



STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION OF MACEWAN UNIVERSITY

Minutes for the Students' Council Meeting of the Students' Association of MacEwan University May 18, 2022 at 6:00pm in The Lookout

Voting Members:

Freja Cartujano, Councillor
Jayden Depeel, Councillor
Myles Dykes, President
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, Vice President Student Life

Stephan Vasquez, Vice President Academic
Larissa Williams, Vice President Operations
and Finance
Matt Yanish, Vice President External
vacant, Councillor

SAMU Officials and Council Support:
Timothy Jobs, Chair
Tosheena Thompson, Minutes

Absent:

Gabriel Ambutong, Councillor
Abby Beka, Councillor
Jordan Gable, Councillor

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 MAY 18, 2022

LA TORRE/SIDDQUI

CARRIED

2.2 MOTION

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF APRIL 20, 2022

PHAN/SEMOTIUK

CARRIED

3. Presentations

4. For Information

4.1. Reports

4.1.1. President

Battle of Alberta – MacEwan & Mount Royal

4.1.2. Vice President Academic

4.1.3. Vice President External

4.1.4. Vice President Operations & Finance

4.1.5. Vice President Student Life

4.1.6. For Information – Mental Health Consultation Letter

4.2. Executive Committee Minutes

Minutes of April 6, 14, 20, and May 4, 2022 provided.

5. Question Period

5.1. Written Questions

La Torre - VPSL/ VPA: I like the idea of including what skills could be gained from each class; my question, though, is would addressing that in myStudent System when students enrol in classes be of a greater benefit for students? In other words, instead of the course syllabus (which oftentimes is only accessible to students right before their classes start) indicating what skills the student will acquire during the enrollment process, instead, the student can know before they enrol in the class if it will provide them with a skill they are looking to develop.

VPSL - Thank you for your suggestion. Both the VP Academic and I are in agreeance that including the competencies during the enrollment process could be of benefit to students. This is a consideration that the VP Academic and I can bring forward in our future conversations with the Working Group.

La Torre - VPO: What does the I.D.E.A sub-committee do?

VPO - The I.D.E.A Sub-committee stood for the Inclusion, Diversity, Equity Advisory sub-committee. This committee was going to advise on these topics in relation to SAMU's internal frameworks and was going to blend EDI and Sexual Violence Prevention into one committee. While the initial Terms of Reference (TOR) was approved by the previous Executive Committee, the new VPSL has some more ideas on how she would like this committee to function therefore the sub-committee is not quite ready to form yet. Council will be seeing a renaming of this sub-committee and the terms of reference when the committee has seats that will need to be filled, which will occur once EC approves the new version of the TOR. So stay tuned for more information!

La Torre - VPE: Is the Government of Alberta Seat Expansion related to tuition increases?

VPE - Not exactly. The current government is more of a fan of targeted investments, rather than blanket ones. So, the targeted seat expansion came because of MacEwan asking for more space for some specific programs, and they were given approximately 4 million from Advanced Ed to expand a couple hundred seats total, primarily in child and youth care and commerce. It is related in the sense that, more broadly: in 2019, SA's/SU's lost their ability to veto significant tuition increases from institutions. Then, every year since then, MacEwan (and most institutions in AB) are increasing tuition by the maximum average amount (7%). Then, this year, the government has committed approximately 70 million (<https://edmonton.ctvnews.ca/almost-5-000-new-seats-in-high-demand-edmonton-post-secondary-programs-funded-1.5900743>) to expand seats across the province. This is good for institutions, and good for students, so I spoke in favor of it. But, it remains true that tuition has gone up for MacEwan students by over 21% in three years, and this announcement does not make education more affordable; it just makes it less competitive.

La Torre - VPE: In the CAUS Changeover Conference report, are there any early plans as to how the priorities detailed in that report will be executed?

VPE - Technically not yet, as we have to officially vote them in as our priorities within the next couple of weeks. However, I can reiterate that fighting for more financial supports for students (specifically up-front, needs-based grants like the Alberta Grant for Full Time Students) is likely going to remain the top priority for us at CAUS this year, especially because both the minister and his critic have been

pressured by CAUS already on this front. As they go to make their platforms, we want to do what we can to emphasize that students need these types of grants, as Alberta has the least amount of them (in relation to loans) in the country, and we need to invest in the future of Alberta. As the grant itself ran out this year (given a 17% increase in uptake last year) I am really worried that students won't get the money they need this fall to attend post- secondary.

5.2. Oral Questions

Topics Include: partnership with Kihew Waciston; Spectrio.

6. In Camera Period

7. Motions & Business Orders of the Day

7.1. Audit Committee

Nominees: Tesfay, La Torre.

MOTION TO APPOINT COUNCILLOR LA TORRE TO THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

DEPEEL/SIDDQUI

Favour: Cartujano, Depeel, Pres, Hominiuk, Kotelniski, La Torre, Phan, Semotiuk, Sempala, Siddiqui, Tesfay, Vpsl, Vpe, Vpa, Vpo

CARRIED

7.2. Spectrio Agreement

MOTION TO APPROVE ENTERING INTO A THREE (3) YEAR AGREEMENT, AT A TOTAL COST NOT TO EXCEED \$21,000.00 CAD, WITH SPECTRIO

VPO/PRES

Favour: Cartujano, Depeel, Pres, Hominiuk, Kotelniski, La Torre, Phan, Semotiuk, Sempala, Siddiqui, Tesfay, Vpsl, Vpe, Vpa, Vpo

CARRIED

8. Consultation

8.1 Feedback on 22-23 CAUS Priorities

9. Evaluation

10. Recognition

11. Adjournment

MOTION TO ADJOURN

VPE

CARRIED

Next Meeting Date: June 15, 2022

Meeting adjourned at 6:47pm