



## STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION OF MACEWAN UNIVERSITY

**Minutes 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**

**TORRES/ZIDAN**

**CARRIED**

#### **2.2 MOTION**

**TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 20, 2023**

**CARTUJANO/VPSL**

**CARRIED**

### **3. Presentations**

### **4. For Information**

#### **4.1. Reports**

##### **4.1.1. President**

PVP meeting rescheduled. BOG update. Joy Shaw – previous – recently passed away.

##### **4.1.2. Vice President Academic**

As presented.

#### **4.1.3. Vice President External**

Thank you to SC members who represented students at City Hall re. zoning bylaw renewal. Myself & Pres have to attend meeting with Mayor during training.

#### **4.1.4. Vice President Governance & Finance**

As presented.

#### **4.1.5. Vice President Student Life**

As presented.

#### **4.1.6. Audit Committee (AC)**

Cartujano – as presented.

#### **4.1.7. Executive Committee (EC)**

Pres – as presented.

#### **4.1.8. Strategy and Engagement Committee (SEC)**

Vpsl – as presented.

#### **4.1.9. Finance Committee (FC)**

#### **4.1.10. Governance Committee (GC)**

#### **4.1.11. Students' Council Operations Committee (SCOC)**

#### **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, Layal, 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 preforming 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 requires a collaborative team effort with other post-secondary institutions in Alberta to advocate to the provincial government.

\*Sempala arrives at 6:06pm.

## **5.2. Oral Questions**

Topics include: Councillor of the year awards; Advocacy on tuition increases; BOG orientation; Associate Dean of FFAC meeting; Library Dean reappointment; Student Leadership Week; Restorative Justice and Sexual Violence Prevention Committee; International student lunch and learn; Governance Review Implementation; SCE students; potential investment policy; Student

Research; Restorative Justice process; EC Flex report; report submission; community engagement; collaborative events; engaging students across all campus buildings; Academic Integrity Tabling; Textbook cost event; EC for a Day; MNIF meeting; Tuition and fee consultation; mental health & wellbeing e-learning module; elections & campaigning; city council consultation process; transitional fee costs; avenues for providing information to students re. mental health module, etc; student refugee program; student research & funding; community engagement grant & training and learning grant; meetings with city councillors;

Pres & Zidan leave at 6:37pm.

Pres returns at 6:38pm.

Zidan returns at 6:39pm.

**6. In Camera Period**

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

**7.1. 2022-2023 SAMU Annual Report**

***MOTION TO APPROVE THE 2022-2023 SAMU ANNUAL REPORT***

***VPGF/ZIDAN***

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

***CARRIED***

**7.2. 2022-2023 Councillor of the Year Presentation**

**8. Consultation**

**9. Evaluation**

**10. Recognition**

**11. Adjournment**

***MOTION TO ADJOURN***

***CARTUJANO***

***CARRIED***

Next Meeting Date: November 15, 2023

Meeting adjourned at 7:27pm.