

Agenda for the Students' Council Meeting of the Students' Association of MacEwan University February 21, 2024 at 6:00pm in the Council Chamber

## **Voting Members:**

Gabriel Ambutong, President
Abby Beka, Councillor
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
Katherine MacDonald, Councillor
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

## 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.

<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 FEBRUARY 21, 2024

2.2 MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JANUARY 17, 2024

4.	For Inform	ation				
	4.1. Re <sub>l</sub>	ports				
	4.1.1.P	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.	Гоwn Hall (VPGF)				
	4.1.7.					
	4.2. Exe	ecutive Committee Minutes				
	Minutes	of January 10, 17, and February 7, 2024 provided.				
5.	Question I	Period				
	5.1. Writte	en Questions				
	5.2. Oral 0	Questions				
	Topics Incl	ude:				
6.	In Camera	Period				
7.	Motions & Business Orders of the Day					
	7.1. Roles and Responsibilities of Elected Representatives Policy					
	MOTION	TO APPROVE THE ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES POLICY ON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE				
	VPO/					
	Favour:					
	Oppose:					
	Oppose.					
	7.1. Stu	dent Representation Policy				
	MOTION	TO APPROVE THE STUDENT REPRESENTATION POLICY ON THE RECOMMNEDATION OF THE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE				
	VPO/					
	Favour:					
	Oppose:					

3. Presentations 3.1.

7.2.

8. Consultation

8.1

- 9. Evaluation
  - 9.1. Students Council Evaluations Form
- 10. Recognition

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11. Adjournment

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Next Meeting Date: March 20, 2024

Meeting adjourned at



Minutes for the Students' Council Meeting of the Students' Association of MacEwan University January 17, 2024 at 6:00pm in the Council Chamber

# **Voting Members:**

Gabriel Ambutong, President
Abby Beka, Councillor
Jakob Cardinal, Vice President External
Delaney Huhtala, Councillor
Cierra Jacobs, Vice President Student Life
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## SAMU Officials and Council Support:

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Meeting called to order at 6:00pm.

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#### 2. Approvals

2.1 MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA FOR JANUARY 17, 2024

ZIDAN/UZOR

**CARRIED** 

2.2 MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF DECEMBER 20, 2023

KAUSHIK/TORRES

**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
  - 4.1.5. Vice President Student Life

Mental health & wellbeing course available.

- 4.1.6. Executive Committee
- 4.1.7. Students' Council Operations Committee
- 4.1.8. Governance Committee
- 4.1.9. Strategy and Engagement Committee

Teambuilding update provided.

- 4.1.10. Finance Committee
- 4.1.11. Audit Committee
- 4.2. Executive Committee Minutes

Minutes of December 13, 2023 and January 3, 2024 provided.

### 5. Question Period

# 5.1. Written Questions

Zidan - Did the executives took part in other activities during NSO?

Pres - Yes, the executives promoted SAMU governance by tabling in building 9.

Zidan - I know that the point of meet SAMU day is to make students aware of SAMU, its services and etc. but is there any feedback or data collected from meet SAMU

Pres - I spoke with our operations team, and they mentioned that the only data we collect during NSO are entries for the tuition draw. We do not collect feedback from students during NSO. Feedback used to inform our advocacy is typically gathered from surveys.

# 5.2. Oral Questions

Topics Include: Affordability survey; ConEd students; CASA Campaign re. accessible education; Waiving of gym fee for semester; student affordability; Mental Health Week Planning Committee; OER Workshop cancellation; Textbook Transparency Project; CAUS survey; government officials who will be on campus this term;

\*Okai enters @ 6:05pm.

- 6. In Camera Period
- 7. Motions & Business Orders of the Day
  - 7.1. SAMU Fees Policy

# MOTION TO DISREGARD CLAUSE 4.3 OF THE SAMU FEES POLICY FOR THE 2024-2025 FISCAL YEAR

#### VPGF/ZIDAN

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

### **CARRIED**

# 7.2. Remuneration of Elected Representatives Policy

# MOTION TO APPROVE THE REMUNERATION OF ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES POLICY ON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE STUDENTS' COUNCIL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

### VPSL/HUHTALA

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

#### **CARRIED**

# 7.3. Governing Documents Policy

# MOTION TO APPROVE THE GOVERNING DOCUMENTS POLICY ON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

#### VPGF/UZOR

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

#### **CARRIED**

# 7.4. Honourary Membership Policy

# MOTION TO APPROVE THE HONOURARY MEMBERSHIP POLICY ON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

### VPGF/VPSL

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

#### **CARRIED**

# 7.5. Town Halls Policy

# MOTION TO APPROVE THE TOWN HALLS POLICY ON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

## **VPGF/SINGH**

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

## **CARRIED**

# 7.6. Policies Policy

# MOTION TO RETIRE THE POLICIES POLICY

#### VPGF/ZIDAN

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

# **CARRIED**

- 8. Consultation
- 9. Evaluation
- 10. Recognition
- 11. Adjournment

#### MOTION TO ADJOURN

#### ZIDAN

# **CARRIED**

Next Meeting Date: February 21, 2024

Meeting adjourned at 6:45pm.



# **Students' Council Report**

# **President**

February 21st, 2024

Council,

Please see the report on my work as President from January 9th to February 14th.

# **Executive Summary**

Advocacy

# **Student Voice**

The Student Voice is amplified by SAMU.

