



**Minutes for the Students' Council Meeting of the
Students' Association of MacEwan University
September 18, 2024 at 6:00pm in the Council Chamber**

Voting Members:

Gabriel Ambutong, President
Abby Beka, Councillor
Darcy Hoogers, Vice President Academic
Delaney Huhtala, Councillor
Ian Kamenwa, Councillor
Mayank Kaushik, Councillor
Joseph A. La Torre, Vice President Governance
and Finance
Katherine MacDonald, Councillor absent
Aleace Moom, Vice President Student Life
Maade Okai, Councillor
Nhi Phan, Councillor
Nathan Poon, Councillor
vacant, Vice President External

Inder Singh, Councillor
Alem Tesfay, Councillor
Joehn Torres, Councillor
Chioma Uzor, Councillor
Sonia Yusuf, Councillor
Layal Zidan, Councillor

SAMU Officials and Council Support:

Timothy Jobs, Chair
Darryl Kostash, General Manager
Alan Honey, Governance Advisor
Caitlin Yambao, 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 Amiskwacyi 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 SEPTEMBER 18, 2024

UZOR/ZIDAN

MOTION TO AMEND THE AGENDA TO ADD 7.4 AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

VPGF/SINGH

CARRIED

CARRIED

2.2 MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF AUGUST 21, 2024

KAUSHIK/OKAI

CARRIED

3. Presentations

3.1. MNP – 2023/2024 Audit

VPGF – Presentation from Patrick Moore, MNP.

4. For Information

4.1. Reports

4.1.1. President

Student financial aid delays update.

4.1.2. Vice President Academic

GFC meeting update – admin looking at scheduling options, specifically fall reading break.

4.1.3. Vice President Governance & Finance

As presented.

4.1.4. Vice President Student Life

NSO attendance update. PSO & FO attendance. MacEwan AVP Students recruitment update. Community Nest Program update. Careers & Experience Office update. EC Ponoka campus visit.

4.2. Executive Committee Minutes

Minutes of August 14, 28, and September 4, 2024 provided.

5. Question Period

5.1. Written Questions

Huhtala - VPA - Regarding the Engineering Transfer program, has the lack of enrolled students in this program been a trend? And is there any plan for reallocate the funding allotted to this program if it is terminated?

VPA – Thank you for your question, Councillor Huhtala. I shared these same questions with administration during my meeting on September 4th.

MacEwan University and the University of Alberta held an informal relationship where students could begin their Engineering degree at MacEwan and then transfer to the UofA. Over the past six years, applications to the Engineering Transfer program decreased by almost 50%. This is a result of the UofA and University of Calgary lowering their entrance requirements for their Engineering programs; students seek admission directly to these institutions rather than going through a transfer program, such as MacEwan's Engineering Transfer program.

This trend is apparent within other Engineering Transfer programs across the province. Red Deer Polytechnic, Grand Prairie College, Medicine Hat College, and Keyano College have seen similar declines.

MacEwan's Faculty of Arts and Science intend to reallocate resources to provide additional course sections within the Bachelor of Science program.

Zidan - VPA: How will the Library Whiteboard Surveys influence the work of SAMU going forward?

VPA – Excellent question, Councillor Zidan.

These whiteboard surveys inform SAMU of the general sentiment regarding textbook affordability and availability while raising awareness of the absurd prices that textbook publishers impose on students. We can see that students are not isolated in our struggles to balance obtaining educational resources and basic living expenses.

While these surveys do not contain the academic rigor and requirements observed through traditional empirical research, they provide a glimpse into the emotions and feelings that students carry throughout the first few weeks of the semester. These survey results amplify the advocacy work that your Executives conduct when engaging with faculty, administration, external partners, and students.

Zidan - VPA: \$50 is better than \$70, great work! Would the waiver include Sunday's finals? And regarding Sunday's finals, is there any advocacy regarding decreasing weekends finals or give accommodations to those who need it?

VPA – While I'd love to take all the credit, this change couldn't have happened without the hard work of my predecessor, our current Vice President Student Life, and the efforts made by our talented support staff.

While the Deferred Exam Fee (DEF) has been lowered to \$50, we will continue to advocate and engage with consultation for expanding the criteria for waiving the DEF.

Although not documented in policy, the criteria for waiving the DEF includes religious observance, student conduct situations (on a case-by-case basis), and Access and Disability Resources registered students whose accommodation plan includes a fee waiver, or on a case-by-case basis. However, the DEF is not waived if a student has a final on a Sunday, unless they fit within the criteria listed above or described within Student Assessment Policy 5.2.8.

We continue to engage with the University to ensure that students requiring accommodations are offered the support they need. I look forward to working with Student Affairs throughout their consultation process, advocating for the best interest of students in regards to this issue.

5.2. Oral Questions

Topics include: Fall Fest; Budget surplus; Textbook surveys; VPE vacancy; VPE role; Tuition & fees; termination of Engineering transfer program; Mental Health Week; new provincial criteria for student aid; increased student population and SAMU programs & services; External Advocacy Advisor; Student Charter of Rights; Edmonton mayor attendance at Fall Fest; Ponoka visit;

6. In Camera Period

7. Motions & Business Orders of the Day

7.1. Committees Policy

MOTION TO APPROVE THE COMMITTEES POLICY, EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 1, 2024, ON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

VPGF/ZIDAN

Favour: Okai, Uzor, Torres, Kamenwa, Singh, Yusuf, Pres, Poon, Tesfay, Huhtala, Kaushik, Zidan, Vpgf, VPa, Vpsl, Beka

CARRIED

7.2. Governance Transition Policy

MOTION TO APPROVE THE GOVERNANCE TRANSITION POLICY ON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

VPGF/SINGH

Favour: Okai, Uzor, Torres, Kamenwa, Singh, Yusuf, Pres, Poon, Tesfay, Huhtala, Kaushik, Zidan, Vpgf, VPa, Vpsl, Beka

CARRIED

7.3. 2023-2024 Councillor of the Year Vote

7.4. Audited Financial Statements

MOTION TO ACCEPT THE 2023-2024 AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

VPGF/KAMENWA

Favour: Okai, Uzor, Torres, Kamenwa, Singh, Yusuf, Pres, Poon, Tesfay, Huhtala, Kaushik, Zidan, Vpgf, VPa, Vpsl, Beka

CARRIED

8. Consultation

9. Evaluation

10. Recognition

11. Adjournment

MOTION TO ADJOURN

TORRES

CARRIED

Next Meeting Date: October 16, 2024

Meeting adjourned at 7:14pm.