

May 20, 2020 Students' Council Meeting – Audio Recording Transcript

Speaker Key:

CR	Chair
CH	Councillor Hassan
VPE	Vice President External
VPS	Vice President Student Life
VPO	Vice President of Operations
PR	President
VPA	Vice President Academic
VPF	Vice President Operations and Finance
CS	Councillor Strayer
CC	Councillor Campbell
CD	Councillor Dykes
CY	Councillor Yanish
GA	Governance Advisor
CF	Councillor Forbes
CN	Councillor Newton
JB	Jaime Beagan
CT	Councillor Tesfay
CM	Councillor Mirza

00:00:00

CR 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, what is called Amiskwaciy Waskahikan or Beaver Hill House in Nehiyawewin.

It's the traditional home of the Nehiyaw and Michif and meeting place for many indigenous peoples including the Nekawe, Siksika, Nakota Sioux and other nations.

Item two, approvals two point one we have a motion, can I get someone to read that motion please. Councillor Hassan?

CH I move to approve the agenda from May 20th, 2020.

00:00:46

CR Thank you and a second.

VPE Sorry, I actually have something to add to the agenda.

CR Yes, we'll get to that Vice President. So, second Vice President External thank you. It has been moved and seconded to approve the agenda from May 20th, 2020. Vice President Student Life you have an amendment?

VPS Yes. Thank you chair, sorry I have a million tabs open. I would like to amend the agenda to add an item seven point two, Fall Fest Budget Change.

CR Thank you. We have a motion to amend to add item seven point two, Fall Fest Budget Change. So, just so that I'm clear Vice President, you want to put that in between the two councillor reinstatement motions?

VPS I thought it was just at the, or no, sorry that would have been seven point seven.

CR Thank you, I think that makes more sense. Okay, so the motion to amend to add item seven point seven, Fall Fest Budget Change and the associated motion [overtalking]. Can I get a second for the amendment? Vice President of Operations, thank you. It has been moved and seconded to amend the agenda to add item seven point seven as read. Is there any debate? Just on the amendment councillors.

Okay the question on the adoption of the motion to amend to add item seven point seven, Fall Fest Budget Change is there anyone opposed to the amendment? Speak now please.

00:02:20

Motion carries.

We're back to the main motion which is to approve the agenda for May 20th, 2020 as amended. Is there any debate?

Okay the questions on the adoption on the motion to approve the agenda for May 20th, 2020 as amended. Is there anyone opposed, speak now please.

Motion carries.

Item two point two. We have a motion. Can I get someone to read that motion please? Vice President of Operations.

VPO I'm here to approve the minutes of April 15th, 2020.

CR Thank you Vice President. And a second please. Vice President of Academic, thank you. It is moved and seconded to approve the minutes of April 15th, 2020. Is there any debate? The question is on for the option for the motion to approve the minutes of April 15th, 2020. Is there anyone opposed? Speak now please.

Motion carries.

Item three. Presentation, nothing in there today. Item four, for information, four point one reports, four one one, president. Any oral supplements?

00:03:36

PR Yes thank you chair. For my oral supplement, I just wanted to focus on something that I've heard from students at other universities. Most notably, University of Alberta, although it's happened in other universities as well, since I wrote my report. So, last week you maybe have seen others announce that they are going to move to Fall online classes and I should have said to online classes in the Fall. And so, there's been a bit of backlash from students on that about the tuition being charged because of course, it's staying the same.

So, I just wanted to get ahead of this before MacEwan's made an announcement because to be clear, we have not made an announcement and I don't know which way it's going to go. But if we follow the trend of other universities and there is an online shift, I just wanted to be the first to say that tuition change is rather unlikely just because of the fiscal climate right now, the budget climate. And also, because online classes were always charged the same price as in-person classes.

I do take this concern very seriously. I think that it's a shame that we can't reduce tuition. It is too bad because I personally think that in-person classes are slightly better quality. So, I just wanted to articulate that and make it clear that it's very unfortunate, but I don't think it can be fixed. So, that's all I have to update on since my report was written. Thank you Chair.

CR Thank you President. Four one two, Vice President Academic, any oral supplements?

00:05:08

VPA Thank you Chair. Since I wrote my report, I got to sit on the e-learning LMS. So, that's the learning management system committee or working group and then also the e-learning committee. Last time we just explored other options in more specifically looking at Moodle as a potential LMS and just in the early stages of questions that we want to ask from the faculty and the student perspective for what we want to see out of this system. And that was a productive discussion.

And the e-learning committee today, we had a little bit of a talk about that and just updates around other projects they're working for and moving things over due to COVID and for the Fall and Fall preparation. As well as I talked to more students about the appeals. We also had a little bit of a meeting with the student life office or Brett Farquharson. Oops, I'm trying to say that last name.

So, that goes under our relations with the community and just working out how, with the lack of the Ombudsperson what that relationship is between the different offices and different areas of the university.

And then lastly, I just want to touch on that we did have a policy advisory group meeting today. Most notably we updated the policy on student non-academic misconduct to strike the student ombudsperson as a role since that role is no longer at the moment. And then we have moved forward with deciding to rescind the student appeals policy. But have no fear, I spoke against this originally, but this will be an upcoming process, just because it is outdated.