# Advocacy

2.1 Develop as Advocacy Plan and implement processes to Strengthen SAMU's advocacy program.

As part of SAMU's advocacy efforts, we are taking steps to increase capacity and improve culture. Here are a few examples:

- As you've seen on the Executive Committee's (EC) Workplan, we have been shifting from tabling-based projects toward advocacy-focused initiatives.
- As part of our initiatives, SAMU has conducted two major surveys as a means of informing our advocacy goals. The "Global Conflicts Survey" and the "Affordability Survey." The former aims to better understand the needs of



students impacted by global conflicts, while at the same time operating within the scope of SAMU and prioritizing the student experience. Affordability has always been a top priority for students, this year is no different. The feedback from both the "Global Conflicts" the "Affordability" surveys will be used to inform SAMU's ongoing advocacy efforts.

- Internally, SAMU is also in the process of hiring additional advocacy staff support.
- We are reinforcing advocacy as a priority of EC through training modules,
   transition plans, and a shift from "Project Planning" to "Advocacy Planning."
- EC resources and capacity have intentionally been shifted strongly toward, not
  just representation (tabling, event attendance, etc.), but meaningful
  representation (committees, councils, governance bodies, etc.).
- This year, there has been a strong focus on institutional advocacy, that is, advocacy toward the university. The reason being is that, despite municipal, provincial, and federal advocacy being impactful to students, items related to Tuition and Fees and student supports lie within the university's scope.
- EC's advocacy priorities have been and will continue to be informed by student voice through surveys, focus groups, and Students' Council (SC).

# **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



# **Students' Council Report**

# **Vice President Academic**

**February 14th, 2024** 

Happy February folks,

I hope that your terms are going well. While this time is usually stressful due to exams and assignments, I like to remember with each warmer passing day that summer is around the corner. Until then...

Please see below for my report.

# **Executive Summary**

- General Faculties Council
- Council on Student Affairs
- Student Affordability Survey



# **Student Supports**

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

# Student Affordability Survey

Strat Bullet Point (3.2)

To better understand the current financial constraints on students, as well as what specific needs students require, the Stakeholder Relations Manager and I created an affordability survey to capture a screenshot of the current predicament of students. This data will be used to reinforce our advocacy goals, as well as our future projects. The survey was completed and launched on Monday the 12<sup>th</sup>. I'm very excited to see the results!

# **General Faculties Council**

Strat Bullet Point (3.3)

General Faculties Council is looking to delegate a large majority of its authority to multiple lower committees. To ensure that this delegated power does not shrink the voting power of student representatives, I've begun discussions with Sumiko Yipp, University secretary, to increase the number of Student at large positions in the key committees that may gain that delegated power. The terms of reference for these committees will be reviewed in September, so I've begun conversations with stakeholders to ensure we have sufficient representation on the important MacEwan Committees.

# Council on Student Affairs

Strat Bullet Point (3.3)

The council on student affairs had two presentations, the Education and Response and the Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Climate Survey, and the center for sexual and Roles Report to Students' Council [Date Report's Submitted]
Page 2 of 3



gender diversity presentation on programming highlights and updates. The Climate survey had 1699 responses as well as in-depth data on the current state of sexual violence prevention on campus. Next steps will focus on determining how to incorporate recommendations in OSVPER planning and programming, as well as a comprehensive program evaluation next year.

The Center for sexual and gender diversity presented on their programming vision for the next 4 months, including pride week, a queer prom for college students, and other various events. As provincial legislation is becoming more hostile towards gender diverse youths (including prospective students) these programming initiatives are essential to create a welcoming and supportive campus.

# **Closing Remarks**

I hope that you all have a fantastic month, feel free to email me if you have any questions or concerns.

Cheers,

-Stephan Vasquez



# Students' Council Report Vice President External February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024

Hello Council!

Here is a summary of the work of the VPE portfolio up until Feb 14<sup>th</sup>.

# **Executive Summary**

CASA Update: E-Plenary, Board Change-up

CAUS Update: Counterpart Conference

**ESA Update** 

**Off-Campus Work Hours for International Students** 

**Member of Parliament Visit** 

# **Student Experience & Engagement**

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

N/A

# **Student Voice**

The Student Voice is amplified by SAMU.

# **CASA Update**

This past month I had the opportunity to take part in CASA's E-Plenary. During E-Plenary, all 23 member institutions from coast to coast to coast come together to approve numerous policies that will positively affect advocacy efforts. If any SC member is interested to learn more about the approval process and/or the policies that were approved, please do reach out.

A CASA board member, the Director of Policy, has stepped away from their position. The next steps to fill this vacancy are underway and I will report back on those next steps that are relevant to the Students Council.

# **CAUS Update**

This month the Executive Committee (minus VPSL) attended CAUS Counterparts. The idea of the CAUS counterparts conference is to push forth CAUS's advocacy efforts. As well as bringing the internal executives together in ways that are not typically available or accessible for increased information sharing and collaboration. Expectations were less than met at CAUS Counterparts and the CAUS Board has voted to eliminate CAUS Counterparts for the foreseeable future. SAMU voted in favor of this change.

# **ESA Update**

The Edmonton Student Alliance (ESA) met at SAMU for an event that focused on the sustainability of the organization. Key topics of discussion included institutional capacity checks, investing in branding, and the potential of a member fee being added to the ESA to ensure longevity. All to increase the Edmonton Student Alliances advocacy potential.

## **External Governance Relations**

**Increase of Off-Campus Work Hours for International Students** 

This month SAMU signed on and joined student associations from across Alberta to call for extended working hours for International Students. This press release was in partnership with ASEC (Alberta Students Executive Council) members, as well as CAUS members schools. This work was done outside of our traditional Provincial advocacy body CAUS (Council of Alberta University Students) to increase the scope of the ask. An exert from the Press Release which highlights the key messages:

"International students deserve the same freedoms to work that are afforded to domestic students" says University of Lethbridge Students' Union President, Maleeka Thomas. "Limiting students' ability to work off-campus has big downsides. Not all jobs can be worked with limited hours, hindering students' chances to gain valuable experience in their relevant fields.

