



STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION OF MACEWAN UNIVERSITY

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

Voting Members:

Gabriel Ambutong, President
Abby Beka, Councillor
Jakob Cardinal, Vice President External
Freja Cartujano, Councillor
Jayden Depeel, Councillor
Cierra Jacobs, Vice President Student Life
Joseph A. La Torre, Vice President Governance
and Finance
Nhi Phan, Councillor
Nathan Poon, Councillor
Sasha Ryzhova, Councillor
Rayyah Sempala, Councillor
Joehn Torres, Councillor
Chioma Uzor, Councillor

Stephan Vasquez, Vice President Academic
Sonia Yusuf, Councillor
Layal Zidan, Councillor
vacant, Councillor
vacant, Councillor
vacant, Councillor

SAMU Officials and Council Support:

Timothy Jobs, Chair
Darryl Kostash, General Manager
Alan Honey, Governance Advisor

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 OCTOBER 18, 2023

2.2 MOTION

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 20, 2023

3. Presentations

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 Governance & Finance

4.1.5. Vice President Student Life

4.1.6. Audit Committee (AC)

Cartujano -

4.1.7. Executive Committee (EC)

Pres -

4.1.8. Strategy and Engagement Committee (SEC)

Vpsl -

4.1.9. Finance Committee (FC)

Vpgf -

4.1.10. Governance Committee (GC)

Vpgf -

4.1.11. Students' Council Operations Committee (SCOC)

Vpgf -

4.1.12.

4.2. Executive Committee Minutes

Minutes of September 6, 20, 27, and October 4, 2023 provided.

5. Question Period

5.1. Written Questions

Cartujano - For President: Do you have estimated percentages on the engagement from MacEwan students during the Campus Clash (i.e., how many people attended or website clicks to get tickets)?

Pres – I spoke with Carl Knowler, our Director of Marketing & Communications about our engagement during Campus Clash. Here is his response:

“The newsletter article about Campus Clash in the Sept 18th newsletter received 292 clicks. A total of 727 MacEwan section tickets were purchased (MacEwan came in second behind U of A for most amount of tickets sold). MacEwan promoted the event to faculty and staff to attend as well. The Edmonton Elks provided a kick back for every ticket sold, which we donated to The Pantry, which was \$1454. A pre-game party was held at Towers and we estimate about 80 students attended. Free shuttles to the game were provided for those attending the pre-game party.”

Cartujano – For VPA: A student told me they had to pay the deferred exam fee since they had to miss their test due to a medical emergency. The student complained to the exam centre, and they said they couldn't do anything about it. How could this student move forward since it is 1) a medical emergency, 2) it was out of her control, and she could not foresee this incident?

Vpa - As this is more of an operational question, I encourage you to reach out to the Student Advocacy Center here at SAMU if they need help processing the deferred examination request form or access to emergency funding.

In terms of advocacy, affordability is paramount on the minds of students and my agenda. While the possibility of paying a surprise \$75 fee is not ideal, we have focused on saving students money through the Don't go Textbook Broke program (average annual cost of textbooks is about \$900 in Canada), the Textbook Transparency Project (which has saved millions when it was implemented in the U of A), and negotiating reducing barriers to SABs (Scholarships, awards, and bursaries).

Cartujano – For VPA: Do we have an approximate idea of how effective the handbills were for the Academic Integrity tabling? What if there are trifold poster boards since the students should be brought awareness, and an infographic in front of them would help them remember?

Vpa - Well, we did run out of the 200 bookmarks I originally had and burned through another 100-150 ish of the handbills. Due to the sheer volume of students passing through, and previous experience from last year, having a quick blurb, draw prize, and handbill/book marks with a QR code, is the most effective way to get the info to the student. Furthermore, the handbills and bookmarks are intended to be taken with the student so they can look up the resources and links at another time after the initial conversation. We didn't go for the trifold boards because we had a tv take over to display information around the SAMU building on the nuances of the initiative.

Cartujano – For VPA: Do you happen to have any updates on the textbook transparency project?

Vpa - The completion date is still in accordance with the SSJOC ERP completion date of next may. Discussions on expediting this are still ongoing.

Cartujano – For VPE: How does the UDI event strengthen SAMU operations?

Vpe - The ability to be informed on what is going on in our own backyards so to speak is imperative when advocating. We learnt invaluable information regarding student accommodation in the city that will help advocating efforts. More specifically, when advocating at the municipal level regarding zoning, as well, being informed goes of what is happening in your own city goes miles at the provincial and federal levels.

Cartujano – For VPE: Are there any updates on “[reinforcing] SAMU's municipal advocacy?”

Vpe - Yes! I can give an update on Municipal advocacy. Municipally we have been talking with the mayor's office to set up a dinner with student leaders. At which we will be able to discuss priorities and further joint advocacy efforts. I'd like to give a shout out to the members of the Students Council who joined I & the ESA earlier this week at city hall! Sonia, Nhi, Loyal, Nathan and Chioma have been stellar advocates representing SAMU at the municipal level! The zoning bylaw renewal has the potential to affect every student in the city.

Cartujano – For VPSL: Could you speak more on the WPS pilot project module? Do you know if the module is interactive? Is there a tentative date for releasing it?

Vpsl - I did go through the online module and there are parts that are interactive. It has both video and interactive components along with reading portions. There will also be an opportunity to attend an in-person workshop. I completed both online and in person which had time to practice supporting yourself and others with mental health in given scenarios using tools and resources presented. WPS is hoping to have this launch in January, so we can look forward to the official launch in the winter term.

Cartujano – For VPGF: You held a great GovWeek! What were some gaps that could be improved for future GovWeek events?

Vpgf - The one gap that comes to mind is when tabling for campaigning 101 and build your platform. There was not enough time to thoroughly explain the information on the handbills we gave students. The idea was to give those handbills with key points on campaigning and building a platform, and they could scan the QR code on the handbill for further information.

Cartujano – For VPGF: What are some activities planned for the EC for a Day event?

Vpgf – Currently, I have to EC for a Day to be formatted similarly to Councillor Q&A where students will have an opportunity to speak to current and past EC members and ask them questions on their specific portfolio and experiences serving on EC. With how much foot traffic the Student Lounge gets, I plan on having it there because it is easy for students to access while walking through the SAMU building.

Zidan – For VPA, re. FFAC-SAMU Meeting: Increasing affordability with SAB would be such a remarkable initiative and it is gonna be appreciated by the students since many of them shared with me their financial situation specially with the tuition increase. My question is how welcoming was Rose to this initiative and what is her inputs and responses to this suggestion?

Vpa - Rose was very receptive to reducing the barriers to funding. She was not aware, as that is not specifically, her portfolio but after explaining the data we have from the Spring Surveys, affordability response survey, and Tuition and Fees survey she was much more willing to work with us. Building that lateral support, instead of going top-down, is essential to move these projects forward. I have a second meeting set for the near future to discuss more FFAC-related affordability measures, as well as which other senior administration I will discuss this with.

Zidan – For Vpa, re. FFAC-SAMU Meeting: What makes you think that we need to work on FFAC students integration with the rest of campus? Where your concerns come from?

Vpa - survey data and self-reports show that FFAC students underutilize SAMU and MacEwan resources and services. This means less financial, mental health, social, wellbeing, and academic support since they are unaware. FFAC cohorts stick together on breadth requirements which limits further integration. Lastly, if a FFAC student has serious academic or non-academic concerns there is a concern that they may not report it as they don't know they have access to a strong social support network through SAMU, the OSVPER, ADR, ect.
Discussions and FFAC consultations on how to do so are on-going.

Zidan – For VPE, re. Dean of library Reappointment: I greatly admire Samu for participating in this process. Can I please request some clarification regarding the perspective of the students that was incorporated throughout this procedure?

Vpe - Of course, you can request clarification. The process details are confidential and so I cannot go into specifics of what exactly had been done. But I can say that the library is a main hub for students of all faculties, ensuring that the library was a place for all students was top of mind, all the while maintaining the adaptability to meet the needs of future students.

Zidan – For VPE, re. UDI event: I was looking for and expecting a picture as you usually provide! My question is what is the importance of participating in events like this, and how does attending such events influence SAMU's image?"

Vpe - I apologize for no photo; I will be sure to include on next month. The Urban Development Institute (UDI) has played a role in highlighting student specific housing, among other increases in mixed use zoning. Participating in events such as the UDI field trip, give SAMU that firsthand knowledge on what is happening in our own backyard. Being better informed on the development for students helps influence and increase SAMU's image.

Zidan – For VPSL, re. Intergenerational Resilience Screening: Thank for sharing these resources. What other contributions has samu made regarding National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and what resources did/do samu offer to students?

Vpsl – SAMU is involved in advocacy and presence throughout our Executive Committee and working to build the relationship with kihêw waciston through many portfolios, Student Life, Academic and External. We each approach our relationship with our Indigenous Students through different lenses. Our operational side, programs and services, helped to facilitate and volunteer with bead crafting with kihêw waciston during Truth and Reconciliation Day. Furthermore, SAMU offers support through Peer Support and has the connection with kihêw waciston to specifically support students during the day and week of Truth and Reconciliation.

Vpe - At SAMU we are working on furthering our reach into Indigenization on campus. Work is being done to foster an institutional relationship between KW & SAMU. For National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, SAMU further disseminated the resources created by KW.

Zidan – For VPGF, re. operations Committee: I appreciate your commitment in performing your duties in despite your sickness. You have mentioned that a clearer definition of attending Council meetings remotely is needed. Can you elaborate on that and what steps are going to be taken regarding this matter?

Vpgf - Currently, there are no clear expectations when a councillor attends meetings remotely, and remotely in this context means virtually. We've noticed instances where councillors would call into the meeting and that would account for their attendance; however, to meaningfully engage and contribute to the meeting is up for question in those instances. Regarding the next steps, I will be working with the Governance Committee on creating clear expectations on what remote attendance means by creating a policy or procedure or adding remote attendance to the Students' Council Meeting Policy. Ultimately, this is on our radar and to be brought to Council.

Zidan – For VPGF, re. Gov week: Great job on Gov Week! I have a question though regarding how effective campaigning 101, and build your platform events were on candidates who ran for the first time? I am asking this because last year I found campaigning 101, and build your platform events was super helpful for me?

Vpgf - I can only speak to how many students asked further questions about campaigning and building a platform during GovWeek, and some of those students have now been elected, but I do not think just from those events they ran a campaign for Students' Council. However, I think it helped give them some direction on creating a campaign and a platform. This year with GovWeek, I wanted to create a low-effort way for students to be informed about the upcoming Students' Council elections and tabling for three days to inform students while giving out handbills fulfilled just that. Also, to check if the GovWeek campaigning 101 and build your platform events were effective for first-time candidates, I will ask for their feedback.

Zidan – For VPGF, re. Tuition/MNIF Meeting #2: It is unfortunate that MacEwan did not corporate with SAMU and did not provide you with the necessary documentation and information. My question is how beneficial are these meetings, what outcomes should we expect, and how capable SAMU is when it comes to make a change in the tuition increase and achieving what it is best for students?

Vpgf - As part of the Tuition and Fee Regulations and part of the Post-Secondary Learning Act, universities must meaningfully consult with their Student Association annually on Tuition and Mandatory Non-Instructional Fees (MNIFs). To answer your first question, these meetings are beneficial because they are a means for MacEwan to have a meaningful consultation with SAMU on tuition and MNIFs, and for us to state our principles and position because SAMU is the official voice for students, and this is one advocacy avenues for us to voice student issues and concerns. Furthermore, another reason these meetings are beneficial is because we can gather information and ask them directed questions on the allocation of their funds, especially if there is an increase, asking if any of it will be allocated towards student supports or services.

Regarding your second question, since this is a consultation, the only outcomes to expect is that SAMU has been adequately and meaningfully consulted on Tuition and MNIFs, and that we've stated our principles and position in these meetings. After this consultation, the final decision-makers

on any tuition or fee increases go to the Board of Governors, where it is determined if the tuition and/or MNIFs are to increase or not.

Onto your last question, SAMU is not the only students' association that is being affected by tuition increases, and although we advocate as best as we can through the right channels within MacEwan administration, it also concerns provincial advocacy. Creating change requires further provincial advocacy because the university will need to adhere to the government's regulations, and as a result, provincial advocacy is essential in that change. SAMU is part of CAUS, The Council of Alberta University Students, which consists of universities in Alberta where they do good work advocating to the provincial government on student issues and their needs. That's all to say, SAMU is a capable students' association on its own when advocating to MacEwan we do not support any tuition increases; however, to create change, it will require a collaborative team effort with other post-secondary institutions in Alberta to advocate to the provincial government.

5.2. Oral Questions

Topics include:

6. In Camera Period

6.1

7. Motions & Business Orders of the Day

7.1. 2022-2023 SAMU Annual Report

MOTION TO APPROVE THE 2022-2023 SAMU ANNUAL REPORT

VPGF/

Vpgf –

Favour:

Oppose:

7.2. 2022-2023 Councillor of the Year

Vpsl -

7.3.

8. Consultation

8.1

9. Evaluation

9.1

10. Recognition

-

11. Adjournment

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Next Meeting Date: November 15, 2023

Meeting adjourned at pm.



STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION OF MACEWAN UNIVERSITY

**Minutes for the Students' Council Meeting of the
Students' Association of MacEwan University
September 20, 2023 at 6:00pm in Council Chamber**

Voting Members:

Gabriel Ambutong, President
Abby Beka, Councillor
Jakob Cardinal, Vice President External
Freja Cartujano, Councillor
Jayden Depeel, Councillor
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Joseph A. La Torre, Vice President Governance
and Finance
Nhi Phan, Councillor
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Joehn Torres, Councillor
Chioma Uzor, Councillor

Stephan Vasquez, Vice President Academic
Sonia Yusuf, Councillor
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vacant, Councillor
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SAMU Officials and Council Support:

Timothy Jobs, Chair
Darryl Kostash, General Manager
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2. Approvals

2.1 MOTION

TO APPROVE THE AGENDA FOR SEPTEMBER 20, 2023

ZIDAN/VPSL

CARRIED

2.2 MOTION

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF AUGUST 16, 2023

ZIDAN/TORRES

CARRIED

*Sempala arrives @ 6:04pm.

3. Presentations

3.1. 2022-2023 SAMU Audit – MNP (Patrick Moore)

4. For Information

4.1. Reports

4.1.1. President

As presented.

4.1.2. Vice President Academic

As presented.

4.1.3. Vice President External

AFN update.

4.1.4. Vice President Governance & Finance

As presented.

4.1.5. Vice President Student Life

Ending Sexual violence Week of Action update. Oct 24 – bystander intervention workshop.

4.1.6. 2022-2023 Audited Financials

4.2. Executive Committee Minutes

Minutes of August 2, 9, 16, and 30, 2023 provided.

5. Question Period

5.1. Written Questions

Zidan - President: What was the outcomes of attending CAUS Counterparts Conference?

Pres - Keeping it high-level, the most relevant outcome from CAUS Counterparts Conference was determining our policy recommendations. For any Councillor interested in learning about the specifics of each policy recommendation, please reach out and I can send you additional information.

