



## December 16, 2020 Students' Council Meeting - Audio recording

### Speaker Key:

FA	Councilor Fallis
LL	Councilor Lanberg Llave
SE	Councilor Semotiuk
SI	Councilor Singh
TE	Councilor Tesfay
TR	Councilor Tran
WI	Councilor Williams
YA	Councilor Yanish
MD	Myles Dykes
AL	Alan Honey, Governance Advisor
CH	Chair
VE	Vice President External
VO	Vice President Operations and Finance
VS	Vice President Student Life
VA	Vice President Academic
PR	President
RL	Rowan Ley
FP	Female Participant
MP	Male Participant

00:00:00

CH Those of you who are not speaking I just ask you to please mute yourself. Item one, Treaty Six land recognition. We would like to acknowledge that this meeting of the Students' Association at MacEwan University is taking place on the traditional territories of the people of the Treaty 6 region in Central Alberta.

The Students' Association of MacEwan University is situated in the centre of what we call



the city of Edmonton, which is called Amiskwacyi Waskahikan or Beaver Hill House in Nehiyawewin (Cree). This is the traditional home of the Nehiyaw and Michif, and meeting place for many Indigenous peoples including the Nakawe, Siksika, Nakota Sioux and other nations.

Item two, approvals 2.1. We have a motion. Someone please make that motion. Vice President of Operations.

VO Thank you chair. I move to approve the agenda for December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

CH Thank you. And a second, please. Councilor Williams, thank you. It has been moved and seconded to approve the agenda for December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Is there any debate? If there is, speak now. Question is on the adoption of the motion to approve the agenda for December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Is there anyone in opposition? Please speak now. Motion carried. Item 2.2, we have a motion. Can I have someone please introduce that motion? Councilor Tran.

TR I move to approve the minutes of November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

CH Thank you. And a second, please? Vice President External. Thank you. It has been moved and seconded to approve the minutes of November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Is there any debate? Please speak now. Question is on the adoption of the motion to approve the minutes of November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Is there anyone in opposition? Please speak now. Motion carries. Item 2.3, we have another motion. Can I get someone to introduce the motion? Vice President Operations.

VO I move to approve the minutes for November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

00:02:02

CH Thank you. And a second? Councilor Dykes. Thank you. It has been moved and seconded to approve the minutes of November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Is there any debate? Please speak now. Question is on the adoption of the motion to approve the minutes of November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Is there anyone in opposition? Please speak now. Motion carries. Item three, presentations 3.1, Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS). I'm assuming the Vice President External is going to introduce our guests?

VE Actually I believe the president wanted to introduce the full item. I'll go ahead anyway. So today we have joining us Rowan Ley, the Vice President External at the University of Alberta Students' Union and the chair of CAUS for this year. So I don't know if there's any additional parts that the president had prepared, but there is the basic introduction.

PR Well no. I don't mind you doing the introduction. That works just as well for me. I just wanted to say that I'm really excited and proud of the work that CAUS has been doing, so it would serve you well to pay close attention to some of the stuff that's going to be discussed because I think it's pretty important work. So with that, I'll give the floor over to Rowan Ley, the chair of CAUS and the VP External of UASU. And of course, let us know if you have trouble sharing the screen or anything like that.



00:03:46

RL Awesome. Thank you very much, Sean and Ruan, and everyone else for your hospitality. It is a great pleasure to be here. Can I just quickly double-check how much time I have?

CH 30 minutes.

RL Fantastic. All right. I'm just going to quickly get my screen share set up.

CH Just so that you know, 30 minutes included questions. So if you're planning to do any questions of the discussion, the 30 minutes includes that as well.

RL Yes, don't worry. There should be more than enough time. All right. Well, it is a pleasure to be here at SAMU Council. This is my third council visit over the year so far, and it is always fun to go and visit our member councils because each one of our member institutions brings a really unique and special perspective. When I go to AUSU council I get a unique perspective on the needs of remote learning students. And the ULSU brings a really unique perspective on residence issues because there are so many students in residence.

I'm looking forward to hearing your perspectives and learning about the issues that are affecting students at MacEwan and what CAUS can do to support you. So to start off, I'll just give you a sense of what we're going to talk about. I'm going to go over what CAUS is, what we do, a little bit of our history and our membership, our funding model, all that kind of thing. And of course, we'll have a question and answer period at the end, and I'll also run you through a little bit of the work that we're doing and the projects that we're hoping to finish this year.

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So who we are. CAUS represents about 140,000 undergraduate students at Alberta public universities. Not all of those students are in Alberta because we do represent online and distance learning students across the country and around the world, but we think about 120,000 of these students are in Alberta. We represent the U of A, the U of C, Mount Royal, of course MacEwan University, the University of Lethbridge, and students at Athabasca University.

This makes us the largest student advocacy group in Alberta by about 30,000 students, and that gives us a really great voice and a really great opportunity to collectively raise problems with the minister. It gives us a much stronger voice than just any one of our student associations on its own.

So CAUS's mission is to advocate for student priorities to the provincial government, and that can look like all kinds of things. But the general categories that most of our work falls into is student financial aid, funding for our institutions, student representation at all level of governance, mental health support and other student wellness supports, and sexual violence response which is a particularly big priority for CAUS this year.

