



STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION OF MACEWAN UNIVERSITY

Agenda for the Students' Council Meeting of the Students' Association of MacEwan University December 20, 2023 at 6:00pm via Zoom

Voting Members:

Gabriel Ambutong, President
Jakob Cardinal, Vice President External
Delaney Huhtala, Councillor
Cierra Jacobs, Vice President Student Life
Ian Kamenwa, Councillor
Mayank Kaushik, Councillor
Joseph A. La Torre, Vice President Governance
and Finance
Maade Okai, Councillor
Nhi Phan, Councillor
Nathan Poon, Councillor
Inder Singh, Councillor
Alem Tesfay, Councillor
Joehn Torres, Councillor
Chioma Uzor, Councillor

Stephan Vasquez, Vice President Academic
Sonia Yusuf, Councillor
Layal Zidan, Councillor
Abby Beka, Councillor
Katherine MacDonald, Councillor

SAMU Officials and Council Support:

Timothy Jobs, Chair
Darryl Kostash, General Manager
Alan Honey, Governance Advisor
Afroz Adam, Admin Support

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 DECEMBER 20, 2023

2.2 MOTION

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 15, 2023

3. Presentations

3.1. Canadian Alliance of Student Associations

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. Students' Council Operations Committee Work Plan

4.1.7. Audit Committee Work Plan

4.1.8. Executive Committee Work Plan

4.1.9. Governance Committee Work Plan

4.1.10. Finance Committee Work Plan

4.1.11. Strategy and Engagement Committee Work Plan

4.1.12.

4.2. Executive Committee Minutes

Minutes of November 8, 15, 29, and December 6, 2023 provided.

5. Question Period

5.1. Written Questions

Zidan - President: CAUS: Does the stepping down impact your work when it comes to the ability to represent students voice?

PRES - No, CAUS's ability to represent the student voice will not be diminished. The Vice-Chair's position has already been filled. Athabasca University's Students' Union's President was recently elected as Vice-Chair.

Zidan – President: SAMU and MacEwan: Executives Meeting: What outcomes can we expect from this meeting? To what extent do macewan take steps towards these students concerns

PRES - The nature of these meetings makes it difficult to determine what we can expect from administration. Although we do our best to represent students, nothing is ever guaranteed. However, all conversations SAMU has with MacEwan's administration serve as advocacy avenues, providing more opportunities for the Student Voice to be heard.

- To provide context, prior meetings have led to administration being made aware of student concerns around affordability. As a result of SAMU's affordability advocacy, some actions taken by MacEwan after our meetings has included the following:
 1. Ponoka Campus nursing students being provided access to free, clean drinking water.
 2. Tuition for international students being set at 2% (matching the provincial maximum of 2% for domestic students), despite administration being able to charge up to 10%.
 3. Waiving of the Mandatory Non-Instructional Sports and Wellness Fee for the upcoming Winter Term. In the announcement administration sent an email to all students, it was stated that, "We are taking this action for the upcoming term in response to students' concerns about affordability." This decision results in a reduction of \$1.2 million in student fees, a clear indication of our success in our advocacy.
 4. Increased Scholarships, Awards, and Bursaries (SABs) by \$1 million.

5. Freezing rates as MacEwan Residence.
- In terms of our previous meeting, we were able to gain information on SABs, which we intend to use to inform our advocacy. Whether it be removing barriers, extra requirements, or advocating for increased funding. We also intend to follow-up with administration on some priorities such as mental health (which the VPSL will be taking the lead on) and budget allocation discussions (which the VPGF will be taking the lead on).
- The extent to which MacEwan takes action varies, but ongoing advocacy by SAMU provides much needed context and pressures to ensure that administration listens to the Student Voice.

Zidan - Executives:

Can I have more clarification on MacEwan Committees – Teaching Awards Sub-Committee and the appointment of VPA to it

Exec(?) –

Huhtala - I notice that some committees have no training periods. Are there any planned initiatives to implement training for these committees?

VPGF - Currently, we have a focus on budget training for the Finance Committee because they will be shown budget presentations from all the SAMU departments to then recommend the next fiscal year's budget to Council. Training for other committees is something we will look into, as it is important to give Councillors as much support and training as they need in other committees.

Huhtala - For Pres: I'm sorry to hear of the 2% tuition increase. Do we know what this is in response to (inflation, cut funding, etc.)? If so, can we use this information to create a plan for avoiding tuition increases in the future?

PRES – Post-Secondary Institutions, including MacEwan, rely on 3 main sources of funding (grants, domestic student tuition, and international student tuition). Government grants account for 45%, while domestic and international tuition accounts for 43%, the rest is covered by ancillary service revenue and investments. To answer your question about funding cuts, institutions like MacEwan risk reductions in grant funding from the government when they do not opt for the 2% is the domestic tuition cap set by the provincial government. In terms of international student tuition fees (which is not regulated by the provincial government), MacEwan decided that this 2% increase was reasonable, in order to fund operating expenses for next year. SAMU disagrees with this increase because MacEwan has consistently had surpluses in recent years, making it difficult to justify the need for an increase in international student tuition. It is unclear if it is going to be feasible to avoid tuition increases, but we are taking steps to improve our institutional advocacy planning, capacity, and efficacy.

Tesfay – Pres: First, I applaud you for voting against the motion that would cause tuition increases for both domestic and international students. Second, item 2.4 of your report mentioned a discussion focused on student life. The topic of support for students impacted by global conflicts was brought up in that discussion. What was the result of that conversation, and in what ways will MacEwan and SAMU support those students?

PRES – MacEwan has not indicated any specific targeted supports, and I cannot speak on behalf of MacEwan. But SAMU intends to further look into internal, institutional, and community-based supports. So far, have been increasing marketing of supports, but we feel that there is still further work to be done. SC will be updated as necessary.

Phan - VPE: When's the busiest time of the year for VPE and why?

VPE –

Phan – Vpe: The joint advocacy from Quebec: What's the chance of the government re-proposing the increase again in the future? What can SRC do about this potential?

APSN: What are some of the highlights of the conversations with presidents from across provinces?

