



June 16, 2021 Students' Council Meeting - Audio Recording Transcript

Speaker Key:

CH	Chair	SE	Councilor Semotiuk
AB	Councilor Abboud	SI	Councilor Singh
SL	VP Student Life	TE	Councilor Tesfay
PR	President	TR	Councilor Tran
AC	VP Academic	OF	VP Operations and Finance
LL	Councilor Landberg-Llave	EX	VP External
MA	Councilor Mah	AH	Alan Honey

CH: Okay. It's 6 o'clock. So we'll call the meeting to order. If you haven't muted yourself, please do so until I recognize you as you speak. So we'll start with item one Treaty Six line recognition. We would like to acknowledge that this meeting of the Students' Association of MacEwan University is taking place on the traditional territories of the people of the Treaty 6 region in central Alberta. The Students' Association of MacEwan University is situated in the centre of what we call the city of Edmonton, which is called Amiskwaciy Waskahikan or Beaver Hill House in Nehiyawewin (Cree). This is the traditional home of the Nehiyaw and Michif, and meeting place for many Indigenous peoples including the Nakawe, Siksika, Nakota Sioux and other nations.

Item 2, approvals 2.1, we have a motion. Can we have someone introduced that motion, please? Anyone? Vice president of Student Life?

SL: Move to approve the agenda for June 16, 2021.

CH: Thank you, vice president, and a second, please. Councillor Semotiuk. Thank you. It has been moved and seconded to approve the agenda for June 16th, 2021. Is there any debate?

Question is on the adoption of the motion to approve the agenda for June 16, 2021. Is there anyone in opposition, please speak now.

That motion is carried. Item. 2.2, we have a motion. Can have someone introduced that motion, please? Councilor Abboud.

AB: Motion to approve the minutes for May 19th, 2021.

CH: Thank you, Councillor and a second, please. President? It has been moved and seconded to approve the minutes of May 19, 2021, is there any debate?



Question is on the adoption of the motion to approve the minutes of May 19th, 2021, is there anyone in opposition, please speak now.

The motion is carried. Item 3, presentations nothing there, Item 4 for information, 4.1 reports, 4.1.1. President, any oral supplements as presented.

PR: As presented. Thank you chair.

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

AC: Yes, Chair, thank you. Really quickly. I met with the Provost, we discussed a few topics, the big one that came up that we discussed quite in-depth with this convocation what it may look like moving forward, hopefully having something for the graduates of the last 18 months beyond just flipped online complication currently [inaudible]. Thank you.

CH: Thank you, Vice President. 4.1.3 Vice President External, any oral supplement.

EX: [inaudible].

CH: Councillor Singh, thank you. Vice President External.

EX: Thank you, chair. Yes, I just want all [inaudible], I had a meeting on Tuesday with my counterpart Christian Fotang at the UASU and we discussed some general [inaudible] specific things, but also kind of what he wants to get out of his membership with CAUS this year, and so as Vice Chair, that was very helpful to get that information from him. But aside from that, that's everything. Thank you.

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

OF: Yes, thank you chair. So just a friendly reminder to all of council that the 2021 audit service plan, you guys should have access to it. You will have access it until Friday at 4 p.m. and if you have any questions regarding that document please email me and let me know as it is a confidential document. So I will not answer any questions here tonight and I do have a quick U-Pass update.

First of all, we received the final draft of the U-Pass Agreement today. So we're giving it one final review and we hope to have it signed by all parties by the end of July. Thank you, Chair.

CH: Vice President, 4.1.5 Vice President Student Life, any oral supplements?

SL: Yes, thank you Chair. I would like to just kindly advise all the student council just as a reminder that the doodle poll for Office of Sexual Violence Prevention, Education Response and training, doodle poll has gone out and we have selected a date that we believe would work for the majority of us. Some members did not respond to the doodle poll, but I kindly advise to check your email. This is completely optional training. I just want to make sure it is on everybody's radar as council has expressed interest in receiving this training, completely optional. Thank you, chair.