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We use a variety of strategies to do that. Obviously, the strategies we use depend on the challenges we're facing in the particular moment we're in and the tools that we have, but we use a pretty wide mix. So we do a fair amount of traditional lobbying, which involves building relationships with the decision-makers in the department and the minister and his staff and basically getting things done through the strength of our arguments and the persuasiveness of our ideas. Unfortunately, as you can all imagine, that sometimes does not work so we've got to have a number of other methods as well.

So CAUS in the past has done a lot of student organizing. We've organized large rallies at the legislature. We have dropped off giant buckets of letters from students at ministers' offices. Unfortunately that all looks a little different this year. Right now I think we can all agree that it would not be a good idea to be bringing together 5,000 students on the legislature steps, so we're having to think really creatively about how we can be a voice for students. We're going to have to come up with some new ideas that have never been tried before.

We also do a lot of public and media relations work. So public campaigns to try to raise post-secondary students' issues to people who aren't necessarily students or professors or our usual audience. That's one approach that we're having to expand a little bit because of COVID. Then also we do a lot of research and policy development.

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So often issues that just aren't a huge priority for the provincial government they don't really come up with solutions to problems, but once we can point out a problem, a solution, and give them a simple series of steps that they can take to fix it, they're a lot more willing to get on board. The minister has a saying which is, don't just come with a problem, come with a solution, and we do try to do that and we certainly do get a better response that way.

So just to give you an idea of what we've accomplished recently to show you that our strategies do work and we have been able to make progress. So the biggest recent win of CAUS, I think, just near the end of the previous government's mandate was Bill 19. I assume most of you have probably heard of Bill 19, but Bill 19 was one of the strongest pieces of tuition regulation legislation in the country. So it created a cohort system for international tuition, meaning that international students had to be promised the full price of their degree upfront. Which of course was a huge improvement in predictability for international students.

It capped the average tuition increase for a university at inflation, though there is a process for exemptions, and it also created a student consent process for mandatory non-instructional fees, which has been very helpful for us at U of A. I know and I'm assuming that at MacEwan you've had some chances to see that in action as well. So Bill 19 obviously happened under the previous government and a number of its provisions were temporarily suspended, which we were very disappointed by, but it is still a considerable improvement over the old tuition regulation system in Alberta.

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What are some more recent wins? We were an instrumental part of getting the implementation of performance-based funding delayed during COVID. As you all know, that would have just thrown a huge wrench into our universities' ability to deal with the pandemic and the struggles that they're facing right now. That unpredictability in funding would have ended up hurting students as well as causing a headache for administration and problems for staff.

We have also successfully been able to advocate for the permanent renewal of the mental health grant. Technically speaking it is still renewed year by year, but we now have the minister's promise that he doesn't see any circumstances in which it would ever be reduced or eliminated. Which is an improvement over the beginning of the government's term where there was not so much certainty attached to that. So our persistence has worked.

One interesting thing about this year that we're living in is, as you can imagine, a lot of our work is playing defense. We're trying to preserve the gains that we've already made rather than being able to move forward and get new and exciting changes made. There are a few areas where we're making progress, but a lot of our work this year will be kind of invisible in the sense that if we're successful then less will change, and if we're unsuccessful then there will be changes that are negative for students.

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So playing defense is a little less sexy, shall we say, and unfortunately it is a little less fun, but it is still very important for students and ensuring affordability for our members. We also work with a few other large student groups. So we work with the Alberta Student Executive Council, ASEC, which represents about, I think it's actually 112,000 college, polytechnic, and private university students. They tend to have a similar approach to issues as us, but we do disagreements on a few issues, which does make sense. We represent different types of institutions with different types of problems.

We also work quite closely with the Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council which represents graduate students, and they also share a lot of the same problems we do, especially around university funding which is important to them as well. So I'm going to tell you a little about our governance. So, of course, my name is Rowan. I am the chair. Here's me back when you could still get a haircut. Our vice-chair is Marley Gillies. She is the vice president external of the University of Calgary students' union. Our executive director is Jon Mastel.

We have a board which right now consists of 12 members, which is one primary and one secondary delegate from each of our member institutions. Usually, that's the vice president external and the president. Each member institution gets one vote and the board elects the chair and vice-chair. We also have a few sub-committees. Some are permanent, like the policy committee, of which your wonderful VP External Ruan is the chair this year.

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We also have some ad-hoc committees like one that we've struck now to make some



changes to our governance and staffing. We also can strike sub-committees for things like creating a new strategic plan, which we're going to have to do this year. Generally speaking, those are open to most members with one permanent member from each institution. So we do our best to follow all governance best practices while at the same time staying open, democratic, and respectful to everyone involved.

So, of course, the question that nobody ever likes to talk about but that is very important in student governance is money. So CAUS is funded entirely by our members and for our members. Our dues are extremely low. Our member student associations pay about two dollars and 8 cents for each full load equivalent taken at your institution, and that is the lowest number in Canada for any major provincial advocacy organization.