VPE –

Phan – Vpe: How can the waiver on the 20-hour limit for int' students be a win if they double the financial proof to apply for a study permit from 10k to more than 20k?

VPE –

Phan - Pres: Macewan Board of Gov Meeting: Thank you for the informative report. What is the correlation between the increase in tuition and in SABs

PRES - The correlation between tuition increases and SABs is an operational matter and does not concern SC at this time. When looking at SABs SAMU's advocacy primarily looks at student need vs SABs supplied.

Phan - Can you provide the statistics on tuition increase for domestic and international students in the past 4 years?

PRES - No, a breakdown of this information is currently not relevant to SC. However, the statics and other data regarding tuition increases have been used to inform SAMU's advocacy. At a high-level, we've seen tuition increase by more than 30% over the last 4 years.

Phan – Pres: SAMU+Mac Exec meeting: What was the discussion on the feasibility of transferring some of MacEwan's surplus funds into SABs?

PRES - In the interest of improving MacEwan's awareness of student concerns, they want to hear more from SAMU. It was noted that there has already been an increase in Scholarships, Awards, and Bursaries (SABs) by \$1 million, but the feasibility of transferring some of MacEwan's current surplus funds into SABs is unclear. However, SAMU intends to continue to advocate towards administration when it comes to mid-year injection of surpluses.

Phan – Pres: Did Macewan mention whether their decision (regards the above issues) is impacted by the new development of the Business building?

PRES - They mentioned that accumulated surpluses will be directed to capital investments such as the School of Business building. But they did not mention whether their decision is directly impacted by the development of the School of Business building.

Phan - VPGF: What are some of the highlights of the committees that you chair (Governance + Finance), for example: how's the work different/similar to the prior year or new focuses for the upcoming 2024 year?

VPGF - For the committees I chair, we have only met so far to discuss the TOR, work plan and planned training for one of the committees. The work of the committee will be similar to years past – such as the Finance Committee recommending the next fiscal year's budget to Council, SCOC reviewing Remuneration of Elected Representatives, and the Governance Committee reviewing policies that ensure its relevance.

Phan - VPSL: Thanks for adding the cushion to the main stairs area! How will this affect SAMU's budget?

VPSL – This would be considered an operational question in nature. However, you can rest assured that the cost is within the budget and will not have any negative effects.

Phan – Vpsl: Congrats on the win at the water situation on the Ponika campus! What were the solutions or steps that MacEwan took to rectify the situation? Why haven't they done it earlier? Will this free access to clean water be permanent?

VPSL – Thank you! I do not have the answer on what they did on their side, other than they were able to connect the proper people to care for the cost. I cannot speak to why it was not done earlier – likely because of budget changes and a possible miscommunication on their end. We hope this will be a permanent change, I can't see why they would change it in the future, but we are taking the necessary steps to ensure that future executives are checking in with the Ponoka students and know what needs to be monitored.

Phan - for anyone: How long will the expense of \$28,000 for The Griff intend to last (1 year or more, one-time expense or renewable)?

VPGF - Your question is operational in nature; however, from my understanding of your question and the way you phrased it, it is a one-time expense.

5.2. Oral Questions

6. In Camera Period

6.1 Honourary Membership

MOTION TO GO IN CAMERA

Pres –

Speakers List:

MOTION TO GO OUT OF CAMERA

7. Motions & Business Orders of the Day

7.1. Honourary Membership

MOTION TO GRANT HONOURARY MEMBERSHIP TO JOY SHAW

VPGF/

Speakers List:

7.2.

8. Consultation

8.1

9. Evaluation

9.1

10. Recognition

-

11. Adjournment

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Next Meeting Date: January 17, 2023

Meeting adjourned at pm.



STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION OF MACEWAN UNIVERSITY

**Minutes for the Students' Council Meeting of the
Students' Association of MacEwan University
November 15, 2023 at 6:00pm in Council Chamber**

Voting Members:

Gabriel Ambutong, President
Jakob Cardinal, Vice President External
Delaney Huhtala, Councillor
Mayank Kaushik, Councillor
Joseph A. La Torre, Vice President Governance
and Finance
Maade Okai, Councillor
Nhi Phan, Councillor
Nathan Poon, Councillor
Inder Singh, Councillor
Alem Tesfay, Councillor
Joehn Torres, Councillor
Chioma Uzor, Councillor
Stephan Vasquez, Vice President Academic

Sonia Yusuf, Councillor
Layal Zidan, Councillor
vacant, Councillor
vacant, Councillor

SAMU Officials and Council Support:
Timothy Jobs, Chair
Darryl Kostash, General Manager
Alan Honey, Governance Advisor

Absent:

Cierra Jacobs, Vice President Student Life
Ian Kamenwa, Councillor

Meeting called to order at 6:00pm.

<Intros>

1. Treaty 6 Land Recognition

We would like to acknowledge that this meeting of the Students' Association of MacEwan University is taking place on the traditional territories of the people of the Treaty 6 region in Central Alberta.

The Students' Association of MacEwan University is situated in the centre of what we call the city of Edmonton, which is called Amiskwaciy Waskahikan or Beaver Hill House in Nehiyawewin (Cree). This is the traditional home of the Nehiyaw (Cree) and Michif (Métis), and meeting place for many Indigenous peoples including the Nakawe (Saulteaux), Siksika (Blackfoot), Nakota Sioux (Stoney) and other nations.

2. Approvals

2.1 MOTION

TO APPROVE THE AGENDA FOR NOVEMBER 15, 2023

KAUSHIK/UZOR

**MOTION TO AMEND THE AGENDA TO INSERT COUNCILLOR REINSTATEMENT
AS THE FIRST ITEM UNDER MOTIONS & BUSINESS ORDERS OF THE
DAY SECITON**

PRES/HUHTALA

CARRIED

CARRIED

2.2 MOTION

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 18, 2023

VPGF/ZIDAN

CARRIED

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

PD session reminder – tomorrow 11am-1pm.

