



STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION OF MACEWAN UNIVERSITY

**Agenda for the Students' Council Meeting of the
Students' Association of MacEwan University
January 18, 2023 at 6:00pm in Council Chamber**

Voting Members:

Gabriel Ambutong, Councillor
Abby Beka, Councillor
Jakob Cardinal, Councillor
Freja Cartujano, Councillor
Jayden Depeel, Councillor
Myles Dykes, President
Cierra Jacobs, Councillor
Joseph A. La Torre, Councillor
Mary-Excel Okey-Nwaka, Councillor
Nhi Phan, Councillor
Rayyah Sempala, Councillor
Justine Tan, 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
Sonia Yusuf, Councillor
Layal Zidan, Councillor

SAMU Officials and Council Support:

Timothy Jobs, Chair
Alan Honey, Governance Advisor
Grace Tsang, Admin Support

Absent:

Meeting called to order at pm.

<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 JANUARY 18, 2023

2.2 MOTION

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF DECEMBER 21, 2022

3. Presentations

3.1. Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS)

Vpe -

4. For Information

4.1. Reports

4.1.1. President

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. Appointment Advisory Committee

4.1.7. Audit Committee

4.1.8. Leadership and Review Committee

4.1.9. Governance Remuneration Advisory Committee

4.1.10. Budget and Finance Committee

4.1.11. Bylaws and Policy Committee

4.1.12. Executive Committee

4.1.13.

4.1.14.

4.2. Executive Committee Minutes

Minutes of December 14, 2022 and January 4, 2023 provided.

5. Question Period

5.1. Written Questions

Phan - To President: (I love the photo included as always!) **Tuition Increased by 5.5%**

Pres - When consulting with SAMU on tuition and fees, administration is primarily looking at the revenue that the institution generates. The university's primary sources of funding are the AB government, tuition and fees, and ancillary services (bookstore, food services, etc.). In the short-term,

the university will likely not get an increase to the government grant and ancillary services will likely not have growth with consumers' reigning in spending. In response, the university has a couple of options if they want to balance their budget in the midst of inflation; reduce expenses in the operating budget, utilize the current year's predicted surplus to support operations next year, or increase tuition and fees.

The university chose the easiest lever to utilize and not shake the status quo. To cut expenses would mean not moving forward on Teaching Greatness and to allocate from the surplus means those funds can't be used to capital projects like buildings or purchasing land. When SAMU was in consultation with administration, they did not directly point to programs or services that would face financial constraints if tuition was not increased. For this year and next year, services are expected to remain at the same level. The SAMU Executive is hoping to partake in more discussions with administration on the allocation of funds and how they can best be utilized to support students.

Phan - What services the administration claimed to reduce if the tuition increase was not approved? At the moment, will services remain the same/added compared to now that tuition is increased?

Phan - I found that not communicating to students officially about the extra 5.5% increase on top of 7% increase annually is outrageous, what are their motives/reasons for this?

Pres - Unfortunately I can't speak to the motives of the university for their reason to not communicate the tuition increases, though like previously mentioned I think it provides room for opportunity as SAMU if we communicate it in the right way. For more on this, please see my answer to Councillor Tesfay.

Phan - Is SAMU going to increase the membership fees to adjust to inflation?

Pres - The SAMU membership fees are automatically adjusted to CPI meaning that our fees will increase by 6.6% this next fiscal year. This automatic adjustment is built in to our Finance Policy. There has been discussion about putting a cap on the maximum allowable increase, given that these membership fee increases are directly paid by students. Where we struggle with this is balancing it with the needs that we're seeing student face, such as with food insecurity and general affordability. Our budget lines go to directly supporting our membership, and with inflation the expenses of these budget lines have seen exponential increases in some departments.

Phan - To VPA: **UDL Project** (hooray)

- Congrats on the process! What departments or faculties would this project start with? How will the integration process look like (added features on Meskanes, mystudentsportal, separate app, etc)?

Vpa - Thank you for the kind words. At the moment, we are not working with specific departments or faculties. However, MacEwan's newly launched UDL Committee will focus on developing networks and projects with instructors and working with the Center for Teaching and Learning to develop UDL in the classroom.

UDL is an important component to aiding students to have a successful experience at MacEwan. There are multiple methods to integrate UDL into the classroom, but some of the most prominent are about increasing the ways you engage with course material. This can take the form of different assignment options via presentation, audio recording, or written statement. Flexible working spaces are another UDL concept we'd like to see more of, especially with the uptake in hybrid courses and the increasing ease at recording and delivering video lectures online. I'm hoping that this symposium can continue to generate motion in the faculty and perpetuate it further.

Tesfay - This question is directed to the President. In the final part of your report, you mentioned that there is an opportunity for SAMU to be the one to communicate to students about the increase in tuition. Although I see the benefit of getting the message to students, I also see the potential risk of

students associating the tuition increase with SAMU. Is there an option to advocate for Macewan to notify students instead of having SAMU be the only entity to inform the students of the tuition increases?

Pres - Thank you for your question! This risk in communicating the decision to students is one that we have taken into account, and I feel as though we can mitigate it by clear and concise communication. Recently, the Student Affordability Response Group was created to assess how we can respond and address the compounding issues of affordability on behalf of students. This group, composed of executives and staff support, decided that the first action must be communicating the decision of increased tuition towards students so that they would have the most accurate information when helping inform our group of how we should respond via the survey we are in the middle of producing. One of the reasons I find it necessary to inform students is to challenge the narrative that some students possess; that tuition increases, while bothersome, are necessary because of the cuts our university has faced in past year's. I want to be clear--MacEwan's financial position as a university is one of the best in the province given our nimbleness and low deferred maintenance.

We as SAMU would still have the option to advocate to the university for them to be the ones to communicate the decision. This feedback is something I will provide for EC and SARG as we have discussions regarding communications.

5.2. Oral Questions

Topics include:

6. In Camera Period

6.1

7. Motions & Business Orders of the Day

7.1.