And I felt that's necessary for the council to know and just quickly with that, they won't impact the current appeals. It was under the condition that it will wait until other policies are updated for that to go through. But just so that people are aware. Thank you.

00:07:29

CR Thank you Vice President. Four one four, Vice President or, sorry, four one three. Vice President of External. Any oral supplements?

VPE Yes thank you chair. A couple of things have happened since I wrote up my report. I had a call with the Canadian Alliance of Students Association's Board liaison who gave me a broad overview of the Federal Student Advocacy Violent scape which will be handy going into next week when I'll be doing cancer foundations. Everyone gets set up, everyone at the federal level gets familiar with each other. At the provincial level, we've now set up with the Council of Alberta Universities Students weekly meetings. So, we'll be in close cooperation with our partners across the province.

Over the last week, I've had quite a few meetings regarding the U-Pass and our upcoming negotiations with the various municipalities that participate in that program. So that was very exciting. I learnt quite a lot throughout those. And then also I've also been in regular contact with Myrna Khan the Vice President, University Relations on the McEwan side. And talking a little bit about the upcoming consultation framework which we will be negotiating and then hopefully then coming to the student's council to and to approve.

And I think that's pretty much it covered. Thank you Chair.

00:09:08

CR Thank you. Four one four, Vice President of Operations and Finance, any oral supplements?

VPF Yes thank you chair. There's one oral supplement and it's that there was a Facebook group created for all the Vice Presidents of Operations and Finance of universities across Canada. So, I've joined that chat and I hope to get more ideas and information from them in regards to U-Pass and student group fees and everything. Thank you chair.

CR Thank you. Four one five, Vice President Student Life, any oral supplements?

VPS Presented, thank you chair.

CR Thank you. Item four one six, [inaudible] financials are in your package for your information. Four one seven, the board of governors, student representative report is in your package for your information. Four point two, executive committee minutes. The minutes of April 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd and May 1st, 2020 are provided in your package for your information.

Item five. Question period, five point one, written questions. No written questions submitted. Item five point two, oral questions. Okay, for those of you who have been on these calls before, you're familiar but just a reminder. If you have a question, I would ask that you please just type in question into the chat and I will recognise you in the order in which you have identified yourself as having a question.

00:10:38

So, we'll proceed that way. Any questions? Checking to see if I was on mute that whole time? No. See some smiling faces, my jokes are still irrelevant, I should tell my wife that. Any questions before we move on? Last call.

Okay. Item six. In camera period, we have a motion Vice President Student Life.

VPS Yes thank you chair. I would like to move in camera.

CR Thank you move to go in camera. Can a I get a second please. Vice President External thank you. It has been moved and seconded to go in camera. Is there any debate? Questions on the adoption to the motion to move in camera. Thank you and a second please. Vice President of Academic thank you.

It has been moved and seconded to reinstate Colin Campbell as a councillor for a term ending October 31st, 2020, is there any debate? Did I see Vice President External? Sorry, go ahead.

VPE Thank you Chair. Something I guess that we discussed a little bit during the in-camera period but I think I can bring up. So, I think that what we as a council would like to see before we vote on either one of your reappointments is a commitment to review the materials that were presented on that day. And also, to present a submission to council of some recommendations and some critical thoughts that you may have on ways to improve those presentations in the future.

00:12:42

I think that that kind of commitment would go a long way in showing us that you both mean business. Thank you chair.

CR Thank you Vice President. I think I'll just take some liberty here and ask Mr Strayer if you'd commit to that?

CS I can unequivocally say I will 100% commit.

CR Thank you and Mr Campbell?

CC Ditto.

CR Okay excellent. Any other debate? Okay, the question is on the adoption of the motion to reinstate Colin Campbell as councillor for the term ending October 31st, 2020. Is there anyone opposed, speak now please? Okay, Chair will recognise Councillor Dykes' opposition and I don't hear anyone else, okay. Motion carries.

Item seven point two, Vice President Student Life.

VPS Thank you Chair, I move to reinstate Kent Strayer who's a councillor for a term ending October 31st, 2020.

CR Thank you Vice President, and a second? Thank you Vice President of External. It has been moved and seconded to reinstate Kent Strayer as a councillor for a term ending October 31st, 2020. Is there any debate? I don't see anything in the chat or on my screen? Okay, the question is on the adoption of the motion to reinstate Kent Strayer as a councillor for a term ending October 31st, 2020. Is there anyone in opposition?

00:14:24

Chair recognises Councillor Mirza and Councillor Dykes. Is there anyone else? Speak now please. I don't hear any other opposition. Motion carries. Welcome back councillors.

Item seven point three, Chief Returning Officer appointment. We have a motion, Vice President of Student Life.

VPS Thank you again Chair. I move to appoint Jed Johns as Chief Returning Officer for a term ending April 30th, 2020.

CR Thank you and a second please. Councillor Unera thank you. It has been moved and seconded to appoint Jed Johns as SAMUs Chief Returning Officer for a term ending April 30th, 2020. Is there any debate? I don't see any on my screen or in the chat. The question is on the adoption of the motion to appoint Jed Jones as SAMUs Chief Returning Officer for a term ending April 30th, 2020. Is there anyone in opposition? Speak now please. The Chair hears none. Motion carries.

Item seven point four, committees policy. Vice President of Operations and Finance.