CH: Vice President, 4.2 Executive Committee minutes of May 5th, 7th, and 19, 2021 provided in your package, for your information. But in five question three, 5.1 written questions, there were none this month. 5.2, oral questions, will open question for you now. If you have a question please, just type 'question' in the chat and I will recognize you in the ordering which those texts appear.

Any questions, councillors? Last call for questions

Okay. Item 6 in In Camera Period nothing there. Item 7, motions and business orders of the day. 7.1 Finance policy. Vice President for Operations and Finance, would you like to introduce the motion, please?

OF: Yes. Thank you, Chair. So I move to approve the Finance policy on the recommendation of the Budget and Finance Committee.

CH: Thank you, Vice President. And a second, please.

Councillor Abboud, thank you. It's been moved and seconded to approve the Finance policy on the recommendation of the Budget and Finance Committee. Vice President Operations and Finance. Would you like to speak to the motion?

OF: Yes. Thank you, Chair. So the Budget and Finance Committee is recommending a small change to the policy based on the recommendation from our Director of Finance because we now have the SAMU new building. We must include the amortization expense in our financial statements and essentially if we don't add that inclusion, we're going to be negative in numbers even though technically by cash we have the money there just with the way amortization works.

If we remove this, the amortization from the calculations of the surplus and deficit will have a more accurate portrayal of our cash surplus and deficit, and then we can allocate any of the surpluses appropriately. Thank you, Chair.

CH: Thank you, Vice President. Is there any additional debate? If there is, please type debate into the chat and I'll recognize you in the order in which the text here. Last call for debate.

Question is on the adoption of the motion to approve the Finance policy on the recommendation of the Budget and Finance Committee. Is there anyone in opposition? Please speak now.

That motion is carried. Item 7.2. SAMU Fees, policy, Vice President Operations and Finance, would you like to introduce the motion, please?

OF: Yes. Thank you, Chair. So I move to prove the SAMU Fees policy on the recommendation of the Budget and Finance Committee.

CH: Thank you in and a second, please. President. It has been moved and seconded to approve the SAMU Fees policy on the recommendation of the Budget and Finance Committee. Vice President of Operations and Finance, would you like to speak to the motion?



- OF: Yes, please. So when we updated this policy back in 2019, we increase the number of credits students could be charged fees for and currently, students are charged fees for up to a maximum of 15 credits and this change cause some confusion and how our fees are assessed to part-time students, who opt into paying fees at a full-time rate to obtain full-time status with MacEwan.
- Essentially, MacEwan considers a student taking classes a full term, at the full time being nine credits, and the Budget and Finance Committee believes that adding 4.1.1 to the policy, it will clear up any ambiguity about the SAMU fees being assessed to these particular students. Thank you, Chair.
- CH: Thank you, Vice President. Is there any additional debate? Please type debate into the chat. I'll recognize you in the order in which the texts appear. Last call for debate.
- Question is on the adoption of the motion to approve the SAMU Fees policy on the recommendation of the Budget and Finance Committee. Is there anyone in opposition? Please speak now.
- That motion is carried. Item 7.3 Official Reporting Mechanisms to SAMU Membership policy. Vice President Operations, would you like to introduce the motion, please?
- OF: Yes, I will. Thank you, Chair. So I move to approve the Official Reporting Mechanisms to SAMU Membership policy on the recommendation of the Bylaws and Policy Committee.
- CH: Thank you, Vice President and the second, please.
- Vice President External. Thank you. It has been moved and seconded to approve the Official Reporting Mechanisms to SAMU Membership policy on the recommendation of the Bylaws and Policy Committee. Vice President of Operations and Finance, would you like to speak to the motion?
- OF: Yes, please. Thank you, Chair. So the main changes focusing on this policy. The main changes focus on providing clear expectations for updating the Strategic Plan on a yearly basis, the reporting process to Students' Council, and when the Strategic Plan is implemented and providing the plan to Students' Council in the second quarter allows for the planning of the budget goals to line up with the new Strategic Plan, and having the Strategic Plan implemented alongside the budget at the beginning of the fiscal year. Thank you, Chair.
- CH: Thank you, Vice President. Is there any additional debate? Please type debate into the chat and I'll recognize you in the order, in which the text appears. Councillor Semotiuk.
- SE: Yeah. Hey, it was just a quick comment just on. I think it was the last page of that document that you have pertaining to this motion. It does take date of last review, April 21st, 2022. I think it might just be a typo, but we just something I noticed there, just before it gets passed. That be changed.