4.1.5. Vice President Student Life

4.1.6. Students' Council Operations Committee (In Camera)

4.1.7. Chief Returning Officer

4.1.8. Governance Investigations and Reinstatement Committee (In Camera)

4.2. Executive Committee Minutes

Minutes of October 18, 20, 25, and November 2, 2023 provided.

5. Question Period

5.1. Written Questions

5.2. Oral Questions

Topics include: Academic Standing Policy re. nursing program; work integrated learning in nursing program; international student tuition; Grammarly Go tool; AI working group;

*Torres arrives at 6:07pm.

6. In Camera Period

MOTION TO GO IN CAMERA

VPGF/ZIDAN

CARRIED

6.1 Councillor Vacancy

6.2 Councillor Reinstatement

MOTION TO GO OUT OF CAMERA

TORRES/ZIDAN

CARRIED

7. Motions & Business Orders of the Day

7.1. Councillor Reinstatement

MOTION TO REINSTATE ABBY BEKA AS COUNCILLOR FOR A TERM ENDING OCTOBER 31, 2024

PRES/VPGF

Favour: Pres, Vpe, Huhtala, Kaushik, Vpgf, Okai, Phan, Poon, Singh, Tesfay, Torres, Uzor, Vpa, Yusuf, Zidan

CARRIED

7.2. Councillor Vacancy

MOTION TO APPOINT KATHERINE MACDONALD AS A COUNCILLOR FOR A TERM ENDING OCTOBER 31, 2024

VPGF/ZIDAN

Favour: Pres, Vpe, Huhtala, Kaushik, Vpgf, Okai, Phan, Poon, Singh, Tesfay, Torres, Uzor, Vpa, Yusuf, Zidan, Beka

CARRIED

7.3. Strategy and Engagement Committee

Nominees: Okai, MacDonald, Uzor, Singh, Torres

MOTION TO APPOINT COUNCILLORS OKAI, SINGH, AND TORRES TO THE STRATEGY AND ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

VPGF/PRES

Favour: Pres, Vpe, Huhtala, Kaushik, Vpgf, Okai, Phan, Poon, Singh, Tesfay, Torres, Uzor, Vpa, Yusuf, Zidan, Beka, MacDonald

CARRIED

7.4. Audit Committee

Nominees: Zidan, Poon, Yusuf

MOTION TO APPOINT COUNCILLORS ZIDAN, POON, AND YUSUF TO THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

VPGF/KAUSHIK

Favour: Pres, Vpe, Huhtala, Kaushik, Vpgf, Okai, Phan, Poon, Singh, Tesfay, Torres, Uzor, Vpa, Yusuf, Zidan, Beka, MacDonald

CARRIED

7.5. Finance Committee

Nominees: Yusuf, MacDonald, Tesfay, Phan

MOTION TO APPOINT COUNCILLORS MACDONALD AND PHAN TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

VPGF/OKAI

Favour: Pres, Vpe, Huhtala, Kaushik, Vpgf, Okai, Phan, Poon, Singh, Tesfay, Torres, Uzor, Vpa, Yusuf, Zidan, Beka, MacDonald

CARRIED

7.6. Students' Council Operations Committee

Nominees: Huhtala, Poon, Torres, Yusuf

MOTION TO APPOINT COUNCILLORS HUHTALA AND POON TO THE STUDENTS' COUNCIL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

VPGF/SINGH

Favour: Pres, Vpe, Huhtala, Kaushik, Vpgf, Okai, Phan, Poon, Singh, Tesfay, Torres, Uzor, Vpa, Yusuf, Zidan, Beka, MacDonald

CARRIED

7.7. Governance Committee

Nominees: Zidan, Kamenwa, Yusuf, Tesfay, Phan

MOTION TO APPOINT COUNCILLORS ZIDAN, YUSUF, TEFAY, AND PHAN TO THE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

VPGF/ZIDAN

Favour: Pres, Vpe, Huhtala, Kaushik, Vpgf, Okai, Phan, Poon, Singh, Tesfay, Torres, Uzor, Vpa, Yusuf, Zidan, Beka, MacDonald

CARRIED

8. Consultation

9. Evaluation

10. Recognition

11. Adjournment

MOTION TO ADJOURN

ZIDAN

CARRIED

Next Meeting Date: December 20, 2023

Meeting adjourned at 7:17pm.



Students' Council Report

President

December 20th, 2023

Council,

Please see the report on my work as President from November 9th to December 13th.

Executive Summary

- Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS)
- MacEwan Board of Governors Meeting
- SAMU and MacEwan: Executives Meeting

Student Voice

The Student Voice is amplified by SAMU.

CAUS

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

The most notable item in the November 24th meeting was the announcement noting the Vice-Chair stepping down from their leadership position.

MacEwan Board of Governors Meeting



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

The Board of Governors is the highest governing body at MacEwan University. As SAMU President, A motion for the recommended Tuition and Fees for 2024/25 was approved. The recommendation is as follows: 2% tuition increase for domestic students (the maximum increase permitted by the provincial government), 2% tuition increase for international students (provincial government does not regulated increase limits, but the price of their tuition is guaranteed for the standard duration of their program), and no new/increases in mandatory non-instructional fees (MNIFs). The motion passed. Acting in my capacity as a Board Member, while carrying the perspective and experiences of a student, I voted against the motion, noting that students, the institution's largest stakeholder, cannot afford any form on increases on the cost of education.

SAMU and MacEwan: Executives Meeting

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

These quarterly meetings provide a platform for SAMU's executive team to touch base with MacEwan administration on various arising student concerns. The agenda included a presentation and question period on Scholarships, Awards, and Bursaries (SABs), Student Features in the School of Business Building, and a discussion on Student Life on campus. Most of the discussion focused on Student Life, which encompassed Supports for students impacted by global conflicts, a follow-up on the Student Mental Health Fee's impact, and the feasibility of injecting MacEwan's surplus funds mid-year into SABs and institutional supports for students. These items on Student Life are currently being investigated by both SAMU and MacEwan's administration. I will be sure to update Students' Council as needed.



**STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION
OF MACEWAN UNIVERSITY**

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' ASSOCIATION
OF MACEWAN UNIVERSITY**

Students' Council Report

Vice-President External

Date of Meeting Dec 20th, 2023.

