



STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION OF MACEWAN UNIVERSITY

Minutes for the Students' Council Meeting of the Students' Association of MacEwan University February 16, 2022 at 6:00pm via Zoom

Voting Members:

Gabriel Ambutong, Councillor
Abby Beka, Councillor
Freja Cartujano, Councillor
Thomas Cross-Trush, Vice President Student Life
Jayden Depeel, Councillor
Myles Dykes, President
Ruan Bouwer, Vice President Academic
Jordan Gable, Councillor
Alex Hominiuk, Councillor
Lisa Kotelniski, 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

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 Amiskwaciwaskahikan 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 FEBRUARY 16, 2022

DEPEEL/VPA

CARRIED

2.2 MOTION

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JANUARY 19 AND 21, 2022

SIDDQUI/VPE

CARRIED

3. Presentations

4. For Information

4.1. Reports

4.1.1. President

As presented.

4.1.2. Vice President Academic

As presented.

4.1.3. Vice President External

Funding from gov of AB for universities for sexual violence prevention.

4.1.4. Vice President Operations & Finance

As presented.

4.1.5. Vice President Student Life

As presented.

4.1.6. Board of Governors Student Representative Appointment Process

Vpo – Reminder that application process is open to anyone who would like to apply.

4.1.7. Town Hall

Vpo – as presented.

4.2. Executive Committee Minutes

Minutes of January 5, 7, 19, and February 2, 2022 provided.

5. Question Period

5.1. Written Questions

Phan – VPSL: SAMU week of wellness - What are the mini-interview series for Week of Wellness in March about? Also, just for curiosity, how does exposure to attention on Instagram prior to the EC election limit your chance?

Vpsl - The week of wellness is an interview series with various student service providers at MacEwan and SAMU, including MacEwan Health Clinic, Wellness and Psychological services, Peer/Food support and more, about how students can utilize their services on and off campus to improve their personal wellbeing. It is being delayed past the EC election period, as daily interviews will be posted on the SAMU Instagram (hosted by me) and that much exposure right before elections would be disproportionate and unfair to other candidates in running for any role.

Phan - VPSL: SAMU operation: regarding the remuneration of EC, SC and BOG members, how long does each meeting often last?

Vpsl - GRAC meetings are scheduled in one hour increments, the number of meetings called is based on how much discussion occurs and how quickly progress is made in reviewing remuneration. This term, GRAC met 4 times.

Phan - VPSL: Student Group Connect is such an essential platform that supports the flow of group work tremendously and I thank SAMU so much for that. However, I couldn't trace the link on the SAMU website under Get Involved-Student Groups. I also saw those pdf forms still on the website. When would you implement the Group Connect and change the content of the website?

Vpsl - Thank you for your feedback regarding the link! The Student Groups manager is in charge of implementing Connect, and it is a gradual process. The PDF remains open for the time being as another way to apply to form a Student Group, but it will be phased out in time. The website will also be updated by Marketing under the Student Group Managers directions.

Phan - VPO: is it possible for you to provide some reasons on why the role BOG student Rep changed from being elected during the Executive Committee to being appointed by SC?

VPO - The Board of Governors Student Representative is a position that was created in 2019 and first filled in the 2020-2021 year, though it was not utilized for the 2021-22 year due to a lack of candidates in the election. For the 2020-21 year, a Students' Councillor successfully ran for the position and held dual roles for a time. Given the nature of the Board of Governors Student Representative role, it was evaluated and was proposed at last month's Council Meeting to go forward with these changes.

This proposed decision was reached because it was deemed that Board and governance experience would significantly improve the role's ability to promote the student voice at MacEwan's Board of Governors given the complexity of academic governance processes. In addition, being a Councillor at the time of appointment also suggests that the Councillors should have a better perspective on the student experience holistically.

Council approved the BOG Student Rep policy at last month's meeting and therefore the changes have been implemented.

Phan - VPO: Since the recording is long and extensive, would it be a good idea if we can post the Q/A somewhere on Instagram so that students know their questions were addressed? I notice we had a detailed script for the Town Hall which makes it even easier to compose those Q/A.

