



STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION OF MACEWAN UNIVERSITY

**Minutes 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 6:00pm.

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

ZIDAN/UZOR

CARRIED

2.2 MOTION

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JANUARY 17, 2024

ZIDAN/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

4.1.6. Town Hall (VPGF)

4.2. Executive Committee Minutes

Minutes of January 10, 17, and February 7, 2024 provided.

5. Question Period

5.1. Written Questions

Huhtala - Pres – I applaud the focus on advocacy and student outreach for informed advocacy. However, I had questions about the “Global Conflicts Survey.” Firstly, what is meant by “global conflicts”? Forgive me if my phrasing is somewhat off as I don't recall the exact question, but what is meant by being “personally/directly” affected by said conflicts? I fear that while broad questions are good for capturing more responses, a lack of specificity may weaken strategies for direct advocacy.

Pres - Fantastic question. As representatives, we based our priorities on the Student Voice. Although there is no perfect way to completely capture and assess how events occurring outside our campus impact the student experience, we wanted to do our best to try to support students within our scope. As it stands, the term “global conflicts” was the phrase we felt most suited the intent of the survey.

I assume you are referring to the question, “Have you or your family been directly impacted by global conflict within the 2023-2024 year. ” Students who answered “yes” to the first question were provided with several opportunities throughout the survey to be specific through an “other” option which addresses concerns with lack of specific. SAMU's advocacy has not been hindered. In fact, the survey only served to strengthen our advocacy efforts.

Huhtala - EC – My apologies for not quite knowing to whom to ask this question, but as there is a lot of shift towards advocacy, I feel it important to ask. It is wonderful to see so much work being put into supporting the 2SLGBTQIA+ community, as well as the steps toward advocacy for Indigenous students. However, I have recently noticed a large uptick in poor treatment of Muslim students. Are there any plans in place to protect and advocate for these students?

Pres - As advocates, we have a responsibility to all MacEwan students. Our advocacy is inclusive and encompasses all SAMU members, but we also ensure that our resources are used to address targeted student needs. Students require various supports and varying degrees of need. Poor treatment of students in any case is unacceptable. As a students' association, we intend to continue to advocate and provide supports for students in need.

Huhtala - VPSL – I am sorry to hear of the low student engagement for mental health week – I know I had a lot of classmates, along with myself, who were quite excited for many of the events but could not attend due to classes, labs, or a great number of assignments or exams due. Are there plans to expand or even shift the hours for some of these events to maximize the number of students who are able to attend? Or perhaps have students been asked what times may work best for them or what other obstacles are keeping them from attending?"

Vpsl – Thank you for your comments and considerations for what we can do moving forward. The planning committee for next MHW in 2025 will start meeting in the early fall 2024. The next VPSL will be part of that planning committee and as part of transition, we will be ensuring they have an

advocacy plan in place that includes advocating for accessibility of activities like this. MHW runs in January every year but there may be an opportunity to expand. I know we do already build the schedule around class times for all daytime events, since these are events for students.

5.2. Oral Questions

Topics Include: Student Success Navigator – 1st year mentorship program; Global Conflicts Survey & student advocacy; support for Peer Supporters re. Global Conflicts; CAUS Counterparts & advocacy goals; Mental Health Week; psych students 300 & 400 level courses;

6. In Camera Period

7. Motions & Business Orders of the Day

MOTION TO TAKE A 3 MINUTE RECESS

TORRES/ZIDAN

CARRIED

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

TESFAY/ZIDAN

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

Oppose: Yusuf, Kamenwa

Abstain: Vpgf

CARRIED

7.2 Student Representation Policy

MOTION TO APPROVE THE STUDENT REPRESENTATION POLICY ON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

TESFAY/UZOR

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

Abstain: Vpgf

CARRIED

8. Consultation

9. Evaluation

9.1. Students Council Evaluations Form

10. Recognition

11. Adjournment

MOTION TO ADJOURN

TORRES

CARRIED

Next Meeting Date: March 20, 2024

Meeting adjourned at 6:55pm.