



## January 19, 2022 Students' Council Meeting – Audio Recording Transcript

Chair: Please mute your [inaudible]. I see that Alan hit the record button so we're good to go. So, we'll start with item 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 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? Anyone?

Siddiqui: I move that we approve the agenda for January 19, 2022.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor Siddiqui, and a second, please.

Hominiuk: I second that.

Chairman: Thank you, Councillor Hominiuk, It's been moved and seconded to approve the agenda for January 19th, 2022. Is there any debate? If there is, just please take the debate into the chat?

The question is on the adoption of a motion to approve the agenda for January 19th, 2022. Is there anyone in opposition please speak now? The motion is carried, Item 2.2, we have a motion, can I have someone introduce that motion, please?

Phan: I motion to update the minutes of December 15th, 2021.

Chairman: Thank you Councillor Phan and a second, please?

VPO: I'll second Councillor Phan.

Chairman: Thank you, VPO. So going forward. I realized maybe we haven't done an online meeting for quite a while. So, if I'm calling for a motion or calling for a seconder, I'll just ask you to please just raise your hand if you're using your video, and then I'll give you the floor to either make the motion or second the motion. We're all just call out. Who is second the motion that just provides better space where we're not over-talking one another. So, I just asked for a second on that one, please, again because I didn't catch that. Thanks, Vice President Operations.

It has been moved and seconded to approve the minutes of December 15, 2021. Is there any debate? If so please type debate into the chat? The question is on the adoption of the motion to approve the minutes of December 15, 2021. Is there anyone opposed please speak now? Motion is carried. Item 3 Presentations 3.1, Wellness and Psychological Services. I'll turn the floor over to you, President.

President: Thank you, Chair. So today, we have Tori Pino who is the chair of Wellness and Psychological Services as well as a registered counsellor, registered psychologist, I should say. So often the Students' Association is working in partnership with student affairs and we also have Tim Tang who is an Associate Vice President Students here with us today. We're having this presentation for Wellness and Psychological Services here to provide you context and general information, as it's all great to know what resources and services are available to students on campus, and it's great for



you to have that information as leaders on campus. There's also a second benefit to it as well.

So, as you likely saw, we have a motion to approve a new mandatory non-instructional fee that McEwan is probably promoting, which is the mental health mandatory non-instructional fee. So, to give you the best and most complete information on how that mental health mandatory non-instructional fee will be used. We wanted to highlight what was already available to students through Wellness and Psychological Services but with that being said, I want to hand it over to Tori and thank you Tori, and Tim for being here tonight.

Pino: Hey, that's great. Thank you for that awesome introduction. I'm happy to be here. I think it's my first time presenting here. I've got a quick presentation today that I'd like to just share with you about 10 to 15-minute presentations. If you have questions, I'll definitely leave some time for questions after that if that works alright with your timeline. Just going to the most nervous part of the presentation here, so just making sure I share my can share my screen appropriately here. So, let's see if this works. Give me just two seconds. All right. Can you guys see my screen? Am I alive? Yeah, I see some hands. Some thumbs up there. That's awesome. Cool. All right, great.

So, I was hoping to talk to you guys a little bit today around the topic of violence-like services. What kind of services we're providing, what kind of trends that we've been seeing over the last few years. How we're responding to some of those trends and to tell you a little bit about some of the vision, plans that we see kind of meeting some emphasis in the future. Yeah, we have some chance for you guys to ask questions after.

So, I just kind of wanted to start with a little bit of context. The last time that MacEwan University did a full-scale survey of MacEwan students was back in 2019. So, that's an older stat here. Hoping to update those this year at our three-year cycle points, but three years ago before the pandemic, we surveyed just under 1,000 MacEwan University students and worked out to about a 20 to 25 percent response rate. The outcomes of that, from a mental health perspective, were some pretty surprising things that even looking at them a few years later, 67% of students reported feeling that they were hopeless over the course of the past 12 months, 71% reported that they felt very lonely.

Again, this is pre-pandemic so you can imagine what we've been going through over the past few years. That wouldn't be too hard to speculate that these numbers are higher. Fifty-four percent felt so depressed. It was difficult to function. About 3/4 felt overwhelming; anxiety. Just under 20% seriously considered suicide in the course of the past year. This is the general student population and of those 2.4% attempted suicide.

Another stat was that there's some intentional cutting, bruising, burning, injuring oneself; one out of ten, essentially. So, these are pretty surprising stats on mental health. I think the thing that's probably most surprising about this is this is not a MacEwan-specific problem, these stats are echoed at post-secondary institutions in the city and the province and across the country. So, I'm probably preaching to the choir here but, you know, mental health is a thing and I think an institutional emphasis on that is really important.

One other staff from the NCHA within the last 12 months students reported some of the top four factors that influenced or that affected their academic performance. You could argue that are all Mental Health-related as well, such as stress, anxiety, depression, and sleep difficulties as well. So, this is fairly prevalent. So, to tell you a little bit about our service here at Wellness and Psychological Services or WPS in short. I could talk to you guys about our service for like three hours but I'll try to keep this quick. We provide free confidential and professional Mental Health Services to MacEwan students, exclusively MacEwan students.



We're a multi-disciplinary team, there are 13 counselors and we are by profession either registered psychologists or clinical social workers. We have one health promotion specialist, who's helped, coordinated, organize all of our health promotion efforts and leads our pure health education team, which is also another 10 students who volunteer with us as well. In addition, we have four master's level practicum students which equal about two full-time equivalents. Masters' level practicum students that are working directly with our MacEwan students and are being supervised by some of the psychologists or social workers within our team. So, we've got a pretty comprehensive multidisciplinary team.

In terms of numbers, just around an average number of around 900 students access services per year. Going back to about 2015, this was around just under 750 or a little bit over 750 in 2015 and this consistently trended upwards until 2020 when we hit the pandemic. The pandemic year definitely affected our numbers and fewer students were accessing. I would say about a 20% dip or 15-20 percent dip. This year again, though, we are back on track. I'm guessing we will hit about 1,000 to 1,100 students who will be accessing our service this year, and that's those who just kind of connect with us and with us on the first point of contact for our service, which is an initial consultation.

Following the initial consult, we book just under 5,000 follow-up appointments per year. This might be an individual counseling case meeting with a social worker for case management like a couples counseling. We offer groups as well. Just a little bit over 200 crisis counseling appointments are provided per year. We define Crisis Counseling as, "Students who are experiencing severe suicidal ideation, homicidal ideation, and those who experienced recent domestic violence, sexual trauma, other kinds of traumas, and those experiencing psychotic breaks." Things like that. So, averaging out works to about one a day almost, that we're responding to within the student population and that's been consistent over the last 4 or 5 years or so.

Moving forward a little bit. In terms of students, the reasons for accessing our service, you can see the vast majority is anxiety and depression-related. That's what these stats are similar to. We have a similar stats mechanism as the U of A and these are this kind of parallel to what they are saying over there across the river as well; not surprisingly, academic and educational concerns are another reason that students are accessing services. Just under 29% of students who access our services have some thoughts, feelings, behaviors around suicide.

So, the perception that we see outside of our walls sometimes is odd. You know, you worked as your school counselor and your students just come because they're stressed. The answer to that in short is yes, but as you can see from this list, it's more than just a little bit of stress that's impacting students' lives. We're dealing with some pretty serious things. So, in terms of the outcomes of some of those presenting issues that we see, just under 66% of students are booked with some kind of like immediate follow-up service. That, again, could be individual counseling case management, couple's counseling, group counseling, some kind of programming. That results in about 29% of students who, I would say, would benefit from a counseling appointment. We could consider for follow-up. These students might even be interested in follow-up appointments, but just due to our capacity or ability, we don't have appointments available.

The purpose of our initial consultation is to ensure that we do have that first point touchpoints with those students too. I can reasonably say that we have not turned away a student who is in crisis, those who are in a severe situation at any point over the last 5 or 6 years since we've introduced this model, but that being said, those students who are kind of triage that a lower level, we do have to kind of find... We do work with them to give them Community Resources with low-cost counseling



options.

Inkblot(?) offered through SAMU(?) has been awesome. I hope you guys, please, keep that. Peer support is another service that we regularly help them access. We got some partnerships with inside psychological that provide discount Counseling Services. We try to get ways(?), if we can't help them in-house, it's not too bad or so sad, but how can we help them get connected to something, that's going to be meaningful and helpful for them outside of our hallway. So, that's where a lot of our efforts go and that is essentially the state of where we are at right now.