Zidan - From the Advanced Education Student Leaders' Orientation, Could you please give us an idea about the programs and presentations that were discussed in the orientation?

Pres - The topics presented on included the Alberta Transfer System, Minister's Advisory Council on Higher Education and Skills (MACHES), Alberta Tuition Framework, Alberta Student Aid, Gender Based Violence Prevention, and Student Supports Coordination, International Education, Work Integrated Learning, and Mirco-Credentials. I try to keep my response to questions from Council high-level, but I am happy to follow-up with additional information.

Zidan - From MacEwan University Board Retreat: Did any noteworthy topic or update catch your attention during the retreat?

Pres - Notable topics that caught my attention:

1. Alex Usher, President of Higher Education Strategy, mentioned that the biggest challenge for Student Unions/Associations is that the average institutional memory is 24 months.
2. Myrna Bittner (Founder and CEO), Katelyn Petersen (Chief Operations Officer), and Niloofar Nanafi (Project lead) from RunWithIt Synthetics, mentioned that students, on average, pay 25% more rent compared to the overall Canadian renters.

I would be happy to share more of my thoughts and opinions on these topics. If you're interested, please send me an email and we can set up a time to chat.

Zidan – VPE: I was really excited and proud of the initiative of Beaver Hills Gathering. I would love to hear the updates of Beaver Hills Gathering, and if it achieved the goals and visions that was set earlier.

Vpe - I am happy to hear some excitement for the Beaver Hills Gathering. Unfortunately, due to lack of engagement the event has been postponed because of a lack of students & faculty on campus during the summer months.

Zidan - VPSL: It might be early to ask this question, but what strategy and vision do you have in order to achieve SAMU's presence in Ponoka Campus.

Vpsl - The Executive Committee visited last year (November 2022) and there have been previous Executive Committee visits. This year I am hoping to engage the students more to give us specific feedback on gaps that may be seen from both SAMU and MacEwan on the Ponoka Campus. There has been talk of potentially having this visit live in the budget and there has been brainstorming of how we can show up to advocate for these students or be able to offer tailored support. We are currently working toward debriefing the visit with EC and we will have a bigger update once we are able to receive feedback and involve SAMU's operations, etc.

Zidan - VPA: I think spreading OER to both students and instructors is outstanding. From volunteering as panelists on new faculty orientation, I noticed how much the new faculty wants to help the students, my question is what information was delivered to them and what was some of their concerns or questions?

Vpa – Hi there Councillor Zidan. Thank you for the kind words about my work and events on OERs. The information delivered to the new faculty was similar to what was delivered to the students (which included links on OER data, links to resources, and library contacts) with the added benefit of being partially distributed by several partner librarians that have had given a large amount of time and energy to assisting us with promoting OERs. By being directly distributed by librarians we were able to directly connect those new faculty with those individuals who work closely on promoting OERs. When I distributed some of the QR-linked handbills some of the new faculty expressed satisfaction that they were being supplied with resources. Some of their questions included information on MacEwan's UDL committee (which somewhat covers OERs) contact information, and the location of other events.

Zidan - Executives: Amazing, tremendous, and remarkable work on SAMU week and fall fest!! I would love to hear your reflection on these events and what feedback have you received so far?

Vpgf - Meet SAMU was a great opportunity for not only EC to engage with the student body but also for SAMU to promote all the things we can do for students. The overall feedback we've heard is that students received a full showcase of what SAMU can do for them. That's to say, the information we gave was well received, and students know further what SAMU can do for them.

For Fall Fest, it was a huge success with over 3000 students attending the event. Specifically, a lot of students commended SAMU on the artists that performed at Fall Fest because we got Armani White, Emeline, and BBNO\$. Also, Fall Fest was a great opportunity for EC to get some face time with students and engage with them and let them know that Fall Fest is a SAMU event.

Sempala - For the President: On the Meeting with the Minister of Advanced Education -

Can you expand more on what your meeting with the Minister of Advanced Education entailed?

Do you see any benefit and or potential collaboration for MacEwan students through this meeting?

Pres - 1. The session with the Minister included discussion on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence in Alberta Post-Secondary Education. This was in response to the recently released survey which was conducted across the 26 publicly funded Alberta post-secondary institutions. If you are interested in looking at the survey, please reach out. I would be happy to follow-up with some links to relevant information.

2. This meeting certainly benefits MacEwan students. Meeting with government officials ensures that student issues are always on their radar. In terms of future collaboration, the Minister's office mentioned that they intend to hold future gatherings similar to the Student Leaders' Orientation. SAMU was represented at Calgary during the Student Leaders' Orientation. I see no reason why SAMU would not be in attendance at future events held by the Minister's office.

Sempala - On the Retreat: Could you expand more on what was recommended and or discussed on the future of PSI's?

Pres - There was no direct recommendation. The following are some of the topics discussed by Alex Usher (President of Higher Education Strategy):

1. Post-secondary institutions (PSIs) should look at setting a standard for micro-credentials.
2. PSIs would benefit from being more collaborative with each other.
3. The biggest challenge for Student Unions/Associations is that the average institutional memory is 24 months.

Sempala - For the Vice-President Governance and Finance: On Tuition - What recommendations did SAMU make to MacEwan?

Vpgf - In the meeting, SAMU did not make any recommendations - instead we stated our guiding principles, which are:

- SAMU is the official voice for students.
- We will do what's in the best interest of students.
- We do not support paying for buildings that students will not use.
- We do not support any tuition increases.

However, in the next meetings with MacEwan, we will be finalizing our position on Tuition/MNIFs to MacEwan.

Sempala - For the Vice-President Student Life: On Ending Sexual Violence Week Planning (ESVW) - Thank you for championing this great initiative, how does SAMU plan on getting student engagement up for this week so as to ensure it gets to its intended audience which are the students.

Vpsl - I have been working closely with Roxanne Runyon from the Office of Sexual Violence Prevention, Education and Response about how to best market and promote this. As the Student's Council has seen the dates and times of events in my report, word of mouth helps to get students involved. Beyond that, we have already been promoting on our social media for the art gallery submission call and will be promoting the marketing material the Roxanne supplies us with in our newsletter and socials.

Sempala - *To everyone* - In the Audit, a situation involving fraud and a misuse of funds by a student and a President of a student group was identified although the overall audit identified SAMU as an organization in good standing. How will SAMU approach this matter so as to maintain the integrity of student groups and prevent further issues like this from arising? What steps have been taken in response to this?

Vpsl - In response to this event, information was brought to the Audit Committee and Executive Committee during the investigation process. After deliberation and understanding of the happenings,

your Vice-President Governance and Finance and I worked closely with our General Manager, Darryl Kostash, Student Groups Manager, Erika Head, Director of Programs and Services, Megan Viens, and our Governance Advisor, Alan Honey to change the Student Groups Procedure and Student Group Handbook in hopes of mitigating future incidents. Notably, we have made the attendance of Student Groups Orientation mandatory for both the group's Vice President Finance and President.

Ryzhova - To VP Student Life: I commend you for attending the International Students' Orientation; however, were there any efforts made to reach out to and attend other orientations to expand SAMU's outreach?

Vpsl - Thank you for your recognition! This presence at International Students Orientation stems from my specific portfolio's work on a special project focusing on international student support. We also attended the New Student Orientation on September 5th where the team was able introduce ourselves to hundreds of students and speak on our events happening that week. We tabled that day in front of the bookstore where we were able to speak more personally to students who came by. Notably, we also tabled at the New Faculty Orientation on August 30th where we were able to reach new faculty members. There is an opportunity to speak at other orientations like School of Business and Arts and Sciences, however, we have received a lot of buzz and interest at Meet SAMU with the promotion put out, thanks to our marketing team, so our efforts of engagement are progressing and I'm excited to see what other relationship building projects future executives will pursue.

Ryzhova - To VP Student Life: What strategies were discussed/finalized in the Peer Support Training to best support students going through addiction, self-harm, abuse, etc.

Vpsl - The point of Peer Support is to engage in supportive listening. We practiced and discussed ways to validate feelings, ask questions relevant to the main concern of the students' visit, empower them in coping skills, normalize their experience, check in with them throughout the session and as they bring up their perspective on how they are feeling. Essentially, it is a one-time, high-level supportive listening service for students and once we are able to pinpoint where the situation points, we can provide them with ongoing support resources, whether that be to MacEwan's Wellness and Psychological Service, external supports or to SAMU supports like The Pantry or Breakfast club. If you're curious about more details, please come see me as it was an in depth and extensive 4 day training with more information than is necessary for SC as a high level oversight, but I'm willing to expand if necessary.

Ryzhova - To VP Academic: Do you have any data that shows that students were not aware of the services demonstrated to them at the Don't Go Textbook Broke Event, to begin with?

Vpa – For our event, data collection on perceptions of OERs was not covered. However, face value evidence from my all-day tabling showed that the majority of students, especially first and second year students) were not aware of OER services and options provided here on campus and online. In-general, first and second year students need more aid to become aware of services and resources like OERs, so a second tabling event is scheduled for the winter term in February.

Ryzhova - To VP Academic: What has been done to look into the matter discussed previously about addressing excessive Lab Kit prices?

Vpa – I will be scheduling a meeting with some stakeholders in the Faculty of Nursing to learn more about the pricing, supply, and reasoning behind the current lab kit prices in the next few weeks. I'll be sure to report my findings, and any options available to students, at the next meeting.

Phan - President: CAUS Counterparts Conference: out of the 3 central priority areas, which one was dedicated the most time to and which was the least and why?

Pres – Currently, CAUS has dedicated equal time and resources to all 3 key priority areas. At CAUS, it is SAMU's opinion that affordability, mental health, and honouring treaties are all important.

Phan - MacEwan uni board retreat: how prevalent is the risk of weakened cybersecurity issue in PSIs?

Pres – Cybersecurity is an issue at every modern organization. Publicly funded PSIs face a higher risk compared to organizations in the private sector. Companies in the private sector can typically offer more competitive salaries compared to PSIs. Therefore, PSIs typically cannot afford to employ the top talents in the industry.

Phan - How has the new business building changed MacEwan's role in Edmonton's downtown?

Pres - I cannot speak directly to MacEwan's role in downtown Edmonton, but I can provide some on my own thoughts. I don't think that MacEwan's role has changed. I think that MacEwan has always tried to play a role downtown, but I believe that the new business building will increase MacEwan's integration in Edmonton's downtown.

Phan - VPE: Congrats on your role as the chair of the ESA! I love your informative report. How do you feel about the new role and what are you expecting from the experience at ESA?

Vpe - Thank you! I am excited to begin the work advocating for students at the municipal level. I expect to further the student message at the municipal level, through whichever form of advocacy this may entail. We are in the process of finalizing ESA priorities for the year which will lead to more definitive expectations.

Phan - VPSL: What's interesting thing you learned during your visit at Ponoka campus? How is the student life different from the downtown campus life here?

Vpsl - We learned how different the program of Psychiatric Nursing is to say a 4-year Nursing degree. They are situated in a psychiatric hospital so they often get patients wandering over to visit with them during classes and the students learn first-hand, on patients as their clinical placement works with the hospital. Many students commute from Edmonton, Calgary and surrounding areas so their days can be very long. It is a beautiful small town, Ponoka, and the students are very close as in each of the 3 years, there is around 30 students enrolled which comes out to under 100 students total. The dean, Ken Kustiak, is very involved in the students' experience and has been teaching for over 20 years on this campus. I'm excited to continue ongoing communication and be able to show up for these students.

5.2. Oral Questions

Topics include: CAUS policy recommendations re. affordability; Don't Go Textbook Broke initiative; Ponoka visit; MNIFs & tuition increases; potential three year program at MacEwan; Universal Design for Learning; AI in the classroom; Bridge to Canada program; Ponoka Campus; Beaver Hills Gathering; LGBTQ community support; potential for an MBA program at MacEwan;

6. In Camera Period

7. Motions & Business Orders of the Day

7.1. 2022-2023 Councillor of the Year Vote

7.2. 2022-2023 SAMU Audit

MOTION TO ACCEPT THE 2022-2023 AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FROM MNP

VPGF/VPSL

Favour: Uzor, Sempala, Yusuf, Depeel, Ryzhova, Poon, Phan, Vpe, Torres, Cartujano, Beka, Vpa, Zidan, Vpsl, Vpgf

CARRIED

8. Consultation

9. Evaluation

10. Recognition

11. Adjournment

MOTION TO ADJOURN

ZIDAN

CARRIED

Next Meeting Date: October 18, 2023

Meeting adjourned at pm.

Students' Council Report

President

October 18th, 2023

Council,

Please see the report on my work as President from September 15th to October 12th.

Executive Summary

- Campus Clash
- MacEwan University Board Orientation and Event
- MacEwan University Board of Governors Meeting [Oral Supplement]
- Students' Association of MacEwan University (SAMU) and MacEwan University: Presidents and Vice-Presidents (PVP) Meeting [Oral Supplement]

Student Voice

The Student Voice is amplified by SAMU.

Campus Clash

2.3 Continue to build collaborative relationships with other Students' Associations and organizations to enhance the collective student voice with all government levels.

Campus Clash was an event organized by the Edmonton Elks. The event was catered towards MacEwan, U of A, and NAIT students. The University of Alberta Students'

President's Report to Students' Council

Submitted on October 12th, 2023

Page 1 of 2



Union (UASU) President, the VP External from NAIT's Students' Association (NAITSA), and I attended as representatives of our respective SA/SU. Attending the event served to foster our relationship with NAITSA and UASU, which allows us to enhance the collective student voice when advocating. The event also allowed us to raise awareness of SAMU among MacEwan students, which leads to improved engagement with the student body.

MacEwan University Board Orientation and Event

2. 4 Foster Positive relationships with MacEwan University to better serve students.

The orientation was primarily for new Board members, and it served as an introduction to MacEwan's governance system. The day included background on the Board's relationship with General Faculties Council (GFC), post-secondary governance in Alberta, a tour of MacEwan, and a networking dinner with GFC's Executive Committee. By being well-informed on MacEwan's governance system, we gain a better understanding of our advocacy avenues and gaps in our processes, significantly improving our ability to advocate on behalf of students.

Closing Remarks

I appreciate you taking the time to read my report. I try to ensure that I only report on high-level items that are relevant to council. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out. I am always happy to clarify or elaborate either virtually or in-person. Thank you!

Kind regards,

Gabriel Ambutong (He/Him)

SAMU President 2023-2024

sapresident@macewan.ca



Students' Council Report

Vice President Academic

October 18th, 2023

Good day Council,

I hope you all are doing well as we move into the busy and cold season!

Please see below for my report.

Executive Summary

- Academic integrity event
- Don't Go Textbook Broke event
- Student Refugee Program
- GFC
- FFAC Meeting
- Nursing Lab Kits Meeting

Student Voice

The Student Voice is amplified by SAMU.