8. Consultation

8.1

9. Evaluation

9.1

10. Recognition

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11. Adjournment

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Next Meeting Date: February 15, 2023

Meeting adjourned at



STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION OF MACEWAN UNIVERSITY

Minutes for the Students' Council Meeting of the
Students' Association of MacEwan University
December 21, 2022 at 6:00pm via Zoom

Voting Members:

Gabriel Ambutong, Councillor
Abby Beka, Councillor
Jakob Cardinal, Councillor
Freja Cartujano, Councillor
Myles Dykes, President
Cierra Jacobs, Councillor
Joseph A. La Torre, Councillor
Mary-Excel Okey-Nwaka, Councillor
Nhi Phan, Councillor
Rayyah Sempala, Councillor
Justine Tan, Councillor
Alem Tesfay, Councillor
Stephan Vasquez, Vice President Academic

**Larissa Williams, Vice President Operations
and Finance**
Matt Yanish, Vice President External
Sonia Yusuf, Councillor
Layal Zidan, Councillor

SAMU Officials and Council Support:
Timothy Jobs, Chair
Alan Honey, Governance Advisor
Grace Tsang, Admin Support

Absent:

Jayden Depeel, Councillor
Elaine Tran, Vice President Student Life

Meeting called to order at 6:00pm.

<Intros>

1. Treaty 6 Land Recognition

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2. Approvals

2.1 MOTION **TO APPROVE THE AGENDA FOR DECEMBER 21, 2022**

PRES/OKEY-NWAKA

CARRIED

2.2 MOTION **TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 16, 2022**

SEMPALA/ZIDAN

Vpo – note missing second for 7.3 & 7.9

CARRIED

3. Presentations

3.1. Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA)

**Okey-Nwaka leaves at 6:35pm.*

4. For Information

4.1. Report

4.1.1. President

As presented.

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

4.1.6. Appointment Advisory Committee Workplan

4.1.7. Audit Committee Workplan

4.1.8. Leadership and Review Committee Workplan

4.1.9. Governance Remuneration Advisory Committee Workplan

4.1.10. Budget and Finance Committee Workplan

4.1.11. Bylaws and Policy Committee Workplan

4.1.12. Executive Committee Workplan

4.1.13. Councillor La Torre

As presented.

4.1.14.

4.2. Executive Committee Minutes

Minutes of November 2, 8, 9, 17, 21, 30, and December 6, 2022 provided.

5. Question Period

5.1. Written Questions

Phan – Vpsl/Vpo: Was our budget for Holiday market increase or decrease from last year? Do we get feedback from any of the vendors regards the outcome of their sales? Is holiday market something that we will continue having next year?

Vpo - In comparison to last year, It was similar in budget and ended up being similar in costs. We had a similar percentage of SAMU buck usage in comparison to last year as well. Last year the market was only 3 days long and this year we extended it to 4 days. Both seem to see similar results. In regards to the vendor feedback, this year we conducted an optional post-holiday market survey to the vendors. The survey itself didn't ask about the vendor sales outcomes but more so asked about the process of becoming a vendor. I haven't seen the results of it yet, but we are going to be passing along the information to our programs department as the holiday market is something that has been deemed a success the past two years and therefore will be moving into operations next year.

Phan - Vpsl: healthy campus alberta: can you summarize what are the work being done on campus across the province to support students' mental health? Are they new initiatives or ongoing work of previous projects?

Phan - Vpsl: Vpsa/Vpsl checkin, community of Support: through your meetings with the VPSA and VPSL from MRU and UofL, how do our programs compare to theirs in term of quantity, quality and performance?

5.2. Oral Questions

Topics include: CASA; Indigenous Services Canada; non-undergrad MacEwan students; Holiday Market;

**Okey-Nwaka returns at 6:43pm.*

6. In Camera Period

7. Motions & Business Orders of the Day

7.1. Role & Responsibilities of the Chair of Students' Council policy

MOTION TO APPROVE THE ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CHAIR OF STUDENTS' COUNCIL POLICY ON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE BYLAWS & POLICY COMMITTEE

VPO/TAN

Favour: Ambutong, Beka, Cartujano, Pres, Jacobs, La Torre, Okey-Nwaka, Phan, Sempala, Tan, Tesfay, Vpa, Vpo, Vpe, Yusuf, Zidan

CARRIED

8. Consultation

8.1 Membership Status of Secondary Students

9. Evaluation

10. Recognition

11. Adjournment

MOTION TO ADJOURN

CARTUJANO

CARRIED

Next Meeting Date: January 18, 2023

Meeting adjourned at 7:29pm

Students' Council Report

President

January 18, 2022

Dear Council,

Happy New Year! As most of the reporting period falls within the holiday break, you'll see that this report is shorter than the average one. Please see below for my report between December 15, 2022 and January 12, 2023.

Executive Summary

- Winter Semester Start: the first week back saw Executive Committee out and about engaging with students and informing them of SAMU and associated opportunities.

Student Experience & Engagement

The overall student experience is enhanced by the opportunities provided by SAMU

Winter New Student Orientation

Student Experience and Engagement 1.2

With the start of the new semester, one of my favourite parts of this role is welcoming new students to MacEwan University and letting them know how SAMU can support them throughout their time on our campus. After the NSO speeches were completed,

President's Report to Students' Council

Submitted on January 12, 2023

Page 1 of 4

students had the opportunity to go around to the various tables of resources and services around campus. Of course, the SAMU Team was present in full force, highlighting everything from our events and services to getting involved and the griff.



Meet SAMU Week Tabling

Student Experience and Engagement, Strategy 1.2

Continuing our momentum from the New Student Orientation, SAMU took over the second floor of our building to promote our programs, services and opportunities to non-first-year students who might not have had the opportunity to connect with SAMU quite yet.

Student Voice

The Student Voice is amplified by SAMU.

Follow-up Questions from Tuition & Fees Report

Student Voice, Strategy N/A



Over the holiday break, I received some follow-up questions from Councillor La Torre regarding the tuition and fees consultation report and I asked to share them as I felt that they were insightful and would add additional perspective to Students' Council.