To put it into perspective, our budget is about the same size as the budget of Students Nova Scotia, and Students Nova Scotia represent approximately one quarter as many students in an environment where their post-secondary system and funding is, shall we say, much more stable. So we do a lot of work with very little resources. So SAMU every year pays about \$23,000 into the CAUS budget out of our total budget of about \$158,000.

So just to give you a sense of what we're working on in 2020 in particular, just a selection of projects. We are running a project called the Indigenous University Research Analyst project, and the goal of that is to create a report on policies that could materially improve indigenous students' access and experience in the Alberta post-secondary system.

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This is a fairly big project that is taking longer than we expected because we want to make sure that we do this right, but by the end of this year, I anticipate we'll have a report with between four and six recommendations for the provincial government that we'll be able to include in our future advocacy priorities and hopefully see becoming government policy in two to three years or something like that.

We're working on two separate campaigns to the public which are going to be launching in January, which are about communicating the importance of post-secondary education to the Alberta economy and Alberta's future. One is the collaboration with a number of other post-secondary stakeholders including some staff unions. So that's one is going to be launching in January. Then the next one is one that we are running with a slightly different focus, and slightly different methods, that is meant to fill in what we see as the gaps in the collaborative campaign that we're doing with the unions.

Not to give too many spoilers, but there will be some very exciting components to this campaign. Do you like lawn signs? I hope you like lawn signs. If you don't have a lawn that's okay because we're also going to have stickers and other cool stuff.

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So basically this will be a great opportunity to flaunt how much you love Alberta universities. We do hope to change the public dialogue around universities, even though there are so many problems in our sector. We have kind of fallen, I think, to the back of the priority list in the minds of the public when we're dealing with a health crisis. That's



understandable, but it does mean we need to do some work to get ourselves back in the spotlight.

Now there's an old saying in politics which is that you can bring two things to be helpful, people or money. And in a typical year, our big advantage as student associations is we can bring lots of people. This year we can't really do that because of COVID, partly because of problems of gathering and partly because of the challenges of engaging students digitally, so we are having to improve the money side.

So one of our big projects for this year is getting registered and set up as a third-party political advertiser with Elections Alberta, which will allow us to run ads as well as accept donations from political donors. That will allow us to be a much bigger player in the advertising scene and to get our foot in the door in the public conversation in a time when we can't necessarily use our traditional methods. Even once COVID is over, it will still be nice to have a whole new tool that we can use on top of our normal methods. So this is a big opportunity for us to improve our effectiveness and communicate our members' priorities better.

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So what do we bring our members? What makes it worth your \$23,000 to be part of CAUS? One of the big things that I find useful about CAUS is that we provide access to a pooled network of knowledge and intelligence. So all of our members have their own connections, their own relationships, and when we can pull all of those it means each one of our member institutions has access to all of the knowledge and relationships and information of every other member. That makes us, I guess, six times better informed and six times better connected than we would otherwise be.

Typically about half of one of our board meetings is spent giving updates on what's happening at each other's institutions, which I actually find incredibly valuable because it helps us plan our advocacy, and learn lessons and best practices from each other. The other thing is that there are a lot of student associations in Alberta, and when the ministry or the minister are trying to do really serious and in-depth work, they don't like to have 80 people at the table.

So they'll typically just invite the umbrellas groups, CAUS, ASEC, and ab-GPAC to those smaller conversations. By being a member of one of our umbrella groups, that gives you a seat at the table where those really detailed conversations are being had and where you really have a chance to make your priorities heard in a detailed conversation with the minister and with powerful people in government, rather than just being given ideas later and asked if you like them or not.

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So the next thing is if you're facing a problem at SAMU that is somewhat unique to SAMU, then all of our members can combine our voices to support you on that issue. That could really look like anything, but say you were facing a particular problem with like campus sexual violence regulations at SAMU, we could try to work with the provincial governments using the strength of all 140,000 members to support you on that one issue. So it allows



us to bring a lot more energy to bear on your advocacy priorities.

We also get strong media access because when the media is reporting on province-wide stories, they tend to go to the provincial advocacy groups rather than the individual student associations. And honestly, there's tons of other stuff. I would argue that one of the big benefits of membership is meeting cool people. That's not so financially quantifiable but it has been very helpful.

So this year's priorities, we have four main priorities. The first is funding students and supporting affordability, which focuses on the need for special student grants and one-time aid packages to help get students through the pandemic. The next one is recession response. This largely focuses on finding job opportunities for students, and we have seen some success at this. The government has created a new internship program for STEM students through the My Tax program, though that is more focused on graduate students right now.

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So we're working to get an option created that is more undergraduate-focused, and we have seen some considerable progress. Our understanding is that change is on the way there. Another is supporting safe and healthy campuses. This means, first of all, advocating for improved mental health funding, and second of all, advocating that the provincial government force universities to overhaul their campus sexual violence policies, many of which are shamefully trapped in the 1980s, and provide funding for universities to offer consent programs and sexual violence prevention resources.

