



STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION OF MACEWAN UNIVERSITY

Minutes for the Students' Council Meeting of the Students' Association of MacEwan University December 15, 2021 at 6:00pm in room SA-200

Voting Members:

Gabriel Ambutong, Councillor
Abby Beka, Councillor
Freja Cartujano, Councillor
Thomas Cross-Trush, Vice President Student Life
Myles Dykes, President
Jordan Gable, Councillor
Alex Hominiuk, Councillor
Joseph A. La Torre, Councillor
Nhi Phan, Councillor
Kendell Semotiuk, Councillor
Rayyah Sempala, Councillor
Asif Siddiqui, Councillor
Alem Tesfay, Councillor

Elaine Tran, Councillor
Larissa Williams, Vice President Operations and Finance
Matt Yanish, Vice President External
vacant, Councillor
vacant, Councillor

SAMU Officials and Council Support:
Timothy Jobs, Chair
Alan Honey, Governance Advisor
Samantha Callaghan, Administrative Coordinator

Meeting called to order at 6:00pm.

<Intros>

1. 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 (Cree) and Michif (Métis), and meeting place for many Indigenous peoples including the Nakawe (Saulteaux), Siksika (Blackfoot), Nakota Sioux (Stoney) and other nations.

2. Approvals

2.1 MOTION **TO APPROVE THE AGENDA FOR DECEMBER 15, 2021**

HOMINIUK/LA TORRE

CARRIED

2.2 MOTION **TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 16 AND 17, 2021**

PHAN/PRES

CARRIED

3. Presentations

3.1. Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS)

4. For Information

4.1. Reports

4.1.1. President

MacEwan Strategic vision video update.

4.1.2. Vice President External

Telegram group chat; UofC leaving CAUS;

4.1.3. Vice President Operations & Finance

Meet SAMU week update; GovWeek opportunities coming;

4.1.4. Vice President Student Life

Restorative conference tomorrow – still looking for a student member;

4.1.5. Appointment Advisory Committee (In Camera)

4.1.6. Appointment Advisory Committee Work Plan

4.1.7. Audit Committee Work Plan

4.1.8. Budget and Finance Committee Work Plan

4.1.9. Bylaws and Policy Committee Work Plan

4.1.10. Executive Committee Work Plan

4.1.11. Governance Remuneration Advisory Committee Work Plan

4.1.12. Leadership and Review Committee Work Plan

4.2. Executive Committee Minutes

Minutes of November 3 and 17, 2021 provided.

5. Question Period

5.1. Written Questions

Tran - For students interested in Student Advisory Committees, how can one become involved?
Pres - Pres - Student Advisory Committees are recruited at the faculty-level, so the recruitment process may vary depending on the faculty. For example, the Faculty of Arts and Science promoted their faculty Students Advisory Council through their faculty newsletter, whereas some other faculties have department-level SACs and recruit by a different method. If a student is interested in joining an SAC, I would advise they reach out to their Dean's Office?

Tran - With the termination of the Bachelor of Applied Business Administration - Accounting program, how does the termination of the program affect current students enrolled in the program, if at all?
Pres - This termination of the program will not take effect until July 2022 and was preceded by a ministry-approved suspension, meaning the program was not accepting new students. All students remaining in this program will be graduating by the spring of 2022 and none will be affected.

Tran - In the Audit Committee Work Plan, it is mentioned that AC will receive financial/audit training and that members of SC are welcome to attend. Will the session be held in person or virtually? If one is interested but unable to attend, could it be recorded?

Tesfay - Thanks for the question! The meeting will be held virtually through Zoom, and it is planned to be recorded. I believe Alan will send out the Zoom email link with the meeting time and date tomorrow morning for any councillor who would like to attend.

Sempala - Topic: Introduction to City Council: What are the possible benefits for students with this meeting?

Pres – There are a variety of municipal issues that impact students directly, such as public transportation, student employment (general economic prosperity), affordable housing, and more. Meetings allow us to develop a relationship with new City Councillors and get a better understanding of their priorities and how they align with SAMU's on behalf of students. By understanding what areas of alignment that we share with Councillors, we have the ability to maximize the impact of our advocacy and it allows us to tailor our messaging.