In your Board Meeting where you and the Bog rep were against tuition increasing, what do you mean by "from the position of process and the moral implication?"

There were two primary arguments that the Board Representative and myself brought to the Board discussion when opposing the motion to increase tuition by 5.5%. The Board Representative spoke to a financial process that has led to the university having over \$100 million in budget surpluses in the past decade. When preparing the university budget, administration has often been conservative in estimating their expenses and revenue, leading to greater or equal revenue and lesser expenses. Of this \$100 million accumulated surplus, approximately \$50 million was from the sale of property (past MacEwan campuses) and was earmarked for investment into capital expenses. From a financial processes perspective, this means that approximately \$50 million was budgeted into the university was not spent while the university is continually looking to increase revenue. The moral argument stems from the responsibility that I would argue our university has towards our student community. With record inflation and soaring prices, students are feeling the pressure on their budgets. What this has tangibly meant is students skipping meals, deciding that post-secondary is no longer for them, or deciding to feed themselves or their dogs. The rationale for increasing tuition isn't apparent while the needs of students are.

Do students get notified whenever their tuition increases? Such as an email?

The university doesn't notify students of any tuition or fee increases. While this could be seen as problematic, there is an opportunity for SAMU to be the one to communicate to students that there is a tuition increase. The benefit in this is that we can set the tone of the messaging, and what's included ultimately.

Besides tuition being increased by 5.5% due to inflation, were there other reasons MacEwan gave as their rationale to increase tuition?

Inflation was the primary reason for the increase, with administration claiming they would need to cut services if the tuition increase was not approved.

Closing Remarks

As we've begun the winter semester, I want to wish you all the best on the new start of the year! For the past week and a half, campus has been buzzing with activity and it's



**STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION
OF MACEWAN UNIVERSITY**

been great seeing your faces around. As I'm headed into the last third of my term, I'm looking forward to seeing how we can continue to make an impact on behalf of students. If you're looking to get more involved (and maybe even run for Executive Committee 😊), please don't hesitate to reach out!

Regards,

Myles Dykes (he/him),
SAMU President 2022-2023
sapresident@macewan.ca



Students' Council Report

VP Academic

January 12th, 2023

Good Evening Councilors,

I hope that you all are doing well as we situate our new council into a new term & year!

Please see my report below.

Executive Summary

- Indigenous Learners Circle
- Universal Design for Learning Symposium

Student Experience & Engagement

The overall student experience is enhanced by the opportunities provided by SAMU

Indigenous Learners Circle Project

Strat Bullet Point (1.4 & 3.4)

I'm happy to say that our originally selected Elder, Cynthia Jim, will be leading the ceremonies for the ILC project. The digital ads, posters, and handbills have been printed and distributed for the selected audience. I'm happy to see that we already have students applying to participate. I'm looking forward to pulling the trigger on this project next week on the 20th!

Student Supports

Student supports provided by SAMU are responsive to unique and evolving needs

UDL Symposium Project

Strat Bullet Point (ex. 3.1)

I held a meeting with both Alissa Overend and Lucille Mazo regarding their presentations for the Symposium in two weeks. They are both very enthusiastic to work with me on this and I can't wait to facilitate this project in a few weeks!

Furthermore, I had a discussion with Melissa Hills about the future of UDL at MacEwan, her role in promoting it on campus, and her research experience. I'm currently liaising with stakeholders to find how similar projects have taken root across Canada in other institutions, if they used UDL databanks, and if we are able to borrow or replicate them for our community. My goal is to continue promoting UDL uptake at our community this year by establishing a peer-to-peer instructor network, increasing institutional supports for instructors involved with UDL, and crafting digital infrastructure to facilitate future growth of this movement!

Closing Remarks

While it's been a short few weeks, we're hitting the ground running. Having two term projects coming up in the next few weeks is daunting, but I'm glad to have the support of my team at SAMU and our partners on campus.

I hope that your new year and new term is going well so far as well!

Sincerely,

Stephan Vasquez

Students' Council Report

VP External

January 18th, 2022

Hello Council! Here is my report since the December meeting of Students' Council. My apologies for the late submission of this report.

Executive Summary

1. Tabling for GOTV
2. T-Shirt Winners
3. Review of CAUS ED
4. CAUS VC Position
5. CAUS Pre-Budget Submission



Student Experience & Engagement

The overall student experience is enhanced by the opportunities provided by SAMU

N/A

Student Voice

The Student Voice is amplified by SAMU.

Tabling for GOTV

Now that we have the landing site for our GOTV pledges, (<https://www.caus.net/pledge>, please do so if you have not already) we have been able to start soliciting pledges for the provincial election in May! As a reminder, we collect these pledges because it makes our advocacy to the provincial government (or election-hopefuls like the NDP) much easier as the more students we get to vote, the more engaged we are as a stakeholder. Further to this, young people are typically students, and young people struggle to turn out in numbers as high as older crowds come election time. So, our GOTV efforts are important for advocacy work as a whole, and often we are helping people vote who have never voted before! So far, out of the 5 members schools of CAUS, we have the most pledges!

Keep in mind, we are non-partisan, meaning that we do NOT under any circumstances tell students who to vote for. Rather, we inform students about what issues we have raised and how such issues, say food insecurity for example, could be solved, and what parties (if any) have it in their platforms. We don't care who you vote for, we just care that you vote.

As far as the pledge itself, all it really does is gets enough of your info that come election time in May (after my term is over, and after the academic year has concluded), students who signed up will get gentle reminders via text on where and when to vote,



how to vote, and tips on any important documents or information you might need in order to cast a ballot.

CAUS VC Position

My colleague and counterpart Tera Cardinal, the VPE for Mount Royal, recently got a very lucrative job opportunity in New York (congrats to her). What this means for CAUS, is that as she held the Vice-Chair position, she had to step down. I am pleased to say that I was elected today by the board to serve as Vice-Chair for the remainder of the term, and I am excited to reprise my role ahead of the budget release and our advocacy week! If you have any questions about what this role entails, please reach out to me or ask a question at SC, but as I was appointed only an hour before writing this report, I do not have much to say.

