



STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION OF MACEWAN UNIVERSITY

Minutes for the Students' Council Meeting of the Students' Association of MacEwan University June 15, 2022 at 6:00pm in The Lookout

Voting Members:

Gabriel Ambutong, Councillor
Abby Beka, Councillor
Freja Cartujano, Councillor
Jayden Depeel, Councillor
Myles Dykes, President
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, Vice President Student Life
Stephan Vasquez, Vice President Academic
Larissa Williams, Vice President Operations
and Finance
vacant, Councillor

SAMU Officials and Council Support:
Timothy Jobs, Chair
Alan Honey, Governance Advisor (Recording Secretary)
Ismaael El-Hakim, Gov Assistant

Absent:

Matt Yanish, Vice President External

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 JUNE 15, 2022

VPA/CARTUJANO

CARRIED

2.2 MOTION

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MAY 18, 2022

PHAN/SEMOTIUK

CARRIED

3. Presentations

4. For Information

4.1. Reports

4.1.1. President

CASA conference update.

4.1.2. Vice President Academic

As presented.

4.1.3. Vice President External

4.1.4. Vice President Operations & Finance

As presented.

4.1.5. Vice President Student Life

As presented.

4.1.6. Year End Allocation

4.1.7. Appoint Advisory Committee (In Camera item)

4.2. Executive Committee Minutes

Minutes of May 11 and 18, 2022 provided.

5. Question Period

5.1. Written Questions

Sempala - For VP Academic: On the committee on teaching and learning - A lot of students work while in school it have life circumstances that may make it difficult to attend school in person synchronous or in hybrid. Will there also be a discussion on possibly having courses that are online(synchronous or asynchronous)?

Vpa - We still retain a number of courses that are delivered fully online each semester (approx. 20%). The Committee on Teaching and Learning focused on defining what would be the range of online/in-person delivery for *hybrid courses only*. However, your concerns are warranted and heard. During the pandemic, online delivery demonstrated several advantages over in-person classes (such as note-taking, recorded classes etc.). These advantages show that there are gaps in access to learning which we hope to address via our universal design for learning project. Our UDL project aims to allow multiple means of accessing classes, notes, assignments, and tests. This project will take time but we have already made steps to promote and integrate UDL concepts through our 2022 EC priorities planning sessions.

Sempala - For VP Academic: On Paskwâwi-Mostos Mêskanâs Governance Committee - I have used this platform this spring and I can say that it is a very good and easy to use platform. A question I have is how students will be orientated in using this system for the fall?, My concern is if enough time will be given for students to adapt to this system.

Vpa - Paskwâwi-Mostos Mêskanâs will overtake Blackboard this fall as our online platform (As well as black board collaborate being replaced with Kaltura). As we're still using blackboard in addition to Mêskanâs several online resources have been posted to onboard the student body to this new system. Through the MacEwan website you can access Mêskanâs support and resources via the Center for Teaching and Learning webpage. These resources include training sessions, email support, workshops, and online guides to understand the new modalities offered. As you have seen firsthand the system is pretty intuitive so I have confidence that Mêskanâs' uptake will be smooth. If you are having issues finding any resources feel free to email me for the links!

Sempala - For VP Operations: On the Year End Allocation Report - Thank for the transparency you have shown and offered. A possible solution for the problem you presented was using Contingency Reserve Fund, what is this fund usually used for? and if it is not used will there be an issue in the allocation of funds or another financial issue?

Vpo - As per the way our Finance Policy currently stands the Contingency Reserve Fund is used for operational deficits, this was not explicitly defined but in practice in the past the fund has been used

for situations like this where we have been short cash-wise in certain months due to the transfer of our fees collected from MacEwan.

The contingency fund could also be used for instances where our budgeting forecasting predicts a much larger influx of money than what we actually receive. For example, if we budgeted around 15,000 students being enrolled as revenue in, but something happened and only 10,000 students enrolled we would have a difference in revenue of 5000 students. At that point it would come to council for either approval of using the contingency fund to supplement the difference or the organization would have to figure out which budgeted items would get cut due to the lowered funds available.

If we decide not to dip into the contingency fund, we might run into a shortfall in our operating account which means that we may not be able to pay for some or all of our operating costs including salaries, and our day-to-day expenses. There will be no impact on the allocation of our previous year's operating surplus as that is allocated into its respective funds once we receive the transfer of cash from MacEwan in October.

Tesfay - Question for VP Academic - I'll start by saying I'm happy you're feeling more comfortable in your new position as a VP. The one question I have from your report is regarding the agreement on a definition for upper/lower limits of hybrid courses. My question is, after the decision is voted on, will the decision affect classes this coming fall and winter semester, or is it for semesters further down the line?

Vpa - For clarity, we already have hybrid classes that can operate within this range. The purpose of the committee is to define more sharply what is a hybrid synchronous class, what is a hybrid asynchronous class as well as defining the borderline between a hybrid class and an online class. After the decision is agreed on, voted in, and formalized "Hybrid at MacEwan" should be implemented on the next academic calendar year. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic or other unforeseen economic or social impacts this framework may be implemented on a shorter or longer timeframe. If such an unlikely thing is to pass SC will be promptly informed.

5.2. Oral Questions

Topics Include: Edmonton Student Alliance; conference attendance(Vpo/Vpsl); EC workplan; MyStudentSystem & EDI data; university funding model & performance metrics; Fall Fest and other fall events;

6. In Camera Period

MOTION TO GO IN CAMERA

SEMOTIUK/VPO

CARRIED

6.1 SAMU Chief Returning Officer

MOTION TO GO OUT OF CAMERA

PHAN/SIDDIQUI

CARRIED

7. Motions & Business Orders of the Day

7.1. Finance Policy (*Special Resolution required)

MOTION TO APPROVE THE FINANCE POLICY ON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

VPO/PHAN

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

CARRIED

7.2. Chief Returning Officer

MOTION TO APPOINT JOSH STOCK AS SAMU CHIEF RETURNING OFFICER FOR A TERM ENDING APRIL 30, 2023

BEKA/SEMOTIUK

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

CARRIED

8. Consultation

9. Evaluation

10. Recognition

11. Adjournment

MOTION TO ADJOURN

SEMOTIUK

CARRIED

Next Meeting Date: July 20, 2022

Meeting adjourned at 6:51pm.