Hello Council! I hope you are doing well.

Here is a summary of the work of the VPE portfolio up until Dec 14th.

Executive Summary

APSN (Alberta Post-Secondary Network) Reception

CAUS: Advocacy Week

Joint Advocacy Win

CASA: Advocacy Week

Student Experience & Engagement

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

N/A

Roles Report to Students' Council

[Date Report's Submitted]

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Student Voice

The Student Voice is amplified by SAMU.

APSN (Alberta Post- Secondary Network) Reception

The APSN is the accumulation of the presidents of the post-secondary institutions in our province. I had the opportunity to speak with many university presidents from across the province about the similarities of our advocacy and how to best learn from one another. We also discussed the different regional issues students face while attending PSI's.



(Left-Right)

Dr. Annette
Trimbee, Chair of
APSN. President of
MacEwan University

Ryan Osterberg -
Manager,
Communication &



CAUS meeting with Scott Sinclair,
Parliamentary Secretary for Indigenous
Policing.

CAUS Advocacy Week

At the provincial level, CAUS, the Council of Alberta University Students had our advocacy week. Priorities for CAUS for the 2023/2024 school year are as follows:

- Affordability
- Mental Health
- Honoring Treaties
- Reducing Sexual and Gender-based violence

I'd be happy to sit down and discuss the specific ask that goes alongside each of the priorities with any Student Councilor who desires to see a more in-depth look into each of CAUS's priorities.



CAUS meeting with
Advanced Education
Minister – Rajan
Sawhney.

Additional Joint Advocacy Win

I would also like to highlight a joint advocacy win from out in Quebec. The Bishops University Student Representative Council (SRC) reached out asking for support from student associations from across the nation as Quebec's provincial governments proposed a massive increase to tuition for Canadian out-of-province students from \$8992 to \$17000. CAUS answered the call and signed a letter of support in October. On Dec 14th, 2023, an announcement was made that there will be no tuition increases for out-of-province & International students! Our voice is strengthened together and together we can make positive change for students!

CASA Advocacy Week

At the federal level, CASA, the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations had our advocacy week. Priorities for 2023/2024 are as follows.

- Relieving Cost of Living Pressures on Students
- Supporting On-Campus Student Mental Health
- Unlocking Canadas Housing Supply
- Increasing Indigenous Access to Post-Secondary
- Investing in the Future of Canada's Research & Development
- Solving Todays Labor Market Needs (**International Student Working Hours**)
- Preserving Educational Fair Dealing.

I'd be happy to sit down and discuss the specific ask alongside each of the priorities with any SC member or group of SC members who desire to see a more in-depth look into each of CASA's priorities.

A win for international students!

On December 7th, the Honorable Marc Miller, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) made an announcement surrounding the International Student Program.

IRCC has extended the waiver on the 20-hour limit for off-campus work while class is in session until April 30, 2024. This extension will allow international students to work more than 20 hours off-campus through the remainder of the school year and until August 31, 2024. This announcement aligns with recent recommendations and data shared by CASA with the minister. CASA thanks the minister for making a decision that reflects the success of the pilot to date, the financial concerns of international students, and the importance of protecting international students from exploitation.

Student Supports



**STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION
OF MACEWAN UNIVERSITY**

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.

Closing Remarks

Thank you for taking the time to read my report and being an engaged Students Council!

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.

Your friend,

Jakob Cardinal.

Students' Council Report

Vice President Governance & Finance

December 20th, 2023

Jolly Greeting Council!

I cannot believe that it is already winter break – probably because there isn't enough snow to emphasize that its winter. I look forward to taking some time this break to rest and, hopefully, fingers crossed, go snowboarding. This month was filled with some wins for the Executive Committee all around, and preparation for the busy winter semester.

Nonetheless, you can find my report from November 9th – December 14th.

Executive Summary

- Winter Term Sport & Wellness Fee
- Committee Meetings
- SAMU Budget

Student Experience & Engagement

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



Student Voice

The Student Voice is amplified by SAMU.

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

Winter Term Sport & Wellness Fee

There was an email from the MacEwan administration that was sent to all students which said that in response to students' concerns on affordability, they waived the sport and wellness fee for the winter semester. This was due to the Executive Committee continually voicing that students are in an affordability crisis in meetings we had with the MacEwan administration through multiple avenues, such as the Tuition/MNIFs consultations, P/VP (Presidents, Vice Presidents) meetings, to name a few. Ultimately, this is a win and a step in the right direction for our institutional advocacy.

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.



Students' Council Operations Committee (SCOC) Meeting

SCOC met this month to review the TOR and approve the work plan.

Governance Committee Meeting

The Governance Committee met this month to review the TOR and approve the work plan.

Finance Committee Meeting

The Finance Committee met for the first time this month to review the TOR and approve the work plan.

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

SAMU Budget

In preparation for the SAMU budget that will be presented to Council during the March 2024 Council meeting, I and other departments have started to work on budgeting for each department, and as part of your role at Council, one of the most important items we approve is the annual budget. And so, we will have budget training available to Council early winter semester and I highly recommend, if you are able to attend, to go to this training; there will be an email sent out early winter semester confirming the training date.

Closing Remarks

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.

May your holidays be bright, and your New Year's be filled with future insight. Have a great break everyone; I will see you all in the New Year.



STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION
OF MACEWAN UNIVERSITY

Kind Regards,

Joseph A. La Torre, (He/Him)

VP Governance and Finance, SAMU 2023/2024

savpopoperations@macewan.ca

Students' Council Report

Vice President Student Life

12-20-2023

Salutations my fellow councilors! ❄️ 🌲 🧊

Please see below my report of activity in office from November 9- December 13.