CAUS Pre-Budget Submission

CAUS has been hard at work to come to a consensus around our pre-budget submission to the Government of Alberta for the upcoming budget at the end of February. Here are some old examples: <https://www.caus.net/budgetsubmissions> In short, such a submission is to try to have some of our priorities reflected when the provincial government goes to announce where and when they plan on spending money in 2023. We are hoping to see some movement on a one-time relief for students, given the provincial surplus, as well as see movement on supports for our other priorities listed here: <https://www.caus.net/priorities>



Student Supports

Student supports provided by SAMU are responsive to unique and evolving needs

N/A

Strengthening SAMU Operations

SAMU is an innovative and sustainable organization with an engaging work environment

N/A



Other:

T-Shirt Winners

As many of you read in previous editions of my report, I am happy to be working on soliciting a design for t-shirts to be given away to promote our GOTV efforts! We got so many awesome submissions, and I am pleased to say we found a winner! Look out for some very cool shirts to be won in the coming months. I am really happy that this is almost coming to a close now, as there are so few avenues for artists to flex their skills outside of the classroom, I am pleased that SAMU could provide a small avenue with this contest. If you want to see the winning design, come by my office, or come try to win one of the shirts in late February/March!

Review of CAUS ED

One of my tasks this year, is to review the ED of CAUS, alongside the Chair. With my role now as Vice-Chair, this process is much more straightforward as it is formally our obligation as Chair and Vice-Chair to ensure that this gets done, in a helpful but legally compliant manner. I include this in my report simply because of the amount of my work that this has taken up in the handful of days we have been back since the break.

Closing Remarks

As you can see, this is probably my shortest report ever, considering with the holiday break, and some personal time I took off, I am really only reporting on about 4.5 days worth of work, rather than about 20. All the same, I welcome and encourage any questions either at SC this month, or via email/telegram/in person!

I personally really enjoyed getting to recharge over the holiday break. I got to make some of my favorite foods, and share them with some of my favorite people (including making vegetarian French onion soup – much harder to do than one thinks). I hope others also had a restful time, and that you folks feel ready to take on this second semester! I am really excited for what LRC has in store for SC, and I continue to be impressed with the phenomenal levels of buy-in you all are showing towards SC activities. Special shoutout to Joseph for posing so nicely for our album cover of a Christmas photo at the impromptu SC holiday party!

Big ups to the dodgeball crew for being so good, that we made it into the stock photo image for this year! If you are reading this and you are NOT signed up for dodgeball, but now realize that you should, please message me and I can get you on the team (or at least as a sub).





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Lastly, if you have multiple google accounts/emails to monitor (say, a school one and a personal one) make a separate chrome profile for each to make your life significantly easier!

All the best,

Matthew Yanish

2022-2023 VP External



Students' Council Report

Vice President Operations & Finance

January 18th, 2023

Good day Council! I hope you all had a relaxing break, and the start of the term has been treating you well. Like the other Executive reports, mine will be quite short because of the holiday break. Without further ado, please see below for my report detailing the events that occurred from December 15th to January 11th.

Executive Summary

- Governance Review Implementation Update
- EC Elections – Pizza and Portfolios Event
- Food For Thought
- GRAC Meeting
- BPC Meeting

Student Experience & Engagement

The overall student experience is enhanced by the opportunities provided by SAMU

Student Voice

The Student Voice is amplified by SAMU.



EC Elections – Pizza and Portfolios Event

The Student Voice is amplified by SAMU.

Throughout the EC Elections there will be several events happening to both promote it, the first beginning before the nominations period ends. The first event happening is called Pizza and Portfolios and it is on February 8th from 1-4pm. This event is for students who are curious about running or wanting to learn more about the positions to come down and chat with us about our executive portfolios. If you are interested in running for an executive position or wanting to learn more about our day to day and portfolios I encourage you to come out!

Food For Thought

The Student Voice is amplified by SAMU.

Our Food for Thought Town Hall is quickly approaching, I have been working on gathering the materials for each of the five topics of the event and ensuring that all the tasks associated with the event are going to be ready to go. Reminder: the event is on February 1st from 1-3pm!

Student Supports

Student supports provided by SAMU are responsive to unique and evolving needs

Strengthening SAMU Operations

SAMU is an innovative and sustainable organization with an engaging work environment

Governance Review Implementation Update

4.2 Document main policies and processes to support business continuity and transitions in leadership and staff.

VP Operations & Finance Report to Students' Council

January 12, 2022

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After many different drafts and lots of debates, we have a final draft of the Bylaws including their proposed changes, this draft went through Legal review and changes were adopted based on the legal opinion. The draft has been initially circulated for feedback. As a reminder for the process, the proposed draft has run through EC, BPC and will be circulated to Council for feedback prior to the Town Hall where it will be up for official consultation.

Governance Remuneration Advisory Committee (GRAC) Meeting

4.5 Foster a professional and supportive work environment that lives the organizational values and delivers a culture of excellence

GRAC met to begin discussions on Executive remuneration, between now and the SC Meeting GRAC will have one more meeting to finalize Executive remuneration.

Conversations held were surrounding whether to increase by CPI or not, along with all of the additional benefits of Executive compensation.

Bylaws and Policy Committee (BPC) Meeting

4.1 Review SAMU governance structures and make improvements to reduce duplication of efforts and delays in decision-making processes.

BPC met and had a whole discussion on the bylaws. It was quite fruitful and an engaging conversation.

Closing Remarks

I hope the start of your term has been going well and you feel rejuvenated for all of the activities we have planned for the winter semester! If you have any questions, or comments, about my report, or my portfolio, please do not hesitate to reach out to me directly!



**STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION
OF MACEWAN UNIVERSITY**

Cheers,

Larissa Williams, (she/her)
VP Operations and Finance, SAMU 2022/2023
savpoperations@macewan.ca



Students' Council Report

VP Student Life

January 18, 2023

Hello, hi, howdy! Welcome to another semester and a new year! I hope the break was gracious and kind to you, and that you had the much-needed time to relax and take care. As January is in full swing, the buzz of campus life can be overwhelming; please reach out to me if you need to chat, a meme, or overall support. Below is an account of my activities from January 4th to 12th, 2023.

Executive Summary

- VP Student Life (VPSL) Portfolio Meeting
- EDI Data Committee x pipikwanpehtakwan Team Meeting
- Mental Health Week (MHW) Meeting
Office of Human Rights, Diversity, and Equity (OHRDE) x SAMU Black History Month (BHM) Meeting

Student Voice

The Student Voice is amplified by SAMU.

VP Student Life (VPSL) Portfolio Meeting

2.2 Enhance awareness and interest in SAMU's democratic processes through education and encouraging student participation

I was contacted by an individual interested in running in the Executive Committee (EC) elections, and specifically for the role of VP Student Life (VPSL). I explained a day in my life/role, the election process, and my responsibilities, among other subjects. I always appreciate chatting with students, especially about student engagement and



governance, so please connect with me if you are interested in running in the EC elections, and more specifically, for the role of VPSL!

EDI Data Committee x pipikwanpehtakwan Team Meeting

2.4 Foster positive relationships with MacEwan University to better serve students

Last semester, I was approached to be the representative from SAMU on the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Data Collection Committee. pipikwanpehtakwan, an Indigenous consulting firm, has been hired by MacEwan to assist with the data collection process. Our respective teams met to learn more about the engagement and outreach strategy pipikwanpehtakwan has created in order to educate students about the project and promote the project to the greater MacEwan community.

Student Supports

Student supports provided by SAMU are responsive to unique and evolving needs

Mental Health Week (MHW) Meeting

3.3. Strengthen collaborations and partnerships with MacEwan University to expand supports and resources for students

From January 23-27, 2023, Mental Health Week (MHW) is a time for the MacEwan University community to come together to learn about mental health and create a supportive campus. In our last meeting, the MHW organizing team met to confirm the details of events and initiatives throughout the week. The full schedule and registration for events can be found [here](#). P.S. A Students' Councillor is speaking at a panel on self-care during MHW, so check out the entire schedule and come support! 🙌

Office of Human Rights, Diversity, and Equity (OHRDE) x SAMU Black History Month (BHM) Meeting

3.3. Strengthen collaborations and partnerships with MacEwan University to expand supports and resources for students



**STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION
OF MACEWAN UNIVERSITY**

Black History Month (BHM) is less than a month away, and the Office of Human Rights, Diversity, and Equity (OHRDE) has diverse events and initiatives planned for celebration, conversation, and learning. I connected with Rondah from OHRDE to discuss ideas and partnership for BHM. If you are interested in all that is planned for BHM, check out the calendar of events and initiatives [here](#).

Closing Remarks

The student experience is informed by the student voice, and I always welcome yours! Please do not hesitate to contact me via email at savpstudentlife@macewan.ca or schedule an appointment.

Cheers,

Elaine Tran
VP Student Life, SAMU 2022/2023
savpstudentlife@macewan.ca



Students' Council Report

Audit Committee

January 18th, 2023

Audit Committee Members:

Freja Cartujano (Chair, Councillor)

Cierra Jacobs (Councillor)

Layal Zidan (Councillor)

Guryodh Brar (Student-At-Large)

Brian Gulbraa (Student-At-Large)

Committee Resource Officials:

Cameron Whiting (Senior Finance Manager)

Dear Council,

Happy new year! This is the report from the Audit Committee for the reporting period: November to January.

On November 28, 2022, we had our first audit meeting with the newly elected councillors, student-at-large members, and resource officials. At this meeting, we elected the Chair and determined tentative dates for the upcoming quarterly meetings.

In December, councillors and student-at-large members settled on a day for audit training, January 6, 2023.

On January 6, we had our training session with the Senior Finance Manager. Discussions included TOR review; SAMU's fiscal year; variances explanation; revenue streams and expenses; internal controls; and audit processes and issues.

Closing Remarks

I enjoyed the training session and had firm conversations about internal controls. I want to thank the audit voting members for choosing me as chair; I will conduct quarterly meetings as smoothly and productively as possible. Feel free to contact me with questions about the audit committee!

Best wishes,

Freja Cartujano



Students' Council Report

Quarterly Report: Leadership and Review Committee (LRC)

January 17, 2023

Committee Members:

<u>October 1st to October 30th</u>	<u>November 1st to December 30th</u>
Elaine Tran, VP Student Life	Elaine Tran, VP Student Life
Alem Tesfay, Councillor	Gabriel Ambutong, Councillor
Nhi Phan, Councillor	Jakob Cardinal, Councillor
Vacant, Student-at-Large	Joehn Torres, Student-at-Large
Vacant, Student-at-Large	Mariam Ehsan, Student-at-Large

Council,

Here is my report from the Leadership and Review Committee (LRC) for the reporting period of October 1st to December 30th, 2022 (Quarter 2).

LRC met once during this quarter following a change in membership in which a workplan was created for the 2022-2023 year.

If you have any comments or questions, please feel free to reach out to me!

Cheers,

Elaine Tran
VP Student Life, 2022-2023
savpstudentlife@macewan.ca



Students' Council Report

Quarterly Report: Governance Remuneration Advisory Committee January 18th, 2023

Committee Members:

<u>October 1st to October 31st 2022</u>	<u>November 1st to December 31st 2022</u>
Larissa Williams, VP Operations & Finance	Larissa Williams, VP Operations & Finance
Asif Siddiqui, Councillor	Sonia Yusef, Councillor
Allan Wesley, Public Member	Allan Wesley, Public Member
Vacant, Student-at-Large	Vacant, Student-at-Large
Vacant, Student-at-Large	Vacant, Student-at-Large

Greetings Council,

This is the report from the Governance Remuneration Advisory Committee (GRAC) for the reporting period of October 1st 2022 to December 31st 2022 (Quarter 2.)