CH: All right, that's fair enough. Councillor Semotiuk I think that change can be made from the amendment. It's administrative in nature. Is there any additional debate? Last call for debate.

Question is on the adoption of the motion to approve the Official Reporting Mechanisms to SAMU Membership policy on the recommendation of the Bylaws and Policy Committee. Is there anyone in opposition? please speak now.

That motion is carried. I see Councillor Semotiuk just made me laugh because I don't know all I see is a debate from the, anyway, that's an aside. Sorry. I'm going to think about that now for the rest of the meeting.

Item 7.4 Students' Council meetings policy. Vice President Operations and Finance, would you like to introduce the motion, please.

OF: Yes. Thank you, Chair. I move to approve the Students' Council Meetings policy on the recommendation of the Bylaws and Policy Committee.

CH: Thank you and a second, please. Councillor Landberg-Llave, thank you. It's been moved and seconded to approve the Students' Council Meetings policy on the recommendation of the Bylaws and Policy Committee. Vice President Operations and Finance, would you like to speak to the motion?

OF: Yes, I will. Thank you, Chair. So the big change to this policy was the addition of secret ballot voting. We added appointments and reinstatements to the secret ballot voting section as a big factor that BPC took into consideration, is that councillors may not be at liberty to discuss the reasoning behind the way that they voted due to the in-camera nature of our discussions and with the current process for committee appointments, when a candidate has successfully appointed a reinstatement or reinstated, it will result in a motion being made officially to document that the appointment and reinstatement has been made.

Due to the nature of our online voting, the results will be verified by the governance office, but a clause was added in case of physical ballot voting being necessary. In that case, the Chair would count the votes while the governance representative still verifies it. Then there is one other small change made to the policy included in section 11.4, and this change was the removal of the phrase "in hard copy form," and this was made as a result of having to shift all of our council meetings online and this is regarding confidential information.

Typically confidential information is given in hard copy form and as we were in, if we were in person, it would be given to us there. But in the online environment, the confidential information has kind of had to shift to being given to us at the discretion of the governance office. Since instead of just putting an exemption clause or anything, removing it completely leaves it up to the governance office to provide Students' Council with the confidential information at their discretion in the future. Thank you, Chair.

CH: Thank you. Is there any additional debate? Please type debate into the chat. I will recognize you when your text appear. Last call for debate.



Question is on the adoption of the motion to approve the Students' Council Meetings policy on the recommendation of the Bylaws and Policy Committee. Is there anyone in opposition? Please speak now.

Motion is carried. Item 8 consultation, 8.1. Interpretation of SAMU Bylaws Section 4, General membership. President, I'll let you introduce the topic.

PR: Thank you, Chair. So I'm coming before Council today in my role as Chair of the Appointments Advisory Committee or AAC. Currently, we're seeking active applicants to fill some of the vacancies that are in Council right now. However, we've come to an obstacle as there's some ambiguity regarding what general membership is.

So, section 29 of SAMU's bylaws states the councillors must be General members of the time of election or appointment. That provides an additional layer of criteria for appointment, but then when we look to the definition of general member, that is a student enrolled in a credit course, at [inaudible] MacEwan University.

As we're currently enrolled in the spring and summer term, the ambiguity arises into students must currently be enrolled in classes or if being enrolled in fall and having been enrolled in winter is sufficient.

This section, it has been interpreted by council in the past as meaning being enrolled in the winter and fall. However, as some of the most seasoned members of the council around this table weren't present for that decision, we feel it's necessary to take the opinion of council once again.

I'm looking to the implications if Council interprets being enrolled in a credit course, as enrolled in the current term, this will severely reduce the number of possible candidates for Council. As the spring-summer terms, he's turned seized nearly a 50% in headcount. Whereas if it's interpreted that being enrolled in a credit course, as having been enrolled in winter semester and enrolled in the fall there, a pool of candidates and grow substantially.