We are working as hard as we can to improve the capacity and the number of students that we can see. In July of 2021, we introduced a short-term counseling model and the session limit to the number of services that we provide. We set those number 14 sessions to students and we're hoping that that will... It's not going to benefit students who would benefit from long terms or throughout their university careers, but the trade-off to that is being able to see more students being able to make it a little bit more equitable. I think the one story that resonates with me was a student who was like... My friend has been coming here for four straight years and has been meeting with a counselor and I can't get an appointment. That is in-house, and that resonated, and that really was like a big point to us introducing this session limits, the short-term counseling model.

So, that went into effect in July. We've expanded our masters-level practicum program. So, that's a really good way for us too. We used to have one student a year that we would supervise. We, now, have four and we're hoping to increase that to just six spaces and, you know, supervision permitting. These students are in for over half a week and almost exclusively, all they do is work with our undergraduate students. So, this has been great because masters level practicum students who are at the end of their graduate program, are well suited for that 29% staff, and we were kind of looking at four. So, this does help us increase our capacity to meet with more students and be responsive. All these students are being supervised by, you know, Senior Clinicians.

So, I don't have any concerns about the quality of care that our students are experiencing. We've expanded our group counseling offerings as well. We're offering four groups in this term and that's, again, an increased role of one or maybe two that we were providing years prior. On one of the remote counseling is something with whether providing Counseling Services via docks, or like video, or via telephone. I think it's here to stay even post-pandemic. I think it's a great opportunity to connect with students who, whether not convenient for them to come on campus or they're not able to write. So, I know there were a lot of students that are really hesitant when we were in person. It only makes that difficult step to, you know, sit in the waiting room, meet with the counselor, all that kind of stuff, and we're able to set all that up remotely. I think it's going to be a really good option, post-pandemic. Hoping that there is a post-pandemic. So, I'm optimistic about that.

Finally, the provost with (?) advocacy last term was able to approve a new full-time tenure track position that will be starting, hopefully, with us on July 1st. The position is posted now and that's the first new position created in a long time. So, we're excited about that and that's also going to improve our confidence in our capacity.

A few other things that I wanted to share with you guys, both some services that we offer through diplomacy psych services. I spoke a little bit earlier about our Pure Health Education Team. That's the volunteer students who work to do peer-to-peer health promotion programming. We had this team for about 3 years and we've already been provincially recognized for its efficacy, really trying to leverage, really meaningful health promotion at times that are meaningful for students. Safe partying around Halloween, Stress Management around midterms, healthy relationships around Valentine's, stuff like that. Also, creating connection opportunities and bringing Community Partners.



It's been great. I think students have responded well to it. I know the coalition for Harm Reduction at MacEwan. I know we have a lot of partners within SAMU that we work with to help advocate for harm reduction, whether that's wearing a seatbelt when you're driving, safer sex practices, safe partying. So, stuff like that. I think is fairly relevant for students. What else have we got here? MyHealth is a free online course offered in Blackboard for MacEwan University students. It's a course that... I see a hand up. Should I wait till the end? If that's okay. Councillors, [[inaudible], the PLs, is that okay? MyHealth is a free course for students on health and wellness topics. We also offer a bunch of workshops as well. Counsel Depeel, if you want to jump in, I could probably answer that.

Depeel: I'm sorry, that was a mistake.

Tori: Okay, cool. Alright, just about [inaudible] anyway. Looking forward, I wanted to just kind of highlight a few things that I see as a priority for MacEwan in regards to mental health for the next 1 to 3 years. I think a student mental health strategy is imperative for MacEwan University. We are 4 years and still developing our student mental health strategy since the onset of the pandemic. Momentum on this fell off. There are lots of good reasons for that but I'm not here to give you guys excuses. This is something that I think we, as an institution, need to put some emphasis on in the next year.

I know Tim has been an awesome advocate for that and he mentioned that it is like a public interview for this position and that this was one of his priorities. It's great that we've got this on the radar and we hope to move forward with and finalized it in the coming year because I think it's going to be helpful for us to have frameworks, recommendations, and strategies that the entire campus can buy into going forward in the future.

A few other things are on the Council of Student Affairs. I believe we have some student rep. We have some SAMU student representation on that Council but the Mental Health Working Group Subcommittee/Task Force is currently being developed. We're at the terms of reference stage. So, it's early on the National College Health assessment. I quoted some stats at the start of the presentation on that. We're hoping to run one for 2022. That's kind of the plan at this point. I think that early alert and intervention programming would be helpful for MacEwan students.

That is how can we meet students before their situations are often brought on by mental health issues where the situation is not too late. You know, meeting with the student five minutes before they get their required to withdraw alert is not probably going to be helpful. How can we start to work with students to kind of reduce barriers to service access and how to intervene in a way that's going to be compassionate to students but also helpful for them. So, some programming in that area would be great. Suicide Alertness Training is something I'm seeing as another gap at this institution. I know there is some, I know our peer supporters are offering that.

There are other places where it's happening, but I think, maybe a larger-scale Suicide Prevention Framework might be really helpful for this campus, as well as how can we just kind of enhance some of the community connections that we have; how can we support students as they come into MacEwan as well as when they're leaving the queue when it comes to mental health; how can we communicate as a campus with each other. We don't step on each other's toes. It's less duplication of service and helps inform them about some of the really great mental health and wellness things that are happening in and around campus.

With that in mind, I just want to do a quick shameless plug for mental health week which is next week. So, please check out Google MacEwan Mental Health Week, and check out some of the 20-



plus workshops, presentations; everything's online. Check it out. Thank you for that quick shameless plug and I'll move to questions, there are any. So, that's my quick presentation. Thank you for your time and I hope you guys are awake. I know it's late. I appreciate your time. Is there a proper way to administer this, Chair? Just any questions? Or should I just pick people at random?

Chair: You can go ahead and pick people at random.

Pino: Cool. Alright, I'm just going to see who's first on my screen here. Councillor Sempala?

Sempala: Yes, I had a question about the 29% that you mentioned. What would the staff look like?

Tori: Sorry?

Sempala: You said that [crosstalk][inaudible] a 29% increase in staff.

Tori: Oh, sorry. No. I believe... The 29% is the percentage of students who access our service that would like a follow-up appointment and we would like to give them a follow-up appointment, but due to capacity and the higher demand of it than our services, we have to work with them to find alternatives. So, I am confident that that is the least favorite part of all of my colleague's jobs. No one goes into mental health and helping students refer them to someone else. We just want to help everybody, but we really want to make sure that we're prioritizing the students with the greatest need. Not to say that the students that have lower triage needs are not as needy or have the same needs, but we want to just make sure that we're allocating our resources where we can best. I want to see that number go down, not by having fewer students access or service.

Sempala: [Inaudible].

Tori: Councillor Siddiqui, I think you were next.

Siddiqui: Thank you, Tori. Yeah, I know I actually do use the services that you have and I'm very grateful for them. I will say that I did notice a change this year. I was not able to access it nearly as much. The question I have for you is, have you had a chance to evaluate how effective this limitation on services is for the students? Like, how has that affected the effectiveness of the service?

Pino: Just to clarify, are you referring to the session limit in terms of the--?

Siddiqui: Yeah, that's the rate and I know this year also... In the past, I could go more frequently. This year, it is really been stretched out because of the session limit. I mean, to me, it's just not nearly as effective as seeing it. Yes.

Pino: Okay. Yes, that's really good feedback. We are 7 months into this experiment. My math is right there. Ideally, the frequency could be the same but I guess that's different with different clinicians and how that's being addressed. I think we haven't had a chance because I don't think it's impacted students yet at that 14 Session Limit mark. So, I think that's going to be part of our winter data collection. The feedback that we take for students is what that experience is from them, because really, we're just we're doing this for the students, right?

So, it's a little bit early going now but I think any anytime we come from a situation where you're looking at unlimited Counseling Services, free Counseling Services to some level of restrictions, it's always have been great, right? I wish we could keep it or remove that if that's where the feedback is. That's where we might have to switch back to it.