The Committee met to determine its workplan for the upcoming year.

It is exciting to note that during this quarter GRAC was able to solicit 2 Student-at-Large members and therefore has a full committee moving forward!

Cheers,

Larissa Williams, (she/her)
VP Operations and Finance, SAMU 2022/2023
savpoperations@macewan.ca



Students' Council Report

Quarterly Report: Budget and Finance Committee "BFC"

January 18th, 2023

Committee Members:

<u>October 1st to October 31st 2022</u>	<u>November 1st to December 31st 2022</u>
Larissa Williams, VP Operations & Finance	Larissa Williams, VP Operations & Finance
Elaine Tran, VP Student Life	Elaine Tran, VP Student Life
Myles Dykes, President	Myles Dykes, President
Nhi Phan, Councillor	Jayden Depeel, Councillor
Apurwa Sharma, Student-at-Large	Brian Gulbraa, Student-at-Large
Ben Shifrin, Student-at-Large	Nhi Phan, Councillor
Asif Siddiqui, Councillor	Bao Quoc Dang, Student-at-Large

Greetings Council,

This is the report from the Budget & Finance Committee for the reporting period of October 1st 2022 to December 31st 2022 (Quarter 2.)

The Committee met to create the workplan for the upcoming year.

If you have any questions about this report please feel free to reach out.

Cheers,

Larissa Williams, (she/her)
VP Operations and Finance, SAMU 2022/2023
savpopoperations@macewan.ca



Students' Council Report

Quarterly Report: Bylaws and Policy Committee "BPC"

January 18th, 2023

Committee Members:

<u>October 1st 2023 – October 31st 2023</u>	<u>November 1st – December 31st 2023</u>
Larissa Williams, VP Operations & Finance	Larissa Williams, VP Operations & Finance
Joseph A. La Torre, Councillor	Kon Kon, Student-At-Large
Lisa Kotelniski, Councillor	Joseph A. La Torre, Councillor
Vacant, Student-At-Large	Mohd Ali Naqvi, Student-At-Large
Vacant, Student-At-Large	Rayyah Sempala, Councillor

Greetings Council,

This is the report from the Bylaws and Policy Committee for the reporting period of October 1st 2022 to December 31st 2022 (Quarter 2.)

BPC met once during this quarter. BPC met to determine the workplan for the upcoming year and met to discuss and recommend the Roles and Responsibilities of the Chair of Students' Council Policy to SC for Approval – which it ultimately was.

If you have any questions please feel free to reach out to me!

Cheers,

Larissa Williams, (she/her)
VP Operations and Finance, SAMU 2022/2023
savpopoperations@macewan.ca

Students' Council Report

Executive Committee

January 2023

Dear Council,

Below is a report highlighting the work of the Executive Committee (EC) between the period between October 1st and December 31st.

Membership

Myles Dykes, President (Chair)
Stephan Vasquez, VP Academic
Matthew Yanish, VP External
Larissa Williams, VP Operations & Finance
Elaine Tran, VP Student Life

Highlights

- Holiday Market: building the momentum from last year's market, small businesses by alumni and students had the opportunity to engage with the MacEwan community in the Lookout.
- Anti-Racism Week: partnering with the Office of Human Rights, Equity, Diversity, programming and events were put on for students with an aim to amplify BIPOC perspective voices in many ways, including art showcases, music, anti-racist research.
- General Manager Hiring: in February 2022, SAMU was without a General Manager and appointed Darryl Kostash as Acting General Manager. After a thorough process of interviews with multiple candidates, Darryl Kostash was appointed as SAMU's General Manager.
- Students' Council Training: to ensure that the members of our governing board have the tools and knowledge to succeed in the year ahead, the



Executive Committee and our support staff provided comprehensive training to recently elected Councillors.

- **CASA Advocacy Week:** the President, VP External, VP Academic, and the Advocacy Coordinator attended CASA's Advocacy Week. Meetings were held with stakeholders across Ottawa, from Members of Parliament and Senators to Colleges and Institutes Canada and the Assembly of First Nations. The week prior, the federal government announced in the fall economic statement that they would pursue the cancellation of Canada Student Loan interest, which was directly influenced through reoccurring meetings with CASA Home Office
- **Tuition and Fees Consultation:** after a 21% increase in tuition over 3 years, our consultation team wanted to ensure that we accurately and thoughtfully advocated on behalf of students. After stating our opposition, the university administration presented the 5.5% tuition increase to the Board where our student members voted against it. We are assessing what possible next steps may be.

Procedures Approval

- *Complaint Process Procedure* on the recommendation of the Governance Review Implementation Team
 - Procedure detailed the complaint process as referenced in the Elected Representatives Code of Conduct Policy
- *EC Performance Procedure* on the recommendation of the Governance Review Implementation Team
 - Procedure creates standards for performance as referenced in the Elected Representatives Code of Conduct Policy
 -

Miscellaneous Approvals

- Approving the Missing Credit Card Receipt Form for Matthew Yanish dated July 21, 2022 in the amount of \$24.58
- Approving the Missing Credit Card Receipt Form for Myles Dykes dated August 12, 2022 in the amount of \$42.00
- Approving the Missing Credit Card Receipt Form for Stephan Vasquez in the amount of \$23.28
- Approving the Missing Credit Card Receipt Form for Stephan Vasquez in the amount of \$24.48
- Approving the Missing Credit Card Receipt Form for Larissa Williams in the amount of \$50.00 dated September 16, 2022
- Approving the Missing Credit Card Receipt Form for Larissa Williams in the amount of \$12.00 dated September 20, 2022