VPF Yes, thank you Chair. I would move to approve the committees policy on the recommendation of the Bylaws and Policy Committee.

00:15:56

CR Thank you Vice President and a second? Vice President of External thank you. It has been moved and seconded to approve the committee's policy on the recommendation of the Bylaws and Policy committee. Vice President of Operations, do you want to speak to the motion at all?

VPO Sure thank you Chair. I don't know much to speak about it because it was finished before I came into office. But for the committee's policy it's more so just on how it's going to be operated or the big changes. Other than that, there's not much change. I'm trying to pull it out, I apologise. It's been very lively right now.

CR That's all right Vice President, everyone has it in their package. I just wanted to see if you had anything to supplement here. Don't mean to put you on the spot but you can read for the next two motions.

VPO Thank you Chair.

CR Don't feel a need to speak if you don't feel like you need to.

We'll open the floor to debate. So, if you'd like to make a comment, type it in the chat unless I can see you on video, I'll recognise you there as well. Okay, there we go, Councillor Dykes.

CD Hello yes, thank you Chair. I just have one thing about the policy I wasn't sure about. Overall, I think the policy is great as is, there's just three-point one point two. That has to do with how votes are recorded. It takes away essentially half of what's recorded and makes it so that it will be the number of voting in favour, the number of opposition and it won't count, it won't say who voted what and I think that works against our strategic plan we have.

00:17:50

We have the idea and value of transparency and accountability and I don't think this

works up to that or lives up to that standard. Also, doesn't it allow for the student body to hold us accountable during elections as well. They can't sort of see the track record.

[Overtalking]

CR Sorry Councillor Dykes, Vice President of Academic go ahead.

VPA I just want to ask if this is still in regards to the committee's policy not the Student Council Meetings policy. Sorry, Councillor Dykes.

CR Councillor Dykes, I'm assuming you're addressing your comments to the committee's policy? That's a question.

CD Oh, I misspoke on the wrong policy I guess.

CR Thank you okay we'll maybe move on. Councillor Yanish.

CY Sorry, is this working?

CR Yes.

00:18:51

CY Thank you Chair. I made the same mistake as Councillor Dykes so I will speak later, thank you.

CR Thank you. Vice President of Academic.

VPA Thank you Chair. Sorry about that guys, I just wanted to say that I really appreciate the Bylaws and Policy Committee's changes to this and taking in some of our suggestions from earlier on in the year. Such as the point around making sure that every council has an opportunity to sit on a committee and increasing one of the spots for council members as well as some of the other little adjustments. I think will be a great addition, so I just wanted to give support for that. Thank you.

CR Thank you. President.

PR Yes thank you Chair. I would just like to note that it looks like they're adding on quarterly reports for all the sub-committees in this change which is a good thing I think but it's just worth noting when we're voting that it's quite a bit of work. When it was added on for Executive Committee for example, and a lot of other student council committees, it did take quite a bit of extra time to make those quarterly reports.

But I think I've made two or three at this point for Executive Committee and others of us have made them for standing committees and I think it's worth it but we should keep that in mind that it's actually a lot more work than it might look like. So, it's worth considering that when you're voting because its not easy to do that. But it ends up producing good enough product I guess and a good transparency mechanism that I'm comfortable voting in favour of, but I just wanted to point that out. Thank you.

00:20:35

CR Thank you President. Councillor Strayer.

CS Thank you Chair. This is something the BPC has been working on for pretty much this entire term and even stretching to before the term even started. This was just completing it and finishing up the sub committees. I can't speak highly enough for it.

It adds student councillors to certain positions as our VP Academic stated. And it also creates an odd number on some of the committees that we needed to finish which makes it unequal voting. So, it makes sure you don't have ties at voting.

This is good policy. This is following good governance and I am going to be voting in favour of this. Thank you Chair.

CR Thank you Councillor. Any other comments? I don't see any on my screen or in the chat, so the questions on the adoption of the motion to approve the committee's policy on the recommendation of the Bylaws and Policy Committee. Is there anyone in opposition? Speak now please. Chair doesn't see or doesn't hear anyone speaking in opposition so the motion carries.

Item seven point five. Student's Council Meetings Policy, Vice President Operations and Finance.

00:21:52

VPF Thank you Chair, I move to approve the Students Council's Meeting Policy on the recommendation of the Bylaws and Policy Committee.

CR Thank you and a second please. Vice President of External. It has been moved and seconded to approve Student's Council Meetings Policy on the recommendation of the Bylaws and Policy Committee. Is there any debate? Councillor Strayer. You're on mute.

CS Thank you Chair. I'm going to have a little bit of an explanation to this before I get to the crux of what I'm trying to get at. So, Canada as a nation has precedent of consultation. This goes back from a court case in Spring Court called Pada [?] Nation versus British Columbia that set precedent here in Canada for the duty to consult.

This has been also recently used in a court case built at Tsilhqot'in Nation versus Canada. They've had to deal with trans-mountain pipeline going across BC. This is the duty to consult when they're parts of policy or decisions that are made that have effects on people beyond just the initial decision. There's adverse effects or affects that are un-positive but you have a duty to consult. That's the point.

In the European Union they have a co-decision process which is six different steps with a first reading and a second reading. This is how they approve their policy in the European Union. Oftentimes it doesn't get to that, it gets to something called informal tree logs which is an important part of the elected members talking to each other. Exchanging information, finding out and consulting. Consulting is the key thing.

