

June 17, 2020 Students' Council Meeting Audio Recording

Speaker Key:

CR	Chair
VPE	Vice President External
VPS	Vice President Student Life
VPO	Vice President of Operations
VPA	Vice President Academic
VPF	Vice President Operations and Finance
PR	President
CS	Councillor Strayer
CC	Councillor Campbell
CD	Councillor Dykes
CY	Councillor Yanish
CF	Councillor Fallis
JO	Joanne Ng

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 Amiskwaciw 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 the motion, can I get someone introduce that motion please. Vice President of Academic.

00:00:38

VPA Thank you Chair. I move to approve the agenda for June 17th, 2020.

CR Thank you and a second please. Vice President of External, thank you. It has been moved and seconded to approve the agenda for June 17th, 2020. Is there any debate?

The question is on the adoption of the motion to approve the agenda for June 17th, 2020. Is there anyone in dissent? Please speak now. That motion is carried.

Item two point two. We have a motion. Can I have somebody introduce the motion?

Councillor Dykes.

CD Yes, thank you Chair. I move to approve the minutes of May 20th, 2020.

CR Thank you, and a second please. Councillor Strayer. Thank you. It has been moved and seconded to approve the minutes of May 20th, 2020. Is there any debate?

The question is on the adoption of the motion to approve the minutes for May 20th, 2020. Is there anyone in opposition? Please speak now. That motion carries.

So, councillors just a little bit of a housekeeping issue today. Because I'm seeing the screen with the agenda on it, I don't have a wider screen of the video, so you're holding up your hand and I don't recognise you, it could be because I don't have enough room on the video to see all of you. So, if you are looking to be recognised, then I would appreciate it if you would type into the chat that you have a question or so on.

00:02:22

Just so that I don't miss you and if I do move onto the next section and you feel as though you were missed, please just do speak up and just a point of order will do.

Okay so, we move onto item three, presentations, nothing there. Item four, for information, four point one, report, four one one, President, any oral supplements?

PR None, thank you chair.

CH Thank you.

Four one two, Vice President of Academic, any oral supplements?

VPA Oh, thank you Chair. Yes, just a quick one. We had all of our new student orientation video filming this week with all of the EC and then I had an e-learning committee earlier today if you've got questions. Thank you.

CH Thank you. Four one three, Vice President of External, any oral supplements?

VPE No thank you Chair.

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

VPF Yes thank you Chair. Just real quick, one little thing to add is that I attended a health and dental meeting with Gallivan and we have some good news that the students are using the plans more and more. And they're using the myWellness aspect of the plan a lot more as well. So, thank you Chair.

00:03:55

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

VPS Yes just two quick ones, thank you Chair. The first one, I attended the first meeting of the Book of the Year Committee with its new chair, Shelley Josey from teaching and learning services. And also, I've been working on changes to the procedure for round house grants. Thank you Chair.

CR Thank you. Item four one six, the Board of Governors Representatives submitted their report for your information.

Four point two, Executive Committee Minutes, the minutes of May 13th, 20th and June 3rd, 2020 are provided in your package for your information.

Item five, question period. Five point one, written questions, nothing there today. Five point two, oral questions. So, we'll take questions now. If you have a question, just type in question in the chat and I will recognise you.

Councillor Dykes.

CD Yes, thank you Chair. My question is towards the Vice President of Operations. I was just wondering if there was an update on whether tenants had started construction in their spaces yet. Thank you Chair.

00:05:10

CR Thank you Councillor. Vice President.

VPO I don't have anything to answer that with right now. Sorry.

CR Thank you. Councillor Dykes, anything further?

CD Nothing further Chair, thank you.

CR Thank you. Councillor Yanish.

CY Thank you Chair. Oh okay, sorry, my audio's something to be desired, thank you Chair. My question is for the Vice President External, I was just wondering if you could elaborate further on what Mark the elder Waddingham's confrontational approach to advocacy is. Thank you Chair.

CH Thank you Councillor. Vice President.

VPE Thank you Chair. Yes, I can absolutely elaborate on that. So, this was actually something we've noticed developing in some discussions with the Minister of Advanced Education at the provincial level when a bunch of our organisations like the Council of Upper University Students and the Alberta Grad ABGPAC. Sorry, I only know the acronyms of them all came together and met with the minister and as well in some of the U-Pass meetings, I just thought that he had a really interesting style.