- Approving the Missing Credit Card Receipt Form for Larissa Williams in the amount of \$50.00 dated September 16, 2022
- Approving a presentation to Students' Council from CAUS at the January 2023 SC Meeting
- Approving a presentation to Students' Council from CASA at the December 2022 SC Meeting
- Recommending the Students Groups Policy to Students' Council for approval
 - Recommended changes include changing membership of student groups solely to SAMU members for purpose of insurance; aligns with MacEwan's policy regarding minors on campus. Executive Committee took initiative once informed by staff.
- Appointing Darryl Kostash as General Manager
 - Motion was pending signed contractual agreement.
- Approving the Missing Credit Card Receipt Form for Larissa Williams in the amount of \$164.01 dated October 19, 2022
-

Maintenance & Budget Approvals

- Approving \$38,000 from the Maintenance Fund for the Tek Booths
- Approving \$3,000 from the Maintenance Fund for security for Part-time Office Door
- Approving \$1500 from the Executive Projects budget line for Anti-Racism Week
- Approving \$1500 from the Executive Projects budget line for Holiday Market
- Approving an additional expenditure of \$25,000 to Winterfest budget line
- \$18,000 from the Maintenance Fund for a Noise Reduction and Building Maintenance Project
- Approving an additional expenditure of \$7,400 to Insurance budget line
 - Insurance costs were higher than projected. This was to account for the actual cost.
- Approving \$1000 from the Executive Projects budget line for Holiday Market

NOTE: Maintenance Fund expenditures are approved by Executive Committee per the SAMU Finance Policy updated on June 15, 2022. Prior, Executive Committee made expense approvals acting faithfully on behalf of Students'



Council in the absence of clear policy while ensuring that they were reported accurately to Council.

Student Groups

- Approving the MacEwan Pre-Dental Group
- Approving the MacEwan Punjabi Students Alliance
- Approving the MacEwan Film Club
- Approving the MacEwan Debate Club

Appointments

Student Appointments

- *Leticia Anim Kwarteng* to the Faculty of Health and Community Studies Council
- *Ridhi Thakur* to the Faculty of Arts and Sciences Council
- *Cindy Aung Chen* and *Abbigale Massam* to the Research Ethics Board
- *Saadia Cheema* to the Council on Student Affairs
- *Hayley Dicks* and *Tatiana Schopf* to the Sexual Violence Prevention and Education Committee
- *Alem Tesfay* to the School of Business Council
- *Brian Gulbraa* and *Guryodh Singh Braar* to the Audit Committee
- *Brian Gulbraa* and *Bao Quoc Dang* to the Budget and Finance Committee
- *Kon Kon* and *Mohd Ali Yasa* to the Bylaws and Policy Committee
- *Mariam Ehsan* and *Joehn Torres* to the Leadership and Review Committee
- *Gabriella Amesbury* to the Health and Dental Sub-committee

Community Appointments

- *Allan Wesley* to the Governance Remuneration Advisory Committee

If you have any questions regarding this report, don't hesitate to reach out.

Regards,

Myles Dykes,
SAMU President 2022/23
sapresident@macewan.ca



**Minutes for the Executive Committee Meeting of the
Students' Association of MacEwan University
December 14, 2022 @ 2:00pm**

Voting Members:

Myles Dykes, President
Stephan Vasquez, VP Academic
Matt Yanish, VP External
Larissa Williams, VP Operations & Finance
Elaine Tran, VP Student Life

Resource Officials:

Darryl Kostash, Acting General Manager
Alan Honey, Governance Advisor

Recording Secretary:

Alan Honey, Governance Advisor

1. Call to Order: 2:09pm
2. Approval of Agenda:
**VPA/VPO
CARRIED**
3. Approval of Minutes for: December 6, 2022
**VPA/VPO
CARRIED**

TOPIC		DISCUSSION	ACTION/MOTION
1.	Governance Review	Vpo – GPIT working through the draft bylaws – hope to bring it forward at next EC meeting. Will be bringing a consultation item re. SSMF/secondary members to SC next week. Gm – depending on feedback we should ensure we have an agreement in place identifying exactly what will be provided.	
2.	Winter Activities	Vpo – NSO tabling has been added to our calendars. Expect all of us to be there. Meet SAMU week. EC for a Day – looking for feedback from EC – currently booked for Feb 17 th , wondering if we should do Feb 16 & 17 to provide more opportunity to students? Tea Time – please add your course to your calendar so I can book times. Will book one day a month.	
3.	FLEX	Vpo – please remember to input your flex asap after getting/using it – easier to record right away than try to remember later on.	
4.	Project Updates	Google Drive: Workplan & Priorities Planning folder.	
5.	Outstanding Action Items		
6.	VP Operations and Finance's Report	Holiday market. SSJOC meeting update.	

7.	VP Student Life's Report	Tabled.	
8.	President's Report	Tabled.	
9.	VP Academic's Report	Coke truck event. Holiday market. Advisory Working Group. NIAC meeting. Registrar's office update. Met with Academic Integrity Office.	
10.	VP External's report	Coke truck event. Edmonton's Nighttime Economy Strategy update. Met with KUSA counterpart. Holiday market. OPEC committee update. Alberta PS quarterly meeting. Holiday cards.	
11.	General Manager's Report	Branding update. ConEd update. Holiday closure. Pantry update.	
12.	Recognition		

4. Adjournment

Time: 3:39pm



**Minutes for the Executive Committee Meeting of the
Students' Association of MacEwan University
January 4, 2023 @ 2:00pm**

Voting Members:

Myles Dykes, President
Stephan Vasquez, VP Academic
Matt Yanish, VP External
Larissa Williams, VP Operations & Finance
Elaine Tran, VP Student Life

Resource Officials:

Darryl Kostash, General Manager
Alan Honey, Governance Advisor

Recording Secretary:

1. Call to Order: 2:41 pm
2. Approval of Agenda:
**VPO/VPA
CARRIED**
3. Approval of Minutes for: December 14, 2022
**VPA/VPE
CARRIED**