Executive Summary

- Brain Freeze Festival
- Healthy Relationships Week Planning Committee
- Meeting with Chandelle Rimmer, Interim AVP Students
- Student Mental Health Working Group – Consultation Sub-committee
- Ponoka Campus Visit Update
- Mental Health Week Planning Committee
- Cushions for SAMU Wood Stairs

Student Experience & Engagement

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

Cushions for SAMU Wood Stairs



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

Following many concerns from students, via our online feedback form, we understood that students are in need of more lounging spots on campus. Within the SAMU building, we have limited space to add a lounge but through discussion among EC and working with our GM, VPGF and myself were able to secure a project to add cushions to the wooden part of the main stairs. This will hopefully encourage more opportunities to lounge in SAMU and protect the wood structure, making it last longer.

Student Voice

The Student Voice is amplified by SAMU.

Meeting with Interim AVP Students, Chandelle Rimmer

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

Following the departure of the former AVP students, I was able to connect with Interim AVP Students, Chandelle Rimmer, about the opportunities available to strengthen the relationship SAMU has with Student Affairs. The meeting was extremely valuable to ensuring a continued connection between counterparts – SAMU's VPSL and AVP Students. We discussed how to best streamline communications of MacEwan events and opportunities for students, a project Chandelle is planning to work on in her 18-month term, and she invited me to be a part of the Student Affairs Leadership meetings in the new year as another connection point to updates on MacEwan's side.

Ponoka Campus Visit Update

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

Following our September 13 visit to the Ponoka Campus, we were made aware of several issues students at Ponoka are facing which impact their student experience. One of these issues was free access to clean drinking water. Due to the location of the Ponoka Campus for Psychiatric Nursing being in a rural area and attached to the Centennial Centre for Mental Health and Brain Injury, the students did not have access to water fountains, thus leaving the students to pay for their own water cooler. Through our advocacy efforts and working on positive relationships with MacEwan administration, we were able to rectify this situation and the students at Ponoka no longer pay for their water. We've ensured the students have free access to clean drinking water.

Student Supports

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

Mental Health Week Planning Committee

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

Mental Health Week will be hosted January 22-26, 2024 with activities across campus. The Student Mental Health Working Group has collaborated with this initiative to host focus groups and receive passive feedback on mental health on campus. Further details will be announced by the end of next week (Dec. 22) in the link below. Since mental health is a priority for us at SAMU and the second biggest concern for students, following affordability, we are working hard to promote and make this week a success. If you can, please consider attending events and engaging with activities. I will be following up with you all once details are released. Check out this link:

<https://www.macewan.ca/campus-life/mental-health/news-events/>



Healthy Relationships Week Planning Committee

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

I was invited to be part of the Healthy Relationships Week planning committee. We have been meeting to develop details of the week, which will run February 12-16, including a resource fair with both internal and external community engagement, and other events that will be finalized in the new year. We are focusing on the theme “Fill Your Cup” and have been discussing ways to break down masculine stigma to encourage more engagement with our masculine facing student population. We are excited to have a full week of benefits over Valentines Day week and I will share details with you as soon as they are finalized.

Brain Freeze Festival

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

The executive committee attended the Brain Freeze Festival on December 4th. As a part of the planning committee, I was eager to see how it turned out and what contributions were made. This festival has been a collaborative event between SAMU and MacEwan for the past three years, as we recognize how great of an opportunity it is for students to relax before finals and feel a part of the student community. We felt that student attendance was low and there were missed opportunities for activities. I'm happy to say that I will be following up with MacEwan to debrief the event and get further insight. If anyone attended and has feedback to give, please reach out to me!

Student Mental Health Working Group – Consultation Sub-committee

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

VPSL Report to Students' Council

12-14-2023

Page 4 of 5



In our last Student Mental Health Planning Committee, the group decided to bring together a sub-committee to plan for student consultation. I am part of this sub-committee, and we are working with the Mental Health Week (January 22-26) initiative to launch the focus groups and gather feedback from students passively. We aim to have several bulletin boards up with prompts that students can anonymously answer, along with a QR code feedback form for students who don't want to write or want to offer longer responses to the prompts. The focus group dates and details will be released soon, as we hope to facilitate early in the winter semester to accommodate for students before exam season begins. I will be inviting you all to partake when the time comes, so be prepared to get involved!

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

SCOC Workplan 2023-24
For Information to Students Council
Submitted: December 20th, 2023

Chaired By:	Joseph A. La Torre, Vice President Governance and Finance			
Committee Members:	Delaney Huhtala, Councillor Nathan Poon, Councillor			
Committee Mandate:	Students' Council Operations Committee advises and reviews Students' Council, interviews and vets candidates for appointments made by Students' Council, and annually reviews the remuneration and compensation provided to Councillors, Executives, and other Students' Council appointments performing governance roles at SAMU.			
Approved by Committee:	November 30 th , 2023			
Received by Council:	December 20 th , 2023			
Task	Details	Stakeholders	Timeline	Status
Executive Committee Remuneration	Discuss remuneration policy with respect to EC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discussion on CPI inflation of EC salary and determine EC remuneration. - Discussion on EC and coursework for sustainability. 	Executive Committee Students Council	December /January 2024	Initial Stages
Students' Councillor Remuneration	Review and discuss remuneration of councillors	Students Council Executive Committee	January/ February	Ongoing
Chief Returning Officer (CRO) Evaluation Discussion	Discussion if the CRO should be evaluated after every election cycle.	Executive Committee/ Student's Council	January/ February	Initial Stages
Chief Returning Officer (CRO) Appointment	Appoint the CRO for the 24/25 SAMU elections.	Executive Committee, Students' Council	April	Ongoing
Chair of Students' Council Appointment	Appoint the 24/25 Chair for Students' Council.	Students' Council, Executive	March/April	Ongoing

		Committee		
Evaluate the Chair of Students' Council	Evaluate the chair of Students' Council performance.	Students' Council, EC	March & August	Ongoing
Review the Students' Council's Operations	Review the meeting minutes and evaluations to report on and determine the effectiveness of Students' Council.	Students' Council, Executive Committee	As needed	Ongoing
Councillor Appointments	Appoint SAMU members to Student Councillor vacancies.	Students' Council, Executive Committee	As needed	Ongoing

Audit Committee Workplan 2023-2024
For Information to Students Council
Submitted: December 13, 2023