FFAC-SAMU Meeting

Strat Bullet Point 2.4 & 3.3

Roles Report to Students' Council

[Date Report's Submitted]

Page **1** of **4**



I met with Rose Ginther, the Associate Dean of FFAC (Faculty of Fine Arts and Communications) to initiate the first steps to working with her to increase affordability with SABs (scholarships, awards, and bursaries) for all students, increasing FFAC student integration with the rest of campus, highlighting SAMU opportunities (such as council, committees, and services) for FFAC students, and highlighting student participation in SACs.

I'm aiming to discuss these concerns with her further, develop support from other deans and associate deans, then bring these recommendations to the appropriate stakeholders and committees.

Nursing Lab Kits

Strat Bullet Point 2.4 & 3.3

The nursing lab kits costs are a concern for nursing students affordability, therefore I had a conversation with several stakeholders across the nursing department to better understand the issue. There was an agreed upon cap agreed upon by different nursing instructors over the spring summer term to standardize the cost, a transition from a materials fees cost to the bookstore purchase (thua reducing costs), and a commitment for ongoing reviews with the dean of nursing to review the cost of the most expensive kits for years 2 and 3 in the BScN and psychiatric nursing programs. I'll be following up with the stakeholders to gather more information and ensure that those reviews continue.

Student Supports

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

Student Refugee Program

Strat Bullet Point 3.1 & 3.3



To ensure the success of our student refugees academic career, I've worked with him and the school of Coned to ensure that he has the textbooks he needs in the language he prefers, that he has firewall and antivirus protection for his work computer, and that he has access to the Microsoft suite as all students do. I'll be in touch with them to ensure that his academic journey continues to move forward.

Academic Integrity Tabling Event

Strat Bullet Point 3.1 & 3.3

Academic Integrity violations are an issue that faces dozens of students per year. To ensure that students are aware of the different types of academic maternity violations and what the processes look like I created a tabling event. The tabling event supplied a lot of information from the AIO, including a handbill with links to the different types of cheating and websites with applicable information. There will be a twin event next term to ensure that these issues are still highlighted to the student body.

Don't Go Textbook Broke Tabling Event

Strat Bullet Point 3.1 & 3.3

Ensuring affordability is continued and increased to students, I have made it a part of my agenda to highlight ways students can save money. A few weeks ago I created a table event to highlight the different ways students can have massive savings in their textbook costs. According to some of our surveys text Will costs are one of the highest concerned students have and therefore by tracking this issue we can assist in reducing that concern. We had a lot of participation, to which I am very thankful, and we'll be having a twin event next term.

General Faculties Council



Strat Bullet Point 3.3

Some of the items covered in the president report included updates on the school of business campaign, construction starting next spring, a fundraising campaign, the chancellor series on November 8th, and updates on the different certificates and majors that have come forward over the past year. Furthermore we had a training session for our new GFC members. This orientation session was short but I'm excited to see the next projects and initiatives that will be coming forward from The Faculty next year.

Closing Remarks

Thank you folks for having such a fantastic turnout at this election. If you have any questions feel free to email me.

Enjoy the spooky season while it is here!

Cheers,

Steph



Students' Council Report

Vice-President External

Date of Meeting Oct 18th, 2023.

Hello Council! I hope you are all doing well and that your midterms went smoothly.

Here is a summary of the work of the VPE portfolio up until Oct 12th.

Executive Summary

- **Dean of Library Reappointment**
- **ESA update – Zoning Bylaw Renewal – City Hall (URGENT)**
- **UDI Event**

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.

Dean of Library Reappointment.

This past month I had the opportunity to sit on the Dean of the Library Reappointment Committee. I am happy to announce that the student perspective was welcomed throughout this process, and I was able to contribute in a meaningful way.

MacEwan President, Dr. Annette Trimbee accepted the reappointment committee's recommendation and Dean Keiller has been appointed for a second term as dean, Library. With a term beginning immediately and ending in 2030.

Edmonton Student Alliance (ESA)

The priorities this year for the ESA fall under four categories. Housing, Student Representation and Safety with Public Transportation, Support for Students New to Edmonton and Access to Government.

Below is an opportunity for SC to speak at city hall in their council chambers immediately. Next week Oct 16-18th. If you are interested in speaking. Please reach out.

Housing.

The Zoning Bylaw Renewal (ZBR) is something that the City of Edmonton is highly focused on this year. Zoning essentially decides what can be built & where. **The ESA & its members are in favor of the new zoning bylaw renewal.** Part of the many changes to zoning in the city will include an increase in densification of housing. It is important to know that the ZBR by itself will not create affordable housing. But it is a

Roles Report to Students' Council

[Date Report's Submitted]

Page 2 of 5



necessary first step to increase the speed of development and to further realize the City's goal to make the City of Edmonton a place for all Edmontonians, students included.

A statement from the City's website -- "Edmonton's Zoning Bylaw is going through its first comprehensive overhaul in over 60 years. This is an opportunity to rethink what we regulate in terms of land development and whether we are regulating the right things.

Renewing the bylaw provides an opportunity to align city-building tools to ensure all Edmontonians and property owners have the necessary tools to build and experience the city envisioned in The City Plan."

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfjK1JQOPRWVORUVKsSbRn3yLN5E9vcVLu3nifMO4N1ZfmgFg/viewform>

As mentioned previously, there is an opportunity to speak at City Hall in their Council Chambers during the Public Hearing which will be held from Oct 16-18th. The link to sign up to speak is above. If there are any questions you may have while signing up, please reach out. Those speaking in favor of the ZBR will speak one after another near the beginning of the public hearing.

What will you speak about at city hall? Essentially you will be sharing your own lived experience as a student, specifically about the trials and tribulations faced while attempting to find safe, affordable, proximal, and clean housing here in the city. Each speaker is given a maximum of five minutes to speak. If you are interested in speaking at city hall in their council chambers, please reach out and I can assist with formulating key messaging. One final note is that as students we are not expected to be experts on ZBR, but we are in fact those most equipped to speak about being a student in 2023. The city has been quite encouraging of student participation in this process and is inviting the student perspective as it relates to zoning/housing. I hope to see our SC represented at the Public Hearing. If you know anyone in the broader student community that would also like to speak at City Hall, please have them get in contact with me and together, we can make it happen!!



Student Supports

Student support 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.

UDI event

I had the opportunity to attend UDI's (Urban Development Institute) Back to School Field Trip with the VPA & VPGF on September 28th. We had an afternoon tour of Edmonton's post-secondary educational institutions. With speakers highlighting their facilities and development sites, and highlighting the connections between higher-learning, trades and real estate. Notable speakers for the day's itinerary included Greg Delwing, President and CEO of University of Alberta Properties Trust, Janelle Brenner, Director of Marketing & Communications at Maclab Development, Carolyn Campbell, President and CEO of Norquest College and MacEwan's own president, Dr. Annette Trimbee.

Closing Remarks

Thank you for taking the time to read my report and being an engaged Students Council. I do appreciate and recognize the time spent ensuring the student body is adequately represented.

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



**STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION
OF MACEWAN UNIVERSITY**

Your friend,

Jakob Cardinal.

Students' Council Report

Vice President Governance & Finance

October 18th, 2023

Hello Council!

I cannot believe it is already October (the spooky season), almost 6 months into my term, and the last SC meeting for some of you. It has been a pleasure to work with all of you as VPGF, and I am excited for what new ideas the next SC brings, and more importantly what new opportunities you take on with your experience sitting on council.

Here is my report from September 15th – October 12th.

Executive Summary

- GovWeek
- Tuition/MNIF Meeting #2
- Finance Committee Meeting

Student Experience & Engagement

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

1.2 Increase student awareness of SAMU and its opportunities through strong communications and engaging marketing and branding

Vice President Governance & Finance Report to Students' Council

October 18th, 2023

Page 1 of 4



1.3 Increase student awareness of SAMU and its opportunities through strong communications and engaging marketing and branding

GovWeek

GovWeek was held during the 3rd week of September to promote and encourage students to campaign for Students' Council. Throughout the three-day event, there were tabling events such as, nominations tabling, campaigning 101, and build your platform; and lastly, to end off GovWeek we held Councillor Q&A. There was a total of 557 students who attended the multiple tabling events and Councillor Q&A, and we received 247 entries for the 2 \$500 tuition credits. Ultimately, the event was a success with promoting Students' Council and with elected representatives engaging with the student body. Thank you to all that helped.

Student Voice

The Student Voice is amplified by SAMU.

2.4 Foster positive relationships with MacEwan University to better serve students.

Tuition/MNIF Meeting #2

Before this meeting, we were supposed to be sent MacEwan's proposal; however, we did not receive it. Thus, the President and I attended the second Tuition/MNIFs meeting where we voiced that these consultation meetings ought to be more meaningful, the process ought to be clearer and collaborative moving forward with the remaining meetings, and future Tuition/MNIF meetings. Furthermore, in this meeting, MacEwan did confirm a few things about tuition and MNIFs for the next year: there will be no new MNIFs nor any increases to existing ones, there will be a domestic tuition increase of 2% across all programs, and international student tuition has not been set yet, but



remains to increase up to 10%. The next meeting will be early November, which gives us ample time to prepare beforehand.

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.

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

Finance Committee

The newly named 'Finance Committee' met for the first-time discussing topics for consultation: SAMU Fees & CPI and an Investment Policy. From the consultations, there were no next steps made because further information is needed; however, the consultations were fruitful.

Closing Remarks

Thank you all for reading my report. Many thanks to everyone on SC for a great term and may we still see each other in the halls and say hi, hello, or at the very least give each other that awkward head nod.



**STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION
OF MACEWAN UNIVERSITY**

Nonetheless, please do not hesitate to email me or set up a meeting if you have any further questions or if you would like me to elaborate on anything.

Kind Regards,

Joseph A. La Torre, (He/Him)

VP Governance and Finance, SAMU 2023/2024

savpoperations@macewan.ca

Students' Council Report

Vice President Student Life

10-18-2023

Greetings Council! 😊

Welcome to our last meeting of this SC term. It's been a pleasure working with all of you throughout the past year. ❤️ Please see below my report of office activity from September 15 – October 12. 🍁

Executive Summary

- Ending Sexual Violence Week Planning (ESVW)
- Restorative Justice & Sexual Violence Planning Committee (RJ&SV)
- Intergenerational Resilience Screening
- International Student's Thanksgiving Dinner
- Mental Health & Wellbeing Pilot Project

Student Supports

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

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

Ending Sexual Violence Week Planning (ESVW)

Ending Sexual Violence: Week of Action happened October 2-6. SAMU hosted the "Peace Together: Art of Resilience" art gallery. Overall, it was a busy week, and it seemed many students interacted with programming. Your Executive Committee attended a few events, including but not limited to "Imogen Coe: Keynote Presentation" and "Teachings of Indigenous Matriarch" on the National Day of Action for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) to learn about Indigenous culture

VPSL Report to Students' Council

09-14-2023

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surrounding patriarchy and the effect of the MMIWG epidemic. I'm glad EC could attend and engage with this collaborative project to promote awareness about sexual violence and learn about our responsibilities on campus and in our communities in preventing the cycle. You can check out the Office of Sexual Violence Prevention, Education, and Response [here](#) for resources and info on future events. If you attended any events during ESVM and have any comments, concerns, or questions, please feel free to contact me!

Restorative Justice & Sexual Violence Planning Committee (RJ&SV)

The Restorative Justice Committee met on September 29th to discuss necessary action items for the process. We consulted with MacEwan's legal team and have narrowed down a promising flow chart for the process. We also discussed sexual harm training for involved support parties in facilitating the restorative justice approach to sexual violence.

Intergenerational Resilience Screening

As part of Truth and Reconciliation Week events, your VP External and I attended the screening of "Intergenerational Resilience: Sharing Stories from Families of Residential School Survivors," an event in collaboration with kihêw waciston (MacEwan's Indigenous Centre) and The Gord Downie & Chanie Wenjack Fund. This wonderful film documents the effects of residential schools on the family of kihêw waciston's Director of Indigenous Initiatives, Terri Cardinal, and their path to resilience through higher education. It was an eye-opening film focusing on inspiring resilience through the heavy and traumatic topic of residential school. Watch the film [here](#) to educate yourself on the current cultural impact of residential schools in our indigenous communities. Check out kihêw waciston's [website](#) for more resources and upcoming events.

International Student's Thanksgiving Dinner



Your Executive Committee was invited to attend the annual Thanksgiving Dinner with the International Student's office puts on. We were privileged to attend the event, help with line dancing, and meet many international students. Your President and I spoke about SAMU and ways students can get involved through student groups and upcoming events. This was a great opportunity to maintain our relationship with MacEwan. A big thank you to Counsellor Phan for hosting the evening, taking pictures of us and introducing SAMU. I look forward to collaborating more with the office on my special project and how SAMU can support the international student population.

Mental Health & Wellbeing Pilot Project

Syndey Bennell, Health Promotions Specialist, invited me to participate in a student focus group for MacEwan's pilot project on student mental health and well-being. The Wellness and Psychological Services folks have been working on "Mental Health & Wellbeing: Essentials for Students," an e-learning module rolling out on paskwâwi-mostos mêskanâs once the consultation is through. This has a two-part process, with the online portion through mêskanâs and an in-person learning session. If you are interested in partaking in any upcoming consultation sessions, please reach out, and I can send you info to get registered.

Closing Remarks

The student's voice informs the student experience, and I always welcome yours! Please hesitate to contact me via email at savpstudentlife@macewan.ca

Cheers,

Cierra Jacobs (she/her)

VP Student Life, SAMU 2023/2024



Students' Council Report

Audit Committee
October 11, 2023

Audit Committee Members:

Freja Cartujano (Chair, Councillor)
Nathan Poon (Councillor)
Layal Zidan (Councillor)
Brian Gulbraa (Student-At-Large)
vacant (Student-At-Large)

Committee Resource Officials:
Cameron Whiting (Senior Finance Manager)

Dear Council,

Happy October! This is the report from the Audit Committee for the reporting period: July to September 2023.

For this quarter, the Audit committee only met once on August 9. Important discussions were made regarding legal matters, Q4 budget variances, executive spending, vacation time, and flex reports. As chair, I noticed that executive quarterly reports are not consistent and untimely in submission, and more recently so in the last quarter. To echo, what I said in the previous report: "committee members expect better rationale or reasons from executives while filing their reports to the audit committee." Hence, the lack of reports limits our work as a committee. It is good to be mindful of this!

Closing Remarks

This may or may not be my last report as Audit Chair. Regardless, this committee was meaningful and exciting to me, and hopefully, I have presented that in the best way possible way. A simple farewell in my mother tongue, which is necessary for my last report: *Hanggang sa muli!*

Best wishes,

Freja Cartujano

Executive Committee Work Plan 2023-2024 For Information to Students Council	
Chaired By:	Gabriel Ambutong, President
Members:	Stephan Vasquez, Vice President Academic Jakob Cardinal, Vice President External Joseph A. La Torre, Vice President Governance and Finance Cierra Jacobs, Vice President Student Life
Mandate:	The Executive Committee ensures that Students' Council's policies are implemented, is responsible for overseeing the General Manager, helps develop the strategic direction of SAMU, and acts faithfully on behalf of Students' Council.
Approved by Committee:	July 12, 2023
Received by Council:	July 19, 2023

Theme: Inclusion and Accessibility		
Initiative	International Student Lunch n' Learn	
EC Lead(s)	Vice President Student Life	
Strat Plan Alignment	Student Supports	3.1 Develop and deliver initiatives that are inclusive and responsive to student needs.
Objective	Targeted support for international students on campus.	
Key Details	Working in collaboration with MacEwan International and Wellness and Psychological Services to liaison international student attendance for workshops and information sessions.	