We've been making some good progress on that. I think we will hopefully have good news to bring you in January. The last one is institutional autonomy in the student experience. As part of the Alberta 2030 post-secondary review that is happening right now, and I believe you've received a presentation on that, right? I think so. We're concerned about changes that could be made to governance that would take away power from students. Making sure that power stays localized in our institutions and is not brought up to distant provincial bodies that will be harder to influence, is one of our big priorities in that review.

And I'll just give a little spotlight about something we've been working on this year given the unique environment of online learning. How are we working to support online education? So, first of all, CAUS has been doing some advocacy for internet access, especially for rural broadband. That is an area that we know our lot of our members have been running into trouble on.

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And CAUS is also committed to supporting students with dependents and part-time students. So we know that the students in the long run who are going to continue using online education at MacEwan and other institutions are disproportionately likely to have dependents or to have another job that requires them to work part-time. Right now our student aid system is just not set up to support those students.

For example, the government abolished the granting program that supported the needs





of students with dependents earlier this year. We made a big fuss about that in the media which will hopefully discourage them from making changes like that with consultation again. We also need grants that are targeted to part-time students rather than full-time students, which there is right now a huge shortage of in Canada, but especially in Alberta. So that's a little bit of what we're working on this year.

I see Sean's messaged about the Alberta 2030 post-secondary review, so if anyone wants to know more about that please do feel free to ask a question. I'm happy to answer questions on anything.

CH Right. Thank you so much, Rowan. That was super helpful and informative and I guess I'll turn it over to council if they have any questions. Maybe while they kind of gather their thoughts, I have one in the meantime. What I'm wondering, and of course I think it's obvious that I would know the answer to this, but I'm asking it for the benefit of council, is what is maybe the biggest change or impact of Alberta 2030 that, number one, is publicly knowable and secondly that we're aware of at this point that could come down the pipe.

00:24:37

RL That is a fantastic question, Sean. The biggest concern at this point is that the government might consider changes to tuition regulation. Obviously, this isn't really secret because it is clear that in any broad-based review of the post-secondary system that is going to be a risk. One of our biggest priorities, and frankly one of the few things which for us is an absolute hill to die on and is negotiable, is that there has to be tuition regulation which means that undergraduate average tuition does not grow above inflation in the long run. That to us is the minimum of what we think is a reasonable offer to accept.

So that's the biggest risk would be deregulation of tuition that would allow tuition to be set by the market, and like we know from the United States, there is not really a market-based solution for tuition affordability. I'm an economics student. I love market-based solutions to things, but the fact is that that just doesn't work for post-secondary tuition.

If you deregulate tuition then the cost of education explodes and puts massively more pressure on the government to provide student loans, which then allows universities to raise tuition again. And we get this death spiral like we had in the US, where tuition goes up three to four percent every year and becomes incredibly unaffordable for the society.

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So for students, but also just more generally for the public good, that to us is a hill to die on. Tuition deregulation, in our view, cannot happen unless it is changing things to be more friendly for students. There are one or two other important things I would note. We need to make sure that Alberta universities retain their broad-based focus and that you can still get a good liberal arts education in Alberta.

As we know, this government has a strong focus on commercialization. We are worried that sometimes this focus is narrow and does not really consider the importance of generalist programs like say political science or history that offer broad-based critical thinking skills and allow you to understand the world in a different way. We think those



create a lot of value for the economy and our society, but it's just not in a way that's so quick and easy to attribute.

So we're worried that we're not going to see the same level of prioritization and support for those programs in the future, and making sure that that doesn't happen is one of our biggest priorities with the review. Honestly, I could talk for hours about this because there would literally be a list like this long of things that they'd consider changing, but to me, those would be just two of the top issues that come to mind.

CH           Excellent. Thank you so much.

MP           I had a question as well.

CH           Yes, go ahead.

00:27:32

MP           Thank you. Thank you for the presentation by the way. That was very informative. Now I apologize if this question is somewhat vague or if I'm fundamentally misunderstanding something so please [unclear]. But when you were talking about the whole third-party... What was it? Being registered as a third-party political... I'm lacking the proper words for it, but my point is that with SAMU and other student associations being obviously non-partisan advocacy groups, but then would I be correct in saying those changes could potentially open us up to donations from partisan groups?

Sorry, like I said I know that question's kind of vague. I was wondering if you could maybe elaborate more on that whole aspect. Thank you.

RL           Yes, absolutely. So if a political party ever tried to donate to us, we would refuse the donation. Our motto at CAUS is that we oppose policies not people, and any advertising that we do would be focused on student issues. So we would never run an ad saying don't vote for X politician or vote for Y politician. It would always be about make up your own mind but vote for someone who supports a stronger student aid system. Or just identifying to Albertans when you go to the ballot box think about post-secondary education. But who people vote for is honestly not our business at all, and we leave them to make up their own minds on that.

00:29:08

All we would be seeking to do is to raise the issues so that they can then make up their own minds with a little more information and having thought about that as a priority. And on who you would accept donations from, it would basically be sympathetic Albertans. So this isn't like the United States where a corporation could donate \$100,000. The maximum donation we could possibly receive from any one person or donor would be \$5,000.

So we're talking small dollar donations here from ordinary Albertans who share our priorities and are worried about post-secondary. Does that answer your question? Can I clarify anything else?