Sempala - Topic: General Faculties meeting: What will happen to the students in these programs that are to be terminated? What can be done to implement a more inclusive model that will be of benefit to students while still maintaining a good fiscal budget?

Pres – For what will happen to students in the program, please see my response to Councillor Tran's

question. The termination of this program maintains good financial planning for the university by eliminating program duplication, which was essentially what was occurring as an Accounting major is offered within the Bachelor of Commerce program. This allows university resources to be utilized in the most effective way.

Sempala - Topic: Student Life Manager: What is the student affairs team doing to offer a more inclusive and diverse campus to students?

Pres – Many of the offerings run by Student Affairs are focused towards the student experience and their mental health. With these offerings, they are acutely aware of the barriers that equity-deserving students face and try to proactively respond with an intersectional lens. Wellness and Psychological Services is one of the units that falls under Student Affairs, and they are trying to increase the complement of visible minority counsellors, as the lived experiences of a counsellor can inform their practice. This question will be front of mind when we meet with them again next quarter.

Sempala - Topic: SAMU/Macewan Executive Quarterly meeting: What issues concerning online learning were discussed?

Pres - At the quarterly meeting with administration, we discussed what the return to campus for second semester looks like. One topic was classes and their modality. 20% of classes will be online and 80% will be in-person or hybrid. One concern SAMU noted at the meeting was that some "hybrid" classes were delivered solely online, which reduces the quality of the student's experience as well as fails to meet expectations for what they signed up for. While academic freedom for instructors is encouraged, which includes modality, we were told that hybrid classes would not be delivered more than 50% in-person. If Students' Council has any other concerns regarding online learning or has heard of concerns from students, please reach out to Executive Committee.

Sempala - Topic: Week of Wellness: Will this be a collaboration with the office of sexual violence prevention, education, and response?

Vpsl – Thank you for the question! Yes, we are exploring collaboration with OSVPER for this event, although only for a portion of the event. This "Week of Wellness" event (which is still under planning/development) is intended to cover several areas of personal wellness, including mental health, sexual health, physical health and more, so OSVPER would only collaborate on relevant sexual health topics.

Sempala - Topic: Anti-racism day tabling: Why was the anti-racism day tabled? Is it related to the anti-racism week?

Vpsl - Thank you for the question! To my knowledge, there is no Anti Racism Day specifically. Our Anti Racism Week ran in collaboration with OHRDE and we tabled everyday from Nov 1st through to Nov 5th. If an external group ran an anti-racism day, SAMU was sadly not made aware of it.

Sempala - Topic: Initiative on hold: Why is the initiative for the charter of student rights on hold?

Vpo - (Vpo on behalf of the Vpa) This initiative was put on hold as our VPA is currently on leave until the end of her term. As the Executive Committee evaluates our options, we will also consider the status of this initiative.

Sempala - Topic: Cheryl Earle meeting: Can you expand on the contents of your meeting with Cheryl Earle?

Vpo - As per the two-page document on SAMU's tuition and fees consultation response, we had mentioned that we had felt there was a lack of clear process for the consultation process. In saying that MacEwan has agreed to work with us collaboratively to establish a framework regarding this process, I began initial conversations with Cheryl regarding what it may look like. As well, Cheryl, who is well versed in the PSLA and its regulations provided me with information as to the process of officially approving a new MNIF and what is needed for us. This MNIF will be coming forward at our next SC meeting.

Sempala - Topic: MacEwan foundation and Finance, Property and Investment Committee meeting: Is the proposed tuition an increase or decrease to previous years? Will this be of benefit to students? If yes, can you provide justification?

Vpo – The proposed increase is the similar 7% increase that students have seen the past two years. Please see the SAMU Executive Committee's Tuition & Fees Consultation Response in the president's report for more information and please feel free to reach out to me if you have any further questions.