TOPIC		DISCUSSION	ACTION/MOTION
1.	Winter Huddles	Vpo - Wanted to make sure we still want to have them this semester, please keep calendars updated and VPO and VP SL will work on scheduling them. Pres – Huddles help us prioritize so I'm in favour of continuing with them. VPO – Thoughts on format and frequency? VPE – It seems fine to me, consistent with how I see accountability. VPO – I'll set up the final schedule once we have everyone's classes updated in their calendar.	
2.	Weekly Priorities	Vpo - We're going to continue doing these, and the format is working for everyone.	
3.	Student Affordability Response	Pres - With the tuition negotiation piece wrapped up, we need to think about next steps. I've talked with the Advocacy Coordinator on possible next steps, and EC will need to make a decision on it. I think we need to find out what students want us to do in response and what they're willing to show up to, and we can leverage our comms resources to get there. It would be a good idea to create a team to work on the affordability response made up of EC and staff, and there are opportunities to lean on the VPE and staff for some of that work. What do you see as next steps? VPA – A response is necessary, students need to know we're advocating on their behalf. The response should be shaped by the outcomes we want to achieve, so I would want to gauge outcomes first.	ACTION Pres to schedule first meeting with Student Affordability Response Group

		<p>VPE – I agree that we should establish what we want to accomplish before we act, we don't want to do something for the sake of doing it. Students are being impacted by affordability, that's certain, but students might not show up for direct action if they don't know how that impacts the cost of their education. I would support SAMU doing something but we need to make sure it's relevant to students.</p> <p>VPO – Some students are operating under the assumption that MacEwan was hit extra hard by provincial budget cuts, which might impact their willingness to show up for action with regards to tuition increases and cost of education. They essentially believe MacEwan has no choice but to increase tuition.</p> <p>VPA – what was the rationale for increasing tuition?</p> <p>Pres – there were a few different things like hiring more faculty and tech updates.</p> <p>VPO – the university is looking for more money to get their strat plan enacted, as well as carrying out their hiring plan.</p> <p>Pres – what I'm hearing is that we do need a response, and we need to counter some of the narratives students are hearing. We need to determine the group of people who are going to work on this, as well as possible responses and how to determine which one to choose. Who on EC and staff would be a necessary part of this conversation?</p> <p>VPE – I think this is very relevant to my portfolio, I'm interested.</p> <p>VPA – I'm interested in learning more and helping out on this portfolio as well.</p> <p>VPSL – I can support via communications, but that's going to be further down the line.</p> <p>GM – Carl and Parvin can provide staff support on the project, and we can pull Cam in to provide financial information and support. Alan can also provide historical support and knowledge as well, and we have a few staff who have been around long enough to know the history. We have to be careful to not implicate <i>the griff</i> as they're arms-length and we want to respect journalistic independence.</p> <p>VPA – we can take the lead on communicating to students on why tuition was increased and with the source of that decision, and that can help organically increase student buy-in for a response. We can lean on active students to share that messaging with their networks on campus, to get the issue out and known by other students.</p> <p>GM – we can use the resources SAMU already has to boost this, like our newsletter, booths in the building, and the TVs in our building. We need to ensure that we're communicating clear and correct information to students.</p> <p>Pres – so to bring it together, we have the group for determining the response. What do we view as the timeline for response? Late March is when BoG votes on the budget, so we would need to have our materials together by early March if we're interested in advocating at that table, but we aren't limited to just that.</p> <p>VPA – I think student action needs to happen at least two weeks before the BoG meeting, to give students time to get the information they need in order to take action.</p>	
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		<p>VPSL – we should aim for either before or after reading week, which would be mid-February for us.</p> <p>Pres – we can aim for mid-February, but we can leave the specifics to be determined by the response team. I can schedule a meeting with that group, in order to determine next steps.</p>	
4.	Student Groups	<p>Vpsl - We can separate the motions into individual ones, so folks have a chance to comment on them individually. Let's start with the social club application.</p> <p>VPO – the social club's mandate seems too vague, and it seems difficult to ensure it's MacEwan students who are benefitting from the funding for the group.</p> <p>GM – does the group's mandate fit with our mission and values?</p> <p>VPA – I agree, and it seems the goal of the group is networking, so maybe that's something they can focus on instead of being a social club.</p> <p>VPO – the student groups policy provides a definition for student groups that we can use to navigate this conversation.</p> <p>Pres – we can send the feedback to the group that they can make it more specific, like a specific function or location.</p> <p>VPE – if we can say no and encourage them to make it more focused, I would be in support.</p> <p>VPO – I was concerned about replication with the video games club, but it doesn't look like any of the other gaming groups do similar things.</p> <p>VPSL – the design portfolio show is a grad committee, and the VPO has flagged that their name is inconsistent with the student group policy. The group isn't attached to the design student groups, they intend to fundraise for their graduation.</p> <p>Pres – the motorsports club seems very unique and we're not replicating anything, I'm in support.</p>	<p>MOTION</p> <p>TO APPROVE THE SOUTH INDIAN MACEWAN ASSOCIATION CLUB</p> <p>VPSL/VPA CARRIED</p> <p>MOTION</p> <p>TO APPROVE THE VIDEO GAMES CLUB</p> <p>VPSL/VPE CARRIED</p> <p>MOTION</p> <p>TO APPROVE THE DESIGN PORTFOLIO SHOW</p> <p>VPSL/VPE CARRIED</p> <p>MOTION</p> <p>TO APPROVE THE MOTORSPORTS CLUB</p> <p>VPSL/VPO CARRIED</p>
5.	Project Updates	Google Drive: Workplan & Priorities Planning folder	
6.	Outstanding Action Items		
7.	VP Student Life's Report	Tabling for Meet SAMU	
8.	President's Report	Meeting with Myrna Photo for Time Capsule Winter NSO	
9.	VP Academic's Report	Academic Integrity Violation meetings	
10.	VP External's report	Meeting with Myrna OPEC Meeting at CAUS	
11.	VP Operations and Finance's Report	GPIT meeting Meet SAMU Prep and Tabling Winter NSO Tabling	

12.	General Manager's Report	Director Departure and Hiring	
13.	Recognition	Pres – Recognize everyone for being here today, only four months left until the end of our term as a team.	

4. Adjournment

Time: 4:20pm(?)