



# STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION OF MACEWAN UNIVERSITY

## Minutes for the Students' Council Meeting of the Students' Association of MacEwan University October 19, 2022 at 6:00pm in Council Chamber

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### Voting Members:

Gabriel Ambutong, Councillor  
Abby Beka, Councillor  
Jayden Depeel, Councillor  
Freja Cartujano, Councillor  
Alex Hominiuk, Councillor  
Lisa Kotelniski, Councillor  
Joseph A. La Torre, Councillor  
Nhi Phan, Councillor  
Kendell Semotiu, 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:*  
Matthew Yanish, Chair  
Alan Honey, Governance Advisor  
Grace Tsang, Governance Assistant

### Absent:

Myles Dykes, President  
Jordan Gable, Councillor  
Rayyah Sempala, Councillor

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Meeting called to order at 6:02pm.

<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 Amiskwaciw 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 OCTOBER 19, 2022**

**LA TORRE/SEMOTIUK**

**MOTION**      **TO AMEND THE AGENDA TO ADD 8.1 THE LOOKOUT WITH THE SOLE  
QUESTION 'DO YOU THINK IT IS WORTH SAMU PURSUING OPENING THE  
LOOKOUT FOR STUDENTS WHEN NOT BEING USED'**

**LA TORRE/TESFAY**

**MOTION**      **TO TAKE A 3 MINUTE RECESS**

**VPO/LA TORRE**

**CARRIED**

**MOTION** **TO AMEND THE AMENDMENT TO ADD “WITH THE SOLE QUESTION ‘DO YOU THINK IT IS WORTH SAMU PURSUING OPENING THE LOOKOUT FOR STUDENTS WHEN NOT BEING USED”**

**LA TORRE/TESFAY**

Favour: Tesfay, Kotelniski, La Torre

Oppose: Semotiuk, Vpa, Vpo, Cartujano, Vpsl, Phan, Beka, Siddiqui, Vpsl, Vpe, Depeel, Ambutong

**DEFEATED**

Favour: Tesfay, Kotelniski, Depeel, La Torre

Oppose: Semotiuk, Vpa, Vpo, Cartujano, Vpsl, Phan, Beka, Siddiqui, Vpsl, Vpe, Ambutong

**DEFEATED**

**CARRIED**

**2.2 MOTION** **TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 21, 2022**

**PHAN/CARTUJANO**

**CARRIED**

**3. Presentations**

**4. For Information**

**4.1. Reports**

**4.1.1. President**

**4.1.2. Vice President Academic**

As presented.

**4.1.3. Vice President External**

As presented.

**4.1.4. Vice President Operations & Finance**

As presented.

**4.1.5. Vice President Student Life**

As presented.

**4.1.6. Audit Committee**

As presented.

**4.1.7. BFC**

As presented.

**4.1.8. BPC**

As presented.

**4.1.9. GRAC**

As presented.

#### **4.1.10. EC**

As presented.

#### **4.2. Executive Committee Minutes**

Minutes of September 13, 20, and 27, 2022 provided.

### **5. Question Period**

#### **5.1. Written Questions**

Sempala - To all executives: This years election had a 6% student turnout. Are there any engagement strategies we can use to bring up student engagement within elections? If possible I also think this is something that we should consider putting within an actionable plan.

Vpo - SAMU engaged in new strategies this year to increase voter turnout on the marketing and governance office side, there were our usual Facebook and Instagram ads, but also, we had our polling clerks on voting days and promo squad out there pushing the elections, we handed out hundreds of handbills highlighting election events and the voting days. The Executive Committee ran GovWeek and pushed the elections at every event we attended this year, as well as handing out hundreds of handbills regarding the roles of a council and the elections themselves, while spending collectively at least a hundred hours planning GovWeek events. In regards to ensuring the elections are run impartially there may not be more direct ways for SAMU to engage.

In regards to overall strategy the Governance Office and Marketing Department are always looking at new ways to engage students and raise turnout for governance events. Putting something like this into an actionable plan is always discussed between the Governance Office and the Marketing Department and is out of the purview of Council, the Governance Office is always interested in sharing ideas on how to connect to students. Voter turnout has also been correlated to candidates as well, it has been seen in past elections that candidates themselves are an effective way to drive voter turnout. SAMU is only able to promote the elections in general, but candidates are able to say more and more actively engage with students on issues that they are running on that make students feel more inclined to vote.

The CRO may have some advice on the next elections that the Governance Office and Marketing Department will take into consideration, stay tuned for the CRO's report next month.

Sempala - To all executives: How will the maintenance fund for the student support room be used?

Currently we have a low turn out and we don't really use the tables as of now to my knowledge. How will the new purchasing of tables be beneficial to samu operations?