VPO - Thanks for your feedback. I will relay it to our team. I believe the video is too big to be put on Instagram, as the whole video is Q&A style. I am aware that our Marketing and Events team have an idea as to how they want to put the information on our website, but I will leave that in the hands of our operational crew to determine the best way to get the information out there to students.

Phan - VPO: Is the Governance Transition policy just newly introduced now? How long does it take for you and the Bylaws Committee to assemble a new policy like this?

VPO - Thank you for your question. This is not a new policy. There are a few changes being made to the policy hence why it is being brought forward to Council for approval. Bylaws and Policy Committee (BPC) does not assemble/fully draft policies themselves, that job is tasked typically to the Governance Advisor and the Chair of BPC. Then policies are brought forward to BPC for discussion and ultimately as a recommendation to Council if changes are being proposed. When the policy is drafted and brought forward to BPC we typically meet for an hour and typically only 1-2 meetings are required for discussion before there is a decision to either recommend or that no changes are required to the policy.

Phan - VPE: CASA Advocacy week: What was the discussion on international student post-graduation work permits about? Is there any improvement made in terms of processing time, application help, etc?

VPE - Thank you for the question! In essence, the ask is us trying to push the federal government to eliminate the need for students here on an international study visa to also have to apply for education-related work visas. So, our ask is to make it so if an international student wanted to get hired to do a work co-op (or some other form of work-integrated learning opportunity that relates to their education), they would not have to apply for a separate work visa. Right now, many international students are not able to partake in work that relates to their education because they have to jump through regulatory hoops to get another work visa, and if they are even accepted, usually this takes a long time and they miss out on the opportunity that is otherwise given to domestic students at no additional barrier.

5.2. Oral Questions

Topics include: student parking/transit; academic advising – managing in an online environment; CASA advocacy priorities; COVID on campus rules & minister of advanced education letter to universities; Students Group Connect; LEED Gold designation for SAMU building; report on survey to provide to students; student enrollment queue process; building vendors; survey response #s; CASA members; Town Hall; return to campus and student engagement; mask mandate for SAMU building; plan for SAMU resources when students are back on campus; SAMU's Covid Response Team; MacEwan hiring committees for Deans.

6. In Camera Period

6.1 HR Update

MOTION TO GO IN CAMERA

VPO/SIDDQUI

CARRIED

MOTION TO GO OUT OF CAMERA

DEPEEL/GABLE

CARRIED

* Sempala leaves at 7:00pm

7. Motions & Business Orders of the Day

7.1. Audit Committee

Nominees: Councillors Depeel and Gable.

MOTION TO APPOINT COUNCILLORS DEPEEL AND GABLE TO THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

HOMINIUK/TESFAY

Favour: Ambutong, Beka, Cartujano, Vpsl, Depeel, Pres, Vpa, Gable, Hombiniuk, Kotelinski, La Torre, Phan, Semotiuk, Siddiqui, Tesfay, Tran, Vpo, Vpe

CARRIED

7.2. Committees policy

MOTION TO APPROVE THE COMMITTEES POLICY ON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE BYLAWS AND POLICY COMMITTEE

VPO/PHAN

Favour: Ambutong, Beka, Cartujano, Vpsl, Depeel, Pres, Vpa, Gable, Hombiniuk, Kotelinski, La Torre, Phan, Semotiuk, Siddiqui, Tesfay, Tran, Vpo, Vpe

CARRIED

7.3. Governance Transition policy

MOTION TO APPROVE THE GOVERNANCE TRANSITION POLICY ON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE BYLAWS AND POLICY COMMITTEE

VPO/CARTUJANO

Favour: Ambutong, Beka, Cartujano, Vpsl, Depeel, Pres, Vpa, Gable, Hombiniuk, Kotelinski, La Torre, Phan, Semotiuk, Siddiqui, Tesfay, Tran, Vpo, Vpe

CARRIED

8. Consultation

9. Evaluation

10. Recognition

11. Adjournment

MOTION TO ADJOURN

TESFAY

CARRIED

Next Meeting Date

Meeting adjourned at 7:25pm.