He wasn't prone to backing down and had a very distinctive voice in these agreements and sometimes advocated for a certain kind of approach. I would call it a bit like a hard-line approach, but he defended that and said it was just a substantiated approach. So, I can always elaborate more, if you're curious about that but I guess he just had a really strong way of taking a stand against both the minister when appropriate and also against the municipalities in the U-Pass negotiations.

00:07:04

Thank you Chair.

CR Thank you Vice President. Councillor Yanish, anything further?

CY Nothing further, thank you Chair.

CR Thank you. Other questions? Other questions councillors. If you have a question, just type in question in the chat.

Okay we will move on to item six, in camera period, nothing there today. Item seven, motions and business orders of the day, seven point one, 2019 2020 budget surplus. Vice President of Operations and Finance.

VPF Yes, thank you Chair. Do you want me to make the motion right now?

CR Please.

VPF Okay. I move to direct the 2019-2020 SAMU budget surplus to the 2020-2021 operating funds.

00:08:13

CR Thank you Vice President, and a second please? Vice President of External. It has been moved and seconded to direct the 2019-2020 SAMU budget surplus to the 2020-2021 operating funds.

Vice President Operations and Finance will you like to speak to the motion?

VPF I was actually wondering, Joanne, our director of finances on the call right now, is she able to speak on this matter?

CR Certainly, Joanne we can turn the floor over to you if you'd like to speak to the motion.

JO Okay, thank you Chair.

So, as you understand, we're in a very unique situation with COVID19 and MacEwan University is predicting a potential drop in registrations for our 2020-21 year. So, in response, the directors have come together to review what this potential drop will look like for SAMU.

We've run extensive analysis, a sensitivity analysis based on predictions of a number of reduction of students. So, we ran it by a 1 000, 2 000 and 3 000 students and to mitigate any potential problems to SAMUs operations, we're recommending that Students' Council consider directing any operational surplus from this year end to our operations of the next fiscal year. Instead of applying it to the policy that we have written in place.

00:09:43

Now this will assist us with carrying out our day to day essential services and programming to students. Thank you.

CR Thank you Joanne. Okay so, we'll open the floor to questions or comments. If you have a question or comment just type question or comment into the chat and I will recognise you.

Councillor Dykes.

CD Yes, thank you Chair. I was wondering if there was any estimate as to what the 2019-2020 SAMUs budget surplus might look like since we're 13 days up from year end. Thank you.

CR Thank you Councillor. Joanne?

JO Thank you. Well, don't withhold me to this number because our historical figures our trend is around \$1 million in surplus. That is from our audited financial statements.

Since the audit has not been completed, I don't want to ensure you that we'll have \$1 million at the end of the year because in this fiscal year we had some changes that were quite different from our previous year.

This is the first year where we've seen our building payments go through as well as our MacEwan operating agreement as well go through despite the fact that we had increased student fees and we had the building levy put in place to help alleviate these payments. Some of the operating funds was also going towards these payments. So, right now I can give you a ballpark number, it could be around \$1 million.

00:11:23

But it could be different as well, given the situation.

CR Thank you Joanne. Councillor Dykes, anything further?

CD Nothing further, thank you Joanne and thank you Chair.

CR Thank you. Other questions or comments? Type it in the chat. Councillor Waddingham, oh sorry, that's you president, sorry. Go ahead president.

PR Thank you Chair. Sorry my name should be changed on here. It just has my name, I'll change it to my position, it will make it easier. I just wanted to speak in favour of this motion because looking at the wide range of possible revenues next year based on the wide range of possible enrolments. Enrolment numbers that we could be facing, it's better to have a contingency plan and a buffer and this would provide us with that and it's already a surplus. This is money that we already have extra of.

So, to me it makes perfect sense to just carry this over and if the worse case scenario happens and enrolment takes a large dip we'll be protected against that and if it doesn't, then we'll have another surplus that we can decide what to do with at the end of the next fiscal year. I think this is a really good safeguard just in case things go bad because we don't really know what to expect from enrolment in the fall. So, I'm in favour of it for that reason.

00:12:53

CR Thank you President. Other questions or comments? Okay I don't see any. So, the question is on the adoption of the motion to direct the 2019-2020 SAMU budget surplus to the 2020-2021 operating funds. Is there anyone in opposition to the motion? Please speak now. Motion carries.