Vpo - The student support room is not a current room in the SAMU building. The maintenance fund was used to purchase the new room. This new room came to the Executive Committee as a request from operations as it has become apparent that currently SAMU does not have an appropriate place for students in crisis and distress to have a safe, readily available space to speak about their issues and immediate concerns. SAMU is currently seeing some private space issues for private meetings with students and our Student Advocacy and Policy Specialist (SAPS). These meetings require a private space where students confidential issues can be spoken about. SAMU has seen an immense spike up of usage of our Student Advocacy Centre over this past year and with returning to more in-person, the SAPS staff member will require a designated space to be able to serve those students to the best of their abilities without impeding all other SAMU functions. The Executive Committee felt that this request deals directly with a student need that occurs and approved the funds to have that room built. We are currently waiting on the supplies to come in to have this room actually built, hence why it is still not a space you can see in the SAMU building.

We are unsure about your statement regarding low turnout and students not using the tables as our building is consistently busy and students are utilizing the spaces within the building. The purchasing of new tables is beneficial to the SAMU building and SAMU operations as it provides us with more spaces for students to sit, it provides us with more tables of our own for events, and it provides us

with more tables for people who purchase advertising space in our building, which is generating alternative revenue sources.

We encourage you to reach out to the VP Operations and Finance regarding your concerns or questions regarding the building.

La Torre - VPA:

-Are the stakeholders in the library in support of the Textbook Cost Indicator? And as a follow-up question: has there been any "pushback" (any concerns against it) to the introduction of the Textbook Cost Indicator?

-What other parts, services, etc., of MacEwan, must be consulted before the TCI can be fully operational?

Vpa –

- I'm happy to inform you that we have a great deal of support from the library. For example. Dean Karen Keiller, Librarian Martina King, and Librarian Lori Walter. I will be working with these folks to implement the operational side of the project. For the external-facing side of the project, I've spoken to and have meetings with faculty in hopes of fostering grassroots support for the project. Some of these faculty include Dean Christie Raymond, Associate Professor Lucille Mazo, Associate Professor Melissa Hills, & Associate Professor Alissa Overend. I'm hoping that further collaboration will result in a faculty champion as per design.

-So far we have not had any direct opposition to the TCIP. However, after discussing the project with stakeholders we identified several possible gaps. Specifically these gaps may be:

-No collective agreement among faculty.

-Getting classes to self-identify as using OERs.

-Difficulty with faculty becoming familiar with using the digital supports for OER and labeling their classes with the cost-indicator.

-and a plateau of interest.

-Other portions of the campus that need to be consulted is the IT department in-relation to our version of PeopleSoft. PeopleSoft is a flexible program, but making sure we can contort it to the specifications of the project need to be further examined. After consulting our counterparts at the U of A we may have to check for gaps between MacEwan's and the U of A's version of Peoplesoft. A further consult with the UASU is being scheduled.

La Torre - VPE:

- What concerns were raised when the CASA members came to SAMU?

- Is there a tentative date when the report of the Foward Slash event will be released?

-In what capacity will SAMU be affiliated with the Alberta Mentorship Partnership? In other words, in what ways are we benefiting from the potential affiliation and in what ways are they benefiting?

-How effective has GOTV been in th past in getting students to vote?

Vpe -

- In short, I raised that I was concerned with the efficiency and meeting schedule of a particular committee, and how there is limited buy-in. Aside from that, we also discussed some of the ways we can better include staff in conferences. Overall, very specific stuff to the actions of CASA internally, but no concerns with the important advocacy work that CASA has been getting up to.

- I am going to create the report for EC for our next meeting at the end of October, and if you want to see it, Alan can give you a copy! Technically, I only have to submit it to EC, but I am happy to share it with any interested parties on SC.

-Well, pending availability of SC on November 18<sup>th</sup>, we are actually looking to have her come talk to us about public speaking, and run a workshop for the newly elected SC (again, pending some availability). So, our partnership will include events like this and others where she comes and facilitates some form of networking/leadership event with us. For AMP, they are fulfilling their mandate of creating a culture of mentorship and leadership in Alberta, and for us, we get the lovely Sarah Chan to come to events/host events and be an inspiring presence for students and student leaders.

-This is a tricky question to answer as “GOTV” can include what we do at the provincial, municipal, federal, or SAMU level. But in short, most of the time they are very effective, and if nothing else, I would be doing myself a disservice if I did not try to get my constituents to vote. GOTV efforts are key first and foremost to get students/young people in the know about how to vote and how they can take part in our political processes. We know from the data that people aged 18-24 are the least likely to vote, and as that demographic has huge overlap with our student population, we know that encouraging people to vote goes hand in hand with the government’s ability to take our asks more seriously. So, while we cannot measure directly how many people vote as a result of our efforts, I can tell you that SAMU has been part of solo or collective efforts to get tens of thousands of people to vote, and we know in recent federal elections (that we also ran GOTV for) that we have seen increases in the amounts of 18-24 year old people voting.

La Torre - VPO:

-Was the feedback from the Town Hall meeting in September effective? If not, could we explore other avenues to receive feedback from students on the bylaws if none have been explored in the past?