00:23:59

Sometimes it's having a formal procedure called tree logs which would be the consultation period at the end of our meetings. Same same, very similar. My problem with this piece of policy is that there was no consultation happenings. So, if you find in your package, page 73 item six point two. There was a part that said the general manager will be removed from having to report. Paraphrasing there slightly.

This is an important point for all councillors in my opinion, but my opinion isn't necessarily everyone's opinion. The fact of the matter is, is there's a duty to consult with councillors to find out whether this is an important recording mechanism for every

single one of us. It should not be up to this committee to decide bylaw policy specific to decide what kind of reporting mechanisms are important for student councillors.

Instead they should come to consultation so that we could have this conversation whether it be quarterly, whether it be bi-annually. Whether it to be to decide whether this piece of policy is an important part of the information that we have to be able to make informed decisions. I'm not necessarily against removing this, so long as it's not an arbitrary decision that is unilaterally decided for us. This needs to be a decision that affects us, that is consulted with us, just like Haida Nation, just like Sioux Wahpekute [?]. Thank you Chair.

00:25:42

CR Thank you Councillor. Councillor Dykes, I will get to you, but I should have given the floor to the Vice President of Operations first. So, I'll give you the floor Vice President.

VPO Thank you Chair. So, I just wanted to address the two main issues that are probably going to be brought up. The main one being the general manager reports. The reason that that was removed was because that the general manager reports to student council. To the executive committee, sorry. Based on the policies and procedures and their responsibility. It should not be reported to student council because there is certain information that council does not need.

And is available for council to come and look at so if they want or they are interested in seeing those reports, they can come to EC and look at those reports. It's just to make sure our agenda package is smaller as well as only giving the valuable information to our student council who would be passing that along. The executive committee would be passing that along to council. And then it's also to prevent people from worrying and stuff like that as well.

And the second part that I see being a big question would be the voting for and against. This was a huge topic of discussion as well but the reason we went with some numbers for and against and the names of the people abstaining is because putting the names of the people abstaining is keeping them accountable for not participating. But it also notes if they had a conflict of interest and why they're abstaining.

00:27:28

And then the reason why we didn't want to put a name for or against was because of, we didn't want students harassing our members who voted for or against the motion as well as, let's say I voted against, just because I wanted to reward something. I know that would have been in the debate beforehand but it's just a way of making sure that for example, I'm not getting harassed by a student for voting against this just because there is a minor change I wanted to make. Thank you Chair.

CR Thank you Vice President. Councillor Dykes.

CD Yes. So, basically what I said for the first one. Just take that move it forward to there. I apologise for the mis-speak but yes I don't think there's ever been a case of a student harassing councillors and if it is, it is not known to me and I apologise. But I don't think that's one of the most pressing concerns. I think accountability, what we put forward as one of our main values and I don't think we're living up to that.

And what was I saying last? Yes, that essentially when students are voting, they don't

have the track record of even if a councillor supports what they do or is in line with how they think. I think that's really important in that regard. That's all, thank you Chair.

CR Councillor. Vice President Academic.

00:28:59

VPA Thank you Chair, I didn't know I was up so soon. I think there are some good changes to this. One of which I was excited to see come forward finally is that the student councillor meeting agendas will be published prior. Although I did notice that it was under the condition that the supporting documents would not be included when I was under the impression that supporting documents that aren't confidential should still be included for reference for students.

So, I would recommend for that to be a potential change if this is not approved as well as I think it's important although it's not explicit it doesn't need to be worded again for redundancy that the executive submit written reports. I think we should in some way in this policy refer to our other policies that also are important to the running of our council meetings. I think I see that a lot in MacEwan policy.

They'll refer to other ones and we don't need to restate what that one says on but I think it could be important because for instance, the executive reports are something that must be followed in our meetings and I think that is an important part. And I do feel towards, I am a little partial to Councillor Dykes remarks around the accountability aspect. I am in support of that change if it is to create a united front.

But I think it is more important that we are held accountable and I don't think if students are coming against a particular councillor there are ways that we can deal with such issues and we should deal with those for sure. But I don't think we should limit the amount that people can view or what they know of something because we are afraid they might come after us. I don't see that side of things unfortunately as much.

00:31:13

I do think it's an important consideration hopefully for all councillors here to consider this change. I think it's good in both ways, but I think overall there's few concerns I have. That's all. Thank you so much.

CR Thank you Councillor Yanish.

CY Thank you Chair. Without risk of repeating what Miles said, Councillor Dykes said rather, I do have a problem with the removal, the creation of this anonymity in voting. I know when I vote on something whether it be a big deal or not I always know that the fact that my vote will become public greatly impacts my decision and that is always a top of mind for me. So, the removal of that I in no way, shape or form can support given the arguments thus far.

Additionally, I'm not, I just don't think, I know it's made within the best decision of council in terms of the wanting to save us from any potential harassment. But without sounding combative I would welcome such a decision that, as long as it is made in the best interests of the students would cause so much interest. So, moving within that, still on the same council meetings policy, additionally the change to the chair giving consideration to the longest serving member, who would take over.