Item seven point two, IT services agreement. Vice President.

VP I move to approve the IT service agreement.

CR Thank you and can I get a second? Okay I see the Vice President of Student Life. It has been moved and seconded to approve the IT services agreement. Vice President of Operations and Finance would you like to speak to the motion?

VPF It's all stated in the document, thank you Chair.

CR Thank you. So, we'll open up the floor to debate. If you have a question or comment, please type question or comment in the chat.

Vice President of Academic.

VPA Thank you Chair. I just wanted to speak in favour of this. This will provide a lot of savings for SAMU instead of trying to look for other vendors and it's just more of a renewal of our previous agreement. So, I think this is a great [inaudible] to bring forward. Thank you.

00:14:41

CR Thank you Vice President. President.

PR Yes thank you. I am also entirely in favour of this. The context if I can provide it is that it's technically a one-year agreement that renews and because it renews it's longer than a year, technically. So, that's why we're bringing it to council. I think historically we've been approving it ourselves because it appears to be in some technical way a one-year contract but because it renews automatically, we're bringing it to council.

But this is something we've been doing for a while so to give you that context as councillors voting for this. We've had this agreement for a while. It's how we have IT at all, and this comment goes to the next motion as well. Just to give you that context. Thanks.

CR Thank you President. Councillor Strayer.

CS Thank you Chair. This is important. We should renew this, and I'll speak to that and to the next motion as well. Quick question though, because none of us are legal experts, did we pass this by any lawyers or anything like that? Anybody is free to answer this. Thank you Chair.

CR Thank you Councillor. Vice President.

VP I believe that MacEwan when creating this document has advised their legal counsel. So, you'll see a lot of common clause between the two agreements as well as, I have read it over and worked with Darryl very strictly on these two agreements to make some changes. So, the IT one, from the original one to the one you have currently, there is a couple of changes that I got made for it. So, the answer is yes, thank you Chair.

00:16:29

CR Thank you Vice President. Councillor Strayer anything further?

CS No, happy guy. Thank you Chair.

CR Thank you. Other questions or comments? Please type question or comment in the chat. Okay I'm not seeing any. The question is on the adoption of the motion to approve the IT services agreement. Is there anyone in opposition? Please speak now. Motion carries.

Item seven point three, security services agreement. Vice President.

VP I move to approve the security services agreement.

CR Thank you and a second please. Vice President Student Life thank you. It has been moved and seconded to approve the security services agreement. I'm going to assume Vice President of Operations and Finance that you're not wanting to speak to this motion. Unless you are?

VPF I do have a little thing to add. I just wanted to say, most of it is in the document I have written. But the reason we want to approve the agreement again, as President has stated, it's because it is an automatic renewal. But regardless if we have this agreement in or not, it is in our contract that we require to have the security, so this is just to make it formalised. So, we have a back-up if we ever need to take it to court or anything. Thank you Chair.

00:18:08

CR Thank you Vice President. We'll open the floor to debate, if there are any questions or comments, please type question or comment. Councillor Dykes.

CD Thank you Chair. Mine is sort of a clarification towards the Vice President Operations and Finance. To cease this contract does it also require Student's Council approval? Thank you Chair.

CR Thank you Councillor. Vice President.

VPF I would believe so, but I am not 100% certain. I apologise.

CR Thank you Vice President. Councillor Dykes is there anything further?

CD Nothing further Chair, thank you.

CR Thank you. Other questions or comments? Please type question or comment in the chat. I feel like I'm announcing deals at a Safeway here or something. I keep saying the same thing. That probably was inappropriate, but it's been a long day. Okay, seeing none. The question is on the adoption of the motion to approve the security services agreement. Is there anyone in opposition? Please speak now. Motion carries.

Item seven point four, budget and finance committee. Okay, so we have one opening on the budget and finance committee. For those of you who are not familiar with the process. I will describe it right now.

00:19:39

So, I understand that Councillor Campbell has put her name forward for the position, so Councillor Campbell is automatically on the list of nominees. The first part of the process is that we will accept nominations from council. So, you may nominate either yourself or a colleague. If you do nominate a colleague, your colleague may accept or decline the nomination. So, once we have exhausted the list of nominees, we will proceed to speeches from each of the nominees.

Each nominee will be given 30 seconds to please their case as to why they should be put on this budget and finance committee. After all the speeches, you will direct your attention to the online forum where you will cast a vote and then we will proceed with the motion.