Vpo - I am still working through all the feedback, some of it was quite useful, and I am looking forward to discussing your open feedback with the team as we work to develop the bylaw draft for the next town hall further. With the quick change in plans, I only expected Council to attend and provide feedback as the initial consultation was very open and Councillors had previously expressed to me that they wanted to change the Bylaws. I was looking for a little more feedback in regards to what exactly Council members wanted to change, but overall, it went as expected. When the actual bylaws are ready to be formally reviewed there is a draft strategy in my mind as to how I see Council and students more broadly engaging with the bylaws, though I am still working on it and am not ready to discuss it quite yet, if you have any ideas please feel free to reach out to me personally.

La Torre - VPSL:

- For the Healthy Campus Alberta Design Team's workshops, will they all be online?
- For the Student Mental Health Group, what other universities are committed to the Okanagan Charter? And how would MacEwan be committed to it? In other words, what changes, if any, would occur?
- How is the Fresh Friday team collecting students' perspectives and questions? Is this something council can help with?

Vpsl -

- Yes, because Healthy Campus Alberta is a community of practice that connects the entire province, all of their materials, resources, and webinars are accessible online. In my report, I included a link to their website; however, here is a link to access their listing of webinars: <https://www.healthcampusalberta.ca/webinars/>

- In my report, I included a link to the Okanagan Charter website, where the full document and list of committed institutions is housed. For reference, here is the link: <https://healthpromotingcampuses.squarespace.com/network> Some committed institutions include Bow Valley College, Concordia University of Edmonton, Mount Royal University, SAIT, University of Alberta, University of Calgary, and University of Lethbridge - all in Alberta. Moreover, there are a

number of different changes that can and should occur now that MacEwan has signed onto the Okanagan Charter, which I would be happy to discuss at greater length in another capacity. No Campus is immune to change, and neither is MacEwan, but the diversity of changes that could occur is greater than I can list in my response.

- The Fresh Fridays Team connects with students across campus by finding free students to chat with about a number of subjects. In addition, they also have an awesome cart and swag to catch attention. In the past, Students' Council has entertained the idea of ongoing tabling; however, due to COVID-19, direct engagement via ongoing tabling has been limited. As Chair of Leadership and Review Committee (LRC), I would be more than happy to engage with Students' Councillors to brainstorm and organize ideas for direct engagement.

## **5.2. Oral Questions**

Topics include: Focus groups; CASA policy changes; WPS collaboration; Governance Investigations Committee; GM hiring; developing relationships with Faculty;

### **6. In Camera Period**

### **7. Motions & Business Orders of the Day**

#### **7.1. 2021-2022 SAMU Annual Report**

***MOTION TO APPROVE THE 2021-2022 SAMU ANNUAL REPORT***

**VPO/CARTUJANO**

Favour: Semotiuk, Vpa, Vpo, Cartujano, Vpsl, Phan, Beka, Siddiqui, Vpsl, Vpe, Ambutong, Depeel, La Torre, Kotelniski, Tesfay

**CARRIED**

#### **7.2. Elected Representatives Code of Conduct policy**

***MOTION TO APPROVE THE ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES CODE OF CONDUCT POLICY  
ON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE BYLAWS AND POLICY COMMITTEE***

**VPO/SIDDQUI**

Favour: Semotiuk, Vpa, Vpo, Cartujano, Vpsl, Phan, Beka, Siddiqui, Vpsl, Vpe, Ambutong, Depeel, La Torre, Kotelniski, Tesfay

**CARRIED**

#### **7.3. Elected Representatives Disciplinary Action policy**

***MOTION TO APPROVE THE ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES DISCIPLINARY ACTION POLICY  
ON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE BYLAWS AND POLICY COMMITTEE***

**VPO/SIDDQUI**

Favour: Semotiuk, Vpa, Vpo, Cartujano, Vpsl, Phan, Beka, Siddiqui, Vpsl, Vpe, Ambutong, Depeel, La Torre, Kotelniski, Tesfay

**CARRIED**

#### **7.4. Governance Investigations Committee Terms of Reference (Committee policy)**

***MOTION TO APPROVE THE GOVERNANCE INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE TERMS OF  
REFERENCE IN THE COMMITTEES POLICY ON THE RECOMMENDATION OF  
THE BYLAWS AND POLICY COMMITTEE***

**VPO/SIDDQUI**

Favour: Semotiuk, Vpa, Vpo, Cartujano, Vpsl, Phan, Beka, Siddiqui, Vpsl, Vpe, Ambutong, Depeel, La Torre, Kotelniski, Tesfay

**CARRIED**

**7.5. Conduct policy**

***MOTION TO RESCIND THE CONDUCT POLICY***

***VPO/TESFAY***

Favour: Semotiuk, Vpa, Vpo, Cartujano, Vpsl, Phan, Beka, Siddiqui, Vpsl, Vpe, Ambutong, Depeel, La Torre, Kotelniski, Tesfay

***CARRIED***

**7.6. 2021-2022 Councillor of the Year Award**

Vpa - congratulations to the 2021-2022 Councillor of the Year: Alem Tesfay.

**8. Consultation**

**9. Evaluation**

**10. Recognition**

**11. Adjournment**

***MOTION TO ADJOURN***

***SEMOTIUK***

***CARRIED***

Next Meeting Date: November 16, 2022

Meeting adjourned at 7:16pm.