Additionally, students already employed full-time may be forced out of their current jobs."

### Member of Parliament Visit

This month we had the opportunity to host Member of Parliament and Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Official Languages, The Honorable Randy Boissonnault. The President, Vice President Academic, and I, advocated for increased financial supports, increased working hours for international students and copy right (fair dealing). The Minister was receptive to our asks and had mentioned they would bring our discussion forward with fellow Liberal Ministers that very weekend at their Minister retreat.



# **Student Supports**

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

<u>N/A</u>

# **Strengthening SAMU Operations**

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

N/A

# **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**

**February 21st, 2023** 

**Greetings Council!** 

I hope the second month of the year is going well for you as we slowly and somehow quickly get through the year.

Please see my report from January 11th – February 14th.

# **Executive Summary**

- Town Hall
- EC for a Day: Pizza & Portfolios
- Governance Committee

# **Student Experience & Engagement**

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

# **Student Voice**

The Student Voice is amplified by SAMU.



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

# Town Hall

Please see the Town Hall report.

# EC for a Day: Pizza & Portfolios

This was an opportunity for students to ask their Executive Committee members what it is like to be part of EC, and afterwards, they'd receive two slices of pizza. This event was held in the Student Lounge from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm. Ultimately, we saw over 150 students attend this event while distributing all the pizza.

# **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.

# **Governance Committee Meeting**

The Governance Committee met to discuss mandating the VPGF to sit on the Board of Governors. It was a fruitful debate, and it resulted in recommending policy changes to the Roles and Responsibilities of Elected Representatives and Student Representation Policy to mandate the VPGF to sit on the Board of Governors as the second student representative to Council.

# **Closing Remarks**

Thank you for reading my report!

Please email me or set up a meeting if you have any further questions or if you would like me to elaborate on anything.

Kind Regards,

Joseph A. La Torre, (He/Him)

ALaTorre

VP Governance and Finance, SAMU 2023/2024

savpoperations@macewan.ca



# **Students' Council Report**

# **Vice President Student Life**

2-21-2024

# **Greetings Council!**

Happy Black History Month! I hope you are all taking time to rest before or after your midterms and enjoy some fun, celebratory events happening on campus this month.

Please see below my report on the office from January 12- February 14, 2024.

# **Executive Summary**

- Mental Health Week (MHW)
- Student Success Navigators
- Sexual Violence Prevention and Education Committee (SVPEC)
- Student Mental Health Working Group (SMHWG)

# **Student Supports**

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

# Mental Health Week (MHW)

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

VPSL Report to Students' Council 2-21-2024 Page **1** of **3** 



As you all know, Mental Health Week occurred January 22-26. There were a ton of events aimed at promoting student well being along with many resources and opportunities for students to give their feedback on campus mental health supports. I attended almost every event and was a bit disappointed at the student engagement. We saw a lot of staff and administration supporting these events but very few students were in attendance for most. We debriefed about the week and overall, we felt good about the quality of programming but hope to see higher student engagement as we work on destigmatizing mental health needs. If you attended or did not attend any events, please feel free to share your thoughts and experience with me so we can inform the next year's efforts.

# **Student Success Navigators**

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

I met with student success navigators Erin Giles and Sandhya Pillai through the Student Success Centre, with the connection of Amy Fadeyi. They were able to express how they aim to support students on social wellbeing and about changes coming forward in Student Affairs. They are removing the current First-Year Mentorship Program and are excited to implement the Flight Path Program this coming fall. If you're interested in any programming coming up this semester, check it out <a href="here">here</a>.

# Sexual Violence Prevention and Education Committee (SVPEC)

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

The SVPEC met for only the second time during my 1-year term. We were welcomed by a new director, Jill Chelsey, in the Office of Human Rights, and a new Sexual Violence Response Coordinator, Penda Diouf. We went over the group's purpose and Terms of Reference (TOR). We had a lot of fruitful discussion about any change we see fit and are looking forward to some changes of the committee's structure.



# Student Mental Health Working Group (SMHWG)

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

The SMHWG met on February 14<sup>th</sup> to go over the findings of the Mental Health Focus Groups. I want to thank so many of you for participating in this important program aimed at bettering mental health supports across the campus. We are working on dissecting the data from the focus groups and aiming that feedback to relevant suggestions to add to the Mental Health Framework.

# **Closing Remarks**

The student's voice informs the student experience, and I always welcome yours! Please hesitate to contact me via email at <a href="mailto:savpstudentlife@macewan.ca">savpstudentlife@macewan.ca</a>

Cheers,

Cierra Jacobs (she/her)

VP Student Life, SAMU 2023/2024

# Students' Council Report

Town Hall "Food for Thought" 2024 February 21st, 2024

Hello Council,

As per policy, a report is to be submitted to Students' Council for the town hall. This report is a summary of the event in its entirety.

# **Event Summary**

For this year's Town Hall we had Students' Council engage with the student body by tabling in the Lookout. Each table had a different topic, an assortment of handbills related to the table's topic, and a printout of information on the topic for Councillors to reference when engaging with students.

Regarding the event format, before students enter the Lookout, they will receive a passport, and they will need to visit 3/5 tables to obtain a stamp to be eligible to receive a Vietnamese sub and be entered to win 1 of 12 \$25 grocery gift cards. Furthermore, there was a post-Town Hall survey that students could scan at the Feedback table to not only provide feedback but also to win 1 of 2 \$50 grocery gift cards.