Tang: Okay, I'll add just a quick comment their Tori. You know, one of the things that I think is, this conversation is sort of sparking[?] for me. It sort of speaks to you know what Tori had alluded to and some of his data in terms of our concerns about how we can better meet student mental health needs and demands; the session limit that's in place as well as some of the stats that we're seeing; and about appointments not being available for those who want to sort of have continuing counseling support. I think it sort of speaks to how...

The effects of the pandemic right now for us, we have been really feeling like we can't keep up with demand. So, I think part of what we hope is this manipulation enables us to do and to have that greater focus on early prevention, early alert, and intervention, so that we can look further upstream in terms of what initiatives can we look at and what can we do.

It has sort of helped resolve some of the challenges that we're seeing across the country, as Tori had alluded to. This is, in some ways, not unique to MacEwan. We're seeing many reports of Counseling Services across the country being flooded. So, the extent to which we can look at early intervention for mental health, help students build resiliency, coping skills, help-seeking behaviors, and all of that work, I think it will serve us in the long-term to address some of the challenges we're seeing at the stage of crisis and response. So, I just wanted to add that piece to this conversation too.

Siddiqui: Yeah, thank you, Tim. I appreciate how difficult everything is at this point but I was just kind of wondering. Well, it's going to require more research to figure out the best way forward. That's all I want to say.

Pino: Agreed.

Siddiqui: Thank you.

Pino: Counselor Beka? Did I pronounce that right?

Beka: Yes, you got it. Good job over there. All right, Tori, I was just kind of wondering because I've always been kind of confused about what the process is like. So, I know there's a given capacity, right? When you're evaluating who you're able to schedule appointments with, is it kind of like a first-come-first-serve type of process? Or is it based on needs? I am just wondering what the process kind of looks like.

Pino: Yeah. It's definitely not first-come-first-serve, it is based on, generally, like a triage system. So, we would base on the student's needs, what's going on depending on the situation. We have to make a call in terms of where this is at and what services we can provide, but we're trying to prioritize the students where there's a significant risk to self and others things like that. That's where we try to ensure the student's safety primarily

Beka: Thank you.

Pino: Councillor Phan, you're next.

Phan: Oh, hi. Thank you for your presentation. I think it's very helpful and it's something that...

Pino: We may have lost Councillor Phan.

Tand: I think she disappeared.



Pino: All right. Well, maybe we can jump to Councillor La Torre and then cycle back when she rejoins.

La Torre: Yes. Thanks for the presentation. It was very very informative, especially with all the statistics that you did show because I wasn't very aware that's how it was, I guess, going when comes to mental health and all that students are facing. My question is, how well are your guy's services are marketed towards students or just towards MacEwan students? It's because that was kind of the first time I knew about the services you did offer but I didn't know about your support and everything like that.

The main goal [inaudible] SAMU about your services as much as you can even if they don't necessarily search for it because obviously, I would say, having those services available for every student and having them aware of is very important. So, I'm just wondering about the process or what are your strategies towards that?

Pino: Yes. Yes. I know. I absolutely agree. When I was in post-secondary, I could have definitely used a counselor at the university but I didn't even know that was available[?], I didn't even know that existed until I was in my masters at that University. So, I think getting the word about the availability of services is primary for us and it's a multi-pronged strategy. I think we try, you know, we're at all the orientation welcoming opportunities as many as we can as students are kind of enter into our services.

I think we're getting fair. I don't have the stat, it's at the tip of my tongue but I'd say almost 46% of students accessing our services are in that first year. It might be a little bit off on that but that's comforting to know that we're getting a lot of students, although obviously not all of them. We really try to kind of work that in with how can we put out, how can we access and get the word out online via the McEwan Channels, Instagram, MacEwan Snapchat, we were part of that, or at whatever point when that was being used.

Also, during normal times, we're trying to leverage some of that help of those health promotion efforts to just let the students know that these services are available at McEwan. So, these students have a lot more probably, pressing needs on the first day of school, when we're at all those kinds of orientation things and stuff like that. Even if we can just plant a seed and students needed it at a certain point down the road, that's something germinates and that they think to reach out. So, we're working on it, but that's good feedback that there's still a lot more work to go. It's definitely a challenge in an almost exclusively online environment. So, people are pretty sick of their emails. So, we're working on it. Thanks for the feedback. I believe... How are we doing at the time? Are we okay? A couple of more chairs? Cool?

Chair: I think you've got time for two questions.

Pino: All right, I believe, Councillor Ambutong is next. Am I pronouncing that right?

Ambutong: Yeah. That sounds good.

Pino: Thank you.

Ambutong: I had two questions. I want to get some more detail. So, what does engagement look like in terms of your workshops, in terms of attendance and feedback, and how helpful they are to students? Another one is, how do the preventive measures and like the early alert system, how would that look specifically? Like, how would that be done? Practice?





Pino: Ah, good questions. Tim, I'm going to cue you up for the earlier one. If that's cool. For the second one, workshops. The key to running successful workshops is offering free food, short of offering free food. I think we experience an interesting, and this is kind of a phenomenon that we see everywhere which is like we asked students if they want workshops? Absolutely. Would you attend a workshop on Stress Management? Absolutely. Would you sign up for a workshop? We even get that but when it comes to looking at managing diverse resources, the stressors, and polls on life, and stuff like that, when it comes to actual attendance, that's where we kind of tend to struggle. That is where I think our movement to...

Once we provided and put online those workshops, virtual environments, or even recording live workshops, at least students, if they couldn't meet or they are unavailable to come to a workshop at 1 p.m. on Thursdays, maybe they'd be a little bit more into watching a workshop or a video that might be a little bit more accessible. You know, what works for you. So, hopefully, expanding our online presence will help when it comes to that. The feedback that we received from the workshops has been almost always awesome. Like if I was in university and got those grades, I would be happy in terms of feedback that we get from students in terms of that. So, yes, pretty good. Tim, you got the second one. Can you recall that?

Tang: Yeah. I know. I'm happy to speak to it. I think this is a really good question and it is exactly the kind of question that I would hope that as we sort of refine our mental health strategy and engage you all further in discussions around what initiatives to prioritize that we can have the chance to engage further and how the conversation around could work. I've seen at other institutions a couple of different models that could work, but I'm really, of course, interested in all of your feedback on what resonates in the queue and context.

We know there are a lot of connections between academics, performance, and mental health. So, you know, I've seen some institutions where they look at if there's an academic indicator of the sort of an at-risk before getting to the stage of probation and before getting to the stage of the potential for a requirement to withdraw, to be able to flag students who might be underperforming and provide support in that way. So, there are options there.

I think was, previously, in a SAMU exact conversation. We talked a little bit about digital well-being and digital literacy. Maybe it's looking at how can we as a community come together and look at different ways as we developed some Workshops or other kinds of initiatives around digital literacy and digital well-being to support the student community.

I've seen others in the form of a first-year seminar where maybe it's in the first six weeks. You have a chance to be in a cohort of students and start to learn about MacEwan services and supports that relate to skills-building, whether it's health promotion or coping and resilience. Maybe we bring on the teaching and learning center and maybe there's some academic component. There are a lot of different approaches. I think that we could take in support of that kind of early intervention piece. We talked a bit about mental health navigators. There are rules like that that are emerging in Primary Healthcare Networks.

Really, I think where we go next around this, is to come up with what are we going to commit to as an institution in terms of our student mental health strategy, and to really have the engagement of you all and of your executive to have a conversation about what should we prioritize and where should we focus our efforts in a way that makes the most sense for this community and for where we are emerging from the pandemic. So, hopefully, that gives you some sense but I think it's a really good question in terms of where we go from here.



Chair: Perfect. Well, we're going to have to put a bow on the presentation. President, would you like to close it off with some comments?

President: Yes. Thank you, Chair. So again, Tori and Tim, thank you so much for being here tonight. I think that was some great information and I think there was a lot of benefit to our councillors as student leaders in our community. Hopefully, they can take that information as they're engaging with students to connect with those resources. I hope we can, of course, do it by other means but you know, I think our student leaders are a great resource that connects others to the plethora of services available to MacEwan students. We're looking to have more presentations of this nature to educate the Students' Council on the various programs and services here at MacEwan and Wellness in Psychological Services as we're dealing with a mental health crisis with students in post-secondary, specifically during a pandemic I felt was an important one and very relevant as we're dealing with the mental health mandatory non-instructional fee today. That's all. Thank you, Chair.

