who had a hand, an opinion, a [unclear], showing up for anything for the new building. It's super exciting. I remember four years ago going to the ground-breaking ceremony, and then going to the opening ceremony was a super cool kind of [unclear] thing, so congrats to everybody and the building looks amazing.

00:53:07

CH Councillor Stewart?

CSTE Thank you, Chair. First of all, I just want to quickly recognise our governance advisor and assistant, [unclear], as well as our [unclear] just for trying to figure out a date for us to have our meeting in 2020. And just to let you all know we will be having our committee meeting Monday, January 27<sup>th</sup> from one to two. If you guys want more information on that or if any councillors want to sit in, you're more than welcome.

I also want to just reiterate again, thank you for all the work going into this referendum motion, and we look forward to hearing more about it. Sorry I had to do that, but I think it's important. And also recognise everyone. Hope they all had a wonderful break and thank you everyone for making it out today in the super cold weather. And I hope everyone stays warm. So, thank you, guys.

CH Vice President.

UF Thank you, Chair. I would like to recognise Councillor Yanish for being successful in his application for the [unclear]. I have no doubt in my mind that you will represent SAMU to the best of your ability.

CH Councillor Mirza?

CMI I would just like to recognise Maddy for everything that she does for us. I feel like she doesn't get the recognition even though she puts in most of the work. [Unclear]. That was basically it.

00:54:42

CH Other recognition? Councillor Campbell?

CCA I would just like to recognise the building and for all [unclear], and then, of course, for all the past ECs, SCs, and any staff that was involved with it because that was a huge milestone for this organisation.

- CH Others? Vice President?
- VPA I'm sorry. I have to. Thank you, Chair. I just want to thank everyone for recognising EC and council's role in the building, but I also need to recognise Darryl, our director of building operations, who's been a massive help and done so much work on it and made sure the last things that had to be done were done. We appreciate him. And also, all the staff operationally behind the scenes who put together the student grand opening, which was a huge success. And we fed people food that was not provided by Aramark, so congrats to us.
- CH Other recognition? Councillors, good meeting today. Well done. Item 11, Adjournment. Councillor Yanish?
- CYA I would like to move to adjourn.
- CH Thank you. This motion only requires one mover. It is not debatable. The question is on the adoption of the motion to adjourn. All those in favour? Thank you. And opposed? The motion carries. The meeting is adjourned.

00:56:08