Town Hall had 5 topics with Councillors stationed at 4/5 tables and the topics were:

- Fees, Health and Dental, U-Pass
- Government Advocacy & Governance
- Academics, Online Learning, Generative Al
- Programs & Services, Student Groups, and Events
- Feedback Table

The were no Councillors stationed at the Feedback table because we thought it best to have an EC member be there to receive students feedback and address any other their concerns.

The 4 tables each had 1 Executive and 3-4 Councillors who were expected to be knowledgeable in their assigned areas.

# <u>Analytics</u>

- 274 students attended the event, which is a 59% increase in attendance from last year's Town Hall, with 113 students attending.
- 31 students filled out the post-Town Hall Feedback form.
- All 200 Vietnamese subs and extra pizza ordered were all gone.
- 1 Executive Committee member relieved afterwards.

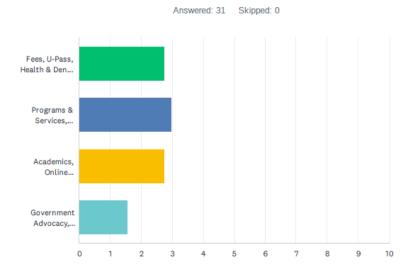
# Post-Town Hall Feedback Survey

This year, we had a post-Town Hall feedback form where we surveyed students on a few things:

- Feedback on which topic students found was most important.
- How well students feel represented by Students' Council.
- Students' using Online Education Resources.
- Which type of advocacy is important to students.
- What issues students are currently facing.
- If they've voted in our elections.

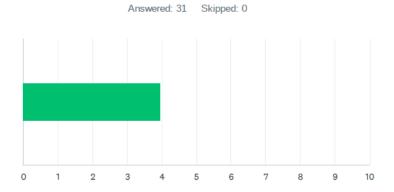
Below are some of the results from the questions we asked in the feedback form:

# Q1 Think about the discussions you had at Food For Thought. Please rank the following topics of discussion in order of most to least productive and relevant:



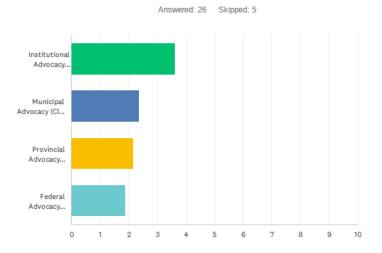
	1	2	3	4	TOTAL	SCORE
Fees, U-Pass, Health & Dental Benefits	41.94% 13	16.13% 5	16.13% 5	25.81% 8	31	2.74
Programs & Services, Student Groups, Events	35.48% 11	35.48% 11	19.35% 6	9.68%	31	2.97
Academics, Online Educational Resources (OERs), Generative AI	19.35% 6	41.94% 13	32.26% 10	6.45% 2	31	2.74
Government Advocacy, Governance	3.23% 1	6.45% 2	32.26% 10	58.06% 18	31	1.55

# Q2 On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being completely unrepresented and 5 being very well represented, how represented do you feel by Student's Council?



ANSWER CHOICES	AVERAGE NUMBER	TOTAL NUMBER	RESPONSES
	4	123	31
Total Respondents: 31			

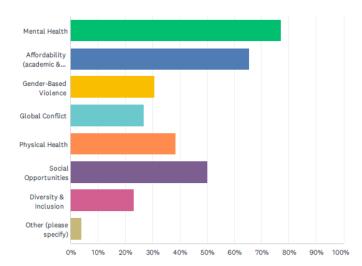
# Q7 What area of advocacy is most important to you?



	1	2	3	4	TOTAL	SCORE
Institutional Advocacy (MacEwan University)	76.92% 20	11.54% 3	7.69% 2	3.85% 1	26	3.62
Municipal Advocacy (City of Edmonton)	15.38% 4	34.62% 9	19.23% 5	30.77% 8	26	2.35
Provincial Advocacy (Government of Alberta)	3.85% 1	23.08% 6	57.69% 15	15.38% 4	26	2.15
Federal Advocacy (Government of Canada)	3.85% 1	30.77% 8	15.38% 4	50.00% 13	26	1.88

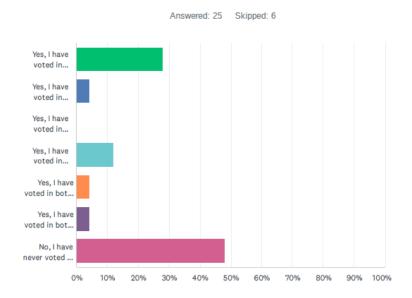
# Q8 What issues faced by university students are most pressing to you? Please select all that apply

Answered: 26 Skipped: 5



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Mental Health	76.92%	20
Affordability (academic & non-academic)	65.38%	17
Gender-Based Violence	30.77%	8
Global Conflict	26.92%	7
Physical Health	38.46%	10
Social Opportunities	50.00%	13
Diversity & Inclusion	23.08%	6
Other (please specify)	3.85%	1
Total Respondents: 26		

# Q10 Have you voted before in either a SAMU Executive Committee or Students' Council election?



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes, I have voted in Executive Committee elections multiple times.	28.00%	7
Yes, I have voted in Executive Committee elections once.	4.00%	1
Yes, I have voted in Students' Council elections multiple times.	0.00%	0
Yes, I have voted in Students' Council elections once.	12.00%	3
Yes, I have voted in both elections multiple times.	4.00%	1
Yes, I have voted in both once.	4.00%	1
No, I have never voted in SAMU student elections.	48.00%	12
TOTAL		25

# **Closing Remarks**

The Executive Committee considers this event to be a success! From the feedback we heard from Councillors and the opportunities for students to learn more and ask their questions will let students know that SAMU is here to listen to any concerns and issues they are facing.