MP No that was, like I said I lack the words to articulate it, but that answered the question I did a poor job of articulating in the first place. So thank you.

RL That was a great question. Thank you. Don't worry. We're not going to be taking any shadow money from... I don't know where we'd get it, but we do not plan on doing that.

CH (unclear) [?].

RL Yes. We will not take any money from (unclear). We will also not take any money from the UCP. We will take money from almost anyone else, but we do have some principles. Any other questions?

CH Other questions?

RL Yes, go for it.

00:30:36

CH Sorry. I'm the chair. I'm just asking if there are other questions.

RL Sorry.

CH It's okay. Last call for questions councilors? Okay. President do you want to outro our guest?

PR Sure, why not. Outro? I thought that term was only used in musical compositions, but you know what, let's go for it.

CH It's suitable.

PR So thank you Rowan a lot for this. I think at this time with some of the policy decisions that are being made around post-secondary, it's really important to have an organization like CAUS. And when you hear Rowan say 120,000 Albertan students, I think that means a lot in terms of what we can do with her advocacy. I'm excited for the campaign in the New Year. I've heard a lot about it. It sounds great. Thank you so much for going over this with us and taking the time to be here with us this year. We didn't get a college presentation last year so I'm happy we made one happen this year.

00:31:45

So with that, we'll let you go, and thanks to everyone for listening in on a really important presentation as well to our councilors.

RL Fantastic. Just before I leave I'll just drop my email in the chat here in case anyone has any questions that they think of later so you can get in touch. This is great timing because my pizza should be arriving in about five minutes.

CH Perfect. Thank you. Move on to item four for information 4.1, reports 4.1.1. President, any oral supplements?

PR Yes, I do have one. Thank you chair. I just wanted to add as an oral supplement that the board of governors at MacEwan, unfortunately, did approve the maximum legally allowed tuition increase, along with some mandatory non-instructional fee increases for next year.



I was really proud of the statements that Myles and I gave. Myles even collected some student testimonials. Of course Myles is our student board of governor rep, so we both sit on the board.

I think we did a really good job of articulating why. We're not just voting no because it's what we're supposed to do, but why we're voting no and how if things were different we could have voted yes. But because of the circumstances being what they were, there was no chance we could have supported that motion. I thought our point was really well received that the board of governors' members and the administration seemed to really understand what we were saying and take it seriously. But we were the only two who are opposed at the end of the day.

00:33:28

So I just wanted to mention that because it's very important and it happened after my report was written and that's it. So thank you Chair.

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

VA No. Thank you Chair. As presented.

CH Thank you. 4.1.3. Vice President External, any oral supplements?

VE Yes. Thank you Chair. I have just one thing that I would like to bring to everyone's attention. It was mentioned in the Vice President Operations and Finance's report, but I just thought I would reiterate it here, that the agreement in principle that we had put together with ETS for the UPASS agreement, which will most likely be coming into force next year, late next year probably depending on when the COVID stuff gets resolved. But that agreement has now been signed so we will be bringing forward, at the next meeting I believe, the referendum question for council to approve and then we will put the whole thing to a referendum. Thank you Chair.

CH Thank you. 4.1.4. Vice President Operations and Finance, any oral supplements?

VO Yes. Thank you Chair. So we will be bringing two other items as a referendum to the next council meeting, so keep an eye out on that. But for anyone who has not let me know which topic they want for townhall, please do so as soon as you can.

00:35:00

I believe I have everyone, but I know we have potential new candidates so I'm just letting them know overall. Other than that nothing else. Thank you Chair.

CH Thank you. 4.1.5. Vice President Student Life, any oral supplements?

VS As presented. Thank you Chair.

CH Thank you. 4.1.6. Board of Governors Student Representative, Councilor Dykes, any oral supplements?

MD As presented. Thank you Chair.



CH Thank you. I'm going to read through the list that follows. I'm assuming there's no oral supplements, but if there are any I'll give you an opportunity at the end. So 4.1.7, appointment advisory committee. 4.1.8, appointment advisory committee work plan. 4.1.9, budget and finance committee work plan. 4.1.10, bylaws and policy committee work plan. 4.1.11, executive committee work plan. 4.1.12, leadership review and review committee work plan. 4.1.13, governance remuneration advisory committee work plan are in your package for your information.

Were there any oral supplements on any of those? No? The president has a brief oral supplement. Sorry. Was that an old message? No that's new. President or vice president... Sorry. President, go ahead.

00:36:19

PR Thank you Chair. I just wanted to very briefly say that you can expect the work plan for GRAC to essentially be pushed forward or pushed back, I guess, pushed into the future by one month just because our decided upon date in December had a conflict. So everything is December is going to be January. Everything in January is probably going to be in February. Thank you Chair.

CH Thank you. Vice President External.

VE Thank you Chair. I just wanted to clarify that I had made a tragic mistake which was pointed out to me after I sent out the work plan. Which is just that two of the dates are listed as being in 2020 which means we are tragically behind on our work plan. But just given that everyone understands that all of our goals will be set for 2021. Thank you Chair.