Phan - MyCreds sounds like a cool idea and I imagine it will be helpful during job searches. Is there a cost for students to participate?

Vpo - As I understand it, currently MyCreds is going to be funded through the Registrarial Service Fee students pay as a MacEwan Mandatory Non-Instructional fee. Though once up and running MacEwan will re-evaluate once they have data on usage.

Phan - Regarding FFAC Student Advisory Council Consultation, how different is the structure of the draft of the Student Advisor Council procedure compared to Samu's?

Vpo - My apologies, in FFAC it is called a committee not a council. Essentially, these committees are formed from students in each faculty that are selected by the faculty itself, and they advise on many different things such as curriculum, programs and things that may be program/faculty specific. SAMU does not play a major role in these anymore since recent policy changes, though we may assist with orientation. With the policy being updated all the faculty-specific procedures must be updated as well and with Students as stakeholders, the faculties consult with SAMU. Since my time in office, we have consulted with two other faculties on their procedures.

Phan - I am very curious about the year-end report for the mywellness service. Would you be able to tell how many students received the services and their satisfaction?

Vpo - mywellness is a mental health platform that SAMU provides. There are a couple key parts in this service. The first one is the online mental health assessment. Stats from this assessment include 2391 unique page views and a 90% completion rate for the assessment. There are no metrics regarding student satisfaction on the survey side, as it is meant to be a guideline of sorts. The next part of mywellness is the online video counselling. In the last year Gallivan recorded 117 MacEwan members that had registered for the online video counselling and the client satisfaction rate was 95.1%.

Phan - Regarding Minister of Indigenous Relations Rick Wilson ask for "dollars on his desk" in response to a request for funds for culturally appropriate indigenous centers on campus. What does he mean by asking for dollars on his desk? I assume that he hopes to see more Indigenous centers since MacEwan has one of its own which is very nice. Otherwise, I enjoyed reading your report!

Vpe - Thank you for the question! In essence, that means that he is likely interested in providing some funding to the various Indigenous centers across Alberta. So, the "dollars on his desk" basically means that he wants to get hard numbers as to how much we are asking and what those funds will be used for. Currently, we are working with various Indigenous centers in order to figure out what they could best benefit from and how to turn that into an advocacy ask for the minister.

Phan - SAMU Holiday Market was a blast! I absolutely love it. Do you think about other "markets". where we can also cooperate with students who are taking classes such as BUSN 201 since I know many of them always looking for a format to sell their products?

Vpsl - Thank you so much for your kind words about the market! I would love to see more markets in the SAMU building, we also operate several tables near our (currently closed) food vendors where we could hypothetically set up students in BUSN 201. I think this would also serve to liven up our building and create a fun atmosphere, so I may explore getting the word out to BUSN 201 prof's that they can advise their students to look into booking SAMU tables to sell their goods in this upcoming winter semester.

5.2. Oral Questions

Topics include: UoC leaving CAUS; foodbank model – providing info to another SU; campus Covid mandate; # of students unvaccinated on campus; student engagement.

6. In Camera Period

MOTION TO GO IN CAMERA

VPO/AMBUTONG

CARRIED

6.1 Councillor Appointments

6.2 HR Update

MOTION TO GO OUT OF CAMERA

PHAN/SIDDQUI

CARRIED

7. Motions & Business Orders of the Day

7.1. Councillor Appointments

**MOTION TO APPOINT LISA KOTELNISKI AND JAYDEN DEPEEL AS COUNCILLORS
EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 16, 2021 TO OCTOBER 31, 2022**

PRES/AMBUTONG

CARRIED

Favour: Ambutong, Beka, Cartujano, Vpsl, Pres, Gable, Hominiuk, La Torre, Phan, Semotiuk, Sempala, Siddqui, Tesfay, Tran, Vpo, Vpe

CARRIED

7.2.

8. Consultation

9. Evaluation

10. Recognition

11. Adjournment

MOTION TO ADJOURN

VPE

CARRIED

Next Meeting Date: January 19, 2022

Meeting adjourned at 7:31pm.