



August 18, 2021 Students' Council Meeting - Audio Recording Transcript

Chair: Okay, we'll call this meeting to order. Item one, Treaty 6, Land Recognition. We would like to acknowledge that this meeting of the Students' Association of MacEwan University is taking place on the traditional territories of the people of the Treaty 6 region in central Alberta. The Students' Association of MacEwan University is situated in the centre of what we call the city of Edmonton, which is called Amiskwaciy Waskahikan or Beaver Hill House in Nehiyawewin (Cree). This is the traditional home of the Nehiyaw 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 I have someone introduce that motion, please?

President?

President: I move to approve the agenda for August 18, 2021.

Chair: Thank you, and a second, please. Councillor Abboud, thank you. It has been moved and seconded to approve the agenda for August 18, 2021. Is there any debate?

Question's on the adoption of the motion to approve the agenda for August 18, 2021, is there anyone in opposition? Please speak now.

Motion is carried. Item 2.2. We have a motion. Can I have someone introduce that motion, please?

Councillor, Abboud?

Councillor Abboud: I move to approve the minutes of July 21, 2021.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor, and a second, please. Councillor Landberg-Llave, thank you. It's been moved and seconded to approve the minutes of July 21, 2021. Is there any debate?

Question's on the adoption of the motion to approve the minutes of July 21, 2021. Is there anyone in opposition? Please speak now.

Motion is carried. Item 3, presentations. Nothing there.

Item 4 for information, 4.1 reports, 4.1.1. President, any oral supplements?

President: As reported. Thank you Chair.

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

Vice President Academic: Yes, Chair. I would like to just tell our fabulous Students' Council that the Councillor of the Year Award is coming up and the nomination form will be emailed out to everyone right after the Students' Council meeting, including instructions, and of course, the TORs of the award itself. Now, deadline to submit a nomination, and you can submit multiple, is going to be Tuesday, September 7. Book that and there will be a secret ballot vote. Our next assumed meeting in September, of course. We'll present the award in October. We're



very very excited. Send in your nominations and again, you can send them multiple. If you nominate yourself, I will not judge you for it.

Chair: Was that it for oral supplements?

Vice President Academic: Yes, thank you, Chair.

Chair: 4.1.3. Vice President External, any oral supplements?

Vice President External: As presented. Thank you, Chair.

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

Vice President of Operations and Finance: As presented. Thank you, Chair.

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

Vice President Student Life: As presented. Thank you, Chair.

Chair: Thank you, in 4.2 the executive committee minutes of July 14 and 28, 2021 are provided in your package for your information. Item 5 question period, 5.1 written questions. Nothing there this week. Item 5.2, Oral questions. So open the floor to questions now. If you have a question, please type "Question" in the chat, and I will recognize you in the order in which you appear.

Perfect. Councillor Abboud?

Councillor Abboud: Yes, thank you, Chair. I had a question for the president in relation to your report on the University's reluctance to recognize September 30 as the statutory holiday. I just like to know as to why or what reasons were given as to why the university is not recognizing it as a stat holiday. And if this is, maybe either because it could delay or mess up deadlines within the academic schedule or is this following what other universities are doing. Because I think students are going to be curious as to why we have a full regular school day on what is now a nationally recognized holiday. Thank you, Chair.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor. President.

President: Sure. Yes. This decision came after talking to legal council. So the way it operates within Alberta, it doesn't function as like a stat holiday as in a day off. However, that was given consideration. It was decided that would be a little too hasty. At this point and I look to future years. However, they want to try and use this as a point for education. A lot of other universities are either doing programming during that day or they're going to have a day off. And regardless of if it's a day off or in person, education is the key component and reflection on how we can work towards truth and reconciliation in the ways we occupy this place whether it be like in this position as president or as students. We all have a part to play in truth and reconciliation and hopefully on that day people can reflect on that. So I suggested something like a toolbox possibility but they're also looking to put some programming together because what remains at the heart of it is, it should be an educational day, a day of learning.



Chair: Thank you, President. Councillor Abboud, anything further?

Councillor Abboud: No, that's everything. Thank you.

Chair: Thank you. Councillor Tran?

Councillor Tran: Thank you, Chair. I have a question for the VP Academic. I'm just wondering in your previous report, you put that semi who has implemented or renamed, the Student Ombuds position held by Isha Leibel. And so I'm just wondering is there going to be any advertisement or promotion of that position so students know just especially because the last Ombuds position, due to the budget cuts, when it was cut, I don't think very many students had found out directly. So I'm just wondering if students are going to be like made more known about that.

Vice President Academic: Na-, Oh. [crosstalk]

Chair: Vice President?

