



# STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION OF MACEWAN UNIVERSITY

## Agenda for the Students' Council Meeting of the Students' Association of MacEwan University October 16, 2024 at 6:00pm in the Council Chamber

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### 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  
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  
Loyal Zidan, Councillor

### **SAMU Officials and Council Support:**

Timothy Jobs, Chair  
Darryl Kostash, General Manager  
Alan Honey, Governance Advisor  
Caitlin Yambao, Admin Support

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Meeting called to order at 6:00pm.

<Intros>

### **1. Treaty 6 Land Recognition**

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

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

### **2. Approvals**

#### **2.1 MOTION**

**TO APPROVE THE AGENDA FOR OCTOBER 16, 2024**

#### **2.2 MOTION 2024**

**TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 18 AND OCTOBER 2,**

**3. Presentations**

**3.1.**

**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. Audit Committee**

**4.1.7. Finance Committee**

**4.1.8. Governance Committee**

**4.1.9. Strategy and Engagement Committee**

**4.1.10. Executive Committee**

**4.1.11. Vice President External Workload Redistribution**

**4.1.12. Students' Council Operations Committee**

**4.1.13.**

**4.2. Executive Committee Minutes**

Minutes of September 11, 18, 25, and October 2, 2024 provided.

**5. Question Period**

**5.1. Written Questions**

**5.2. Oral Questions**

Topics include:

**6. In Camera Period**

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

**7.1. 2023-2024 Annual Report**

***MOTION TO APPROVE THE 2023-2024 SAMU ANNUAL REPORT***

***VPGF/***

Favour:

Oppose:

**7.2. 2023-2024 Councillor of the Year Presentation**

Vpsl -

7.3.

**8. Consultation**

**8.1. Councillor Remuneration Frequency**

Vpgf -

**9. Evaluation**

9.1.

**10. Recognition**

**11. Adjournment**

***MOTION TO ADJOURN***

Next Meeting Date: November 20, 2024

Meeting adjourned at pm



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

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**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  
Loyal Zidan, Councillor

**SAMU Officials and Council Support:**

Timothy Jobs, Chair  
Darryl Kostash, General Manager  
Alan Honey, Governance Advisor  
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**1. Treaty 6 Land Recognition**

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**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 4<sup>th</sup>.

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.



**Voting Members:**

Gabriel Ambutong, President  
Abby Beka, Councillor - absent  
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  
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  
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**SAMU Officials and Council Support:**

Timothy Jobs, Chair  
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Meeting called to order at 6:00pm.

<Intros>

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**2. Approvals**

**2.1 MOTION**

**TO APPROVE THE AGENDA FOR OCTOBER 2, 2024**

**VPSL/UZOR**

**CARRIED**

**3. For Information**

**3.1. Reports**

**3.1.1. Students' Council Operations Committee (In camera)**

**4. In Camera Period**

**4.1. VP External Vacancy**

**MOTION TO GO IN CAMERA**

**TORRES/ZIDAN**

**CARRIED**

**OUT OF CAMERA**

**PHAN/TORRES**



**CARRIED**

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

**5.1. VPE Vacancy**

**WHEREAS, THE VICE PRESIDENT EXTERNAL OF SAMU ROLE IS CURRENTLY VACANT.**

**WHEREAS, SAMU BYLAW 71 STATES THAT "IN THE CASE OF AN EXECUTIVE VACANCY OR EXTENDED LEAVE OF ABSENCE DURING THE TERM, STUDENTS' COUNCIL MAY APPOINT A QUALIFIED MEMBER TO ACT IN THE INTERIM, OR DIVIDE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE POSITION."**

**MOTION TO APPROVE THE SAMU VICE PRESIDENT EXTERNAL'S WORKLOAD BE REDISTRIBUTED TO THE OTHER SAMU EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS, AND FOR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO REPORT BACK TO STUDENTS' COUNCIL, AT THE NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED STUDENTS' COUNCIL MEETING, ON HOW THE WORKLOAD HAS BEEN REDISTRIBUTED.**

**VPGF/ZIDAN**

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

**Carried**

**5.2.**

**6. Evaluation**

**7. Recognition**

**8. Adjournment**

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

**ZIDAN**

**CARRIED**

Next Meeting Date: October 16, 2024

Meeting adjourned at 6:22pm.



## Students' Council Report

### President

October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Council,

Please see the report on my work as President during September 19<sup>th</sup> to October 8<sup>th</sup>.

### Executive Summary

- Edmonton Student Alliance (ESA) Meeting with the Mayor
- Campus Clash Coin Toss
- SAMU and MacEwan Executives Meeting

### Student Voice

*The Student Voice is amplified by SAMU.*

#### ESA

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

The meeting consisted of ESA, the Mayor's office, City Councillors, and City Administration. Conversations focused on Housing, Transit Safety, Supports for Students New to Edmonton, and Continued Engagement with the City. The city was receptive to ESA's asks. Council will be updated as relevant.

#### Campus Clash

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

Campus Clash was an event organized by the Edmonton Elks. The event was catered towards MacEwan, U of A, and NAIT students. Representatives from the University of Alberta Students' Union (UASU), NAIT's Students' Association (NAITSA), and I attended as a representative from SAMU. Attending the event served to foster our



relationship with NAITSA and UASU, which allows us to enhance the collective student voice when advocating. The event also allowed us to raise awareness of SAMU among MacEwan students, which leads to improved engagement with the student body.