Furthermore, I would like to thank Councillors for all their hard work and dedication to learning about your assigned topics. Overall, this Town Hall was successful, and we look forward to carrying this momentum forward into other events and, most importantly, our advocacy.

If you have any questions regarding this report, please reach out.

# Kind Regards,

Joseph A. La Torre, (He/Him)

JALaTorre

VP Governance and Finance, SAMU 2023/2024

savpoperations@macewan.ca

# STUDENTS' COUNCIL MEETING SUBMISSION

	AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION				
Meeting Date		Submitted By			
February 21st, 202	24	Joseph A. La Torre, Vice Presid	dent Governance & Finance		
Agenda Item Title	Roles and F	Responsibilities of Elected Rep	resentatives Policy		
Action Requested		⊠Motion	Consultation Item		
		AGENDA ITEM DET	AILS		
Motion Title		the Roles and Responsibilities lation of the Governance Comm	of Elected Represenatives policy on the ittee		
Information advocacy President Student Governo it current Executive Furtherm sitting or because the necession priority to this is in Lastly, the Governorm of the control o		utcomes, we (the Governance overnance & Finance's portfolio presentative. As a result, the will be the President and the Violeting the President and a Studenmite sitting on the Board. It is the VPGF sits on the MacEware Board of Governors, it will let by changes to tuition is approved any advocacy training, knowled to the Board to be an effective with the VPGF portfolio shifting recommendation has gone thro	advocacy and creating a greater impact on its committee) recommend adding to the Vice to sit on the Board of Governors as the second two student representatives on the Board of the President Governance & Finance opposed to dent-at-Large Representative appointed by the an Tuition/MNIFs consultation meetings and by them continue to advocate on students' behalf at Board level. Additionally, the VPGF will have also, support, availability, capacity, focus, and we Board student representative member. Also, go to an advocacy oriented focus.  The provided HTML representative member and the deliberations of the Governance of		
Considerations representative Representative		ive, and continue to have	ing the second Board of Governors student the the President and a Student-at-Large Committee as the two student representatives		
Risk Management Considerations	Low				

Strategic Alignment	Attached Strategic Alignment Checklist is complete
Implications	The VPGF will be mandated to take on the role of second student representative with the Board of Governors.
Related Documents	Student Representation Policy, Board of Governors and General Faculties Council Representation Procedure.
Follow Up Action	Amend the Board of Governors and General Faculties Council Representation Procedure.
Review History	Last Review April 21st, 2021

# 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.		$\boxtimes$	
1.1 Put the finishing touches on the SAMU building, enhancing the safe and intentional spaces for students to gather, relax and study.		$\boxtimes$	
1.2 Increase student awareness of SAMU and its opportunities through strong communications and engaging marketing and brand		$\boxtimes$	
1.3 Increase student engagement by offering relevant and meaningful			
events, programs, services, volunteer activities and employment opportunities for students			
1.4 Support Student Groups by offering networking opportunities, meeting space,			
outreach support and online platforms Student Voice			
The Student Voice is amplified by SAMU.			
			Ш
2.1 Develop an Advocacy Plan and implement processes to strengthen SAMU's advocacy program.			
2.2 Enhance awareness and interest in SAMU's democratic processes through education and encouraging student participation			
2.3 Continue to build collaborative relationships with other Student Associations and organizations to enhance the collective student voice with all government levels		$\boxtimes$	
2.4 Foster positive relationships with MacEwan University to better serve students			
Student Supports			
Student supports provided by SAMU are responsive to unique and evolving needs.		$\boxtimes$	
3.1 Develop and deliver initiatives that are inclusive and are responsive to all student needs.		$\boxtimes$	
3.2 Evaluate and assess student supports to remain relevant and accountable to students		$\boxtimes$	
3.3 Strengthen collaborations and partnerships with MacEwan University to expand supports and resources for students.		$\boxtimes$	
3.4 Enhance relationships with external organizations to leverage resources and supplement new and existing initiatives		$\boxtimes$	
Strengthening SAMU Operations			
SAMU is an innovative and sustainable organization with an engaging work environment.		$\boxtimes$	
4.1 Review SAMU governance structures and make improvements to reduce duplication of efforts and delays in decision-making processes.			$\boxtimes$
4.2 Document main policies and processes to support business continuity and transitions in leadership and staff.		$\boxtimes$	
4.3 Diversify revenue streams to reduce reliance on student fees.		$\boxtimes$	
4.4 Act as financial and environmental stewards and implement effective practices to enhance sustainability.		$\boxtimes$	
4.5 Foster a professional and supportive work environment that lives the organizational values and delivers a culture of excellence.			$\boxtimes$



### Roles and Responsibilities of Elected Representatives

#### Rationale

Clear responsibilities for all those in governance roles at SAMU ensure their adherence to SAMU principles of good governance, helping them to better serve the SAMU membership.

Clear responsibilities for the members of Students' Council ensure that Students' Council meetings are effective and that the decisions made by its members are well informed.

Clear responsibilities for the Executives ensure the effective fulfillment of duties relevant to their portfolios and hold the Executives accountable to the SAMU membership.

#### **Definitions**

**Good Governance** provides strategic direction for SAMU that aligns with its vision as a whole, anticipating and responding to the needs of present and future students through the effective stewardship of the bylaws, policies, and strategic plan.