So essentially the question before Council is regarding General Membership. Does being enrolled in a course mean they must be currently enrolled in that in the course for the semester or that they were enrolled in the previous winter semester and are enrolled in the fall semester?

CH: Thank you, President. Okay, so Council this is just as a reminder, in the consultation section you each have one opportunity to speak. So make it count. If you would like to speak to this, please type in and comment in the chat and I will recognize you in the order in which the text appear. Councillor Abboud.

AB: Yes, I was a part of the meeting with Myles and I just want to point out that when I was brought, I wasn't part of how it was being previously interpreted because I wasn't on Council yet. So once we've gone through that, I am in favor of leaving the previous interpretation as it is at this point and the reason why is because we have a very lackluster enrollment rate right now with the abundance of courses only being offered online.



So we've lost a lot of students being enrolled in spring and summer even more so than we normally would experience, to begin with. So I also interpret that as even when you are applying for awards and [inaudible] and scholarships through MacEwan, they actually don't count spring and summer as terms for including that in the application process. They only actually include fall and winter semesters so I think that for now at the very least, the interpretation of it should be that they are enrolled in fall and previous winter courses.

I think that if we were to force that to mean that they had to be enrolled in a spring course or a summer course, I think that that would severely decrease our already very small invisible pool, as it is of candidates. Again, as it was mentioned in the consultation item. It's very difficult as well to secure the signatures for the nominations that you require at this point in time as well. So in some, I think that it might be something that needs to be reviewed again once things maybe, post-pandemic to have something a little more fresh have something a little more strict[?], but right now I would be in favor of leaving the previous interpretation to ensure that we can try and get as many candidates as possible. Thank you, Chair.

CH: Thank you, Councillor Abboud. Other comments?

Vice President of Operations and Finance.

OF: Thank you, Chair. I'd like to just speak in favor of keeping it as the previous, as it's previously been interpreted with taking winter and enrolled in the fall as sufficient. Thank you, Chair.

CH: Thank you, Vice President. Other comments?

Councillor Semotiuk.

SE: I would also like to put my support in favor with Councillor Abboud and VP Operations and Finance. As I believe that being enrolled this previous winter and the upcoming fall, it's already been a bit difficult time to help to fill the vacancy. So I think this just continues to keep our options wider than with everything that's going on right now.

CH: Thank you, Councillor. Does anyone have an opposing view or a different view from how it's been previously interpreted? Other comments? President, I think that's pretty telling.

PR: Thank you, Chair. I think I've been adequately consulted.

CH: Thank you. We'll move on to Item 9 Evaluation. If you can bring up the link in the PDF, is anyone having problems with that, with opening the PDF and finding that link? No. Directed to the evaluation form.

All right, Alan tells me we're good to go. I can never tell if you're still filling out the form or loading up your Zoom device with the entire N-sync back catalog, but we'll move on to Item 10 Recognition. If you have any recognition, I'd encourage you to type recognition in the chat. Now, will recognize you in the order, in which the text appear. Councillor Abboud.

AB: Thank you, Chair. I just want to recognize VP Operations and Finance. The last couple of reports and information that I've received from her, I found were very well articulated. I



think that she's doing a fantastic job and I think that she is covering a lot of bases in a very short amount of time. I just want to let her know that it's definitely been seen and it's greatly appreciated to have somebody like that in the position that you're in.

CH: Councillors, other recognition? Last call for recognition.

Well, councillors, I think I'll recognize the committee work because it's clear that that was done really well and so good job. We moved through a pretty meaty agenda fairly quickly, which is always a good thing. So item 11 Adjournment, requires a motion. Can I have someone introduce that motion, please? Vice President External.

EX: Thank you, Chair. I move to adjourn.

CH: Thank you. That motion only requires one mover and is not debatable. The question is on the adoption of the motion to adjourn. Is there anyone in opposition? Please speak now.

Motion is carried in this meeting is adjourned. See you in July.

Speakers: Thanks, everybody. Have a good night, everyone. Have a great night. Thanks.

[END]