Is there anyone that needs any clarification with respect to the process? Just speak now please.

Okay, so we will proceed with nominations. If you would like to nominate either yourself or a colleague, please type in nomination into the chat.

Councillor Dykes.

CD Thank you Chair, I would like to nominate Councillor Fallis for budget and finance committee.

CR Thank you Councillor Dykes. Councillor Fallis, do you accept the nomination?

00:21:14

CF Thank you Chair, I accept the nomination.

CR Thank you, other nominations?

I give you one more opportunity, other nominations.

Okay seeing none, we will start with the speech portion of the process and so first we will start with Councillor Campbell and then we'll proceed to Councillor Fallis. So, Councillor Campbell, your 30 seconds begins now.

CC Thank you Chair. So, I've learned a lot since being elected to the council. I was previously appointed to the BFC committee. Where I've asked a lot of important questions for the budget for this year and I'd like to keep working on that as well as trying to keep myself well informed. I've always been a person for student council, and I do come from an under-represented faculty at the university. And I think that's a valuable skill to bring to this committee, so I hope that that information [inaudible]. Thank you for your time and hope you all are doing well.

CR Thank you Councillor Campbell. Okay, Councillor Fallis, your 30 seconds begins now.

CF Thank you Chair. Regarding the budget and finance committee, I have quite a bit of experience in that regard. Both on campus as being the treasurer for the MacEwan Rotaract Club for the second year in a row. I've also worked with multi-million-dollar budgets with regards to Canada under the Alberta council. I have done that for about three years now. So, I do have a good amount of knowledge in budgeting and also with Isaac, another organisation that I am part of. If you guys want to look back on past experience in that regard. Thank you.

00:23:09

CR Thank you Councillor. Okay Council I will direct your attention to the link in your agenda package where you can cast your vote.

[Silence]

Okay Vice President of Operations and Finance, you'll just read the motion with Councillor Fallis as the nominee please.

VPF Thank you Chair. I move to appoint Councillor Fallis to the budget and finance committee for the term ending October 31st, 2020.

CR Thank you and a second please. Sorry, Vice President Academic. It has been moved and seconded to appoint Councillor Fallis to the budget and finance committee for a term ending October 31st, 2020. Is there any debate? If you're not speaking, please put yourself on mute. Thank you. Is there any debate?

The question is on the adoption of the motion to appoint Councillor Fallis to the budget and finance committee for a term ending October 31st, 2020. If you are in opposition, please speak now. Motion is carried.

Item eight, consultation, nothing there. Item nine, evaluation. I'll direct your attention to the link in the agenda package to fill out the evaluation form please.

00:26:13

[Silence]

Okay I think we're done. I can never tell if we're done on this Zoom call because I think you guys might be watching Red Vines or something like that. That was a deep cut, Vine isn't around anymore, I know that now.

Item 10, recognition. If you have recognition, please type in recognition in the chat. Vice President of Academic.

VPA Thank you Chair. I would just like to recognise our Vice President of Operations and Finance and our governance advisor as well for putting together the majority if not all of the material for the meeting today and for all of their reports and motions. And I also wanted to recognise our board of governors' representative in Councillor Dykes for their work on the board of governors and they continue to do even throughout this summer break. Or spring break. And for showing up sort of last minutes for our new student orientation video filming.

Thank you.

CR Thank you Vice President. Other recognition? Vice President of Operations and Finance.

VPF Yes thank you Chair. I would just like to thank our guest speaker Joanne for joining us and our director of finance. I really appreciate her joining us and speaking to the motion for me. Thank you Chair.

00:32:21

CR Thank you Vice President. Other recognition? Last call.

Councillors, good meeting today. We ploughed through quite a bit of stuff in record time. So, we won't delay, we'll move onto item 11, adjournment. Can I get a motion please? Vice President of Operations and Finance.

VPF I move to adjourn.

CR Thank you. This motion only requires one mover and is not debateable. The question is on the adoption of the motion to adjourn. If there is anyone in opposition, please speak now. Motion carries.

This meeting is adjourned, have a good evening.

UM1 Take care everyone.

UM2 Bye.

UM3 Bye everyone.

VPA Take care, have a good night everyone. Feel free to still talk and still communicate despite this COVID situation. We want to hear from you, and we hope we can still be a community in the Students' Council I think.