**Official Position** is a formal stance on a particular issue that has been approved by Students' Council.

#### Expectations

#### Roles and Responsibilities of Members of Students' Council

- 1 Members of Students' Council adhere to the SAMU Bylaws and Policies.
- 2 Members of Students' Council take and adhere to the Students' Council Oath, referenced in Appendix A of this policy.
- **3** Members of Students' Council consult and represent the student body.
- 4 Members of Students' Council participate in Town Hall meetings, Students' Council meetings, committees, and related SAMU business.
- **5** Members of Students' Council review all material included in agenda packages and provide applicable feedback prior to meetings.
- 6 Members of Students' Council participate in mandatory training sessions.
  - **6.1** A member of Students' Council must attend at least 80% of a mandatory training session in order to be counted present.
  - **6.2** In the event that a member of Students' Council fails to be present for a mandatory training session that member will be automatically removed from office.



- **6.2.1** A member of Students' Council who is absent from a mandatory training session because they are attending to official SAMU business is excluded from this requirement.
- 7 Members of Students' Council participate in Town Hall meetings.
  - **7.1** A member of Students' Council must attend at least 80% of a regularly scheduled Town Hall meeting in order to be counted as present for that meeting.
    - **7.1.1** A member of Students' Council who is absent from a Town Hall because they are attending to official SAMU business is excluded from this requirement.
  - **7.2** In the event that a member of Students' Council fails to be present for a regularly scheduled Town Hall meeting that member will be automatically removed from office.
- 8 Members of Students' Council participate in Students' Council meetings.
  - **8.1** A member of Students' Council must attend at least 80% of a regularly scheduled Students' Council meeting in order to be counted as present for the meeting.
    - **8.1.1** A member of Students' Council who is absent from a Students' Council meeting because they are attending to official SAMU business is excluded from this requirement.
  - **8.2** In the event that a member of Students' Council fails to be present for at least 80% of the regularly scheduled Students' Council meetings that member will be automatically removed from office.
- **9** Members of Students' Council participate in additional tasks as assigned by Students' Council.
- **10** In the event a member of Students' Council is automatically removed from office they may apply to Students' Council for reinstatement.
  - **10.1** A written application for reinstatement must be submitted to the Governance Investigations and Reinstatement Committee (GIRC) through the Governance Office within 7 business days of their removal from Students' Council to be considered.
  - **10.2** An application for reinstatement must include all pertinent information, including opportunities to make up for lost engagement, that will help the GIRC render a recommendation to Students' Council.
  - 10.3 Students' Council will consider an application for reinstatement at their next regularly scheduled Students' Council meeting and will decide by formal motion based on the recommendation from GIRC. This motion requires at least 2/3 voting in favour to pass.
  - **10.4** Applicants for reinstatement must attend the Students' Council meeting where their application is being considered.



**10.5** Reinstated members of council will retain their previous committee appointments if the vacancies created by their removal have not yet been filled.

#### Roles and Responsibilities of Members of Executive Committee

- **11** Members of Executive Committee represent SAMU by acting in accordance with all official positions.
- 12 Members of Executive Committee maintain regular office hours.
- 13 Members of Executive Committee provide up-to-date, written reports to Students' Council on their respective areas of responsibility, to be submitted with the Students' Council agenda package. These reports include goals and projects, significant issues affecting SAMU or its members, as well as decisions made at meetings attended on behalf of SAMU.
- **14** Members of Executive Committee provide up-to-date reports to Executive Committee on their respective areas of responsibility, to be delivered orally during meetings of Executive Committee.
- 15 Members of Executive Committee participate in the orientation of their successors.
- 16 Members of Executive Committee serve on the university committee on tuition and fees.
- 17 Individual workloads of members of Executive Committee may be redistributed by Students' Council at the request of Executive Committee.

# Roles and Responsibilities of the President

- 18 The President supports the direction, initiatives, and advocacy efforts of all other members of the Executive Committee, and serves as the official spokesperson of SAMU and principal contact for SAMU legal affairs.
- **19** The President is the direct contact for the MacEwan University Board of Governors, faculty, and staff associations, serving as a member of the Board of Governors and related committees.
- **20** The President is knowledgeable on, and advises Students' Council of significant issues impacting the SAMU membership, non-academic university relations, and alumni relations.

#### Roles and Responsibilities of the Vice President Academic

- **21** The Vice President Academic (VPA) is the direct contact for academic relations of SAMU, including university committees and academic initiatives.
- **22** The VPA is a member of university committees, including General Faculties Council, and acts as the academic liaison to department chairs, deans, and the Provost.



23 The VPA is knowledgeable on, and advises Students' Council and SAMU membership of MacEwan's academic affairs. The VPA is the main contact for students who sit on university committees, and assists students who are pursuing academic grievances and appeals.

#### Roles and Responsibilities of the Vice President External

- **24** The Vice President External (VPE) is responsible for developing the external advocacy priorities for SAMU, and engages with relevant external stakeholders (including elected government officials) on matters concerning SAMU and its members.
- **25** The VPE serves as the official SAMU representative for all external advocacy organizations of which SAMU is a member.
- **26** The VPE is knowledgeable on, and advises Students' Council and SAMU membership on the external affairs of SAMU, including external student advocacy and government lobbying.

#### Roles and Responsibilities of the Vice President Governance and Finance

- 27 The Vice President Governance and Finance (VPGF) is the direct contact for the internal affairs of SAMU, including SAMU Building operations, financial planning, governance, and administration.
- 28 The VPGF coordinates annual publications and reporting to SAMU membership, and acts as the operational liaison to MacEwan University. The VPGF also serves as the second student member of the MacEwan Board of Governors and related committees.
- 29 The VPGF is knowledgeable on, and advises Students' Council and SAMU membership of SAMU finances and internal operations.