CH Thank you. I think we just blame that on 2020 now. It's fine. 4.2, executive committee minutes of November 4<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> 2020 are provided in your package for your information. Item five, question period 5.1, written questions, none this week. 5.2, oral questions. We'll open question period right now. If you have a question please type the question in the chat and I will recognize you in the order in which you appear here. Vice President Academic.

00:37:46

VA Thank you Chair. This question is for the leadership and review committees so mostly likely the Chair or VP External. I was just curious if the committee had talked about adding any team-building conversations to their work plan for council? Thank you.

CH Thank you. Vice president.

VE Thank you Chair. I don't know if I reflected it quite properly in the work plan, but I think a lot of our ideas that fall under the header of student engagement, some of the plans that we were talking about, extend beyond student engagement into a bit of teambuilding. Those ideas are a bit amorphous right now and there's quite a lot of timeline on it, so obviously we will have a couple more brainstorming sessions. But I think that we can definitely discuss adding some dedicated team building just for SC, but I think we've just lumped it in as having these big umbrella things. We can elaborate on that at a future brainstorming session. Thank you.



CH Thank you. Vice President Academic, anything further? I see a no. Okay. Councilor Tran.

TR Thank you Chair. I just have a question for the president. Just reading through your report, I was just wondering was there any highlight that we should know about in your meeting with the critic for post-secondary education like David Eggen? Thank you.

CH Thank you councilor. President?

PR That's a good question. I may want to defer some of that to the VP External because I believe he has the notes more handy than I do, but generally, a lot of it was Alberta 2030.

00:39:50

Basically what we're saying is this is what we're expecting to come down the pipe for Alberta 30. Checking that with him whether he's heard any different or what he's seen on the matter since he's heavily involved in that as the advanced education critic in the opposition. But beyond Alberta 2030 we didn't really get into too much of the stuff because Alberta 2030 is overwhelming the whole post-secondary topic in student advocacy in Alberta right now. But I'll pass it off to the VP External for more of the details if I can. Thank you Chair.

CH Sure. Vice president?

VE Thank you. I think Sean captured it pretty well. It was mostly Alberta 2030 talk. I think the nice thing was actually that we were just able to a bit more of a meaningful discussion. In terms of giving him some of the information, because things are moving so fast with Alberta 2030 and because we had had a roundtable with the Minister of Advanced Education Demetrios Nicolaidis the day before we met with MLA David Eggen. I think it was just nice to make sure that he understood what our big areas of concern were, particularly the student perspective.

00:41:13

I think it's very tricky when you don't have the same number of interest groups coming to you that go to the minister to inform him on what's going on. So just saying these are some areas that we think are really critical in the review and we would love for you to keep an eye out on those things in particular. So hopefully that adds an additional complement to the president's answer. Thank you Chair.

CH Thank you. Councilor Tran, anything further?

TR Yes chair. I just had one more question for the VP Student Life. I was just wondering, when do you tend to launch these student advisory group, and is there a timeline for that? From what I recall last time, because I think you send a draft to me, but I'm just wondering if there's any updates in terms of how many members will sit in terms of student lodges and councilors? Thank you Chair.

CH Thank you councilor. Vice president?

VS The terms of reference has been updated with the exact numbers for a while, but as far as updates I am currently just starting to work on the training for that. I'm hoping to have



people in place to begin membership selection by probably the end of January, and then definitely have the committee up and running by the end of my term. I hope that answers your question.

CH Thank you, vice president. Councilor Tran, anything further?

TR Nope that's everything. Thank you Chair.

00:42:36

CH Thank you. Other questions? Last call for questions. Okay. We'll move on to item six in-camera period. 6.1, councilor vacancies. Can I have a motion to move in camera please? Vice President Student Life.

VS Move to go in camera.

CH Thank you. And a second, please? Vice President External has moved and [unclear] camera. Is there any debate? Questions on the adoption to move in-camera? Is there anyone in opposition, please speak now? Motion carries. I think there's a separate link for the in-camera session so I'll have you click on that. See you there. Okay. Item seven, motions in business orders of the day 7.1, councillor vacancies. Vice president Student Life?

VS I move to appoint Abby Aboud and Collin Campbell as councillors effective December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020, for a term ending October the 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021.

CH Thank you. And a second? Councillor Landberg Llave, thank you. It has been moved and seconded to appoint, sorry got to get these names right, Collin Campbell and Abby Aboud as councillors effective December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020, for a term ending October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021. Is there any debate? Councilor Singh?

00:44:09

SI Motion to divide the question?

CH Thank you councilor. Any second? Vice President External, thank you. So councillors, before we vote I'm just going to explain dividing the question. Because we have two individuals here in the motion, this motion to divide the question will divide this motion into two. So we will deal with each individual appointment through these motions separately. Okay? So this motion is not debatable. Is there anyone opposed to the motion to divide the question?

FP Yes.

CH No? Sorry, you were...

FP No. just kidding.

CH Okay. So we're only dealing with the motion to divide the question. So if you're in opposition to that, we can note that opposition in the chat. So if there is anyone opposed to the motion to divide the question, please type in opposed in the chat. Okay, that motion is carried. So first we will deal with the first motion which is to appoint... So the motion is



to appoint Abby Aboud as councillor effective December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020, for a term ending October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021. To be clear that's on your screen. It's the first motion that you see there.