Vice President Academic: Thank you, Chair. Yes, absolutely. Sorry. I got a little excited about this question. But there's certainly going to be promotion and I'm very excited about it. The semi staff, ourselves, we've been getting information on what it's going to look like. There is a volunteer role for students within this program itself. So the service for students, it's more than just each his role as like this student support coordinator, but it's being changed into the entire Student Ombuds Support. That entire service will have student involvement that volunteers. But also will be promoted to students and we're hoping for something pretty big for fall. Because it's a whole entire service being provided, right? Yes. Look forward to that in September. When the service becomes active, there will definitely be lots of promotion for.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor Tran, anything further?

Councillor Tran: I do have another question, Chair and it would be directed towards either the VP or the President. Recently, the University of Alberta students Union, University of Calgary, and University of Lethbridge had essentially advocated for, I believe, it was mandatory vaccinations or proof of vaccinations in addition to mask mandates. I'm just wondering if MacEwan has had any discussions about implementing the same kind of policy for the fall and winter semesters. Thank you, Chair.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor. Maybe I'll give you the floor, President. If you want to defer to someone else.

President: Thank you, Chair. Yes. So yesterday, an emergency board meeting was called so MacEwan's Board of Governors met and basically Administration will be putting out a communication tomorrow. I can't explain the details at this time, but the details will be arriving tomorrow.

Chair: Thank you, President. Councillor Tran, anything further?

Councillor Tran: No. That's everything, Chair. Thank you.



Chair: Thank you, Councillor. Other questions? If you have a question, you can type "Question" in the chat.

Councillor Abboud?

Councillor Abboud: Yes, thank you, Chair. I have another question for VP External. In your report, you listed something about, Alberta Health Services, talking about an initiative to make the campus smoke-free. And you had stated that you haven't really seen any students advocating for a position to make the campus entirely smoke-free. Do we have anything that's actually prompting this? Or where it's coming from, if it's not coming from the students? Is this just simply a recommendation despite the fact that there's no complaints about it?

Chair: Thank you, Councillor. Vice president?

Vice President External: Yes. Thank you, Chair and thank you for the questions. I don't have the report in front of you. I may have messed up the acronym, but it was actually supposed to be Action for Smoking and Health, ASH. That being said, they are a lobby group based out of the UA that reached out to me a few months ago about such an initiative. And I said, I would sit down with them and talk about it and the long and short of it is they were wanting Tom and I to advocate for a comprehensive smoking ban on campus. We did not think that that is not something that we agreed with at the time. And we did commit in some capacity surveying our students to see if this is an issue but in essence, to answer your question where this is coming from, this came from them reaching out to me, me sitting down with them and then us having a meeting with the leader of the organization Les Hagen. I hope that answers your question. Thank you.

Chair: Thank you, Vice President. An important typo to be sure. Councillor Abboud, anything further.

Councillor Abboud: No, that's everything. I think just the mix-up in acronym, is where I was like, where is this coming from? Thank you.

Chair: Thank you. Other questions. Last call for questions. Okay, we will move on to item 6, In Camera period. Nothing there. Item 7, motions and business orders of the day. Nothing there. Item 8, consultation. Nothing there. Item 9, evaluation. You have the link in your agenda package directed there.

Alan says we're all done, which I think is in record time this time around. But, of course, I can never tell if you're still filling out the form or if you are like me selecting the components for your outfit for the first in-person meeting that is coming up next month. It's like the first day of school.

Item 10, recognition. If you have recognition items, you can type "Recognition" in the chat and I will recognize you in the order in which you appear. Vice President External?

Vice President External: Thank you, Chair. I would just like to recognize council for the questions today during question period. I appreciated the optic of engagements and even though we're still rounding this meeting out at around 15 minutes. It was nice to have my first question because sometimes writing those reports, it's nice to know people are reading them. So, thank you.



Chair: Thank you vice president, other recognition? Councillor Tesfay, was a hand for recognition yet, but I think you're on mute Councillor, or we can't hear you either way. Still nothing. No.

Is there anyone else that has any recognition while Councillor Tesfay works through the technical issues? Councillor Mah?

Councillor Mah: I want to recognize Councillor Abboud for her questions. Thank you, Councillor.

Chair: Councillor Tesfay, you're quickly running out of time. He's typing, you can all see that. I don't know why I felt like narrating it then. You can all see in the chat. Thank you for the recognition, Councillor Tesfay. Okay, Councillors, before we get to the last item. I just want to recognize you, you know, we're in the dog days of August and thank you for showing up to the meeting and I look forward to seeing you in person in September.

We'll move on to item 11, adjournment. We have a motion. Can I have someone introduce that motion, please? Vice President? You're on mute.

Vice President Academic: I move to adjourn.

Chair: Thank you that motion, it only requires one mover and is not debatable. Is there anyone in opposition to the motion? The motion is carried. This meeting is adjourned. Have a good evening, everyone.

[End]