#### Roles and Responsibilities of the Vice President Student Life

- **30** The Vice President Student Life (VPSL) is the direct contact for the non-academic affairs of SAMU, including SAMU's programs, services, clubs, and events.
- **31** The VPSL coordinates SAMU's involvement in MacEwan University's non-academic affairs, including student services, campus activities, and acts as the liaison regarding the student experience.
- **32** The VPSL is knowledgeable on, and advises Students' Council and SAMU membership of SAMU programs, services, student groups, events, and MacEwan's non-academic affairs.

**Deleted:** In the event of a vacant Board of Governors Student Representative position, the VPOF will fill the position



### Appendix A

#### Students' Council Oath

I hereby affirm that I will faithfully serve the students of MacEwan University, act in accordance with the bylaws, and fulfill all duties and responsibilities required of a students' councilor. I will strive to achieve the high level of expectation that accompanies the Students' Association of MacEwan University. I am responsible for promoting excellence through accountability. My decisions will be informed and well researched, and I will represent my fellow students' interests, not my own. My opposition will be to ideas not people. I recognize that I am a part of a team with one voice. I am here to enrich the student experience.

Roles and Responsibilities of Elected Representatives 5



#### **Fact Sheet**

#### Approvals:

First Approval – February 19, 2014 Last Approval – April 21, 2021

Date of Last Review - April 21, 2021

#### **Related Documents and Forms:**

#### Source and Updates:

February 19, 2014: Roles and Responsibilities of Elected Representatives approved by Students' Council motion 2014-02-19-6.2 upon the recommendation of the Bylaws and Policy Committee. Source material drawn from Students' Council Policy 5 – President Responsibilities, Students' Council Policy 6 – Vice President Operations and Finance Responsibilities, Students' Council 7 – Vice President Academic Responsibilities, Students' Council Policy 8 – Vice President Student Life Responsibilities, and Students' Council Policy 9 – Responsibilities of Council Members.

August 20, 2014: Roles and Responsibilities of Elected Representatives approved by Students' Council motion 2014-08-20-6.3 upon recommendation of the Bylaws and Policy Committee.

May 1, 2015: Roles and Responsibilities of Elected Representatives approved by Students' Council motion 2014-10-15-6.4 upon the recommendation of the Bylaws and Policy Committee. Policy update to add the VP External position and redistribute some of the executive roles and responsibilities evenly among the executive team.

May 18, 2016: Roles and Responsibilities of Elected Representatives approved by Students' Council motion 2016-05-18-6.5 on the recommendation of the Bylaws and Policy Committee. Responsibility of taking and adhering to the Students' Council Oath added for members of Students' Council as well as Appendix A: Students' Council Oath being added.

July 20, 2016: Roles and Responsibilities of Elected Representatives approved by Students' Council motion 2016-07-20-6.5 on the recommendation of the Bylaws and Policy Committee. Students' Council Oath wording standardized across policies.

February 20, 2019: Roles and Responsibilities of Elected Representatives approved by Students' Council motion 2019-02-20-7.5 on the recommendation of the Bylaws and Policy Committee. Individual executive role descriptions standardized.

April 15, 2020: Roles and Responsibilities of Elected Representatives approved by Students' Council motion 2020-04-15-7.6 on the recommendation of the Bylaws and Policy Committee. Updates include clarification of attendance requirements and addition of a reinstatement process.

April 21, 2021: Roles and Responsibilities of Elected Representatives approved by Students' Council motion 2021-04-21-7.3 on the recommendation of the Bylaws and Policy Committee.



Changes are updates to the councillor reinstatement process to use the newly created Students' Council Reinstatement Committee.

# STUDENTS' COUNCIL MEETING SUBMISSION

AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION					
Meeting Date		Submitted By			
February 21st, 202	24	Joseph A. La Torre, Vice Presid	dent Governance & Finance		
Agenda Item Title	Student Re	presentation Policy			
Action Requested		⊠Motion	Consultation Item		
		AGENDA ITEM DET	AILS		
Motion Title	To Approve Committee.	the Student Representation Po	licy on the recommendation of the Governance		
This submission focuses on two changes: 1)The VPGF sitting on the Board of Go and; 2) pausing the recruitment and appointment of an Indigenous Student Representative and consultation and student representative. As the two student representatives on the Board of Governors will be the President Vice President Governance & Finance opposed to it currently being the President Student-at-Large Representative appointed by the Executive Committee sitting Board.  This recommendation has gone through consultation with the Executive Committee to support this decision.  2) From this first year of having an Indigenous Student Representative, we've committee to support this decision.  2) From this first year of having an Indigenous Student Representative, we've committee to support this decision.  This recommendation has gone through consultation on the rep's training remuneration before appointing another Indigenous Student Representative to enthey can be successful in the role. As a result, we will pause recruiting and appoint Indigenous Student Representative until we have a robust training, remuneration support structure in place.  This recommendation has gone through consultation by the Executive Committee Governance Advisor and the Relations Manger to support this decision, as discussion with the Governance Committee.		I advocacy and creating a greater impact on its g to the Vice President Governance & Finance's the second student representative. As a result, and of Governors will be the President and the losed to it currently being the President and a d by the Executive Committee sitting on the consultation with the Executive Committee, the and with deliberations of the Governance ous Student Representative, we've come to the arch and consultation on the rep's training and digenous Student Representative to ensure the sult, we will pause recruiting and appointing an we have a robust training, remuneration, and consultation by the Executive Committee, the Manger to support this decision, as well as			