Chair: Thank you. Thank you, Tori and Tim. You're welcome to stay but I imagine you probably have families and things to do. So, we'll bid you adieu and move on to Item 4 for Information 4.1 Reports 411 president. Any oral supplements?

President: Yes, Chair. So, I have two things I would like to bring to council's awareness, First off, as of last week, Friday at noon, our Interim Vice President Academic applications did close. So, we received around 5 to 6 applications and we had two interviews. We conducted those two interviews on Monday and Tuesday this week and afterward, the Appointments Advisory Committee met to deliberate on Tuesday. Today, in my role as Chair of the Appointments Advisory Committee, I was beginning to draft the report and that has been sent off to the committee for review. So, that will be presented to the council at our Friday meeting where we will be, hopefully, appointing our next Interim Vice President Academic.

The second update I have is to round in covid-19 and course modality at MacEwan. So, beginning last week, we started to see a significant increase in students' concerns surrounding the course modality and covid-19 as a semester began. So, in very short order, our Executive Committee and Senior Leadership Team at MacEwan meant to begin to respond and articulate what those concerns were for students. What became apparent was that students were in a place of unknown, basically. So many students were in that even as the Student Leadership in the [inaudible] Student Representative weren't sure what that looked like and this was as MacEwan was delivering their plans. So, we ensured that all the students' concerns were relayed to MacEwan's administration, and we also had some calls with MacEwan administration to ensure that students' voices were reflected in the decision-making processes as they were deliberating and coming to a decision surrounding covid-19.

So, I just want to inform you that the Executive Committee has struck an Ad Hoc Subcommittee [inaudible]. It's called the Covid-19 Response Team and we have the key internal executive as well as our Advocacy Coordinator, our Director of Communications, and some other [inaudible] on there. We're trying to look at it to get more information on what the student perspective is right now surrounding covid-19 or what they're looking at towards return after Reading Week and what their biggest obstacles and barriers are, as we continue online into the Reading Week. That is all. Thank you, chair.

Chair: Thank you, President. 412 Vice President External, any oral supplements?

VP External: As presented. Thank you, Chair.



Chair: Thank you. 413 Vice President Operations and Finance, any oral supplements?

VP Operations and Finance: As presented. Thank you, Chair.

Chair: Thank you. 414 Vice President Student Life, any oral supplements?

VP Student Life: As presented. Thank you, Chair.

Chair: Thank you. 415 the Appointment Advisory Committee President, any additional oral supplements?

President: As presented. Thank you, Chair.

Chair: Thank you. 416 Audit Committee, Counsel Tesfay, any oral supplements?

Tesfay: As presented, Chair.

Chair: Thank you. 417 Bylaws and Policy Committee, Vice President Operations and Finance, any oral supplements?

VP Operations and Finance: As presented. Thank you, Chair.

Chair: Thank you. 419 Executive Committee... Oh, sorry. 418 Budget and Finance Committee, Vice President Oral Operations and Finance, any oral supplements?

VP Operations and Finance: No, it's as presented. Thank you chair.

Chair: Thank you. 419 Executive Committee, President, any oral supplements?

President: As presented. Thank you, Chair.

Chair: Thank you. 4110 Governances Remuneration Advisory Committee, Vice President Student Life, any oral supplements?

VP Student Life: As presented. Thank you, Chair.

Chair: Thank you, and 4111 Leadership and Review Committee, Vice President External, any oral supplements?

VP External: One. Thank you, Chair. Just that... Since writing the report, I have now completed all of the interviews I intended to complete, and I will be compiling and presenting a summary of those [inaudible]. Thank you.

Chair: Thank you. 4.2 Executive Committee Minutes of December 1st and 16th... I think that should read 2021... are provided in your package for your information.

Item 5. Question Period 5.1, written questions are in your package for your information. 5.2 Oral Questions. So, for the Oral Question period, if you have a question, please just type 'question' into the chat. You don't have to type the question, just 'question' in the chat, and I will recognize you in the order in which you appear and you will have the floor from that point until you are done with your



**STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION  
OF MACEWAN UNIVERSITY**

questions. Councillor Sempala, we'll start with you.

Sempala: Yes, I have a question for VP Student Life. So, in the report for the Week of Wellness, how will the process for online advertising for these events be, knowing with the knowledge that there's a problem with online student engagement?

Chair: Thank you, Councillor. Vice President?

VP Student Life: Yeah, thank you for the question. So, yeah. Absolutely, there's an acknowledgment that we're having difficulty with online engagement. That's why I want to position this event away from what is traditionally an event, where we'd done either have in-person, tabling or we'd have webinars because we've gotten very poor attraction on that. I want to produce something that can be easily shared on our social media and other channels, or it's sort of just like facts about where you can go to get support. For example, WPS may even be a partner in this. We're still in planning, so I don't want to commit to discussing any files with them. Maybe, for example, over the course of the week, we just share information about how students can access services at SAMU, I'll make you an offer that will improve their overall wellness.

Now, the only way to really do this is online just because so few students will be on campus. I don't see any value in doing anything in person at this time. So, this will be advertising, sort of an awareness campaign run through our social media channels, hopefully, in good partnership with MacEwan so we can kind of double-dip on the advertising, but again, this is still very much an in-progress event. It's kind of taking shape every day and changing a little bit.

Chair: Thank you, Vice President. Councillor Sempala, any further questions?

Sempala: Yes. I'd like to direct this question to V.P. External. Can you expand on what the Digital Warehouse you refer to on the LRC Work Plan?

Chair: Thank you, Councillor. Vice President?

VP External: Yes, thank you, Chair. Absolutely, it's quite simple. In summary, that was the wording I've stolen directly from Councillor Tran, but digital Warehouse, effectively, just refers to all the things that you all have seen in our various... Well, I suppose you all mostly only seen one. So, in our training session, the presentation I gave is about how to read the reporter's presentations given about how to use Robert's Rules, Etc. It would, basically, just be putting all those in the same place that's easily accessible for you all and us all, as Councillors and Executives, respectively. We just are, in other words, a Google Drive for all the documents you might need. So yeah, that's more or less the long and short of it.

Chair: Thank you, Vice President. Councillor Sempala, any further questions?

Sempala: Yes. I'd like to direct this question to the President. So, in regards to the student fees for the introduction of the mental health fee, given the context of the presentation that we just watched with the numbers of 5,000 students who were accessing the services with only 13 counselors at the moment, I don't see how one more addition would be of benefit to the students. So, what tangible examples are there that will provide or that will be of benefit for most of the students, not just the model that Tori was referring to; the Triage Model?

Chair: Thank you, Councillor. President?



President: Thank you, Chair. So, the Student Mental Health see that we are proposing today or rather that our Students' Council support McEwan's proposal for the mental health mandatory non-instructional fee. This fee is going to focus more on proactive mental health, rather than reactive mental health. So, reactive mental health would be something like counselors. They are only there once there has been a crisis that has occurred or once people have experienced anxiety, depression, or stress. So, when we're talking about counselors, that's a reactive approach. With the mental health fee, there will be an additional counselor added as well as practicum students that they supervised, but we are mostly looking at those proactive elements.

So, how essentially can we look to find students with opportunities to relieve mental health concerns before they need to go to counselors? Students' Associations often advocate for reactive measures, but that, unfortunately, often leads to a greater dependence on them. We need to be more proactive and ensure that we're assisting students when they first come to campus. We don't know exactly what that will look like, however, Wellness and Psychological Services along with student affairs which is ultimately overseas mental health will partner with the Students' Association, in order to determine how those funds are utilized. Thank you, Chair.

Chair: Thank you, President. Councillor Sempala, any further questions?

Sempala: Yes. I have one more question for the President. So, in regards to the mental health fee, why wasn't it considered to put the fee towards the insurance that most MacEwan students have?

Chair: Thank you, Councillor. President?

President: Thanks, Chair. I appreciate the Councillor's questions. I am a little lost. Could you clarify what insurance you're specifying? Is it the insurance that comes along with health and dental? Like the health and dental fees related to insurance?

Sempala: Yeah.

President: Thank you. All right. So, the counseling that's received at Wellness and Psychological Services is a free confidential service. So, in your Health and Dental Plan, in the general plan, if you're enrolled, you do receive a certain amount for psychologists or psychiatric mental health supports, essentially.