Chaired By:	Sonia Yusuf, Councillor			
Committee Members:	Brian Gulbraa, Student-at-Large; Nathan Poon, Councillor; Layal Zidan, Councillor; and vacant, Student-at-Large. Resource Official: Cameron Whiting, Senior Finance Manager; Michelle Malin, Associate Professor, MacEwan University			
Committee Mandate:	Audit Committee assists the Students' Council in fulfilling its financial oversight responsibilities.			
Approved by Committee:	December 14, 2023			
Received by Council:	December 20, 2023			
Task	Details	Stakeholders	Timeline	Status
Training	Audit Committee (AC) will receive training.	Audit Committee Students' Council	11 AM –12 PM on January 5, 2024	On-going
Quarterly Meetings	AC will meet quarterly to monitor, evaluate, advise, and make recommendations on matters affecting external, internal, or special audits; policies and practices related to internal controls; and compliance with legal, statutory, and regulatory requirements.	Audit Committee Students' Council	Meetings will be held at the end of the following months in 2023: Q2 review - February Q3 review - May Q4 review - August SAMU Audit review – October Q1 review - November	On-going

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	Ongoing - Reformatted	
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: March 1/2	
Status	ongoing	
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	cancelled	
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	cancelled	
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. Transition to AI toolkit on website	
Status	amended	
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	cancel	
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	Ongoing – operationalize this moving forward	
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 – operationalize this going forward	
Final Summary of Initiative	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.	
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	done	
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	done	
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. 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 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>	

Governance Committee Workplan 2023-2024
For Information to Students Council
Submitted: December 20th 2023

Chaired By:	Joseph A. La Torre, VP Governance and Finance			
Committee Members:	Colton Bloudoff, Student-at-Large Nhi Phan, Councillor Kris Ravelo, Student-at-Large Alem Tesfay, Councillor Sonia Yusef, Councillor Layal Zidan, Councillor			
Committee Mandate:	The Governance Committee ensures the relevance and consistency of SAMU Bylaws and Policy and assists in governance process development.			
Approved by Committee:	November 29 th , 2023			
Received by Council:	December 20 th , 2023			
Document	Last Review Date	Details	Timeline for Review	Status
Governing Documents Policy	N/A	Expanding on the policies policy, procedures procedure and including directives to localize them into one document.	December/ January	In-Progress
Honourary Membership Policy	January 2018	To review this policy since it has been more than 4 years since its last review.	TBD	Initial Stages
Town Halls	October 2015	To review this policy since it has been more than 4 years since its last review	TBD	Initial Stages
Governance Engagement Policy	N/A	Detailing what engagement looks like as an elected representative	January/ February	In Progress
Budget Approval	February 2014	To review this policy since it has been more than 4 years since its last review and Expanding on the scope of the budget approvals policy.	TBD	Initial Stages
Students' Council Meetings/ Attendance Policy	January 2022	To review Students' Council virtual attendance and to potentially have those expectations in a policy.	January/ February	Initial Stages

Governance Transition	February 2022	Annual review of transition policy before transition occurs.	TBD	Initial Stages
Roles and Responsibilities of Elected Representatives	April 2021	Review before EC elections.	January/February	Initial Stages

Finance Committee Workplan 2023-2024
For Information to Students Council
Submitted:

Chaired By:	Joseph A. La Torre, VP Governance and Finance			
Committee Members:	Gabriel Ambutong, President Olad Ayodeji, Student-at-Large Sewaj Grewal, Student-at-Large Cierra Jacobs, VP Student Life Katherina MacDonald, Councillor Nhi Phan, Councillor			
Committee Mandate:	Finance Committee oversees the construction of the SAMU budget, assesses and reviews SAMU fees, and reviews SAMU financial statements			
Approved by Committee:	December 8 th , 2023			
Received by Council:	December 20 th , 2023			
Task	Details	Stakeholders	Timeline	Status
Annual Budget	Finance Committee oversees the construction of the annual SAMU budget and recommends it to Students' Council for Approval	Students' Council SAMU Students At Large SAMU Members	Budget Training - TBD Budget Presentations February 20th- 23th	Initial Stages
Annual Review of Finance Policy	Finance Committee Reviews this policy annually	Students Council SAMU Finance Students At Large	TBD	Initial Stages
Annual Review of SAMU Fees Policy	Finance Committee Reviews this policy annually	Students Council SAMU Finance Students At Large SAMU Members SAMU Affiliates	TBD	Initial Stages

Strategy and Engagement (SEC) Workplan 2023-2024
For Information to Students Council
Submitted: December 14, 2023

Chaired By:	Cierra Jacobs, VP Student Life (VPSL)			
Committee Members:	Jakob Cardinal, VP External Maade Okai, Councillor Inder Singh, Councillor Joehn Torres, Councillor Nikita van der Leeden, Student-at-Large Chloe Witherspoon, Student-at-Large			
Committee Mandate:	The Strategy and Engagement Committee (SEC) strives to maximize student engagement with Students' Council, provides leadership development opportunities to members of Students' Council and acts as a consultation body for strategic priorities.			
Approved by Committee:	November 27, 2023			
Received by Council:	December 20, 2023			
Task	Details	Stakeholders	Timeline	Status
Student Engagement Opportunities	Strategy and Engagement Committee develops a plan for Student Council to engage with SAMU members. (including, but not limited to: tabling, classroom visits, social media, etc.) 1-2 per semester	SAMU Students' Council Students at Large	Ongoing	Ongoing
Professional Development and Teambuilding	Strategy and Engagement Committee creates opportunities for members of Students' Council to develop leadership skills by: Researching and implementing	SAMU Students' Council	Ongoing	Ongoing

	<p>applicable professional development opportunities for members of council, and developing team building opportunities for Students' Council.</p> <p>1 each per semester</p>			
Consultation	<p>Provide feedback of Executive Committee's initiatives. (Including but not limited to: Council of Alberta University Students and Canadian Alliance of Student Associations priorities, Sexual Violence Prevention and Education Committee policy review, Campus Mental Health Strategy, etc.)</p> <p>As needed.</p>	<p>SAMU Students' Council Students at Large</p>	Ongoing	Ongoing



