



**STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION
OF MACEWAN UNIVERSITY**

**Minutes for the Students' Council Meeting of the
Students' Association of MacEwan University
August 17, 2022 at 6:00pm in The Lookout**

Voting Members:

Gabriel Ambutong, Councillor
Abby Beka, Councillor
Stephan Vasquez, Vice President Academic
Freja Cartujano, Councillor
Elaine Tran, Vice President Student Life
Myles Dykes, President
Jordan Gable, Councillor
Lisa Kotelniski, Councillor
Joseph A. La Torre, Councillor
Nhi Phan, Councillor
Rayyah Sempala, Councillor
Asif Siddiqui, Councillor

Alem Tesfay, Councillor
vacant, 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

Absent:

Jayden Depeel, Councillor
Alex Hominiuk, Councillor
Kendell Semotiuk, 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 Amiskwaciy Waskahikan or Beaver Hill House in Nehiyawewin (Cree). This is the traditional home of the Nehiyaw (Cree) and Michif (Métis), and meeting place for many Indigenous peoples including the Nakawe (Saulteaux), Siksika (Blackfoot), Nakota Sioux (Stoney) and other nations.

2. Approvals

2.1 MOTION

TO APPROVE THE AGENDA FOR AUGUST 17, 2022

PHAN/VPE

CARRIED

2.2 MOTION

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JULY 20, 2022

PHAN/TESFAY

CARRIED

3. Presentations

3.1. Student Advocacy Centre

4. For Information

4.1. Reports

4.1.1. President

Update provided re. EC attendance at SUDS conference.

4.1.2. Vice President Academic

As presented.

4.1.3. Vice President External

Working with Eco-SAMU re. sustainability to present to CAUS in future.

4.1.4. Vice President Operations & Finance

As presented.

4.1.5. Vice President Student Life

As presented.

4.2. Executive Committee Minutes

Minutes of July 6, 13, and 20, 2022 provided.

5. Question Period

5.1. Written Questions

Tesfay - President: Regarding the Edmonton Student Alliance Strategic Alignment, I see that you had the first meeting earlier this month but unfortunately didn't make a quorum. I'm glad that you were able to have an extensive discussion; what did you guys discuss?

Pres - The primary item of discussion was the proposed Annual Plan for the Edmonton Student Alliance. It proposed meeting dates for the membership, timelines for the Priorities 2022/23 document, a new project to revitalize our brand, and another project being the creation of a Strategic Plan. The item primarily discussed was the Strategic Plan and its timelines. I had proposed the Strategic Plan to be until 2025 to build organizational capacity for the next municipal election, and members had questions regarding resourcing and capacity to create a Strategic Plan. It looks like there will be two additional possible paths forward; creating a less extensive organization plan as a "Road Map" to the 2025 municipal election, or having a Strategic Plan with a longer timeline. There was no resolution at the meeting, but I will be consulting members and propose next steps at the ESA meeting in September.

Tesfay – VP Academic: In the report, you mentioned EC had the opportunity to do some media training. It's awesome you guys got to engage in something like that; being a better spokesperson is definitely an important skill. Is this an opportunity that can also be extended to the students' council?

Vpa - Unfortunately, as EC would be the first point of contact by the media, training the entirety of SC would fall outside the scope of your portfolios. During training we participated in mock interviews that asked specific questions to a mock event related to our roles. While some SC members participate in committees that fall under the portfolios of EC members, it does not give a whole picture of the role (stakeholder relations, Priority setting, how meetings interact with each other, and project planning) so it would be unfair to expect an SC member to know the same things as well as give an impromptu statement to reporters.

Another issue compounding it is timeframes and scheduling as the Fall term approaches. It took a full day to train the 5 EC, so for all SC would be 3 or more 7-hour days. Unfortunately, the media trainers were very busy and needed to be booked months in advance. If we were to train the whole of SC it would fall during the school year, resulting in a significant time-investment.

However, I do understand the value in learning how to be a better spokesperson so I've contacted the media trainer on your behalf to ask if she can share slides or other materials. Likewise the VPE or I would be willing to meet with anyone interested in discussing tips.

Tesfay - VP Operations: Regarding the Decision Made on the pilot exemptions within the contract for usage. Hi, what are pilot exemptions, and in what ways will exemptions discussed in the meeting affect students?

Vpo - Thanks for the question, as I mentioned in my report the pilot exemptions are the Senior Category, AISH Category and the Long-Distance Category. Pilot exemptions are exemptions to the U-Pass that were added to the contract this year. Essentially they are another classification of students who may opt out of the U-Pass if they desire. These were in place this past year with the new U-Pass contract, and at the meeting we were reviewing the numbers for it. The Senior category is for individuals 65 years or older, the AISH opt out is for those in the Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH) program and the long distance category is for those physically living greater than 100km from MacEwan.

5.2. Oral Questions

Topics include: Canada student grants; textbook cost indicator program; knowledge gained from speaker series; SUDS conference attendance value; student U-Pass pilot exemptions; Let's Get Committed; SAMU website information;

6. In Camera Period

7. Motions & Business Orders of the Day

8. Consultation

8.1 EC Workplan

Pres – Looking for feedback from SC about the workplan that was submitted. Want to ensure that our project are sustainable and a good use of your execs time.

9. Evaluation

10. Recognition

11. Adjournment

MOTION TO ADJOURN

SIDDIQUI

CARRIED

Next Meeting Date: September 21, 2022

Meeting adjourned at 7:00pm.