00:32:56

Sorry, I'm talking too fast. If the chair is absent, it is been changed to my understanding, that somebody that no longer the longest serving member will automatically take that place of the chair, in the chair's absence. Instead, the chair is able to appoint someone to fulfil their duties in their absence with consideration is the new change. It's to be within, it's to be considered to be the longest standing member.

Although to say to that, the one time I've ever witnessed it, it went overall quite well. Where the longest standing member had to take the place of the chair. And frankly if you are the longest standing member and don't feel as if you are able to rise to the occasion, I think one should re-evaluate the skills that they have on council. Or rather to contribute to council rather. That's my two cents. Thank you chair.

CR Thank you Councillor. President.

PR Thank you very much Chair. In my view, I completely agree and just want to confirm with Councillor Yanish and Councillor Dykes that I really don't see a way that we can be held accountable. Especially making reference to our strategic plan which emphasises accountability. I don't know how we can be held accountable without having our names on our votes. And I think we have ways of preventing harassment, like code of conduct and stuff we're all students so we're all governed by the Code of Conduct at MacEwan.

And you know anything before harassment is just being held to account. In these roles, you're putting yourself out publicly to be scrutinised in the things that you decide and the things that you do and that's okay and that's part of the process. And any student leader in Alberta or elsewhere should be held to that standard and I know that I've certainly held other student leaders to that standard at times. So, it just seems like a fair standard that we should be accountable for our votes.

00:35:11

So, that's my view on it. I think there's other issues that have been flighting, I'm not going to speak to, but I just want to triple in or double in on that point. Thank you.

CR Thank you President. Vice President External.

VPE Thank you Chair. I was just wondering if it would be appropriate at this point seeing that at least we've debated this particular element and there seems to be a fair amount of opposition. Would it be appropriate to propose an amendment, striking the proposed changes to three point two point one on the Student's Council Meeting's policy?

CR Vice President, you can make that amendment if you so choose.

VPE Well, make that amendment.

CR And just so that I'm clear, striking item.

VPE Sorry, I'm striking the proposed changes to item three point two point one.

00:36:06

CR Okay we have an amendment, striking the proposed changes three point two point one in the policy. Is there a second? Councillor Dykes, thank you. It has been moved

and seconded to amend the motion to strike the proposed changes to three point two point one. Vice President of External, do you wish to speak to the amendment?

VPE Yes, thank you Chair. I think this is just a way for us to isolate this issue assuming that the other councillors present don't have objections that they haven't voiced about other elements of this policy and the changes. I think that this issue seems to be uniquely contentious in the policy and I'm happy to see us have a separate vote on that. Thank you Chair.

CR Thank you Vice President. Vice President Operations and Finance.

VPF Yes, thank you Chair. I just wanted to state that currently we do not have a harassment or whistle blower policy. This is in the works, so I believe that this should be made until we get that policy in place. Even if I adapt the motion on to just approve it until we have that policy and then review it. Or review it in three months or something. We can do that as well. Yes, thank you.

CR Thank you Vice President. Are there any other debate with respect to the amendment? I don't see anything on my screen or in the chat. Okay, so the question is on the adoption of the motion to amend the main motion to strike the proposed changes to three point two point one. Is there anyone in opposition to the amendment? Vice President of Operations. Anyone else, Councillor Johnston proposes the amendment. Anyone else? Speak now please. Councillor Unera thank you. The motion to amend carries.

00:38:16

We're back to the main motion as amended. We'll open debate if there is any additional debate. Vice President of Academic.

VPA Thank you. Yes, I was going to put in my comments that I didn't want to be missed there. I still, as I mentioned, have a few things that I liked in regard to the changes. Proposed changes, such as the ones around, actually around the Chair and some of the things. But I still have a problem with a few other things, and I'd recommend it go back to Bylaws and Policy Committee to review and come back to us with some of those changes personally. Thank you.

CR Thank you Vice President. Any other debate? Councillor Strayer.

CS I appreciate the arguments and the amendments that's been made, that was an important issue. I'm still going to be voting in opposition to this. MacEwan even has a consultation process. When policy is changing within MacEwan, it gets posted on the MacEwan website and it's sitting there for four months, a quarter before that consultation.

Any policy that is changed, that's effecting the student body goes through the consultation process. It goes through faculty of Arts and Sciences Governance Council. It goes through Physics Council. It goes to eventually Board of Governance Council. This is all consultation processes. This policy needed to go through consultation with us. And it didn't. Based on that, it's an incomplete policy. For that reason, I'll be voting against this. Thank you Chair.

00:40:05

CR Thank you Councillor. President.

PR Thank you Chair. Yes, I agree that defeating this doesn't mean that it's not going to come back maybe in a different form, maybe in a better form and we can defeat it with the idea of it being amended and coming back to us. And there has been some other issues raised today. Like the GM thing is kind of contentious and other things like that. I just think that it should be reworked by BPC to address some of the things brought forward today before it all comes out.

The one thing I think we can all hopefully unequivocally agree on is the agendas being posted ahead of time. I think that would be good maybe if we ever get in person again driving other students at MacEwan who aren't councillors to come and see the open session of our meetings, which will be great. If there's something good on the agenda they will come and check it out which will be nice. Everything else though seems a bit too tightly contested to approve right now.

So, I think defeating with the idea that it can come back later is a fine proposition. I think I'll be voting against it for that reason. Thank you.