Is there any debate? If you have any debate please type in debate in the chat. The question is on the adoption of the motion to appoint Abby Aboud as councilor effective December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020, for a term ending October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021. Is there anyone opposed?

00:46:09

FA Yes.

CH Thank you, Councilor Fallis. Because we have one individual at least opposed, and because we need to record our votes, if you are in opposition to the motion, please type in opposed in the chat. I'll give you a couple of minutes to do that because we need to be clear on how many we have in favor and how many we have opposed. Last call to type in opposed if you are opposed to the motion. Okay. Last call. So we have seven in favor and six opposed. That motion carries. Alan, just on a process note here, you'll capture from the chat who is opposed, correct?

AL That's correct.

CH Thank you. Then I don't need to name every individual. We'll deal with the second motion now. Motion to appoint Collin Campbell as a councillor effective December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020, for a term ending October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021. Is there any debate? If there is, please type in debate in the chat. Councilor Yanish.

YA Thank you Chair. I would just like to remind those voting that I think it best for all of student council, and SAMU as a whole, to judge where we're placing our vote in terms of if we think, including this person will make council more or less effective.

00:48:23

And I think the best grounds for that is to judge that based on their previous or at least what is alleged their previous participation and what they did or did not bring to council, as I think that is what is the most important here. Thank you Chair.

CH Thank you. Further debates? President.

PR Thank you chair. I just want to say very briefly that I am in favor of this motion and will be voting as such. And I think the comments from Councilor Yanish explained a bit as to why. Thank you.

CH Thank you, President. Other debate? Okay. The question is on the adoption of the motion to appoint Councillor Collin Campbell as councilor. Sorry, let me restate that. The question is on the motion to appoint Collin Campbell as councillor effective December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020, for a term ending October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021. Is there anyone opposed to the motion?

FP Yes.

CH Thank you. Because we have at least one individual in opposition, I'll ask that anyone who





is opposed to the motion please type in opposed in the chat. Last call for votes. We have four in support and nine in opposition. That motion fails. We move on to item eight, consultation 8.1, webcams for Students' Council, Vice President External.

VE Thank you Chair. So this is an item that we've been discussing at leadership interview committee for a while.

00:50:43

Essentially the idea is we want to be able to have, and this is covered mostly in the consultation item, but we want to be able to reasonably require that all members of council have their cameras on to ensure adequate participation, engagement, accountability, etc. But we realize that we can't really make this demand if some people have issues with their webcam glitching, if they don't have a webcam.

We discussed internet as another component of this issue, and I just thought I would mention that that solution is already in place. You can rent those fire sticks I think they're called, from the library, which can be very helpful for boosting internet. We were looking at buying a couple of cameras, web cameras for students' councillors to rent for the duration of their term should they need it. So just thinking between two and four. We've already looked at prices. They are very insignificant.

So really all we're coming to council for is to assess the need. So does anyone on council would they benefit from this? Do we think that we should have one or two just in case? What are your thoughts on, just to be clear, the number of cameras that you think would be necessary for this immediate near future period. Thank you Chair.

CH Thank you. So consultation period. If you're not familiar with the rules, each member, which are you, have an opportunity to speak to this consultation item once, and at any point, the Vice President External can declare that he's been consulted and that ends the consultation period.

00:52:20

So we'll open up the floor. If you have a comment, please type in comment in the chat and I will recognize you in the order in which you appear. We'll start with the board of governor's representative.

MD Thank you Chair. So looking at councillors present today, it looks like everybody has adequate access to a camera. I think maybe it's a plan we should keep in our back pocket for when we look at appointing more councillors, however. That's all I had to say though. Thank you chair.

CH Thank you. Councilor Yanish?

YA Thank you Chair. As much as I oppose the sort of panopticon effect I believe to occur with this barely human way of interacting, I think it is a very good idea to, if not required, then all but and heavily suggest that we ought to have our cameras on while participating. I think that's a great idea.



CH Thank you. Councilor Singh?

SI Hello Chair. I recognize that this is a great initiative and it puts a step forward in the agenda. And I think that there's nothing to lose with this. I think it would be good to even just have one or two just in case and then [unclear] for this time with COVID. It will make it more realistic in real life. So I think it's a good initiative. Thank you.

CH Thank you. President?

00:53:45

PR Thank you Chair. I think I kind of agree with everyone so far, but I just want to give a different angle on it. I think it's a completely different interaction that I have than I've seen other people have with these kinds of distance online, whatever you want to call it, kind of meetings when their cameras are on. And it already is enough of a hindrance to our work to not be able to meet in person, but at least if there's cameras on then there could be that almost like the panopticon thing that Councilor Yanish was jokingly referring to.

There is some level of accountability there where you're more likely to look up, to pay attention, to be in tune with things. I've been in enough Zoom things, and I'm sure some other people have as well at this point, to realize that the difference is very distinct between having the camera on or off. I think this is a great accessibility lens when it comes to what if you can't afford it or what if your computer doesn't have it, well then we'll provide it.