Status	INITIAL STAGES	
Final Summary of Initiative		
Initiative	Beaver Hills Students' Gathering	
EC Lead(s)	Vice President External	
Strat Plan Alignment	Student Experience and Engagement	1.2: Increase student awareness of SAMU and its opportunities through strong communications and engaging marketing materials. 1.3: Increase student engagement by offering relevant and meaningful events, programs, services, volunteer activities and employment opportunities for students.
Objective	Uplift & Empower: our goal is to provide a meaningful space to recognize and celebrate and build up Indigenous success on Treaty 6 and otherwise, local to our area. This will be done both through the topics of discussion, as well as the format of the discussion, and who is leading them and participating in them.	
Key Details	Projected Event Date: August 22nd	
Status	Postponed - TBD	
Final Summary of Initiative	<Note successes, challenges, metrics, etc>	
Initiative	Ponoka Campus Visit	
EC Lead(s)	Vice President Student Life	
Strat Plan Alignment	Student Experience and Engagement	1.2 Increase student awareness of SAMU and its opportunities through strong communications and engaging marketing and branding
Objective	To show Ponoka students that we are here for them. We represent all SAMU members and are there to hear any concerns and show them that they have resources and perks from SAMU. This is an opportunity for EC to learn about the further needs of students at Ponoka and present what we know they can use right now. We will familiarize ourselves with the students and campus as is necessary to represent them in our roles.	
Key Details	Projected Event Date: September 13 th , 2023	
Status	DONE	

Final Summary of Initiative	<Note successes, challenges, metrics, etc>

Theme: Financial and Wellness Supports		
Initiative	Open Educational Resources Workshops (Don't Go Textbook Broke)	
EC Lead(s)	Vice President Academic	
Strat Plan Alignment	Student Supports	3.1 Develop and deliver initiatives that are inclusive and are responsive to all student needs.
Objective	Decrease textbook costs by increasing awareness of OERS	
Key Details	Projected Event Date: September 14 th , 2023, and January 11 th , 2024.	
Status	IN PROGRESS	
Final Summary of Initiative		
Initiative	Textbook Transparency Project	
EC Lead(s)	Vice President Academic	
Strat Plan Alignment	Student Supports	3.3 Strengthen collaborations and partnerships with MacEwan University to expand supports and resources for students 2.4 Foster positive relationships with MacEwan University to better serve students.
Objective	Lower textbook costs by market pressures. Give students more flexibility.	
Key Details	Under review in ERP7 group. Projected Event Date: N/A Scoping Sept – Nov ERP Campus services – Dec -May	
Status	completed	

Final Summary of Initiative	<Note successes, challenges, metrics, etc>
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Initiative	Period Product Launch	
EC Lead(s)	Vice President Student Life	
Strat Plan Alignment	Student Supports	3.1 Develop and Deliver initiatives that are inclusive and are responsive to all student needs.
Objective	To make students aware that the SAMU bathrooms (women and all gender) have period products available to them forever.	
Key Details	Projected Event Date: September 5 th , 2023 (2-week promotion period)	
Status	Completed	
Final Summary of Initiative	<Note successes, challenges, metrics, etc>	
Initiative	Anti-Plagiarism Workshops	
EC Lead(s)	Vice President Academic	
Strat Plan Alignment	Student Supports	3.1 Develop and Deliver initiatives that are inclusive and are responsive to all student needs.
Objective	Decrease the number of academic integrity violations by providing info on the types of plagiarism and the supports available to students at SAMU and MacEwan.	
Key Details	Projected Event Dates: October 12 th , 2023, and February 7 th , 2024.	
Status	IN PROGRESS	
Final Summary of Initiative	<Note successes, challenges, metrics, etc>	

Theme: Opportunities for Students		
Initiative	AI Literacy Week	
EC Lead(s)	Vice President Academic	
Strat Plan Alignment	Student Supports	3.1 Develop and Deliver initiatives that are inclusive and are responsive to all student needs.
Objective	Teach students the different AI resources available, how to better prompt generative AI, MacEwan AI plagiarism rules, how to cite AI, and privacy/copyright issues faced by using AI.	
Key Details	Projected Event Date: February 12 th , 14 th , and 16 th , 2024.	
Status	IN PROGRESS	
Final Summary of Initiative	<Note successes, challenges, metrics, etc>	

Initiative	Student Leadership Week	
EC Lead(s)	Vice President External	
Strat Plan Alignment	Student Experience & Engagement	1.3 Increase student engagement by offering relevant and meaningful events, programs, services, volunteer activities and employment opportunities for students.
	Student Voice	2.2 Enhance awareness and interest in SAMU's democratic processes through education and encouraging student participation. 2.4 Foster positive relationships with MacEwan University to better serve students.
	Student Supports	3.3 Strengthen collaborations and partnerships with MacEwan University to expand supports and resources for students.
		3.4 Enhance relationships with external organizations to leverage resources and supplement

		new and existing initiatives.
Objective	Dedicate a week to empower and encourage students to become more active and engaged on campus.	
Key Details	Projected Event Dates: October 17 th -19 th .	
Status	Postponed - TBD	
Final Summary of Initiative	<Note successes, challenges, metrics, etc>	
Initiative	EC For a Day	
EC Lead(s)	Vice President Governance & Finance	
Strat Plan Alignment	Student Voice	2.2 Enhance awareness and interest in SAMU's democratic processes through education and encouraging student participation.
Objective	Give individuals who are considering running for EC positions a chance to gain some insight into the position.	
Key Details	Projected Event Date: February 8 th , 2024	
Status	IN PROGRESS	
Final Summary of Initiative	<Note successes, challenges, metrics, etc>	

Theme: Student Governance and Accountability	
Initiative	GovWeek

EC Lead(s)	Vice President Governance and Finance	
Strat Plan Alignment	Student Voice	2.2 Enhance awareness and interest in SAMU's democratic processes through education and encouraging student participation.
Objective	Reduce Barriers and the misconceptions of Student Governance and hopefully have more individuals run for Students' Council.	

Key Details	A three-day event in which students engage with governance and learn how to run for Students' Council, what governance is and how these opportunities will sharpen and grow their skill sets and may shape their future careers. Projected Event Dates: September 20 th -22 nd , 2023	
Status	Completed	
Final Summary of Initiative	<i>Over the 3 days of GovWeek, 557 students attended the multiple tabling events and Councillor Q&A. And we received 247 entries for the 2 \$500 tuition credit prizes.</i>	
Initiative	Governance Review Implementation	
EC Lead(s)	Vice President Governance and Finance	
Strat Plan Alignment	Strengthening SAMU Operations	4.1 Review SAMU governance structures and make improvements to reduce duplication of efforts and delays in decision-making processes.
Objective	Implement the Governance Review Recommendations	
Key Details	SAMU underwent a governance review where we were provided recommendations to improve our governance processes. Currently a team is in place to do the work behind the implementation of the review and bring the forward the proposed changes to Council.	
Status	IN PROGRESS	
Final Summary of Initiative	<Note successes, challenges, metrics, etc>	
Initiative	Executive Committee Transition	

EC Lead(s)	President	
Strat Plan Alignment	Strengthening SAMU Operations	4.2 Document main policies and processes to support business continuity and transitions in leadership and staff. 4.5 Foster a professional and supportive work environment that lives the organizational values and delivers a culture of excellence.
Objective	Onboard and ensure the success of the new Executive Committee and prepare for the next year	
Key Details	Onboarding and supporting the new EC from May to Nov, ends with mid-year retreat. Begin EC transition planning in February and commence in late March after EC elections are official.	
Status	ONGOING	
Final Summary of Initiative	<Note successes, challenges, metrics, etc>	
Initiative	Executive Committee’s Mid-Year Winter Retreat	
EC Lead(s)	President	
Strat Plan Alignment	Strengthening SAMU Operations	4.2 Document main policies and processes to support business continuity and transitions in leadership and staff. 4.5 Foster a professional and supportive work environment that lives the organizational values and delivers a culture of excellence.
Objective	-Foster the team’s working relationship -Asses the team’s status and reevaluate the team’s goals	
Key Details	Projected Date: October 30 th to November 3 rd	
Status	ONGOING	
Final Summary of Initiative	<Note successes, challenges, metrics, etc>	

Initiative	Students Council Training	
EC Lead(s)	President	
Strat Plan Alignment	Strengthening SAMU Operations	4.2 Document main policies and processes to support business continuity and transitions in leadership and staff. 4.5 Foster a professional and supportive work environment that lives the organizational values and delivers a culture of excellence.
Objective	Ensure that members of our governing board are knowledgeable about governance and SAMU	
Key Details	Planning for the official Students’ Council Training will begin in September and continue until execution in late October	
Status	ONGOING	
Final Summary of Initiative	<Note successes, challenges, metrics, etc>	
Initiative	Students Council Refresher	
EC Lead(s)	President	
Strat Plan Alignment	Strengthening SAMU Operations	4.2 Document main policies and processes to support business continuity and transitions in leadership and staff. 4.5 Foster a professional and supportive work environment that lives the organizational values and delivers a culture of excellence.
Objective	Ensure that members of our governing board are knowledgeable about governance and SAMU	
Key Details	Projected Date: April or May 2024	
Status	ONGOING	
Final Summary of Initiative	<Note successes, challenges, metrics, etc>	

Initiative	SAMU 2024/25 Budget	
EC Lead(s)	Vice President Governance & Finance	
Strat Plan Alignment	Strengthening SAMU Operations	4.2 Document main policies and processes to support business continuity and transitions in leadership and staff. 4.4 Act as financial and environmental stewards and implement effective practices to enhance sustainability.
Objective	Prepare the department 12 budget for the next fiscal year and oversee the whole budget process for the annual budget submission to Council for Approval	
Key Details	The budgeting process for the next fiscal year will begin around November/December of 2023.	
Status	INITIAL STAGES	
Final Summary of Initiative	<Note successes, challenges, metrics, etc>	
Initiative	Town Hall	
EC Lead(s)	Vice President Governance & Finance	
Strat Plan Alignment	Student Voice	2.2 Enhance awareness and interest in SAMU’s democratic processes through education and encouraging student participation
Objective	Required by policy it provides Elected Representatives the ability to connect with students on a variety of topics	
Key Details	Projected Event Date: January 31 st , 2024	
Status	IN PROGRESS	
Final Summary of Initiative	<Note successes, challenges, metrics, etc>	
Initiative	Governance Engagement Policy	

EC Lead(s)	Vice President Governance & Finance	
Strat Plan Alignment	Strengthening SAMU Operations	4.1 Review SAMU governance structures and make improvements to reduce duplication of efforts and delays in decision-making processes. 4.2 Document main policies and processes to support business continuity and transitions in leadership and staff. 4.5 Foster a professional and supportive work environment that lives the organizational values and delivers a culture of excellence.
Objective	Detail and clarify the opportunities how SAMU elected representatives engage and communicate with the student body.	
Key Details	Projected Completion Date: October 23, 2023	
Status	IN PROGRESS (Postponed to Early Winter Semester)	
Final Summary of Initiative	<Note successes, challenges, metrics, etc>	
Initiative	School of Continuing Education	

EC Lead(s)	Vice President Governance & Finance	
Strat Plan Alignment	Strengthening SAMU Operations	<p>4.1 Review SAMU governance structures and make improvements to reduce duplication of efforts and delays in decision-making processes.</p> <p>4.2 Document main policies and processes to support business continuity and transitions in leadership and staff</p>
Objective	The goal is to provide the SCE students with the necessary supports and services while also following the correct procedures and documentations – such as the UPASS contract, PSLA, etc. Ultimately, it is coming to an agreement with them and as a result, charge them a sufficient fee.	
Key Details	Projected Completion Date: April 2024	
Status	IN Progress	

Final Summary of Initiative	<Note successes, challenges, metrics, etc>	
Initiative	Building and Maintaining EC Team Dynamics	
EC Lead(s)	President	
Strat Plan Alignment	Strengthening SAMU Operations	4.5 Foster a professional and supportive work environment that lives the organizational values and delivers a culture of excellence
Objective	Building connections between the executives and our work so that we are tuned into one another's' work; building sustainable structures to ensure the dynamic is maintained even beyond this year; building openness and trust among the team to enable honest conversations, especially where disagreement and conflict is involved; empowering each individual VP to thrive in their role, and ensuring they feel supported in doing their work.	
Key Details	President 1 on 1s with the team: capacity check, opportunity to voice concerns, ensuring the President knows what's going on with the team to better support them, being intentional and creating a space in accordance with those intentions. Frequency is dependent on preference and availability. Team Huddles: ice breaker component, check in on an out of ten scale, promoting a common sense of ownership of the team's work, opportunity to vocalize something to the team if needed, a chance to assess capacity and where the team is at, informal business and consultation	
Status	ONGOING	
Final Summary of Initiative	<Note successes, challenges, metrics, etc>	
Initiative	Governance Engagement	
EC Lead(s)	President	

Strat Plan Alignment	Student Experience and Engagement	1.2: Increase student awareness of SAMU and its opportunities through strong communications and engaging marketing materials.
	Student Voice	1.3: Increase student engagement by offering relevant and meaningful events, programs, services, volunteer activities and employment opportunities for students. 2.2 Enhance awareness and interest in SAMU’s democratic processes through educations and encouraging student participation.
Objective	<p>-Articulating the problem: looking at our governance system and assessing and analyzing the ways we’ve structured systems around elections and student representation, perhaps through a hired EDI professional</p> <p>-Research other potential levers to engage student leaders/groups (such as Ambassadors program, Students-At-Large, and Student Groups)</p> <p>-Conduct a maximum of 10 student group visits (including event attendance), per Fall and Winter semester with a goal of recruiting students for committees, Students’ Council, and Executive Committee.</p>	
Key Details	<p>Projected Timelines:</p> <p>Articulating the problem- Initial planning is set to begin in August.</p> <p>Research- Ongoing</p> <p>Student Group Visits- Begins in September.</p>	
Status	ONGOING	
Final Summary of Initiative	<Note successes, challenges, metrics, etc>	

Theme: Advocacy	
Initiative	Reinforcing Municipal Advocacy

EC Lead(s)	Vice President External	
Strat Plan Alignment	Student Voice	2.3 Continue to build collaborative relationships with other Students' Associations and organizations to enhance the collective student voice with all government levels.
Objective	Increase student advocacy efforts at a municipal level, in order to secure the outcomes that best support students.	
Key Details	This project would be an ongoing and coordinated effort to build and reinforce SAMU's municipal advocacy, especially where affordable housing is concerned. It would include seeking out a leadership position with the Edmonton Student Alliance, as well as working more closely with city council and local businesses and community organizations whose missions and visions align with SAMU's vision. Municipal leadership also oversees things like transit, community safety, and newcomer orientation, all of which have a direct effect on the student experience.	
Status	Ongoing	
Final Summary of Initiative	<Note successes, challenges, metrics, etc>	



Students' Council Report

Quarterly Report: Strategy and Engagement Committee

October 18, 2023

Committee Members:

July 1 – September 31
Cierra Jacobs, Vice President Student Life
Jakob Cardinal, Vice President External
Abby Beka, Councillor
Mariam Ehsan, Student-at-Large

Greetings Council,

This is the Strategy and Engagement Committee (SEC) report for the reporting period of July 1st to September 31th (Quarter 1, 2023-24).