CR Thank you President. Counsellor Dykes.

CD Thank you Chair. I'd just like to say with the amendment, I'll now be supporting this. I think of the other changes to this policy seem very reasonable to me. The General Manager is not an employee of the Student's Council. It is the employee of the executive. Generally, you report to who you are employed by, so I don't see the logic in them reporting to Student's Council. Other than that, I don't have anything to say. Thank you Chair.

00:41:51

CR Thank you Councillor. Any other debate?

VP Point of parliamentary enquiry.

CR Go ahead Vice President.

VP I'm just curious. If we had wanted to see this at a later date, preferably at our next meeting, would you want us to, and then the motion to recommend it to be not postponed I guess. Or just have members of BPC are here and I can take it back if it's not approved.

CR My suggestion Vice President in that situation would be defeat the motion and then Bylaws and Policy can refer to the minutes and see what comments need to be addressed.

VP? Awesome. Thank you sir.

CR Don't apologise. Vice President of Operations and Finance.

VPF Yes can I move to vote please.

00:42:45

CR Yes you can move to call the question, but I think Councillor, I see the end here is near Vice President, so let me give Councillor Strayer one last opportunity here. And I think we're going to end debate pretty soon. So, Councillor Strayer.

CS Thank you Chair, my comment is quick. I would like to add that while the General Manager isn't employed by Student Council, the General Manager is an employee of the student body and that this employee is the highest paid official in Student Council at six figures. So, thank you Chair.

CR Thank you, is there any additional debate? I don't see any. I don't see any in the chat. The question on the adoption of the motion to approve the Student's Council Meetings policy on the recommendations of the Bylaws and Policies Committee as amended which was to strike the proposed changes to three point two point one. I know that there is opposition to this motion, so I just ask that you type in your opposition in the chat so that we can capture that please. And I'll give you a couple of minutes.

Anyone else still voting. Can you just speak now please if you haven't typed in your opposition, please speak now? One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine. Alan, do you see nine in opposition?

GA Yes I can count, there's so many messages going on.

CR Now I see 10. I see 10. Okay, motion is defeated. Item seven point six. Bylaws and Policy Committee. We have one position available on the Bylaws and Policy Committee and so for those of you who aren't familiar with the process here. Let me just take a minute to describe it. So, we did receive one nomination in advance. I believe Councillor Tran whose name was put forward. And then Alan you wanted to speak about messages you gotten about appointments.

00:45:45

You wanted to speak to me privately. How would you like to do that?

GA Is it possible to that at recess?

CR Can I get a motion to recess please? Vice President of Operations thank you. And a second. Councillor Dykes. I think we'll just recess until Alan and I come back. How about that Vice President, does that make sense?

VPO Sounds fair yes.

CR Okay, there's a motion to recess until Alan and I return. Is there any debate? Question is on the adoption of the motion to recess until Alan and I return. Is there anyone in opposition? Motion carries. I guess we'll see if the waiting room has a, where we can we talk to each other. I don't know how we'll do this.

CR So, what's the skinny on the waiting room, can you guys talk to each other?

UF No, it was just a dark and lonely place.

CR Sorry about that. Alan was just showing me cat videos to be honest, so.

UF I could have left my camera.

CR Okay is that everyone Alan?

GA Yes I believe everyone is back.

CR Excellent okay. So, the process like I was saying for the nominations. So, we have received one nomination in advance and that is Councillor Tran. In a moment I will open the floor to additional nominations and so you can nominate either yourself or

another councillor. And they way you would do that is you would type in nomination in the chat and then I will recognise you, once we have received all of the nominations, I will give the floor to each of the nominees in the order in which they have been nominated.

So, starting with Councillor Tran and then proceeding down the list of nominees. Each nominee will be given 30 seconds to plead their case for why they should be appointed to the Bylaws and Policy Committee. And afterwards we will open up the ballot that was linked to in the latest agenda that was sent out via email today for you to vote and then we will put forward the motion. Is that unclear in anyway, for anyone before we start the process? You can speak now if you're unclear please. Okay, so we'll open the floor to nominations.

00:53:58

If you want to nominate someone, just type nomination in the chat please. Vice President Academic.

VPA Thank you Chair. I would like to nominate Councillor Forbes. I think he'd be a great addition to this committee. Thank you.

CR Thank you Vice President. Councillor Forbes do you accept the nomination?

CF I respectfully decline thank you Chair.

CR Thank you Councillor. Any other nominations? Okay I don't see anything in the chat or on my screen. Vice President of Academic.

VPA Thank you. I'd like to nominate Councillor Newton for the committee.

CR Thank you. Councillor Newton, do you accept the nomination?

CN No thank you.

CR Thank you. Any other nominations. Councillor Hassan would like to nominate Councillor Strayer. Councillor Strayer do you accept the nomination?

00:55:07

CS In fact, I already sit on this committee, thank you Chair.

CR Thank you so I think you'd decline. Any other nominations?

UF Just a point of order maybe or enquiry. I think the reason we're doing this nomination is because Councillor Strayer was removed from the committee and that made the opening.

CR Is that the case Alan?

AL Yes that is correct because once you became a non-councillor that vacancy opened up.

CR Thank you. So, Councillor Strayer perhaps you'd like to reconsider?