Now, that is extremely limited. I don't want to specify a specific amount, though I know it's no greater than \$500. If you are going and seeking out mental health supports outside of our campus, the average psychologist session will cost you \$200 or \$250. Maybe you can find one that has discounts for students and that can be then applied, however, this Wellness and Psychological Service is independent of our insurance. We do try and offer multiple ways for students to receive support for their mental health.

Chair: Thank you, President. Councillor Sempala, any further questions?

Sempala: No.

Chair: Thank you. Councillor Siddiqui?

Siddiqui: Yes. Before I get to my question, because I know a little bit about this, let me just say a couple of things. Yes, I mean... Councillor Sempala, obviously, one more counselor or a few more Masters' students are not going to take care of the issues here at the queue but the thing is, with my



own experience, I was directed to go off-campus and if you look around, I would eventually end up with Community Counseling Services. I'm getting sessions for \$30 per session. So, I mean, if you look around, you can pretty well deal that students can afford. So, that is what is happening. I think they realize there are great limitations and a great deal of demand, and so, this is the way they're trying to handle it over there.

Okay. Now, for my question, I want to ask the following. As I understand it, the President and maybe other members of the executive are dealing with City Council on certain issues, can you expand on that? Or did I misunderstand what was in the reports?

Chair: Thank you, Councillor. President?

President: Thank you, Chair. So, I believe what City Council he is referring to is earlier in December. The Vice President External, myself, and our Advocacy Coordinator met. What we were doing was essentially determining what we wanted to pursue in terms of our Municipal Advocacy. So right now, we're looking at setting up meetings with City Councillors in order to advocate for student interest. So, we are working on that currently. I believe that is all that was mentioned in the report, but if I left anything out, maybe the Vice President External can add to that.

Chair: Thanks, President. Vice President, anything to add?

VP External: Yes. Thank you, Chair. It was very covered quite well by the President, but just to reiterate that effectively, what's been done, typically, in the last report would be summarized by saying, myself and Advocacy Coordinator have looked into our housing ask. Well, not looked into. We've nearly finalized our housing ask and it's going to effectively be around making students eligible for current housing, Emergency Housing Support, as well as looking into Emergency Housing Support.

It's in collaboration with MacEwan which would look like, "Hey, do you have five-ten to twenty?" I don't know the number but dorms are not currently being used. Those could be used as Emergency Housing Support for students. On the municipal side, specifically, currently, we're just waiting for the ESA, Edmonton Student Alliance, Chair to book a meeting, but there's going to be a meeting of the Edmonton Student Alliance in the next week or so to plan a strategy for our first Municipal Counselor... I don't know what it's called, forum, if you will. I don't want to call it forum because it's not exactly for the public, but so far, we've had 6 Councillors and the Mayor RSVP to this event. So, I'm very much looking forward to that. That will be likely in my next report if that's get pushed to February, but I'll let you all know either way. Thank you.

Chair: Thank you, Vice President. Councillor Siddiqui, anything further?

Siddiqui: That pretty much answers my question, but just out of curiosity, it seems like it was actually the students who initiated this rather than the City, but either way, it doesn't matter. Good to know. Thank you.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor. Councillor Tesfay?

Tesfay: Thank you, Chair. My question is for the V.P.O., but any of the execs are free to answer if they have anything to add. I see that it's official that Winter Fest has been postponed for the time being. My apologies, I have missed it, but I didn't see it while reading the updates... I didn't see while reading the reports any updates regarding that. Specifically, regarding if there are any plans for budget allocations for future events if this event were to be canceled. Thank you.



Chair: Thank you, Councillor. Would the Vice President of Operations like to take that question? Okay.

VP Operations: I can try and tackle that one. Given that the events that were canceled are mainly operational in nature and fall under the Events Department, that would be up to the Operational and Administrative Team to kind of put forward if they want to reallocate the budget or anything. I want to see; I am not 100% sure what is going on with those events quite at this moment in time, nor do I have my notes in front of me, but I couldn't tell you even if I did. Essentially, that is Operations and the Events team as those all kind of fall within their budgets. They will be the ones to bring it forward if they want to ask to reallocate it for the previous or next budget years. Also, our General Manager Colin is on the call and I see he has his hand up, so perhaps he could probably provide a slightly better answer than I could.

Chair: Sure. We'll turn the floor to the General Manager.

General Manager: Mr. Chair. So, I'll just elaborate a little bit further. There has been, obviously, a lot of discussion on this. First of all, I can't go into a lot of detail but we had to hold off on making a definitive decision because we are interacting with multiple contracts with performers. There are issues of maintaining the integrity of our contracts and not triggering a breach of any of those contracts through signaling cancellation. That all being said, we're in good standing. The intent is to have the majority, if not all of the performers, deferred to Fall Fest; that being the event in September of 2022.

What we will do as Administration is we're bringing forward and preparing the draft budget. Right now, we're going to keep them separate. So, we will apply for normal funding, for a usual Fall Fest event to be funded as a separate budget item in September. The monies that were saved this year, that were unspent, I have asked our Administration to highlight them specifically, because we do have a policy in regards to where surpluses go each year. I do think it would be valuable for this year for Council to be aware that the distinctive amount that is left is residual because of the postponement, and perhaps ask for some determination on whether you would like to follow the policy per se of seeing that money moved to surplus, or whether you'd like to take, hypothetically, a different discriminate decision with it and enhances some of our events and experiences for next year by adding that money in addition to the normal budget.

Chair: Thank you for that addition. Councillor Tesfay, anything further?

Tesfay: That's all. Thank you very much.

Chair: Thank you. Counselor Beka?

Beka: Thank you, Chair. My question is directed to V.P. Operations as well. It's just about governance week. I understood that, before, you guys needed volunteers, and now, I assume because it's online, you don't, or do you? I just kind of want to get more information about the event and I know you're still in the works of planning it, but I also noticed some events would be canceled within it. You guys said you took away some of them. I just want to know if you could elaborate more about what you think it'll look like if you have that information.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor. Vice President?

VP Operations: Yes. So, with the kind of switch over to online, a lot of the events that I was originally planning had very strong in-person components to them and become stronger to the point where



turning it into an online event would actually not function for the purpose that it was intended to. Given that as well, one thing to consider was looking at the Gov Week that happened in Fall. A lot of those events weren't very highly attended and not... they weren't very highly attended. So, looking at how I could adapt the events to meet students where they were at in regards to now, or in another term. We're all back online again for longer than we thought we would be.

So essentially, what I had to do is kind of cut some of the events that solely were going to be in-person events. So, there ended up being two events that were kind of cut because they just can't function on an online platform, in the way that would make it most engaging and effective. In regards to kind of what the event looks like now, it's essentially, going to be one big event today and [inaudible] initiative.

On the first one, I do have a breakdown of the events. So, the first one, essentially, we're going to have Elections Office Hours on the first day, which pairs with Campaigning 101. So, instead of doing a Campaigning 101 Webinar like I did last year and you attended yourself, Councillor Beka, we're going to post a video of the Campaigning 101 Webinar that we did. We're going to host open Office Hours where anyone can essentially pop in and ask any of the executive questions about elections, whether that be Collaborative[?] Platform or something in the video. Kind of leaving it to where the students are at. Essentially, it's putting the onus on them. If you want to come to talk to us, feel free to. Instead of having you take off an hour to attend a webinar, come pop in for 5 minutes and chat.

The second event is the Town Hall of the Food for Thought, which is one I'm working with events to finalize. I will provide more information to you guys very soon here. The third event is going to be our Executive for A Day Session. That is normally run, but the format of that has slightly changed compared to what I wanted to do with it. We're looking at having two sessions where people can sign up depending on the portfolio, and come and learn a little bit more about each of our specific portfolios.

There will also be an online Scavenger Hunt because I like fun events like that, where the scavenger hunt focuses on certain aspects of our website. Pretty much, this scavenger hunt is going to be more focused on areas of governance, but it'll also discuss areas within our portfolios where we have lots of questions about. It is to drive students to use our website and look at it since we have a new website to help them through where to find some of the information. So, yeah, that's Gov Week; the Winter Gov Week in a nutshell.

In regards to volunteers, I'm still meeting with our Executives for their Executive for A Day event. They might require volunteers, but I will keep the Council informed if they are needed or not to volunteer. Thank you, Chair.

Chair: Thank you, Vice President. Counselor Beka, anything further?

Beka: No. Thank you, Chair.