Alternative Considerations	Do not have the VPGF as the second Board student representative and continue to have the the President and a student representative appointed by the Executive Committee as the two student representatives on the Board of Governrors.
	Do not pause recruitment and appointing an Indigenous Student Representaive, and train and remunerate them as it is currently noted in its subsequent procedure.
Risk Management Considerations	Low
Strategic Alignment	Attached Strategic Alignment Checklist is complete
Implications	SAMU will not have an Indigeous Student Represenative for the 2024/25 fiscal year; the VPGF will replace student representative sitting on the Board of Governors.
Related Documents	Roles and Responsibilities of Elected Representatives, Indigenous Student Representation Procedure, Board of Governors and General Faculties Council Representation Procedure.
Follow Up Action	Retire Indigenous Students Representatives Procedure and amend the Board of Governors and General Faculties Council Representation Procedure.
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.		$\boxtimes$	
1.1 Put the finishing touches on the SAMU building, enhancing the safe and intentional spaces for students to gather, relax and study.		$\boxtimes$	
1.2 Increase student awareness of SAMU and its opportunities through strong communications and engaging marketing and brand			
1.3 Increase student engagement by offering relevant and meaningful			
events, programs, services, volunteer activities and employment opportunities for students			
1.4 Support Student Groups by offering networking opportunities, meeting space,			
outreach support and online platforms Student Voice			
The Student Voice is amplified by SAMU.			
2.1 Develop an Advocacy Plan and implement processes to strengthen SAMU's advocacy program.			
2.2 Enhance awareness and interest in SAMU's democratic processes through education and encouraging student participation			
2.3 Continue to build collaborative relationships with other Student Associations and organizations to enhance the collective student voice with all government levels		$\boxtimes$	
2.4 Foster positive relationships with MacEwan University to better serve students			
Student Supports			
Student supports provided by SAMU are responsive to unique and evolving needs.		$\boxtimes$	
3.1 Develop and deliver initiatives that are inclusive and are responsive to all student needs.		$\boxtimes$	
3.2 Evaluate and assess student supports to remain relevant and accountable to students		$\boxtimes$	
3.3 Strengthen collaborations and partnerships with MacEwan University to expand supports and resources for students.		$\boxtimes$	
3.4 Enhance relationships with external organizations to leverage resources and supplement new and existing initiatives		$\boxtimes$	
Strengthening SAMU Operations			
SAMU is an innovative and sustainable organization with an engaging work environment.		$\boxtimes$	
4.1 Review SAMU governance structures and make improvements to reduce duplication of efforts and delays in decision-making processes.		$\boxtimes$	
4.2 Document main policies and processes to support business continuity and transitions in leadership and staff.			$\boxtimes$
4.3 Diversify revenue streams to reduce reliance on student fees.			
4.4 Act as financial and environmental stewards and implement effective practices to enhance sustainability.		$\boxtimes$	
4.5 Foster a professional and supportive work environment that lives the organizational values and delivers a culture of excellence.			$\boxtimes$



#### **Student Representation Policy**

#### Rationale

SAMU is the official student voice and provides many different avenues for representing the student perspective. One of the key ways that SAMU provides the student voice is by empowering students themselves to become involved in governance committees within the Post-Secondary Community.

#### **Definitions**

A committee member is a voting member of a particular committee.

An **external committee** is a non-SAMU Committee, for example, MacEwan committees or other external organization committees.

A **student(s)-at-large** is a SAMU member who is not an elected or appointed representative or official. or SAMU staff.

### **Expectations**

 Committee member responsibilities are outlined in the appropriate committee procedure and committee terms of reference.

#### **Committee Appointments**

- 2. Executive Committee appoints two students to the MacEwan Board of Governors
  - 2.1. One student position is filled by the SAMU President.
  - 2.2. The other student position is filled by the SAMU Vice President Governance and Finance (VPGF).
    - 2.2.1. If the VPGF position is vacant another current SAMU executive will be appointed.
- 3. Executive Committee appoints four students to the General Faculties Council
  - 3.1. Two Student positions are filled by the President and the Vice President Academic.
  - 3.2. The other two student positions are filled by students.
- 4. Executive Committee appoints students to MacEwan Committees.
- Executive Committee appoints students-at-large <u>and resource members</u> to SAMU Committees.

**Deleted:** The other student position is filled by a student

**Deleted:** is not filled the Vice President Operations and Finance

Deleted: the specific date

Deleted: <#>Executive Committee appoints the Indigenous Student Representative to the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations' (CASA) National Indigenous Advisory Committee (NIAC)



- **5.1.** Councillors may be appointed to non-SAMU Committees by the Executive Committee as student members.
- **6.** Appropriate training will be provided to members appointed to external committees.

# **Committee Member Terms**

7. Committee member terms are defined in their corresponding procedures.

# **Recognition of Committee Members**

- 8. Recognition is provided to committee members within 30 days of the end of their term.
- **9.** Recognition is awarded at the rates laid out in the relating procedures.



### **Fact Sheet**

#### Approvals:

First Approval - February 15, 2023 Last Approval -

Date of Last Review - February 15, 2023

**Related Documents and Forms:** 

# Source and Updates:

February 15, 2023: Student Representation Policy approved by Students' Council motion 2023-02-15-7.3 on the recommendation of the Bylaws and Policy Committee. This is a new policy that identifies the Board of Governors student representatives, General Faculties Council student representatives, and Indigenous Student Representative exist and who is responsible for their appointments.