SEC met twice over the quarter. In total, we followed the work plan to finalize planning on the SEC BBQ, host the BBQ and plan for future PD & Teambuilding: one for the fall and one for the winter term. We also discussed the opportunity for ongoing SC team building in the form of Dodgeball and look forward to continuing that in the winter term.

Students' Council Professional Development and Teambuilding

Professional development was identified as an area for growth and interest for the Students' Council (SC) last year. SEC members have agreed to continue meeting the goal of hosting one professional development opportunity per semester. The professional development opportunities will be coupled with a teambuilding portion to enhance the collaboration and connection of SC. You all may have already seen, via invitation, that we have booked a date for the summer BBQ for our first event, August 30th.



Student Engagement Opportunities

SC has identified recently that an additional area of opportunity is student engagement. The SEC has approved developing a plan for Student Council to engage with SAMU members. We included more tabling opportunities, classroom visits for presentation, and revitalizing our social media platform.

Consultation

Finally, we recognize that the SEC is a great opportunity to receive student feedback on EC initiatives. This includes but is not limited to external and internal committee work initiatives.

In reading the report, if you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me!

Cheers,

Cierra Jacobs (she/her)
VP Student Life, SAMU 2023/2024
savpstudentlife@macewan.ca



Students' Council Report

Quarterly Report: Finance Committee

October 18th, 2023

Committee Members:

<u>July 1st 2023 to September 30th 2023</u>
Joseph A. La Torre, Vice President Governance & Finance
Cierra Jacobs, Vice President Student Life
Gabriel Ambutong, President
Nhi Phan, Councillor
Jayden Depeel, Councillor
Bao Quoc Dang, Student-at-Large
Brian Gulbraa, Student-at-Large

Greetings Council,

This is the report from the Finance Committee for a reporting period from July 1st to September 30th (Quarter 1).

During this quarter, the Finance Committee met to discuss two consultation items: SAMU Fees & CPI and an Investment policy. The discussions on SAMU fees and CPI was brought forth because our membership fee increase from \$12.66/credit to \$13.50/credit due to CPI being 6.6%. The discussion included increasing fees up to CPI, a cap on fee increases, and SAMU being a good steward of students dollars. Ultimately, there were no next steps because this is the first year where CPI is this high and it seems to soon to make any changes to the SAMU Fees Policy.



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OF MACEWAN UNIVERSITY

Similarly, with the consultation on the Investment Policy, no next steps were made because Cam is currently working on a capital investment plan that may inform what to do with our cash that is gaining interest instead of allocating it in a GIC (Guaranteed Investment Certificate).

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out!.

Kind Regards,

Joseph A. La Torre, (He/Him)

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'J. A. La Torre', is positioned below the typed name.

VP Governance and Finance, SAMU 2023/2024

savpopoperations@macewan.ca



Students' Council Report

Quarterly Report: Governance Committee

October 18th, 2023

Committee Members:

<u>July 1st 2023 to September 30th 2023</u>
Joseph A. La Torre, Vice President Governance & Finance
Rayyah Sempala, Councillor
Vacant, Councillor
Chioma Uzor, Councillor
Joehn Toress, Councillor
Kon Kon, Student-at-Large
Mohd Ali Naqvi, Student-at-Large

Greetings Council,

This is the report from the Governance Committee for a reporting period from July 1st to September 30th (Quarter 1).

During this quarter, the Governance Committee met once to discuss the TOR and the workplan. There were no further meetings this quarter to discuss nor approve any policies.

As always, feel free to reach out if you have any questions, concerns, or need further elaboration on anything.

Kind Regards,



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A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'JALaTorre', is positioned below the logo.

Joseph A. La Torre, (He/Him)

VP Governance and Finance, SAMU 2023/2024

savpoperations@macewan.ca



Students' Council Report

Quarterly Report: Students' Council Operations Committee

October 18th, 2023

Committee Members:

<u>July 1st 2023 to September 30th 2023</u>
Joseph A. La Torre, Vice President Governance & Finance
Abby Beka, Councillor
Sonia Yusef, Councillor

Greetings Council,

This is the report from the Students' Council Operations Committee for a reporting period from July 1st to September 30th (Quarter 1).

The committee met once this quarter to review three things: the Chair evaluation form to send to Council, Council meeting evaluations, and Council minutes. From the Council evaluations, one thing we noted needed a clearer definition is attending Council meetings remotely.

As always, if you have further questions, concerns or need further elaboration, please let me know.



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Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'J. La Torre'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Joseph A. La Torre, (He/Him)

VP Governance and Finance, SAMU 2023/2024

savpoperations@macewan.ca



**Minutes for the Executive Committee Meeting of the
Students' Association of MacEwan University
September 6, 2023 @ 2:00pm**

Voting Members:

Gabriel Ambutong, President
Stephan Vasquez, VP Academic
Jakob Cardinal, VP External
Joseph A. La Torre, VP Governance & Finance
Cierra Jacobs, VP Student Life

Resource Officials:

Darryl Kostash, General Manager
Alan Honey, Governance Advisor

Recording Secretary:

Shannon Marshall, Executive Coordinator

1. Call to Order: 2:32pm
2. Approval of Agenda:
**VPA/VPGF
CARRIED**
3. Approval of Minutes: August 30, 2023
**VPA/VPSL
CARRIED**

TOPIC		DISCUSSION	ACTION/MOTION
1.	Project Updates (Standing Item)		
2.	Outstanding Action Items		
3.	VP Student Life's Report	Tactical Plan Consultation update – EC/SC/SAL. SEC BBQ – looking for any feedback anyone has. International office sent thanks for presentation. MacEwan reappointment committees update. Ponoka visit update.	
4.	President's Report	Student Leaders Orientation update. CBC interview re. student housing.	
5.	VP Academic's Report	The Griff interview re. students & laptops. Provost reappointment ongoing. OER programming update.	
6.	VP External's report	SEC BBQ. NSO. Meet SAMU tabling. Municipal advo.	
7.	VP Governance and Finance's Report	Tuition/MNIF meeting update.	
8.	General Manager's Report	Meet SAMU. Fall Fest update. Security update. U-Pass update. WFH update. Lease update.	MOTION TO APPROVE A SAMU AUDIT PRESENTATION BY MNP AT THE SEPTEMBER SC MEETING

		Audit update.	VPA/VPSL CARRIED
9.	Recognition		

4. Adjournment

Time: 2:56pm.



**Minutes for the Executive Committee Meeting of the
Students' Association of MacEwan University
September 20, 2023 @ 3:00pm**

Voting Members:

Gabriel Ambutong, President
Stephan Vasquez, VP Academic
Jakob Cardinal, VP External
Joseph A. La Torre, VP Governance & Finance
Cierra Jacobs, VP Student Life

Resource Officials:

Darryl Kostash, General Manager
Alan Honey, Governance Advisor

Recording Secretary:

Alan Honey, Governance Advisor

1. Call to Order: 3:02pm

2. Approval of Agenda:
VPGF/VPA

**MOTION TO AMEND TO ADD ITEM 6
VPA/VPSL
CARRIED**

CARRIED

3. Approval of Minutes: September 6, 2023
**VPSL/VPGF
CARRIED**

TOPIC		DISCUSSION	ACTION/MOTION
1.	Mid-Year Retreat	Draft Agenda provided for consultation.	
2.	SC Training	Draft Agenda provided for consultation.	
3.	Student Groups	Vpsl – Looking for approval today. Will ask Erika to have groups not use acronyms in the future.	MOTION TO APPROVE THE JACK.ORG MACEWAN CHAPTER, THE MACEWAN OPTOMETRY CLUB, AND THE EARLY LEARNING STUDENT CLUB STUDENT GROUPS VPSL/VPA CARRIED
4.	Maintenance Fund Request	Vpgf – Addition of a new Finance position requires the office to be updated to provide a space for the employee.	MOTION TO APPROVE AN EXPENSE OF UP TO \$5000.00 FROM THE MAINTENANCE FUND FOR THE FINANCE OFFICE UPGRADE

			VPGF/VPSL CARRIED
			MOTION
			TO APPOINT JOEHN TORRES TO THE ALLARD CHAIR AD HOC SELECTION COMMITTEE
5.	Appointment	Vpa – Seat is for a business student.	VPA/VPSL CARRIED
6.	Discussion item for social media post	Vpa – there are current protests going on across the country. Wondering if we should make a public statement. MacEwan distributed one today. Think we should make our support known.	Action: Pres/Vpa to finalize statement to release with M&C.
7.			MOTION
			TO TAKE A 5 MINUTE RECESS
			VPSL/VPA CARRIED
8.	Project Updates (Standing Item)	Sharepoint Drive: EC Workplan	
9.	Outstanding Action Items		
10.	VP Student Life's Report	MacEwan HR update. Ponoka visit update. Met with Joanne Minaker re. Student Mental Health Working Group.	
11.	President's Report	Board retreat.	
12.	VP Academic's Report	GovWeek tabling. FFAC Dean update. Transition. AVP annual review. Academic standing consult. Restorative resolution. OER. Committee work. AIO – Academic Integrity Workshop update. Student refugee update. Allard Chair nomination.	
13.	VP External's report	State of the City event. Pipe ceremony at KW. CASA national campaign update.	
14.	VP Governance and Finance's Report	GovWeek. SCE. U-Pass quarterly meeting.	
15.	General Manager's Report	Fall Fest update. SAMU week went well. U-Pass/ARC card update. Credit Card process being updated. SC nominations recommendation. MacEwan locker rental update.	

16.	Recognition		
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4. Adjournment

Time: 4:40pm.



**Minutes for the Executive Committee Meeting of the
Students' Association of MacEwan University
September 27, 2023 @ 2:00pm**

Voting Members:

Gabriel Ambutong, President
Stephan Vasquez, VP Academic
Jakob Cardinal, VP External
Joseph A. La Torre, VP Governance & Finance
Cierra Jacobs, VP Student Life

Resource Officials:

Darryl Kostash, General Manager
Alan Honey, Governance Advisor

Recording Secretary:

Alan Honey, Governance Advisor

1. Call to Order: 2:00pm

2. Approval of Agenda:

VPSL/VPGF

CARRIED

3. Approval of Minutes: September 20, 2023

VPSL/VPGF

CARRIED

TOPIC		DISCUSSION	ACTION/MOTION
1.	Student Concern - Fees	Gm – update provided. Sitting with senior leadership at MacEwan currently.	Action: Vpa to address student fee concerns with Provost. Consult with GM & AC.
2.	SAMU Committee Appointments	<p>Audit Committee – 2 SALs (recommend Brian Gulbraa &)</p> <p>Governance Committee – 2 SALs (recommend Brian Gulbraa)</p> <p>Governance Investigations & Reinstatement Committee (recommend Avery Collicott, Bhumika Bhardwaj, Colton Bloudoff, Brian Gulbraa)</p> <p>Strategy & Engagement Committee – 2 SALs</p>	<p>MOTION</p> <p>TO APPOINT BRIAN GULBRAA & KATHERINE MACDONALD TO THE AUDIT COMMITTEE, EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 1, 2023, FOR A TERM ENDING OCTOBER 31, 2024</p> <p>VPSL/VPGF CARRIED</p> <p>MOTION</p> <p>TO APPOINT COLTON BLODOFF & KRIS RAVELO TO THE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE, EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 1, 2023, FOR A TERM ENDING OCTOBER 31, 2024</p> <p>VPA/VPSL</p>

			<p>CARRIED</p> <p>MOTION</p> <p>TO APPOINT AVERY COLICOTT, BHUMIKA BHARDWAJ, COLTON BLOUOFF, & BRIAN GULBRAA TO THE GOVERNANCE INVESTIGATIONS AND REINSTATEMENT COMMITTEE FOR A TERM ENDING OCTOBER 31, 2024</p> <p>VPGF/VPSL</p> <p>CARRIED</p> <p>MOTION</p> <p>TO APPOINT CHLOE WITHERSPOON TO THE STRATEGY & ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE, EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 1, 2023, FOR A TERM ENDING OCTOBER 31, 2024</p> <p>VPSL/VPA</p> <p>CARRIED</p>
3.	EC Norms		<p>Action: Pres/GA to work on class/flex time and bring back to EC.</p>
4.	FFAC Dean Search		<p>Motion</p> <p>TO APPOINT SEAN HARPER TO THE FFAC DEAN SEARCH COMMITTEE</p> <p>VPA/VPSL</p> <p>CARRIED</p>
5.	FAS Associate Dean Search		<p>MOTION</p> <p>TO APPOINT INDER SINGH TO THE FAS ASSOCIATE DEAN SEARCH COMMITTEE</p> <p>VPA/VPE</p> <p>CARRIED</p>
6.	COTY Award		<p>MOTION</p> <p>TO GO IN CAMERA</p> <p>VPSL/VPE</p> <p>CARRIED</p>

			MOTION TO GO OUT OF CAMERA VPSL/VPGF CARRIED MOTION TO AWARD 3 COUNCILLOR OF THE YEAR AWARDS FOR THE 2023-2024 ELECTED TERM VPSL/VPA OPPOSED: VPE/VPGF CARRIED Action: Add Awards Procedure to PSC workplan.
7.	Project Updates (Standing Item)		
8.	Outstanding Action Items		
9.	President's Report	CASA e-plenary. Elks game – represented students at coin toss.	
10.	VP Academic's Report	UDL committee meeting. Meeting re. nursing testing kits. KW meeting. Roundtable re AI.	
11.	VP External's report	CASA E-plenary. MacEwan appointment committees. KW.	
12.	VP Governance and Finance's Report	GovWeek. SCE update.	
13.	VP Student Life's Report	HCA design team update. SG orientation update. UDI event – not able to attend. Hoping to have a student attend.	
14.	General Manager's Report	HR updates. A/V/meeting room updates. Noise concern update. OEG update.	
15.	Recognition		

4. Adjournment

Time: 4:17pm.