Chair: Thank you. That's the last call for questions. We move on to other business. Okay. Item 6, In Camera Period, there's nothing there. Item 7, Motions and Business Orders of the day. 7.1, MacEwan Mental Health Mandatory Non-instructional Fee. President, I'll have you introduce a motion, please.

President: I moved to approve MacEwan University's proposal for the introduction of a new Mental Health Mandatory Non-instructional Fee, beginning the 2022-23 Academic Year, at a rate of \$7 per student per term, to enable MacEwan University to increase the level of mental health counseling





and crisis response services.

Chair: Thank you, and a second, please. Councillor Siddiqui, I think? So, it has been moved and seconded to approve MacEwan University's proposal for the introduction of a new Mental Health Mandatory Non-instructional Fee, beginning the 2022-23 Academic Year, at a rate of \$7 per student per term, to enable MacEwan University to increase the level of mental health counseling and crisis response services. President, would you like to speak to the motion?

President: Yes, Chair. Thank you. So, in the early academic year, SAMU's Executive Committee began meeting with MacEwan's Administration for our annual tuition and fees consultation. This happens as part of the consultation requirements per Post-Secondary Learning Act's tuition and fees regulation. Now, at this meeting, in addition to the tuition increase, MacEwan brought forward the proposal of a new mandatory non-instructional fee, specifically, for mental health. Essentially, the Executive Committee provided feedback on that and it went to approval for the Board of Governors. Now, prior to being introduced as a fee, it requires our Students' Council approval as per the guidelines for the Alberta Tuition Framework.

Now, I wanted to get a little bit more specifically into what our rationale for the recommendation was from the executive committee standpoint. Now, we realize the introduction of a new fee, regardless of how important the issue do addresses, can be a concern for students as there's the worry about the cost of services that are currently provided and are being downloaded onto students more. Now, our Executive Committee supports the creation of this fee on the principle that we're meaningfully involved and engaged in the process of how to prioritize these mental health supports and it's incredibly important to us that Student Affairs have the necessary resources to face the mental health crisis that's currently ongoing as the pandemic had far-reaching effects on students, including, but of course, not limited to our mental health.

Now, the proposal put forward by MacEwan Administration, as I said earlier, focuses more on proactive responses than reactive responses. Now, looking to the actual proposal for mental health mandatory non-instructional fee or more often called The MNNIF, it's estimated that by \$7 per student per term, the estimated annual revenue is a quarter of a million dollars. Now, as to what this will work towards, there will be one additional counselor which will mean 450 to 600 additional counseling appointments and as well as looking at prevention and early intervention strategies. It means increasing the capacity to provide a coping and resilience program. It maybe looks more like workshops and Crisis Community Support Programming, Support Development for Early Alert Programming which is something that can be touched on earlier, and also the possibility of supervising an additional masters level practicum student.

Now, another thing that was also discussed, no decisions have been made about how the funds made from the fee will be utilized. However, one of those items of discussion was something maybe like a mental health navigator, to walk students through the multiple and numerous services that are on our campus.

Now, I also wanted to ensure you that your Executive Committee is ensuring that we're looking at the risks of what this means. Now, to us, there are two kinds of concerns presented by this. Of course, there's the obstacle, the concern of objects. Now, there could be concerns from students over the introduction of a new fee, which we're trying to mitigate by having this presentation from Wellness and Psychological Services, having a fair and transparent process here to the Students' Council. Also, our Executive Committee is holding a forum on January 25th to hopefully address some of these student concerns. Accountability and transparency are something very important to us, and with these feet, we feel as though we're providing and supporting students of the future, as that's what



we're ultimately looking for.

Now, one risk, if the Council rejects this motion, is that there won't be adequate mental health support available for students. As you saw in the presentation earlier from Craig, 29% of students who want follow-up appointments are currently not eligible for one. Now as I said, this fee won't go directly to support just counseling and reactive processes from mental health supports, but also those proactive. So hopefully, we can reduce the number of students that need to utilize Counseling Services and we want to ensure that that service is always there for them as well.

I have spoken quite a bit now. I was wondering if Tim [inaudible] the Associate Vice President of Students wanted to add on anything as well. I know, he's more familiar with the mental health mentoring on instructional feed, but it is also preliminary at the same time right now. Tim, did you have anything else that you'd like to include?

Tang: Yeah, just to reinforce a couple of things that you've shared in terms of what's important to me which is that you all are continuing to be engaged in prioritizing what we do. So, none of that work is set in stone. Only insofar as that do we have a chance to continue the conversation about what to prioritize. I know we've also talked a little bit about some of the intersections, not just in terms of mental health and academics, but also EDI concerns and where we might be able to sort of support growth in that area.

The other piece of this too is that, really, what we are envisioning as part of this is that these are things that we are looking at that are truly new. So, you know, it's not really meant to be sort of a fee. We introduced that just helps us maintain our current level of service and so, we really want to make sure that we find ways to support that new work and those new initiatives.

The other piece I'll just sort of add is, finally, as it relates to any MNIF at an institution is that there are some reporting requirements as part of that as well. So, to Myles point earlier about transparency, I think it is about the transparency as it relates to this outcome. Also, it's transparency in the long term in terms of our ongoing reporting requirements around how MNIF money is spent at the institution to ensure that it continues to be aligned with the goals that we share around Mental Health on our campus. So, I just wanted to add those couple of things, but I thought Myles gave a really good overview there.

Chair: Okay, we'll open the floor to debate. If you would like to debate the motion, please just type 'debate' into the chat. I'll just remind the Councillors that we're here to debate in favor of or against the motion. So, just try to steer clear of any comments about the middle part of this. At the end of the day, we need to make a decision about whether or not to support this motion or not. So, with that said, Councillor Sempala?

Sempala: Yes, I'd like to make a debate against the motion, and here are the reasons why. So, I do support the introduction of something like this, but I am not convinced that it will be a benefit to students on a whole as I watched the presentation and heard Tori talk about triaging and 13 counselors seeing 5,000 students per year and sometimes not being able to see some of the students. I don't think that it will be of great benefit, wholly, to the greater student population, but I would like to support this motion if it were to come back with more tangible options that would support students.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor. Vice President External?

VP External: Thank you, Chair. I might inadvertently answer part of your question Councillor Sempala,



but I want to speak very much in favor of this motion. I had a lot of conversations were to see[?] with Tim Tang on the topic. In summary, I'm very motivated and optimistic about some of the changes that Tim Tang is considering. The one I'm personally a big fan of is the Mental Health Navigator. I've been seeing him smiling as he brought that up every single time we talked, but to be very clear, I do think that this \$7 per student per term is a very reasonable amount. I want to be clear as well, you see it very much that this does not have to be put forward. If MacEwan wanted to leave you this fee and we didn't believe in it as an Executive Committee, it would not have got here in the first place.

So, I think your concerns are absolutely valid, Councillor Sempala, but I do want to be clear that I think all of the executive committee... I speak for all of the Executive Committee in saying that this \$7 is absolutely warranted in the middle of, I would say, the greatest Mental Health Crisis as I at least have been aware of in the last century. I'm very happy to see what MacEwan is going to do for the greater good of our student population. Thank you, Chair.

Chair: Thank you, Vice President. Any additional debate? Councillor Siddiqui?

Siddiqui: Yeah, I'd like to speak in favor of this motion as well. First of all, I respect Councillor Sempala's position and wish[?]. She is absolutely correct in saying that this is not going to resolve all our problems, that's just not possible with the \$7 fee, but I can also tell you that as we've discussed previously, this is not just a MacEwan issue; it's a Canadian issue, an American issue, it's a global issue, the Mental Health Crisis that has arisen. I think that \$7 is something that is politically feasible here at MacEwan and I hope, anyway, that we would be able to raise it and get at least some additional help for some of our students.

I can also tell you that I was on the Graduate Student Association Council at the University of Nevada Reno last year. I think they... Memory recall. If I correctly recall it from my memory, it was like something like \$50 a semester or actually \$50 per year for full-time students that they added on to their fees because they knew it is such a great need now. That was a university that had counseling at several different places. They had a Counseling Service, [inaudible] Clinic, Student Health Services, and they also had a hospital there.

So, we are nowhere near that but I think that we do need to get something more than what we've got. I mean, any little bit helps and I think that \$7 is very reasonable given the situation as it is, and I wish there could be more but I don't know if that would pass at all. You would probably get a much greater reaction, but I would like to see. I'd like to speak in favor of this motion. Thank you.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor. Vice President Operations?