**Minutes for the Executive Committee Meeting of the
Students' Association of MacEwan University
November 8, 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:
**VPGF/VPA
CARRIED**
3. Approval of Minutes: November 2, 2023
**VPGF/VPA
CARRIED**

TOPIC		DISCUSSION	ACTION/MOTION
1.	Student Groups	MSASG: Vpsl – two applications received. Any feedback? Vpa – how is this one different than some of the similar clubs? Vpgf – this seems more broad-based. May be some duplication in events. Vpsl – had similar concerns. Agree that this one is more broad based than some of the other groups we're talking about.	MOTION TO APPROVE THE MACEWAN SOUTH ASIA STUDENT GROUP VPSL/VPGF CARRIED
		MUHCC: Vpgf – wasn't there already a classics club? Is this a rebranding? Vpa – this group is diverse enough. Vpsl – there was a previous classics club but they disbanded.	MOTION TO APPROVE THE MACEWAN UNIVERSITY HISTORY AND CLASSICS CLUB VPSL/VPA CARRIED
2.	Maintenance Fund expense request	Vpgf – this is the cost to upgrade the front desk – remove top beam and replace with a countertop. Vpsl – needed. They're currently hidden while sitting at the front desk.	MOTION TO APPROVE AN EXPENSE OF UP TO \$5800.00 FROM THE MAINTENANCE FUND TO UPGRADE THE RECEPTION DESK IN SA-301

			VPGF/VPSL CARRIED
3.	SAMU Committees – SAL appointment	<p>Ga – received this application for the Finance Committee.</p> <p>Vpgf – think it will be hard to fill the seat due to meeting requirements. Support this candidate – we'll be providing training for the whole committee so that should alleviate any potential issues with lack of knowledge.</p> <p>Vpa – would feel more comfortable if they had more experience, but trust Vpgf's comments.</p> <p>Vpsl – agree, think we should appoint.</p>	<p>MOTION</p> <p>TO APPOINT SEHAJ GREWAL TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE FOR A TERM ENDING OCTOBER 31, 2024</p> <p>VPGF/VPSL CARRIED</p>
4.	MacEwan Committees – Teaching Awards Sub-Committee	<p>Vpa – position needs to be filled by November 9. Usually filled by an exec, but this year the exec election results won't be known prior to when we need to have someone appointed. I've done this prior and have capacity for it.</p> <p>Vpgf – fine with appointing Vpa.</p> <p>Vpsl – should advocate to MacEwan for a different timeline. No issue with appointing Vpa. Need better communication from MacEwan.</p>	<p>MOTION</p> <p>TO APPOINT STEPHAN VASQUEZ TO THE TEACHING AWARDS SUB-COMMITTEE</p> <p>VPSL/VPGF ABSTAIN: VPA CARRIED</p>
5.	Project Updates (Standing Item)		
6.	Outstanding Action Items		
7.	VP External's report	tabled	
8.	VP Governance and Finance's Report		<p>MOTION</p> <p>TO GO IN CAMERA</p> <p>VPGF/VPSL CARRIED</p> <p>MOTION</p> <p>TO GO OUT OF CAMERA</p> <p>VPGF/VPSL CARRIED</p>
9.	VP Student Life's Report	<p>Out of office next week, working from home the week after, back in office last week of November.</p> <p>SC PD update.</p> <p>Student Mental Health Week & CHARM update.</p> <p>Student Brain Freeze update.</p> <p>Holiday Cards update.</p> <p>Search Committee update.</p>	
10.	President's Report	tabled	
11.	VP Academic's Report	<p>Internal Grants Adjudication.</p> <p>A12 Working Group update.</p> <p>GFC update.</p> <p>Open House.</p>	

12.	General Manager's Report	Tabled.	
13.	Recognition		

4. Adjournment

Time: 3:03pm.



Minutes for the Executive Committee Meeting of the
Students' Association of MacEwan University
November 15, 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:
**VPGF/VPE
CARRIED**
3. Approval of Minutes: November 8, 2023
**VPGF/VPE
CARRIED**

TOPIC		DISCUSSION	ACTION/MOTION
1.	Q1 Budget Update	Q1 Budget Overview presented by Cam Whiting.	
2.	Advo Meeting Room Tech Booth - Shelves	Tech Booth - \$1600.00	MOTION TO APPROVE AN EXPENSE OF UP TO \$1600.00 FROM THE MAINTENANCE FUND FOR THE ADDITION OF SHELVES TO THE 200B ADVO MEETING ROOM TECH BOOTH VPGF/VPE CARRIED
3.	Marketing/The Griff equipment	Marketing & the Griff tech - \$28,000.00	MOTION TO APPROVE AN EXPENSE OF UP TO \$28000.00 FROM THE MAINTENANCE FUND FOR EQUIPMENT UPGRADES AND ADDITIONS IN SAMU'S MARKETING & THE GRIFF DEPARTMENTS VPGF/VPE CARRIED

			MOTION TO APPROVE AN EXPENSE OF UP TO \$3700.00 FROM THE MAINTENANCE FUND FOR A STUDENT GROUPS AREA TABLE VPGF/VPE CARRIED
4.	Student Groups Area Table	Student Groups - \$3700.00	
5.	Project Updates (Standing Item)		
6.	Outstanding Action Items		
7.	VP External's report	CAUS Advo Week update.	
8.	VP Governance and Finance's Report		
9.	VP Student Life's Report	tabled	
10.	President's Report	Attended convocation. Interview with CBC re affordability. Met with Marketing & SLT re. supports for students.	
11.	VP Academic's Report	Tabled.	
12.	General Manager's Report	Tabled.	
13.	Recognition		

4. Adjournment

Time: 2:28pm.