**Minutes for the Executive Committee Meeting of the
Students' Association of MacEwan University
October 4, 2023 @ 2:30pm**

Voting Members:

Gabriel Ambutong, President
Stephan Vasquez, VP Academic
Jakob Cardinal, VP External (absent)
Joseph A. La Torre, VP Governance & Finance
Cierra Jacobs, VP Student Life

Resource Officials:

Darryl Kostash, General Manager
Alan Honey, Governance Advisor

Recording Secretary:

Alan Honey, Governance Advisor

1. Call to Order: 2:30pm

2. Approval of Agenda:

**VPSL/VPA
CARRIED**

3. Approval of Minutes: September 27, 2023

**VPSL/VPGF
CARRIED**

TOPIC		DISCUSSION	ACTION/MOTION
1.	Budget Overage approval	Vpgf – purchasing more ARC cards but will recover the cost fully when we sell them to students.	MOTION TO APPROVE A BUDGET OVERAGE OF \$6000.00 FOR G/L 562000 VPGF/VPSL CARRIED
2.	Norms doc	Pres – updates provided for review today.	Action: Bring to EC January meeting for review
3.	SC Training	Pres – set expectations with respect to creating presentations.	Action: GA to add reminder to EC calendars for October 23. Next EC – confirm fiduciary item.
4.	MacEwan Committees – SAL appointments		MOTION TO APPOINT OLADAYO EUNICE AYODEJI & CHLOE WITHERSPOON TO THE COUNCIL ON STUDENT AFFAIRS – BYLAWS VPA/VPGF CARRIED

			<p>MOTION</p> <p>TO APPOINT ALYCIA STEWART & INDER SINGH TO THE ANIMAL RESEARCH ETHICS BOARD</p> <p>VPA/VPSL CARRIED</p> <p>MOTION</p> <p>TO APPOINT INDER SINGH & ANIKA ANDERSON TO THE RESEARCH ETHICS BOARD</p> <p>VPA/VPSL CARRIED</p> <p>MOTION</p> <p>TO APPOINT MARVELLOUS OYEBGADE, KATHERINE MACDONALD, & ALEM TEFAY TO THE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS</p> <p>VPA/VPSL CARRIED</p> <p>MOTION</p> <p>TO APPOINT NIKITA VAN DER LEEDEN TO THE FACULTY OF HEALTH AND COMMUNITY STUDIES</p> <p>VPA/VPSL CARRIED</p>
5.	SAMU Committees – SAL Appointment	Vpsl – met with one of the candidates per our discussion last week. Am ready to recommend an appointment today.	<p>MOTION</p> <p>TO APPOINT NIKITA VAN DER LEEDEN TO THE STRATEGY AND ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 1, 2023 FOR A TERM ENDING OCTOBER 31, 2024</p> <p>VPSL/VPA CARRIED</p>

6.	Project Updates (Standing Item)		
7.	Outstanding Action Items		
8.	President's Report	Met with NIAC student – regular check-in.	
9.	VP Academic's Report	GFC update provided – Provost & President reports; Sunday exam update; FFAC meeting with Associate Dean. Student affordability updates. Student refugee assistance. EDI event attendance. Academic policy doc consultation.	
10.	VP External's report	Tabled.	
11.	VP Governance and Finance's Report	Tuition & fees meeting update. No new MNIFs, existing no increase; 2% increase to tuition, but no decision on international tuition yet.	
12.	VP Student Life's Report	Ponoka student feedback. Ponoka initiative ongoing. MacEwan HR update. Met with Hope re. our social media. Gm & I consulted re. seating area(s) on staircase. UDI event attendance last week.	
13.	General Manager's Report	BambooHR update. HR update. Building update. Insurance update.	
14.	Recognition		

4. Adjournment

Time: 3:44pm.



**STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION
OF MACEWAN UNIVERSITY**

STUDENTS' COUNCIL MEETING SUBMISSION

AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION

Meeting Date	Submitted By
October 18, 2023	Joseph A. La Torre, Vice President Governance and Finance

Agenda Title	Item
	2022-2023 SAMU Annual Report
Action Requested	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Consultation Item

AGENDA ITEM DETAILS

Motion Title	To Approve the 2022-2023 SAMU Annual Report
Background Information	As per the Official Reporting Mechanisms to SAMU Membership policy, Council approves the annual report before it is provided to the public membership
Alternative Considerations	n/a
Risk Management Considerations	
Strategic Alignment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Attached Strategic Alignment Checklist is complete
Implications	After approval it will be available on our website for public consumption
Related Documents	Official Reporting Mechanisms to SAMU Membership policy
Follow Up Action	Post the annual report on the website
Review History	SAMU Senior Leadership Team, Executive Committee MNP

Strategic Alignment Checklist

Vision: All students benefit from a vibrant student life and a culture of empowerment.

Mission: SAMU builds a positive student experience by creating a place to engage and connect, being a champion for all students and providing opportunities that allow them to get the most out of their educational journey.

Focus Areas	Not consistent	N/A	Consistent
Student Experience & Engagement			
The overall student experience is enhanced by the opportunities provided by SAMU.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1.1 Put the finishing touches on the SAMU building, enhancing the safe and intentional spaces for students to gather, relax and study.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1.2 Increase student awareness of SAMU and its opportunities through strong communications and engaging marketing and brand	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1.3 Increase student engagement by offering relevant and meaningful events, programs, services, volunteer activities and employment opportunities for students	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1.4 Support Student Groups by offering networking opportunities, meeting space, outreach support and online platforms	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Student Voice			
The Student Voice is amplified by SAMU.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2.1 Develop an Advocacy Plan and implement processes to strengthen SAMU's advocacy program.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2.2 Enhance awareness and interest in SAMU's democratic processes through education and encouraging student participation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2.3 Continue to build collaborative relationships with other Student Associations and organizations to enhance the collective student voice with all government levels	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2.4 Foster positive relationships with MacEwan University to better serve students	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Student Supports			
Student supports provided by SAMU are responsive to unique and evolving needs.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3.1 Develop and deliver initiatives that are inclusive and are responsive to all student needs.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3.2 Evaluate and assess student supports to remain relevant and accountable to students	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3.3 Strengthen collaborations and partnerships with MacEwan University to expand supports and resources for students.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3.4 Enhance relationships with external organizations to leverage resources and supplement new and existing initiatives	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Strengthening SAMU Operations			
SAMU is an innovative and sustainable organization with an engaging work environment.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4.1 Review SAMU governance structures and make improvements to reduce duplication of efforts and delays in decision-making processes.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4.2 Document main policies and processes to support business continuity and transitions in leadership and staff.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4.3 Diversify revenue streams to reduce reliance on student fees.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4.4 Act as financial and environmental stewards and implement effective practices to enhance sustainability.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4.5 Foster a professional and supportive work environment that lives the organizational values and delivers a culture of excellence.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION
OF MACEWAN UNIVERSITY

SAMU

ANNUAL REPORT

2022-2023

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WHO WE ARE

The Students' Association of MacEwan University (SAMU) is a not-for-profit organization working independently from MacEwan University to support students. With over 40 full- and part-time staff, SAMU exists to serve students' non-academic needs.

We are governed by the elected student representatives who set the strategic vision on behalf of students. SAMU is guided by our Strategic Plan, which was implemented in July 2021. Initially developed as a 3-year plan, Students' Council (SC) voted to extend the duration of the Strategic Plan to a five-year plan (2021 – 2026). It was felt that the start and stop interruptions of the pandemic didn't allow for a proper start to the plan, and an extension would allow more time to focus on the revised strategic goals.

This annual report represents the second time we report our accomplishments based on the 2021-26 strategic plan. The 2022-23 fiscal year also marks the first “normal year” of in-person classes and a fully open campus since the pandemic started in 2020.

Mission

SAMU builds a positive student experience by creating a place to engage and connect, being a champion for all students, and providing opportunities that allow them to get the most out of their educational journey.

Vision

All students benefit from a vibrant student life and a culture of empowerment.

Values

- Students First
- Inclusiveness
- Adaptability
- Relevance
- Accountability

Good Governance

Good Governance, as practiced by a Students' Council composed of individuals who are well-informed and team-oriented, provides strategic direction for SAMU that aligns with the vision of the Association as a whole, anticipating and responding to the needs of present and future students through the effective stewardship of the bylaws, policies, and strategic plan of the Association.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

What a journey it has been! Seeing the work that SAMU has done this past year has made me feel incredibly proud to be your President. Last year, we saw just how eager students were to get involved, despite the challenges of adjusting to a fully in-person year. This year, I have already seen the passion of our student body continue to build momentum. The vibrancy of our campus is a testament to not only the great work that SAMU continues to do, but also the culture of empowerment shaped by thousands of exceptional students, too.

As you embark on your academic journey, remember that SAMU is your ally. We work hard to understand the challenges that come with being a student, and our commitment to enriching your university experience is exemplified by our tireless advocacy efforts toward the institution and all levels of government. To that end, your Executive Committee works hard to amplify the student voice at the municipal, provincial, and federal levels – rest assured, we continue to be champions for students.

A holistic student experience isn't just about attending classes. It's also about personal growth, developing friendships, and creating lasting memories. That's exactly why SAMU works diligently to deliver quality events, programs, supports, and services to students. SAMU continues to listen and provide ample opportunities to ensure your success as a student, and we are constantly adapting to meet ever-evolving student needs. We are committed to engaging our community and enriching your student experience.

At SAMU, we strive to empower students. Being a student myself, I know just how challenging life and the balance of things can be at times. We want to make sure that you are provided with the resources and tools you need to succeed. Whether you have questions, concerns, or ideas on how we can better serve students, we are always available to assist you throughout your academic journey. It is such a privilege to be your President, and I look forward to creating a vibrant and inclusive community with all of you!

Warm regards,

Gabriel Ambutong (He/Him)
2023/24 SAMU President

STRATEGIC GOALS & OUTCOMES

To achieve our vision, focus our priorities, and guide our actions, SAMU is driven by four strategic goals and five values as outlined in the 2021-26 [Strategic Plan](#). The Annual Report provides a summary of SAMU's achievements and progress on each strategic goal:

1. Student Experience & Engagement
2. Student Voice
3. Student Supports
4. Strengthening SAMU Operations

1. STUDENT EXPERIENCE & ENGAGEMENT

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

What It Means

The student experience goes beyond attending classes. SAMU offers people the fun and social side of student life by hosting programs and events and providing students space to connect. SAMU also provides volunteer and employment opportunities while supporting Student Groups on campus. The above reflects SAMU's commitment to making on-campus life more accessible for all students.

Strategies

1.1 Put the finishing touches on the SAMU Building, enhancing the safe and intentional spaces for students to gather, relax and study.

SAMU was very excited to have students in the building for the first full year of normal building operations since the building officially opened in 2020! All tenants were operational, with the final two tenants, Edo and Opa, operational for September 1, 2022. It's clear that students like their SAMU building as tables and seating areas are highly utilized and often full.

While the building is still new, having its first year of normal usage brought to light some enhancements that were needed:

- Office wall upgrade to reduce sound and enhance privacy for the Executive Committee (EC) offices
- A meeting pod was installed to provide students with privacy when meeting with the Student Advocacy Centre, and two single-person pods were installed in SAMU offices for staff use to free up usage of the larger meeting rooms
- Seven tables and 21 chairs were added to the second floor near the student lounge to provide more seating options for students (existing bench seating was moved to the first floor to provide more seating in open areas)

SAMU's event space, The Lookout, was open all year and utilized for various student-oriented events, meetings and gatherings. Another popular gathering space, Student Groups, extended its operating hours to provide more space for students and groups to gather, work and collaborate. Students were able to ask questions and get assistance with

their Health & Dental Benefits through the Student Benefits Plan Office, which was open during the Fall and Winter terms.

Building branding enhancements continued throughout the year to:

- Improve wayfinding so students can quickly find what they need
- Enhance SAMU brand awareness within the building and add character
- Showcase student artwork

SAMU will continue to observe how students use and interact with the building and make further enhancements to suit the students' needs.

1.2 Increase student awareness of SAMU and its opportunities through strong communications and engaging marketing and branding.

Awareness

The annual Spring Student Survey provides valuable data and feedback that enables SAMU to ensure we are providing the programs, services and events students need and want. Ever since doing our first Spring Student Survey in 2020, it was clear that SAMU needed to focus more effort on raising awareness of not only who we are but all that we do for students – and we needed to get the message to students in their first year. The pandemic decreased awareness even more, but through our marketing, communications, and initiatives, we made substantial progress this past year, compared to when we measured it in 2021:

- 2023 – 63% total awareness (41% either very or quite aware of SAMU)
- 2021 – 50% total awareness (27% either very or quite aware of SAMU)

The majority of the improvement comes from the “Quite Aware” level of awareness which showed a strong 10% increase. The 2023 Spring Survey was completed by 1591 students, a 28% increase from the 2022 Spring Survey.

Students are not only keen to provide feedback, but they also want to hear from us. Communication is crucial to letting students know about SAMU and our digital channels are the most preferred and effective way to deliver information to students:

- Website visits: 345,259 (+16% from 2021/22)
- Email: 145 email campaigns delivered (including email newsletter), 82% overall email open rate, 30% average Click Rate
- Instagram: 4,751 followers (+18%), 921 average daily reach, 755,583 annual impressions

New Student Events

SAMU offers two key events that are focused on introducing and raising awareness of SAMU and its programs, events and services. Meet SAMU Week introduces SAMU to new and returning students by offering whole week of fun and activities during the first week of school in September and January. Started in 2021, Meet SAMU Week was an instant success and was offered in-person for the first time in both Fall and Winter. The week of activities includes:

- MacEwan New Student Orientation
- Meet SAMU Tradeshow & Games (2 days)
- Fall Fest

Meet SAMU Expo is key to raising awareness amongst new students. The event features all SAMU departments showcasing what they offer in a trade show format. Students can get information, ask questions, play games, pick up their U-Pass ARC card, grab a SAMU Student Handbook and enter for a chance to win \$1000 in tuition credits. It is estimated that 500 – 600 students attended each day.

SAMU Student Handbook

The SAMU Student Handbook is another key tool in raising awareness of SAMU. The calendar planner includes both SAMU and MacEwan information and resources. The Handbook is supported financially through sold advertising. The Handbook was very popular with all 5,500 copies given out by the end of the first week of school in September 2022.

SAMU's 12 Days of Giving

SAMU's 12 Days of Giving campaign, which debuted in December 2020, became another instant hit with students and a successful way to engage students and raise awareness. The 2022 campaign was the most successful campaign to date for student engagement. Each day is themed around a different aspect of SAMU that students learn about as they enter the contest each day.

Gift cards and tuition credits were used as prizes each day of the 12 Days of Giving Campaign, a change from previous years, as this is what students said they most wanted for prizes (from Spring Student Survey 2022). This change made prize distribution easier, the campaign more appealing and daily engagement more consistent.

- 1204 average daily entries – 149% increase from 2021
- 14,446 total student entries – 191% increase from 2021
- Cost per student engagement: \$0.83

Ponoka Campus Visit

EC connected with the Ponoka Campus Dean, Ken Kustiak, to re-establish the relationship with SAMU. EC presented on the services SAMU provides to students on Ponoka campus, toured the hospital and listened to feedback from students.