VP Operation: Thank you, Chair. I would also like to speak in favor of this motion given that it is only \$7. It is quite... It's not like we're asking school students for quite a lot. That's \$14 over the Academic Year. So realistically, \$7 is 3 coffees from Tim's or one Starbucks beverage. I think given that they're introducing a \$7 fee, that has significant benefits not only to increase their counseling which is adding one more counselor that will help that triage percentage, that is what we saw and been discussed, but also looking into the early preventative of how do we help students so that it doesn't get to that point where we see 60% of students needing multiple appointments and like 30% of people essentially being denied and sent to another external party for counseling. I think that the \$7 is an incredibly low fee to put forward to students. That will both short and long-term help and benefit student mental health, especially, given that we are in a mental health crisis. Thank you, Chair.

Chairman: Thank you, Vice President. Vice President Student Life?



VP Student Life: Thank you, Chair. I would like to speak in favor of this motion just because if we do choose to pass the \$7 motion, that doesn't necessarily mean mental health support ends there, right? This is absolutely intended to be continued to expand on in the future. We have this motion before us and if the motion is denied, that provides one counselor for our students. We don't know the next opportunity will have to look at a specific mental health MNIF like this one. Possibly, sometime next year; possibly, not. I see this is a very strong starting point. It is really starting the conversation about how we can improve mental health support, and I believe that by having, perhaps, a Mental Health Navigator or an Additional Counselor, we're not going to get that 29% down to zero. We know that. Okay? We have to be realistic here, but I think it's a strong starting point.

Chair: Thank you, Vice President. I encouraged anyone that would like to speak against the motion to type Debate into the chat. With that said, Councillor Gable, the floor is yours.

Gable: Oh, sure. I'm actually for the motion and I just want to bring up a few points. I do agree with proactive measures are really important when it comes to mental health because we are in unprecedented times with covid. We are very uncertain how much longer that's going to be affecting students and what kind of impact that's going to have over time. Like you guys said, \$7 is not a lot. I'm not sure. I think that's reasonable considering we don't know exactly where the money is going to go right now, but we are making the plans and I think if it was a higher number, then there might need to be more solid plans. I agree with it. I agree with the motion.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor. Last call for debate, Councillor Hominiuk?

Hominiuk: Hi, thank you. I don't want to explicitly say that I'm debating against the motion because I do believe that the hiring of us of another counselor can only be a good thing. I think the Executive Committee has made some good points about just how, in comparison, the increase is not super high. However, I'm a little bit uncomfortable with just how there hasn't been any discussion of socioeconomic factors pertaining to mental health. In my experience, most people who I've talked to who have been dealing with mental health issues have been able to directly tie these into economic issues and uncertainty of how they're going to pay, especially in the context of universities. Being able to pay for school, I know for a lot of people, is the route that they can directly tie their issues with mental health.

With the understanding that the Executive Committee and the Council are going to be directly involved with the allocation of this money, I'm for the motion, but I just want to get out where I'm uncertain. I am a little uneasy about how that didn't get into any of the conversation or the presentations that we've been viewing, and not to say that the presentations have been very well done and very informative. I do believe that they're working with the student's best intention, but that's just some thoughts. Sorry, if that's not as direct as needed, but that's [inaudible].

Chair: Well good, Councillor Hominiuk. The floor was yours to say what you wish. Just to be clear, I wasn't advocating for anyone to speak against the motion, but as I said, at the end of the day, we're here to make a decision and discuss it as it is. We need people to speak in favor of or opposition to the motion. So, I don't see any additional calls for debate. So, we'll move to the question, it is on the adoption of the motion to approve MacEwan University's proposal for the introduction of a new Mental Health Mandatory Non-instructional Fee, beginning the 2022-23 Academic Year at a rate of \$7 per student per term, who enabled MacEwan University to increase the level of mental health counseling and crisis response services.

Is there anyone that would like to oppose the motion, please speak now?

Okay, that motion is carried. Item 7.2, Roles and Responsibilities of the Board of Governors Student



Representative Policy. Vice President Operations, would you like to read the motion?

VP Operations: Thank you, Chair. I move to approve the Roles and Responsibilities of the Board of Governorss Student Representative Policy on the recommendation of the Bylaws and Policy Committee.

Chair: Thank you, Vice President, and a second, please? Vice President External, thank you. It has been moved and seconded to approve the Roles and Responsibilities of the Board of Governors Student Representative Policy on the recommendation of the Bylaws and Policy Committee. Vice President Operations, would you like to speak to the motion?

VP Operation: Yes, please. Thank you, Chair. So, this policy is coming with some substantial changes as you all could tell. So essentially, the Board of Governors Student Representative was a position created in 2019 and was first filled in 2020 and 2021, though it was not utilized in this current year due to a lack of candidates for the election. In the 2020-2021 year, it was a students' councillor who ran for the position and held dual roles for the time being. Given the nature of the Board of Governors Student Representative role, it's been evaluated and proposed to alter the policy to have the position be appointed by the Students' Council rather than elected by SAMU's membership.

So, essentially, this came to be the decision made as it was deemed that the Board and Governance experience significantly improved the role's ability to both promote the student voice at MacEwan's Board of Governors, given the complexity of the Board and the Academic Governance process overall. Essentially, it also goes to say that being a councillor at the time of appointment suggests that councillors would more than likely probably have a better perspective on the student experience holistically, and this creates significant changes to the policy such as the appointment process and clarifying the roles and responsibilities of the position itself. Thank you, chair.

Chair: Thank you. Okay, the floor is open to additional debate. If you'd like to debate this additionally, just type Debate into the chat. Vice President External?

VP External: Thank you, Chair. I'll keep it short and just say that I can't express enough how proud I am of the Vice President of Operations for working on this, not just because it's an initiative that has been executed well, but because this is something that if you were to ask me a year ago as a students' councillor, I thought it was one of the biggest problems with the organization as a whole or at least in terms of our governance structure.

So this, I think, is a phenomenal antidote to the eerie[?] problem of our Board of Governors Representatives, which we don't have right now. If we were to have a Board of Governors Representative position, they posed quite a problem in terms of when do they participate, how can they participate. It is very ambiguous and I think a great try because it was the first time we had the position, but I think this is poorly outlined and I think this is a remedy to that situation. So, once again, I'm very much in favor of the motion. Thank you.

Chair: Thank you, Vice President. President?

President: Thank you, Chair. So, I want to speak in favor of this motion as well. If you aren't aware, I am that individual that served as the first and only Board of Governor's Student Representative. So, I was elected in the 2020 and 2021 SAMU years, and essentially, there were a lot of difficulties in the position such as not knowing what my role was as a councillor versus the Board of Governor's Student representative. There was also ambiguity surrounding compensation and remuneration, I guess; I'm using similar language.



I also just want to speak a little bit about how we, as a Students' Association, determine our Board of Governors Student Representative overall. So, as per the Post-Secondary Learning Act, there are two members of the University's Board of Governors that are appointed by the Students' Association. Now, the Post-Secondary Learning Act specifically does say a point, however, essentially, what has been interpreted through precedent, I suppose, is that essentially, the Students' Association will determine how they want to appoint two members.

So, in our policy, we stipulate that the President, the role I currently occupy, is a member of the Board of Governors and then through this Board of Governors Student Representative Policy is how we determine how the second seat is appointed. So, though it was a by-election, we're also delegating that power down through the election process.

Now, I think this simplifies a lot of the issues and like the Vice President of Operations spoke, this role requires a lot of governance experience from the person serving in this role would be well suited for and have governance experience. As the MacEwan Board of Governors is a more difficult, more advanced governance scene and it can be seen as more intimidating within that context. That is all. I just want to reiterate that I want to support this motion. Thank you, Chair.

Chair: Thank you, President. Any additional debate? Does anyone like to speak in opposition to the motion? Okay. The question is on the adoption of the motion to approve the Roles and Responsibilities of the Board of Governors Student Representative Policy on the recommendation of the Bylaws and Policy Committee. Is there anyone in opposition, please speak now? That motion is carried.

Item. 7.3, Students' Council Meetings Policy. Vice President Operations, would you like to read the motion?

VP Operations: Yes. I moved to approve the Students' Council Meetings Policy.