So I think it's a great idea both to have webcams on and to provide them for those who don't have them. So thanks.

CH Thank you. Councillor [unclear]? Sorry, that's the vice president. Sorry.

00:55:00

VO Sorry. I forgot to change my name when we came back into this meeting here. I just had a couple of comments, the first one being when we used to have Councillor Johnson that would have been a great idea because I know that they were having difficulty with their camera and it would have been a great opportunity for them to take advantage of that. I know, I believe it's Councillor Tran has issues with her camera as well sometimes. So I think it's a great option to have. Whether we want to do it now or wait until we have more councillors that is all dependent on LRC, but I do definitely think that it's a good idea. Thank you.

CH Thank you. Councillor Tran?

TR Thank you Chair. I just wanted to echo some of the sentiments. I may be a little bit biased because I do sit on LRC and we've discussed in the previous meeting, but I was also thinking that it would be good for accessibility wise. I have, like the Vice President Operations had stated, I do have issues with my webcam sometimes and I personally would be somebody who would benefit from this. Thank you.

CH Thank you. Councillor Fallis.



FA Thank you Chair. As mentioned by the VP External, the cost of these webcams isn't very significant and it speaks on more of the council's focus on accessibility and inclusivity, and perhaps may even encourage more people to apply for council. So I am in full agreement to getting webcams and implementing that as soon as possible too.

00:56:37

CH Thank you. Vice President Academic?

VA Thank you Chair. I recognize all the comments made previously and I just wanted to echo that again. I do think it is a step in the right direction at least having some of these available. We have known when we even are on campus sometimes people are away and they do still call into meetings. So if they would need support with a webcam to come in [unclear], sorry, then that should be provided. And then maybe in the future just making it known that council is accessible for students. If they have requests that they can make them to, for instance, our governance advisor or LRC. If they need other accommodations met, I think we would very amenable from our discussion so far to meet those accommodations where we can. Thank you.

CH Thank you. Vice President External.

VE Thank you Chair. So thank you so much. I think that pretty much wraps up the consultation. Just in what I plan on bringing back to LRC and moving ahead with this project, the vibe that I'm getting is that having... I think two sounds like a good number because if we have one councilor who has already expressed a need for it. And then bearing in mind the possibility of future councilor appointments, we can have one. We can always acquire more in the future if a greater need arises, but I think that seems like a reasonable number.

00:58:09

If anyone has any concerns about that and thinks we should get more, then feel free to privately message me and we can have it out. But, yes, I have been adequately consulted. Thank you Chair.

CH Thank you. Item nine, evaluation. The link is in your form so I'll give you some time to fill that up. I'm just waiting for four more, one of which I think councillor [unclear] just sent that link too. All right. Alan says that we're done. I can never tell if you're still filling out the form or if you're looking up the definition of the term that Councillor Yanish used earlier. Spoilers, I'm pretty sure it came from the third Transformers movie, which wasn't any good, but congratulations of watching it.

So item ten, recognition. We'll open the floor to recognition now. If you have a piece of recognition just please type recognition in the chat. Councillor Yanish.

YA Thank you Chair. I just want to, I suppose this is self-congratulatory, but considering in all my time in students' council I don't think I've seen councilors divided as they were on some of the issues discussed today in the in-camera period. And I think aside from the fact that they were diametrically opposing views presented, we did a very good job of not making it unnecessarily hostile or hostile really at all. So I appreciate our ability to discuss



that today. Thank you Chair.

CH Thank you. Board of Governors representative.

01:05:52

MD Thank you Chair. I'd like to recognize my fellow Board of Governors colleague the President for his work on the board of governors. He gave an amazing speech during the closed session. Unfortunately, it was closed so nobody really heard it except for other governors, but it was amazing. And I'm sure we were very close to changing the minds of a few governors.

CH Thank you Board of Governors representative. Other recognition? Vice President Academic.

VA Again sorry. It takes me a second to unmute myself there. Thank you Chair. I would just like to recognize those who in the past, just recently, or will in the future put themselves forward for council, whether that be through the elections or appointments. It is definitely a challenging thing to do as one who has done it a few times myself. There's many things to consider when we look for these appointments in conversations that unfortunately are confidential. Things that happened in our in-camera sessions.

It's not really as easy to vote on these things, but I look forward to working with any of these individuals whether elected or appointed or not to this council. And recognize the community in space because as was mentioned in our [unclear] presentations, we're here to talk policies, not people.

01:07:16

So we look forward to working with these individuals in whatever capacities we work with them in. So thank you.

CH Thank you, vice president. Other recognition? Okay. Council, I always get the last recognition. I want to recognize council because we got to divide the question today. For a governance nerd like me, that's a lot of fun. You made my holiday season. It slightly compensates for the fact that I can't go anywhere, but neither can you. So here we are all together but not really together. So item 11, adjournment. We'll take a motion. Vice President External.

VE I move to adjourn.

CH Thank you. That motion doesn't require a second, is not debatable. So the question on the adoption of the motion to adjourn. Is there anyone opposed? Please speak now. Motion carries. This meeting is adjourned. Have a happy holiday everyone.

01:08:23

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