Promo Squad

The Promo Squad initiative was brought back for the first time in three years. Promo Squad is implemented through the Marketing & Communications department and consists of a part-time staff and student volunteers who help promote SAMU and it's various initiatives. The volunteers engage with students through interactive games, prize draws and snack giveaways, either with a station set up in the pedway or by going mobile through campus. Results for 2022-23:

- Number of trained active members: 16
- Total number of promo squad shifts: 93

- Number of SAMU initiatives promoted: 27
- Average number of student interactions per shift: 65
- Total number of student interactions: 3,588

1.3 Increase student engagement by offering relevant and meaningful events, programs, services, volunteer activities and employment opportunities for students.

Providing events, programs, and services is at the core of what SAMU does, but doing so while most students take classes from home remained a significant challenge. Your EC and SAMU staff were up to the challenge and figured out ways to maintain and enhance student engagement.

Fall Fest and Winter Fest

After a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic, SAMU was able to bring back Fall Fest in 2022, its signature event for students. This is the largest event that SAMU offers and is held as part of Meet SAMU Week to welcome all the students to a new school year. Artists were already booked from the previous year, which had to be cancelled due to Covid. The event was held in the grassy area behind SAMU for the first time. The event was well attended with an estimated 1800 students throughout the day who all enjoyed a lineup of 5 popular music artists. The event gave EC exposure as the President introduced the various acts, and also allowed EC to engage with students at the SAMU vendor tent.

Winter Fest is an event used to welcome back students from the holiday break in January. The format for this event was a 70's Disco Dance Party held at and in collaboration with the Starlite room. While not on campus, the event was a sell-out with 250 students taking advantage of free tickets. Students who registered to attend had to pick up tickets prior to the event and as is with free events, there was a drop in actual tickets claimed with 13% remaining unclaimed. The event was a success due to the popularity with students, and the relatively low cost and resources required to put on the event. SAMU plans to hold Winter Fest again in 2024.

Speaker Series

Having students on campus again meant the return of the in-person SAMU Speaker Series events. The Fall Speaker Series featured Jessica, a former MacEwan grad and singer with the chart-topping hit "I'm Not Pretty". The event didn't sell as many tickets as expected at the \$10 price, so tickets were offered for free which resulted in 64 students attending. After evaluating the event, it was determined that a number of factors led to the lower than expected attendance including: students not understanding who Jessica was, students still adjusting to be back on campus, and having a high number of students who are unfamiliar with the Speaker Series event.

The Winter Speaker Series was renamed "Live Comedy Show" as it featured TikTok and YouTube comedian Trevor Wallace. The Events and Marketing team took what was learned from promoting the Jessica Speaker Series and made modifications to the promotions plan. The Trevor Wallace event sold out all 300 tickets within a week and was thoroughly enjoyed

by students. The event was held in The Lookout, or event space and another Live Comedy Show is being planned for 2023-24.

New Programming

The Events department hired a part-time assistant to help with events this past year. Maker Series and Games Café were two new events planned by the Events Assistant (a MacEwan student). Maker Series held four different events that gave students the chance to participate in making a craft. A total of 412 students engaged with the Maker Series. Games Café was held in The Lookout and ran three times in the Winter term. Students could take a break from their studies and drop in to play some popular board games. A total of 259 students attended Games Café.

Last Class Bash

To help students celebrate the end of the regular school year, a trip to Cuba was organized for students. Last Class Bash enabled students to book the trip and travel with friends, and fellow MacEwan students. Collaborating with NAITSA, the trip exceeded expectations with 39 MacEwan students travelling to the sunny destination.

Holiday Market

Run by the Vice President Student Life (VPSL) and Vice President Governance and Finance (VPGF), the second annual Holiday Market, held in early December 2022, had 18 student vendors sell their wares to hundreds of students, staff and faculty who attended to shop the local handmade crafts, artwork and other items.

Discounted Ticket Programs

The Edmonton Oilers ticket program continued in 2022-23 and was popular with students, with most games selling out. The Oilers ticket program allows students to experience hockey games at a cost which is more affordable than purchasing at the box office.

Students also had the opportunity to purchase discounted ski lift tickets for Marmot Basin, Lake Louise and Sunshine. This was the first year offering the ski passes and a total of 135 passes were sold.

Artworks

A strategic planning session was held with the Programs Manager to plan the future of the Artworks program. All artwork initiatives and programs will now fall under the name Artworks Factory. As part of the Artworks Factory, SAMU purchased four student art pieces from the 2021-22 Grad Show which are now on display in the SAMU Building. Artworks Factory also held two pop-up events that encouraged students to try out different forms of art, no matter what their level of expertise. The two events attracted approximately 75 – 100 students each and were facilitated by 5 -10 student artists.

The Griff

The Griff went through a few significant changes throughout the year. A new Managing Editor was hired in September to fill the vacant position. Thai Sirikoone, a MacEwan grad and former Griff part-time employee, took on the role and continued to publish The Griff each month, while putting together a strategic plan in the background.

The Griff lost a considerable amount of readership and awareness over the pandemic and a new approach was necessary to revitalize the magazine and its audience. Immediate transition objectives and results included:

- Build the subscriber base (gain more readers)
 - More engagement opportunities with students through tabling and events on campus led to not only increased readers, but 51 student editorial contributions (an increase from 4 the previous year). High-profile interviews with Ashley Eckstein, Jessie and Trevor Wallace also helped to attract more readers.
- Integration of Multimedia (expand digital content)
 - A Digital Editor position was hired again for this year.
 - The number of TikTok and Instagram videos increased from 14 in 2021-22 to 49 in 2022-23, a 250% increase.
- Align with Student Interests (research what type of content students want)
 - Students want to see more campus-focused content, so the broader lifestyle content was reduced and more content focused around MacEwan was produced, including student video engagement around campus with The Griff “Streeters” team.
- Enhance Campus Presence (more in-person presence around campus)
 - The Griff attended various SAMU and MacEwan initiatives to set up a table and engage with students. The engagement through the Streeters content also enhanced The Griff's presence on campus.

A comprehensive strategic plan and rebrand of The Griff is near completion and will be launched in Fall 2023.

Volunteer and Part-Time Positions

SAMU’s volunteer program is vital to providing opportunities for students to gain real experience while, in turn, helping SAMU to support students. This past year saw another year-over-year increase in the volunteer program:

- 201 volunteers (+46% compared to 2021-22)
- 5,725 volunteer hours (+13% compared to 2021-22)

SAMU hires students for part-time positions which helps students gain employment while they are going to school and provides valuable experience, often pertaining to their chosen career, that can help them gain employment upon graduation. SAMU added 5 new Part-time positions in 2022-23, for a total of 25 positions hired (an increase of 3 positions from 2021-22).

Student Groups Event Grants

Student Groups helps to increase student engagement by providing Event Grant Funding to groups so they can put on events for students. SAMU awarded \$41,064 in Event Grant Funding which helped groups host 69 events, a 792% increase compared to \$4602 for 3 events the year prior. Groups used the funding for events ranging from small-scale game nights to large-scale galas. The funding means groups can focus more time on planning to make their event successful, and less time on fundraising.

1.4 Support Student Groups by offering networking opportunities, meeting space, outreach support and online platforms.

With students being full back on campus, Student Groups and the Student Groups space saw an increase in activity and engagement. Student Groups planned various events and training to help raise awareness of Student Groups, encourage new group start-ups and assist existing groups with recruiting members. The Student Groups Connect platform, the new online platform that was introduced last year, continued to be integrated.

- Student Groups Mingler: an in-person networking event for groups and their members to get to know one another and share ideas while playing various board games. The event was attended by 70 student group members.
- Student Groups Expo: The Student Groups Expo is a chance for students to see what groups are available in a tradeshow format. An expo was held each of the Fall and Winter terms. The Fall expo had 35 groups participate and Winter had 42. The Expos were busy with students exploring all the groups and successful for the groups in recruiting new members. Some Student Groups saw their membership numbers grow by 300%.
- Student Groups Connect: This was the second year on the new platform and it grew to over 2000 users. The platform continues to be built out and improved to ensure it is used to its full potential. Finance, election and service hour functions were developed to increase the usability for the groups.
- SAMU Awards: Various Student Groups were recognized and appreciated at the SAMU Awards Night celebration. Groups received awards for New Student Group of the Year, Student Group of the Year, and Student Group Member of the Year. SAMU highlighted the winning groups through their media channels in the “Student Groups Spotlight”.

2. STUDENT VOICE

The Student Voice is amplified by SAMU.

What it Means

SAMU is a Students' Association, meaning it provides ways for students to be heard collectively by the University and at all levels of government. Students also have a voice through its democratic processes, electing Students' Council and Executive Committee members to govern SAMU.

Strategies

2.1 Develop an Advocacy Plan and implement processes to strengthen SAMU's advocacy program.

Executive Project Planning

Each year, the newly elected Executive Committee undergoes an intensive strategic planning process to determine their priorities and projects for the year, resulting in a work plan that will shape their term. Over the past year, SAMU has revamped the process to better align with our strategic plan, as well as providing new frameworks for selecting and measuring

metrics for projects. This process was used for the first time this past year, resulting in a total of 19 Executive Committee projects for the year, based on student need, advocacy relevance and opportunities, and SAMU's strategic plan.

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

Pizza & Portfolios

This event gave interested students the chance to learn more about EC roles in preparation for the upcoming elections and provided them with opportunities to engage with EC members, ask questions and learn more about the importance of governance at SAMU.

GovWeek

GovWeek had an increase in engagement in student governance as in-person sessions were held to inform students who are interested in running or who are interested in hearing from the candidates. Sessions included Build Your Platform, A Governance Panel, and GovWeek tabling that gave students the opportunity to find out more about governance and for potential candidates to get their nomination package signatures.

Food for Thought

This was an opportunity for Student Councillors to engage with the student body to gather feedback on emergent issues affecting the SAMU membership. Over 110 students attended the round table-style event for lunch and to provide feedback. SAMU received 21 responses from students for feedback on our Bylaw changes.

2.3 Continue to build collaborative relationships with other Students' Associations and organizations to enhance the collective student voice with all government levels.

Edmonton Student Alliance

SAMU's President was elected to the Chair position at ESA by a unanimous vote of 8 members. The organization met 4 times in this period in accordance with bylaws, and the President met with Councillors Cartmell, Wright, Salvador, Stevenson, Paquette, and Hamilton as a part of our municipal advocacy.

Canadian Alliance of Student Associations

SAMU's Vice President External (VPE) was elected to the CASA board as Director of Policy, where they successfully advocated for an increase in the Canada Student Grant, the elimination of interest on Federal Student Loans, and a \$400 million investment in Canada Summer Jobs program.

Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS)

The SAMU VP External was elected Vice Chair of CAUS mid-year as a result of an early departure for the previous person in the role. We were able to take a leading role in CAUS's Advocacy Week, with more than 10 meetings with stakeholders and MLAs alike, as well as provincial budget wins, including: a reduction of interest on Alberta Student Loans to prime from prime plus one, and a cap on domestic tuition for the coming academic year.

National Indigenous Advocacy Council (NIAC)

In collaboration with the VPE, SAMU was able to put forward an Indigenous Student Representative to our federal advocacy organization, CASA. Through NIAC, we met with the Assembly of First Nations and Indigenous Services Canada, 1 Member of Parliament, and 1 Senator, among other stakeholders.

Get Out the Vote

SAMU, alongside CAUS, ran a Get Out the Vote (GOTV) campaign as the provincial election geared up. Tabling events and a Pints & Politics information session at Towers were held. Nearly 700 pledges to vote were collected from students over the course of the campaign.

Strengthening Relationships with Elected Representatives

Over the past year, SAMU hosted multiple meetings with MLAs and MPs in the area to advocate to them on student issues. Meetings on campus included MP Blake Desjarlais, MP Heather McPherson, MLA David Shepherd, and MLA David Eggen.

2.4 Foster positive relationships with MacEwan University to better serve students.

Deans Meetings

As a part of SAMU's institutional advocacy, we met with Deans across the institution at the beginning of the EC term to determine their priorities and share ours. EC met with Deans Perlow, Keiller, Schalomon, McRae, and Gilliland.

Brain Freeze

SAMU partnered with MacEwan again in 2022 to offer the Brain Freeze Festival to students in December. Brain Freeze offers students a chance for a little bit of fun during the last week of classes before the Winter Break including: activities, games, food and drinks, a local vendor market, a resource fair focused on student wellness, an Indigenous light art display, music and the Coca Cola Holiday Truck.

Open House

SAMU participates in MacEwan's Open House to engage with potential students and let them know how SAMU supports their student journey at MacEwan. It is a good opportunity for EC to engage with potential students and offer SAMU building tours.

Time Capsule

In coordination with MacEwan, items were gathered and placed in the time capsule during a ceremony led by SAMU's President and President Trimbee. SAMU had its own package of info addressed to future SAMU and supplied the plaque to seal the capsule, which will be open on SAMU's and MacEwan's 100th anniversary in 2071.

3. STUDENT SUPPORTS

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

What it Means

Student life can be difficult. SAMU offers students a variety of programs and services to help with financial, mental, physical, and social stresses. SAMU is an inclusive organization, supporting diversity and participation of all students. As student needs evolve, SAMU watches trends and listens to students to ensure that SAMU offerings are reflective of those needs.

Strategies

3.1 Develop and deliver initiatives that are inclusive and are responsive to all student needs.

SAMU is proud of all our support services that help enhance the student experience. Being a student is stressful at any time, but the pandemic and its effect on the economy have made it even more challenging. Our lineup of support services that we offer include:

Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club was one of, if not the most, popular services this year. SAMU supplied 7,158 meals over 14 pop-up events. Demand exceeded expectations, which led to the Breakfast Club budget being 27.9% over budget. A budget increase was approved by EC and the selection of items was reduced slightly so SAMU could continue offering Breakfast Club for the remainder of the year.

The Pantry

The 2022-2023 fiscal year saw the largest increase in hamper pick-ups with a rate of growth of approximately 145%. A total of 1287 hampers were given out between Fall 2022 and Winter 2023.

SAMU received our Statement of Service in February from Food Banks Alberta and the membership accumulated in an estimated value of \$44,400. This includes an online course for volunteers about safe food handling, monetary donations from donors, and pantry inventory supplements. The membership with Food Banks Alberta added an approximate value of \$21,000 to The Pantry inventory over the course of a full year.

Peer Support

Peer Support successfully launched an online training portal for volunteers that was well received by not only new volunteers but also returning volunteers. The additional learning enabled the Peer Support Volunteers to be better equipped to support students looking to talk.

Peer Support conducted 43 sessions over Fall and Winter (this number doesn't include students who visit the Support Hub in person to ask questions or get resources). Of the students who utilized peer support, 33% were school stress related, 32% were relationship issue related, and 16% were mental health related. There were approximately 12% of students that disclosed they were facing thoughts of suicide.

Safe Walk

Safe Walk had a challenging year due to minimal interest in volunteering for Safe Walk which led to some shifts not being able to be met. Safe Walk was unable to be open for a large portion of the time Safe Walk was meant to be open. At the times that Safe Walk was open, there were 13 walks total through the Fall 2022 and Winter 2023 terms.