Chairman: Thank you, and a second, please? Vice President Student Life, thank you. It's been moved and seconded to approve the Students' Council Meetings Policy. Vice president, would you like to speak to the motion?

VP Operations: Yes, please. So, this one was just a minor change in policy that would have to happen if the Board of Governor's Student Representative Policy was approved, which it just was. Essentially, the change is very small in wording and just includes the Board of Governor's Student Representative appointment to the secret ballot voting list as seen in Clause 14. That is all. Thank you, Chair.

Chair: Thank you, Vice President. Is there any additional debate? Please type Debate into the chat. Okay, the question is on the adoption of the motion to approve the Students' Council Meetings Policy. Is there anyone in opposition, please speak now. That motion is carried.

Item 7.4, Bylaws and Policy Committee. Okay, so Councillors, I know some of you are familiar, others may not be, or allow me to, I guess, refresh your memory on how we feel about appointments to committees. We have a vacancy on the Bylaws and Policy Committee and so we have one individual who we can appoint to that committee the way that this will work because we haven't received any nominations in advance. As soon as I'm done, I'm giving you the spiel here. We'll open the floor to nominations. If you'd like to nominate yourself or one of your colleagues, you can just type Nomination into the chat. I'll recognize you and you can make that nomination. If you nominate



yourself, I'll assume that you've accepted the nomination. If you nominate someone else, I will then ask them if they accept the nomination. They can accept or decline.

Once we have all of the nominations completed, provided we have someone nominated, each individual that has been nominated will be given 30 seconds to make the case for why they should be appointed to the committee. Once that— Oh, the order in which the speeches will be made is the order in which the nominations were accepted. Once all of the speeches are concluded, you will be directed to the secret ballot voting link, which is on the agenda package for you, where you will be able to make your selection for who should be appointed. So, before I open the floor to nominations, are there any questions concerning the process?

Okay, we'll open the floor to nominations now. If you have a nomination, you can just type a Nomination into the chat. President?

President: Thank you, Chair. I would like to nominate Councillor Depeel.

Chair: Thank you. Councillor Depeel, do you accept the nomination?

Depeel: I will accept the nomination.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor. Other nominations? Councillor Phan?

Phan: Hi, I would like to nominate Councillor Kotelniski for this position.

Chairman: Thank you. Counselor Kotelniski, do you accept the nomination?

Kotelniski: Yes, I accept the nomination.

Chair: Thank you. Other nominations? I'm assuming Councillor Phan, your hand is still up from the previous one unless you have another nomination? I'll take that—

Phan: Oh, no. Sorry. I'm just lowering my hand.

Chair: Okay, other nominations? Last call for nominations. Okay, so we'll begin the speeches section in a moment here with Councillor Depeel and then Councillor Kotelniski will follow shortly after. So, let me just set my timer here. So, Councillor Depeel, your 30 seconds begins right now.

Depeel: Well, I think as a new councillor, I've lots of proof and I feel like I have a lot of experience talking with the students, and I think I can bring lots to the table by helping with the Bylaw and Policy Committee. Thank you.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor. Councillor Kotelniski, your 30 seconds begins now.

Kotelniski: Thank you, Chair. I think I'd be a really good candidate for this Committee because I really do care about the students. I really care about the policies and the bylaws. I also think that this would be a great learning experience for me, especially, also being a new councillor. Yes, that's all.

Chairman: Great. Okay. So, Alan, is the ballot ready to go?

Governance Advisor: It is.



Chair: Okay, you can click on the ballot and make your selection right there. Councillor Siddiqui, do you have a question?

Siddiqui: I do have a question. Are we supposed to be able to see the ballot right now, because I can't see it on my screen?

Chair: Are the others are having the same problem? No?

VP Operation: Yes, I'm having the same problem.

VP External: I'm unable to see this as well.

Governance Advisor: Let me try to send a link. Oh, someone beat me to it.

Chair: The link is in the chat. We're just waiting on two more people. Just in case you're wondering if I fell asleep with my eyes open over here. Okay, there's one outstanding but we've got a clear winner anyhow. So, Vice President Operations, can you read in the motion with Councillor Kotelniski, please, as the successful candidate?

V.P. Operation: Yes. I moved to appoint Councillor Kotelniski to the Bylaws and Policy Committee.

Chair: Thank you, and the second, please? Vice President Student Life, thank you. It has moved and seconded to appoint Councillor Kotelniski to the Bylaws and Policy Committee. Is there any debate? The question is on the adoption of the motion to appoint Councillor Kotelniski to the Bylaws and Policy Committee. Is there anyone in opposition, please speak now? That motion is carried. [inaudible] consultation, nothing there.

Item 9, Evaluation. The link is in your agenda for the evaluation form. So, I'll direct you there.

[Pause]

Two left.

[Pause]

Allan tells me they're still two.

[Pause]

So, I know we're still waiting on two. Is there anyone having issues with the form?

[Pause]

I think what we're going to do is we're just going to move on. Allan, can we leave the form open for a while after the meeting is concluded? He says, "Will do." in the private message chat because I can't tell if you're still filling out the form or if you're Googling what is the metaverse, and am I already in it? No, just me. Okay, just me.

Okay, we'll move on to Item 10, Recognition. If you'd like to recognize someone or something, please type Recognition in the chat and I'll recognize you in the order in which you appear. Councillor





Siddiqui?

Siddiqui: I'd like to recognize him. Sorry, Tim Tang and Tori [inaudible] for the extra work. They did come down here and explain the situation with the [inaudible].

Chair: Thank you. Vice President Student Life?

VP Student Life: Thank you. I'd like to recognize the Vice President Operations and Finance for sort of rejigging the very unwieldy beast that was the Board and Governors Policy. A lot of work went into it. So, we appreciate all the work. That will help smooth out that position and make it more efficient in the future.

Chair: Thank you, Vice President. Councillor Tran?

Tran: Thank you, Chair. I'd like to recognize everybody for the respectful discussion today and then I also want to recognize the President because it's his birthday.

Chair: Happy birthday. Councillor Gable.

Gable: Yes, Sir. For all caps, by the way. I'd like to recognize Councillor Sempala and Councillor Hominiuk for still expressing their opinion even though a majority of people did vote to approve the \$7 mental health motion. I think it's still important that we have opposing opinions and it can be hard once a lot of people agree with something to just agree as well. So, I just want to thank you for giving your opinion and also, happy birthday, President.

Chair: Thank you, Councillor. Other recognition? Vice President Operations?

VP Operations: Thank you, Chair. I'd like to recognize the members of BPC for helping me through the Bylaws and Policy. I know I threw a lot of information at them within the very short meetings that we had to get that policy changed and put on the table for you guys tonight. So, I'd like to thank the members of those. I'd like to thank also the rest of the council for further thoughtful discussion and debate regarding the mental health minute, and I'd like to recognize our President as it is his birthday and he is here working. So, happy birthday. Thank you all for a great council meeting tonight and I recognize all of you. Thank you, Chair.

Chair: Thank you, Vice President. President.

President: Well, first off, thank you all for the warm birthday wishes. I wanted to give recognition to Councillor Beka. So, as we all know, this is her first term on Council, however, she has been so incredibly active specifically in the Interim Vice President Academic appointment process. I remember calling her on Christmas break and I think we had about an hour of conversation about how it was going to go. We'd already talked to the Executive Committee and with Alan, of course, but we wanted to ensure as a member of the Appointments Advisory Committee that we were all on the same page. Throughout that process, it was an extremely quick turnaround to issue a recommendation for our Interim Vice President Academic. She had an extremely flexible schedule and I want to thank her for that flexibility, her commentary, her feedback, and her support throughout this process. So, thank you, Councillor Beka.

Chair: Thank you, President. Last call for recognition. Okay, Councillors, I'd like to recognize you all. I think one of the better meetings with respectful debate, really good questions, and get written questions as well. So, thank you for that. We'll move on to Item 11, Adjournment. I need a motion,



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please? Someone? Councillor Siddiqui.

Siddiqui: I move that we adjourn this meeting.

Chair: Thank you. This motion to adjourn only requires one mover and is not debatable. Is there anyone in opposition to the motion, please speak now? Motion is carried and this meeting is adjourned. See you on Friday.

Governance Advisor: I'm going to [inaudible].

VP External: [Inaudible].

Gable: Have a great one. See you all on Friday.

Siddiqui: Happy birthday, Miles. Take care, everyone.

[END]