**Minutes for the Executive Committee Meeting of the
Students' Association of MacEwan University
November 29, 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: November 15, 2023
**VPSL/VPGF
CARRIED**

TOPIC		DISCUSSION	ACTION/MOTION
1.	Student Groups	<p>Every Nation Campus MacEwan Vpa – in favour. Pres – wonder if it's a unique group. Vpsl – this is under a specific church – christian faith, but different (structure) than other groups.</p> <p>Linguistic Diversity at MacEwan University</p>	<p>MOTION</p> <p>TO APPROVE THE EVERY NATION CAMPUS MACEWAN STUDENT GROUP</p> <p>MOTION</p> <p>TO APPROVE THE LINGUISTIC DIVERSITY AT MACEWAN UNIVERSITY STUDENT GROUP</p> <p>VPSL/VPGF CARRIED</p>
2.	Audit Committee – Resource Official	Michelle Malin	<p>MOTION</p> <p>TO APPOINT MICHELLE MALIN AS A RESOURCE OFFICIAL FOR THE AUDIT COMMITTEE FOR A TERM ENDING OCTOBER 31, 2024</p> <p>VPGF/VPSL CARRIED</p>

3.	Project Updates (Standing Item)		
4.	Outstanding Action Items		
5.	VP Governance and Finance's Report	Consultation interview updates re. barriers to SC for students with Vpa. EC branding update. Budgeting update.	
6.	VP Student Life's Report	Sent out calendar holds to EC – Brain Freeze, Mental Health Week, etc. Planning meeting for MHW. Respond to NSO email please. Leadership meetings with Student Affairs update.	
7.	President's Report	CASA Advo Week. CAUS board meeting update. Affordability interview update.	
8.	VP Academic's Report	Registrar appointment update. Academic Integrity update. SoB Premier visit with Vpgf. Committees updates.	
9.	VP External's report	CASA Advo Week. CAUS Leadership update.	
10.	General Manager's Report	Residence update. Insurance costs update. Day of remembrance for Joy Shaw on Saturday. 109 St bus stop update. Sound masking update. Staircase project update. HR update. SG updates. Student Charter update.	
11.	Recognition		

4. Adjournment

Time: 2:44pm.



**Minutes for the Executive Committee Meeting of the
Students' Association of MacEwan University
December 6, 2023 @ 2:30pm**

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: 3:00pm
2. Approval of Agenda:
**VPA/VPGF
CARRIED**
3. Approval of Minutes: November 29, 2023
**VPGF/VPE
CARRIED**

TOPIC		DISCUSSION	ACTION/MOTION
1.	Project 8 Stairwell Floor Pads	Vpgf – brought forward by GM – pads for stairwell – students are already relaxing there and this would make it more comfortable. Vpsl – in favour of this. Students will appreciate it.	MOTION TO APPROVE AN EXPENSE OF UP TO \$16,000.00 FROM THE MAINTENANCE FUND FOR STAIRWELL FLOOR PADS VPSL/VPGF CARRIED
2.	Student Groups	MacEwan Seva Group Vpsl – mandate is essentially the same as Rotoract Club. Not in favour of approving it as presented. Vpa – some religions have to provide service to help others. Feel this is a religious group doing the same as a secular group. Vpgf – application indicates it is unique. Vpsl – nothing in the app indicates this is based on faith. Pres – can we ask the SG to update the application to provide more/better info?	
3.	Project Updates (Standing Item)	Sharepoint Drive: EC Workplan	
4.	Outstanding Action Items		

5.			
6.	VP Academic's Report	COSA update. SSJOC update. Registrar Appointment update.	
7.	VP Governance and Finance's Report	GovCom & SCOC meetings. Working on Governance budget. Met with GM & Finance Manager re. SAMU fees for next year.	
8.	VP Student Life's Report	Healthy Relationships Planning meeting update. Dean of Nursing response update. Student Mental Health Framework update.	
9.	President's Report	BOG update.	
10.	VP External's report	APSN reception. Municipal advo update.	
11.	General Manager's Report	Safewalk update. HR update. Budgeting season. Building update. Peer Support update. Breakfast Club update.	
12.	Recognition		

4. Adjournment

Time: 3:48pm



**STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION
OF MACEWAN UNIVERSITY**

STUDENTS' COUNCIL MEETING SUBMISSION

AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION

Meeting Date	Submitted By
December 20, 2023	Gabriel Ambutong, President

Agenda Title	Item
	Honourary Membership
Action Requested	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Consultation Item

AGENDA ITEM DETAILS

Motion Title	Motion to grant Students' Association of MacEwan University Honourary Membership status to Joy Shaw
Background Information	<p>Honouring SAMU allies signals that we, as an organization, truly value and appreciate those in our community that show unrivaled commitment to supporting students.</p> <p>Joy Shaw has been nominated to be granted Honourary Membership status with SAMU. The nomination form and supporting documents have been attached for Students' Council's review. The Honourary Membership Policy has also been included.</p>
Alternative Considerations	To not grant Honourary Membership status.
Risk Management Considerations	n/a
Strategic Alignment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Attached Strategic Alignment Checklist is complete
Implications	We will recognize Joy's contribution to SAMU and student life at MacEwan University.
Related Documents	Honourary Membership Policy
Follow Up Action	n/a

Review History

n/a

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.2 Increase student awareness of SAMU and its opportunities through strong communications and engaging marketing and brand	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.4 Support Student Groups by offering networking opportunities, meeting space, outreach support and online platforms	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Student Voice			
The Student Voice is amplified by SAMU.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.1 Develop an Advocacy Plan and implement processes to strengthen SAMU's advocacy program.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.2 Enhance awareness and interest in SAMU's democratic processes through education and encouraging student participation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.4 Foster positive relationships with MacEwan University to better serve students	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Student Supports			
Student supports provided by SAMU are responsive to unique and evolving needs.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.1 Develop and deliver initiatives that are inclusive and are responsive to all student needs.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.2 Evaluate and assess student supports to remain relevant and accountable to students	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.3 Strengthen collaborations and partnerships with MacEwan University to expand supports and resources for students.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.4 Enhance relationships with external organizations to leverage resources and supplement new and existing initiatives	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Strengthening SAMU Operations			
SAMU is an innovative and sustainable organization with an engaging work environment.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.2 Document main policies and processes to support business continuity and transitions in leadership and staff.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.3 Diversify revenue streams to reduce reliance on student fees.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.4 Act as financial and environmental stewards and implement effective practices to enhance sustainability.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>