CS Yes, I am reconsidering. Sorry, pardon me I thought this was the replacement of the VP of External. Oh, we did that last month didn't we. Okay, thank you Chair then I'll take that up.

CR Okay so you'll accept the nomination? Councillor Campbell, we'll deal with your question here because it's not germane to the motion. I'll deal with that one offline. Any other nominations? Okay, so like I said, the process is that first we'll give the floor to Councillor Tran and then to Councillor Strayer and you can plead your case for 30 seconds on why you should be a part of this committee. So, Councillor Tran your 30 seconds will begin right now.

00:57:02

CT Hello everyone, for those that don't know me, my name is Elaine and I think I could contribute to the Bylaw and Policy Committee because I have previous experience in sitting as a student at large on the Leadership and Review Committee for this past year. In addition to that, I've also had other leadership roles on SAMU clubs like the MacEwan University Student Alliance and then within my community which I think would also allow me to further contribute.

I'm also an individual with a willingness to learn so I hope that you can keep all of these things in mind in determining your appointment.

CR Thank you Councillor. Councillor Strayer, your 30 seconds begins right now.

CS Thank you Chair. My passion for policy I feel like is fairly evident. I love anything that is constitutional. I love reading through policy. I've sat on the Faculty of Arts and Science Governance Council. I brought up highlights of the students' rights to demonstrate on campus a couple of years ago. I've sat on BPC for a couple of years now. I recognise that they're not always super easy to deal with, but my passion is always for the students. Making sure we have good and safe policy for everyone. Thank you Chair.

CR Thank you Strayer. You can hear my alarm. Look at that, that's really loud. I need to figure out a way to silence that. Okay thank you. Now I'll direct you to the online forum. Alan, is it ready to go?

AL It is, or it should be.

00:58:36

CR So, you can find that link in your agenda that was sent was sent out in your email today. And Alan will let me know when you've all vote put in.

CS Point of personal interest, I don't have that link in my package.

CR I think if you look at your email, there was an agenda sent out I think this afternoon and I think maybe we can even maybe throw it in the chat hey Alan?

CS Due to my status this past couple weeks I wasn't privy to this email unfortunately.

CR Yes okay, good point.

AL I did send that link to both Councillor Campbell and Councillor Strayer as soon as they were appointed.

CR I think it's in the chat now. Councillor Strayer are you okay now?

CS Yes I am, thank you Chair.

CR So many options, all this technology.

Okay, Vice President of Operations and Finance I'll read the motion as follows to appoint Councillor Strayer to the Bylaws and Policy Committee for a term ending October 31st, 2020. Can you make that motion please?

VPF Yes thank you Chair. I move to appoint Councillor Strayer to the Bylaws and Policy Committee for a term ending October 31st, 2020.

01:01:55

CR Thank you and a second please. Councillor Newton, thank you. It has been moved and seconded to appoint Councillor Strayer to the Bylaws and Policy Committee for a term ending October 31st, 2020. Is there any debate? Questions on the adoption of the motion as read, although anyone opposed speak now please. Motion carries.

Item seven point seven. Fall Fest Budget Change. Vice President Student Life.

VPS Yes thank you. I would like to invite Jamie Bégin to speak to this motion if that's possible?

CR Yes Councillor, or Vice President, can I just get you to make the motion please?

VPS Yes for sure, sorry. I move to move \$90 000 of the \$110 000 approved from the budget five three one one hundred into a holding account to be added to the 2021 2022 Fall Fest budget line.

CR Thank you Vice President and a second please. Vice President of Academic, thank you. It has been moved and seconded to move \$90 000 of the \$110 000 approved in the budget five three one one zero zero into a holding account to be added to the 2021 2022 Fall Fest budget line. Okay Vice President, I think you wanted to direct the floor to Jamie Bégin so I'll do so, go ahead Jamie.

JB Thank you, so we are obviously in a large part of our planning right now and we've done a lot of different items to get a pulse for students as to what they could potentially want in September. So, our marketing and communications department has sent out a survey. I'm pretty sure most of you got an email about it and we have had close to 3 000 respondents. One of those questions does talk about Fall Fest.

01:04:00

And we obviously now that with the climate we're currently living in, an event with over 15 hundred people at it is probably not the safest thing to do. So, one of our biggest concerns is that at the end of every fiscal year, the surplus then goes 70 20 10 into building, maintenance, SAMU cares. And those items and what we're afraid of happening is those students who are paying into this year, that money would then go to a surplus and they wouldn't get the same amount of activity from SAMU because of the current climate. Because of COVID.

So, what we want to do is actually move that 90 000 into a holding in and out account so that it's not deemed surplus at the end of our 2020 2021 fiscal year and then that 90 000 will then be put into the pot for the following year. So, then Fall Fest would equate to \$200 000 in one year and we would do a week's worth of items for students in a much different capacity than ever before. Because with the percentage of this survey, there was approximately 45% that said they wanted something smaller or they wanted to hold off for the year.

So, almost 50% of the students wanted a change in Fall Fest, so we'd like to reflect that.

01:05:29

CR Thank you, we'll open the floor to debate. If you'd like to debate, indicate in the chat please. One, Councillor Campbell.