Study Buddies

Study Buddies was switched to a passive means of support by creating a Discord community. Over the course of the 2022-2023 year, the Study Buddies Discord was transitioned to include a full SAMU community. There are 237 students within the SAMU community discord and 125 students who have added the Study Buddies role to their profiles.

Study Buddies had limited engagement with volunteers as well as students within the discord role with some channels going unused for months.

Student Advocacy Centre

In July of 2022 the role of the Student Ombud Support was changed to better address supports that MacEwan students needed. The title of Student Advocate and Policy Support Specialist was implemented to continue to support students facing academic or non-academic issues, but also provide policy guidance, edits on correspondence with MacEwan faculty or staff, and attend meetings with students. From Spring/Summer 2022 to Spring/Summer 2023, the Student Advocate and Policy Support Specialist responded via email to 182 initial submissions and provided further support to 92 of those initial submissions through meetings, edits on correspondence with MacEwan Faculty/staff, and in-depth policy explanations. The top three issues that students reported were Academic Integrity Violations, Academic Standing, and Student-Professor Conflicts.

Anti-Racism Week

Anti-Racism Week, hosted by the VPSL in November 2022, saw the expansion of programming, external connections, and resources for students. SAMU handed out 120 wellness bags containing self-care and educational materials over the course of the week. An anti-racism event to educate students about racism prevalent in our community, school and daily lives was held to raise awareness of the discrimination and systemic barriers that marginalized members of our community face and promote an understanding of racial equity and justice at MacEwan so we can all strive towards a more inclusive campus.

Indigenous Learners Circle

The Indigenous Learner's Circle was a joint project with the kihêw waciston Indigenous Centre. Our goal was to uncover the gaps in advocacy for Indigenous students on campus that we at SAMU may not have been privy to. The event was attended by a dozen students who revealed a series of unexpected advocacy points such as sexual harassment when leaving campus.

3.2 Evaluate and assess student supports to remain relevant and accountable to students.

Student Health & Dental Plan Increase

Working with the Student Benefits provider, enhancements were made to student benefits including:

- HPV Vaccine included in the plan;
- \$100 increase for all paramedical maximums, maximum of \$400 per benefit year;
- \$100 increase in psychologist & social worker coverage, maximum \$600 per benefit year;
- No referral required for massage and physiotherapy;
- \$200 increase in dental coverage, maximum \$950 per year

Tuition and Fees Focus Group

As a part of the tuition and fees consultation process between SAMU and MacEwan, SAMU reaffirmed advocacy priorities through a series of focus groups. The goal was to unveil how the rises in living expenses, tuition, and fees were affecting students across faculties. Results from student interviews were compiled and the findings of the focus group were incorporated into the 2022 Tuition and Fees Focus Group Report. As a result, the concerns of students were highlighted to the administration with multiple detailed student testimonials.

Student Affordability Response Survey

In December, the Board of Governors approved a plan to increase next year's tuition by 5.5%. To gauge if there was an appetite for a response from the student body, the Student Affordability Response Survey was distributed to the student body on February 3rd. SAMU received an overwhelming 4,394 responses over the course of one week.

Internal Grants Adjudication

Each year, the Internal Grants Adjudication Committee reviews dozens of Dissemination Grants, USRI Dissemination Grants, SSHRC Institutional Grants, and Strategic Grants. To ensure that up-and-coming student research was advocated for, the VPA adjudicated 51 grant applications over the course of a month. As a result, 30 successful applications distributed \$34,841 CAD to student researchers.

SAMU Cares

SAMU was recognized at National Philanthropy Day for our donation to the SAMU Cares Bursary, which pushed the bursary principal value to \$1,000,000. This will in turn yield \$40K to students annually which is double what is currently being given out and allow for bursaries to be given out every term. A total of 72 bursaries were given out this past year.

Student Groups

The Student Groups department conducted verbal and written surveys to assess satisfaction with events and other aspects of Student Groups.

- Student Groups Expo was the most enjoyed event with a 76% satisfaction rate
- 62% of groups are satisfied with Student Groups Connect platform
- 76% of groups are satisfied with the Student Groups Handbook

- 80% of groups are satisfied with their overall experience as a student group

It is believed that the lower satisfaction score with Student Groups Connect is due to a lack of knowledge and understanding of the new platform. More focus will be put on educating student groups on the platform.

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

Cause Collaboration with MacEwan

SAMU is always keen to help advocate for initiatives and causes that benefit or interest students. SAMU and EC collaborated with MacEwan to help promote several worthy causes to students, including: Pink Shirt Day, Black History Month, Pride Week, Mental Health Week, Healthy Relationships Week, Sexual Violence Awareness Week and Truth & Reconciliation Day.

Period Products

The VPSL collaborated with MacEwan's pilot project for period products to successfully get an agreement to place period product dispensers in SAMU's female and all-gender washrooms. Dispensers will be in the washrooms for the start of the Fall 2023 term.

Hack the Brain Symposium

Universal Design for Learning (UDL) is a teaching modality that focuses on reducing barriers to a student's education by increasing methods to participate with class material. The goals for the Hack the Brain Symposium were to facilitate a meeting between like-minded faculty and instructors and to eventually generate a UDL committee/community of practice/UDL Center. Organized by SAMU's VPA, the event was attended by over a dozen MacEwan faculty members and included four guest speakers. On January 23, 2023, the GFC Committee on Teaching and Learning approved the terms of reference for the creation of an Accessibility and Universal Design for Learning Working Group.

Restorative Resolutions Community Service

In collaboration with the Office of Academic Integrity, the VPA created a pilot project to integrate academic integrity violation resolution agreements with community service. The rationale was to give the student a chance to give back to the community. This process was piloted on six cases and all six cases completed their assigned community service hours.

Service and PHET Collaboration

The SAMU Services department and MacEwan's Peer Health Education Team (PHET) started a project to produce content that not only educates students on mental, emotional, and physical health but is also interactive to customize support to students. The long-term goal of this project is to create a suite of resources for MacEwan students. The project started with three resources in the content generation phase and plans to roll out more throughout the next few years.

Student Groups

Over the past year, the Student Groups Department has built relationships with various MacEwan Departments, including MacEwan Conference Services, the International Department, the Office of Sexual Violence Prevention, Education, and Response (OSVPER), Center for Sexual and Gender Diversity, and Residence. These relationships will benefit individual groups in various ways including: helping them access their services, reach their audiences, and collaborate for future activities.

3.4 Enhance relationships with external organizations to leverage resources and supplement new and existing initiatives.

Splash and Bash

Splash and Bash is a collaborative event with UASU, NAITSA and West Edmonton Mall and was held again for students on January 27th. The event allows students to enjoy an exclusive pool party at the World Waterpark at a discounted price. The event sold out with 350 tickets being sold to students and their friends.

U-Pass

U-Pass saw a reduced activation rate (percentage of students who were assessed for U-Pass and activated it) this past year, compared to pre-pandemic years. SAMU believes this could be due to a couple of factors: the transit ARC Card system is still new and students are not used to it and the U-Pass program has lower awareness due to not being issued in some semesters during the pandemic causing more students to be new to the U-Pass program.

Fall 2022

13,658 Students Participated in Fall 2022 U-Pass
7885 picked up Arc Card and Activate U-Pass
58% Activation Rate

Winter 2023

13,419 Students participated in Winter 2023 U-Pass
8411 Activated Winter U-Pass
63% Activation Rate

Spring/Summer 2023

4635 Students participated in Spring/Summer 2023 U-Pass
2586 Activated Spring/Summer U-Pass
56% Activation Rate

Student Refugee Program (SRP)

SAMU completed the Intent to Sponsor process and expects to welcome a new SRP member in Summer 2023. Collaboration between Local Committee Group Membership and MacEwan Academic and Finance increased which has strengthened the relationship with MacEwan for all matters concerning SRP. Local Committee Group Members are actively searching for better ways to support SRP students' self-reliance and settlement in Edmonton.

4. STRENGTHENING SAMU OPERATIONS

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

What it Means

SAMU can best serve students when its own house is in order. By fostering strong relationships between elected student roles and staff, documenting policies and processes and being responsible stewards of resources, SAMU can be a supportive and sustainable organization for students for years to come.

Strategies

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

Governance Review Project

Through a third-party governance review in 2021/22, SAMU started work on 45 of the recommendations that came from the review. SAMU formed a Governance Project Implementation Team, consisting of two Executive Committee members, the General Manager(GM) and the GPIT Project Manager. More team members will be added and subtracted as work continues through the project. The project is broken down into three phases and seven more tasks were added to the 45 existing for a total of 52 tasks in the project. Phase one is complete, 11 tasks are outstanding in phase two and four tasks in phase three. As a part of phase one, SAMU underwent a review of our bylaws, which were approved by Students' Council in Winter of 2022 and resulted in a change from the title of VP Operations & Finance to VP Governance & Finance. Additionally, an Elected Representatives Code of Conduct was created and approved by Students' Council to further bolster accountability among members.

Executive Coordinator

A new position was added to the SAMU Operations team. An Executive Coordinator was hired to help EC in their day-to-day operations at SAMU. The position has been a welcome addition to helping coordinate all the various projects and duties of EC.

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

Strategic Plan

Students' Council (SC) voted to extend the duration of the Strategic Plan from a three-year plan to a five-year plan (2021 – 2026). It was felt that the start and stop interruptions of the pandemic didn't allow for a proper start to the plan, and an extension would allow more time to focus on the revised strategic goals.

4.3 Diversify revenue streams to reduce reliance on student fees.

Advertising Revenue

SAMU and the SAMU Building offer opportunities to generate revenue through various advertising channels including posters, tabling, digital displays, email newsletter and the student handbook. Advertising for the Handbook offsets the cost of printing.

- SAMU Building & Campus advertising revenue: \$19,200
- SAMU Student Handbook advertising revenue \$20,260

4.4 Act as financial and environmental stewards and implement effective practices to enhance sustainability.

Student Grant Increases

Over the course of the last year, SAMU determined the amounts for the Student Professional Development Grant and the Student Groups Operational Grant were insufficient given the steadily increasing cost of goods and services. Both grants received a \$200 boost, bringing the total per grant, per student to \$500, up from the previous amount of \$300.

Business Credit Card

In an effort to streamline tracking, reporting, and spending on credit cards issued to SAMU's staff and executives, the organization conducted a review of the current structure, where cardholders were split between two banks. The review indicated that a move to a consolidated system would best serve the organization's needs by lowering fees, bolstering accountability and increasing efficiency with regard to the use and reporting of credit card expenditures.

Food Recycler

SAMU implemented an in-office waste diversion program for staff in response to the amount of trash and food waste from our areas going into our landfills. SAMU purchased a Food Cycler Composting System that transforms up to 5L of food waste into a nutrient-rich soil amendment/compost. As the compost material are produced, staff can use it in the community or at home gardens.

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

General Manager Hiring

A public posting was made for the General Manager (GM) role which was currently vacant. Over 60 applications were received and a thorough review process was conducted to make a shortlist of three candidates. A few rounds of interviews were conducted by the hiring panel and SAMU's current Acting GM, Darryl Kostash, was hired to oversee the operations of the organization.

SAMU Awards

SAMU Awards Night is a chance to celebrate the 31 students, staff, and student groups nominated for a SAMU Award. A total of 53 people enjoyed a buffet dinner in The Lookout (SAMU's event space), played a fun game of trivia bingo and applauded all the nominees and winners. SAMU Awards recognize outstanding individuals who have interacted, supported, or assisted with the goals and efforts of the SAMU organization and community.

Remuneration Review

SAMU conducts a remuneration review approximately every three years as part of best business practices. Ensuring salaries and benefits are comparable and competitive is key to ensuring that we can attract and retain the talent needed to continue to grow as an organization and serve students. A comprehensive review was started in 2021-22 by a third-party consultant, and the recommendations from the review were implemented this fiscal.

Human Resources (HR) Processes

More HR responsibilities were added to the Volunteer Manager position to help streamline processes. The new position, Volunteer and Hiring Manager, is working on hiring, onboarding and offboarding processes utilizing the technology available within our current HR Software package.

Staff Survey

A SAMU Staff Survey 2023 was conducted with close to 100% of eligible respondents responding to the Survey. The survey helps to measure staff satisfaction and wellness and there were improvements in all areas when compared to the previous survey.

- Mental wellbeing improved by 48%
- Good work-life balance improved by 43%
- Likelihood of recommending SAMU as a place to work 8.45 out of 10.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTION RESULTS

Official 2023 Executive Committee Election Results

Number of Students Voting	Eligible Voters	Percentage
2173	14325	15.20%

8 Candidates ran for 5 positions

Official 2023 Vice-President External By-Election Results

Number of Students Voting	Eligible Voters	Percentage
1008	14322	7.00%

2 Candidates ran for 1 position

Previous Year – 2022 Executive Committee Election Results

Number of Students Voting	Eligible Voters	Percentage
1417	14113	10.04%

7 Candidates ran for 5 positions

STUDENTS' COUNCIL ELECTION RESULTS

Official 2022 Students' Council Election Results

Number of Students Voting	Eligible Voters	Percentage
948	14683	6.5%

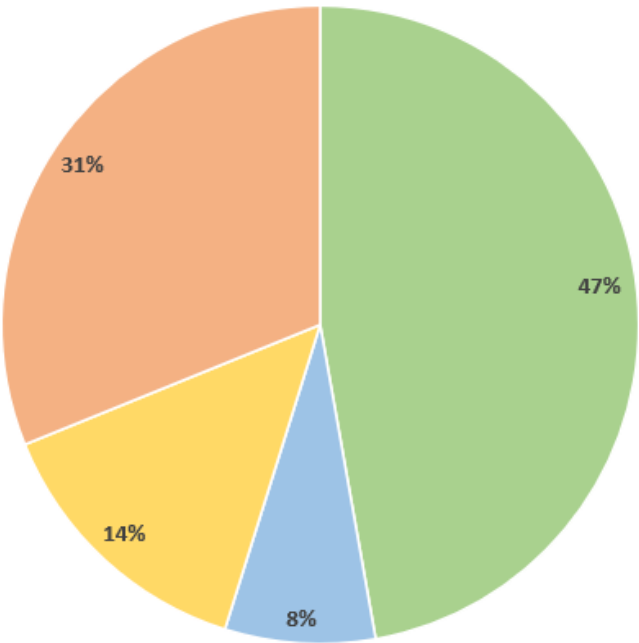
13 Candidates ran for 14 positions

Previous Year - 2021 Students' Council Election Results

Number of Students Voting	Eligible Voters	Percentage
1071	14895	7.19%

11 Candidates ran for 14 positions

SPENDING BY STRATEGIC GOAL



Strategic Goal		2022-2023
1. Student Experience and Engagement	The overall student experience is enhanced by the opportunities provided by SAMU.	47%
2. Student Voice	The student voice is amplified by SAMU.	8%
3. Student Supports	Student supports provided by SAMU are responsive to unique and evolving needs.	14%
4. Strengthening SAMU Operations	SAMU is an innovative and sustainable organization with an engaging work environment.	31%