CC Thank you so much. This is a bit of a shock. I guess my main question would be, is there any way we could allocate some of that money later on in the year? Potentially, we don't know what's going to be coming down the line. I guess I just want to look out for the students. I think that we're paying for these, we're paying for it this year, it might not be able. The 90 000 obviously, is a lot of money that can be used for maybe other activities maybe on campus throughout the year. I just wondered if that had been considered. Thank you.

CR Mr Bégin, I presume you can answer that.

JB Yes thank you. Yes, we have thought about that and that money going elsewhere within the six departments that I oversee. A lot of the money will be shifted around this year because we will not be able to do what we have set out to do. So, because that is such a large chunk of money for one specific item, all of our other lines will be shifted to virtual accommodations, things like that. Because we will not, a lot of our programmes and services are going to change and shift so there is a lot of money that will shift around for potential emergency relief for students.

But we did want to appease the students who answered the survey and make sure that money was allocated towards Fall Fest-like activities, because everything else will be shifting towards well being lifestyle things like that. So, that's just a chunk of money that we wanted to make sure went into the same pot, a similar pot just like we are with everything else.

01:07:48

CR Thank you. Vice President of Academic.

VPA Thank you Chair. I just wanted to say that the individual leaders are still doing a lot this year in the capacity that they can with COVID. So, I just wanted to give kudos to our programmes and services that are currently running and for them to propose this idea so that we can work. We are supposed to be making long-term decisions and sustainable ones so moving that to have a better planned event. A better, fulsome week hopefully of events especially during this time, I've heard concerns around even trying to book people.

Due to the COVID situation, already this late in the game with all the changes that are being made I think this is a smart decision and was a unique one to be proposed to accommodate the circumstances that we're all in. So, I really want to see this go though. Thanks.

CR Thank you. Any additional debates? Not seeing anymore in the chat, I'll just give it a minute, a few seconds. Okay, got to pull up the motion here again, sorry. The question is on the adoption of the motion to move \$90 000 of the \$110 000 approved in the budget five three one one zero zero into a holding account to be added to the 2021 2022 Fall Fest budget line. Is there anyone in opposition please speak now?

01:09:33

Okay motion carries. No sorry, we'll note Councillor Campbell's opposition. Okay thank you.

Item eight, consultation. Nothing there today. Item nine, evaluation. I think the link is in your form. Councillor Strayer, do you have the link? No, yes? For the evaluation?

[silence]

Okay Alan tells me we're done. I can never tell if you guys are still filling out the form or looking up the latest dank memes. I'm going to be honest with you, I Googled that one to make sure it was appropriate.

Okay, item 10 recognition. If you have recognition I just ask that you type recognition in the chat please. Vice President of Academic.

VPA

Thank you Chair. I have so much recognition to give. I would love to give recognition to our President for the support and the training and continuing to be available for all the questions that us incomings for sure have and will continue to have I'm sure. And as well as the great work in the webinars that they hosted and or attended as well as the OER, if you guys didn't know, our President was part of an OER panel as well. You can message us for that link if you'd like.

And also, all the webinars are available online as well. I also want to give recognition to our Vice President Student Life for their work on the webinars as well with a few different MacEwan groups, that was really great. As well as for having so much to do in this meeting to our VPS and VP Operations for proposing a lot of new things and speaking very well in this meeting and presenting stuff that even if they didn't necessarily work on it previously. I think they did a very good job in speaking in the meeting and I wanted to recognise them for that.

01:16:28

As well as a great shout out to the Vice President External for running for cause and working so hard on their applications although it wasn't successful, it's still really important getting MacEwan's name out there. And for their work in all of the things. Thank you.

CR

Thank you, President.

PR

Thank you Chair. I have a short recognition for the new executive committee members just for doing a great job in their first few weeks because it can be hard, but it looks like we're off to a great start. And you can probably tell that from their reports so thank you.

CR

Thank you, Councillor Strayer.

CS

Thank you Chair. I'd first like to recognise our former VP of Operations, Andrea, our current VP Operations Larissa who is in attendance right now, Alan, our current VP External Ruan [?]. It hasn't always been easy over at BPC but it's rewarding, it's good work. I appreciate you putting up with my opposition to many of the things that you put forward. It's all good, thanks. I'd like to extend my recognition to all of council today.

01:17:49

It means a lot for you guys to reappoint me. Student Council means a lot to me and this is one of my favourite ones every single month, spending a couple of hours with you. Even if with Tim's dad jokes over the survey. Thank you guys for reappointing me, it means a lot.

CR Thank you, Councillor Tesfay.

CT Hello, I'd like to recognise all of the newly elected VPs. You guys did an amazing job today. I'd also like to recognise the newly elected councillors as well and also our guests watching the meeting today. Thank you.

CR Thank you, Councillor Mirza.

CM I just wanted to recognise and thank Larissa for joining us today and for the work she's been doing on the BPC.

CR Thank you. Last call for recognition. Okay councillors, I just wanted to recognise you. Long meeting today, lots of meaty stuff to deal with, so good job. If you have any questions on process, I know this is a first meeting for some. You can always reach out to me or Alan.

So, I'll move along to item 11, adjournment. We need a motion. I'll give the Vice President External.

VPE Perfect, I'd like to move to adjourn.

01:19:25

CR This motion only requires one mover and is not debatable. It has been moved to adjourn. Is there opposition? Please speak now. None. Motion carries. This meeting is adjourned.

01:19:41