### SAMU and MacEwan Executives Meeting

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

We met with MacEwan to discuss the following: Student Affairs, Budget 2024-25, Government Advocacy, and Students First Campaign. SAMU is currently pursuing several asks through multiple avenues. Updates will come to SC as relevant.

\*Note: I encourage Council to ask **strategic** questions outside of reported items.

### **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 the Students' 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 2024-2025



## **Students' Council Report**

### **Vice President Governance & Finance**

**October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

Greetings Council!

Fall is upon us and I am excited for not only the Fall festivities but for the Fall weather attire. I hope you are settling into the semester and getting into a good groove as we approach some exciting things happening in the upcoming months.

Below you can find my report from September 13<sup>th</sup> – October 9<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Executive Summary**

- Student Leadership Week
- Tuition/MNIF Meeting #3
- Board of Governors Orientation
- Students' Council Operations Committee (SCOC)

#### **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.*

#### Student Leadership Week

SAMU had Student Leadership Week, previously named GovWeek, the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of September. This was held to promote being a leader on campus by campaigning for Students' Council. This event saw over 300+ students within the 3 days of tabling, with more than 15 students attending the September Council meeting and great conversations had with current and past Councillors and Executive Committee members during the Councillor Mixer. Overall, the event was a great success; and thanks to the operational support from our events and marketing departments, it led to this year's Councillor elections being heavily contested.

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

#### Tuition/MNIF Meeting #3

The President and I had our third Tuition/MNIF meeting, where we had a chance to respond and ask questions about MacEwan's Tuition/MNIFs Fee proposal; however, as per the timeline for the Tuition/MNIFs consultations we've developed with MacEwan Administration, we will submit a written response to them by the middle of October. In this meeting, we reiterated our principles and priorities from student feedback that affordability is the top concern for students, specifically the cost of education and living, and mental health, which is downstream of affordability that impacts students. Once the Tuition/MNIF consultation process is concluded, and MacEwan makes their recommendation to the Board; I will report to Council a more in-depth and specified Tuition/MNIFs consultation breakdown.



## Board of Governors Orientation

The President and I, as student members of the Board of Governors, had the chance to attend the Board Orientation they hold every year. This was an opportunity for us to be familiar with the structure of the Board, our fiduciary duty to MacEwan, and meet other Board members.

## **Student Supports**

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

## **Strengthening SAMU Operations**

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

*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.*

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

## Students' Council Operations Committee (SCOC)

SCOC met this month to interview a candidate for the Vice President External vacancy and met a separate time to make a recommendation to Council, which was to redistribute the VPE's workload. Since this has already been concluded, and EC was



**STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION  
OF MACEWAN UNIVERSITY**

tasked with explaining how the VPE's workload will be redistributed, please see the VPE Workload Distribution Report and the Executive Committee's workplan.

### **Closing Remarks**

Thank you for reading my report.

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.

**Kind Regards,**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'J. La Torre' in a cursive, flowing script.

Joseph A. La Torre, (He/Him)

VP Governance and Finance, SAMU 2024/2025

[savpoperations@macewan.ca](mailto:savpoperations@macewan.ca)



## Students' Council Report

### Vice President Student Life

**09-18-2024**

Greetings Council!

It's October now and I hope you are all keeping sane in your semester so far.

Please see below my report in office from September 18<sup>th</sup> -October 16<sup>th</sup>

#### **Executive Summary**

- Council of Student Affairs (CoSA)
- AVP Students Hiring Committee

#### **Student Voice**

*The student voice is amplified by SAMU*

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

#### AVP Hiring Committee Appointment

The office of the provost has reached out to the executive team to have a student representative sit on the AVP Students Hiring Committee. The Executive Committee has decided to appoint the VPSL to be on this committee. Having the VPSL to sit on this committee is beneficial for the long history of advocacy the VPSL does within Student Affairs. As this new Role will look over Student Wellness, Wellness and Psychological Services, it is crucial that the right fit is found to meet student expectations and needs. I

VPSL Report to Students' Council

10-16-2024

Page 1 of 2





look forward to keeping council updated once the committee has found someone to fill this role.

### Council of Student Affairs appointment (CoSA)

One of the goals our team had for this year is for the VPSL to sit on CoSA. We deliberated on different avenues of the decision and came to the conclusion that the VPSL will be appointed one of the Student-At-Large positions on CoSA. Taking away one of the student positions on CoSA was not an easy decision, however having the VPSL to be on CoSA alongside with the VPA is crucial for long term advocacy efforts within student affairs. I am hopeful that for me to sit in CoSA I will be able to make more informed decisions regarding advocating to MacEwan and vote on decisions that affect Student Affairs.

### **Closing Remarks**

Thank you for reading my report, this may be the last meeting for some of you so thank you for always reading my reports and it's been so wonderful to work with all of you. If you ever see me in the halls, don't hesitate to say hello!

The student's voice informs the student experience, and I always welcome yours!  
Please don't hesitate to contact me via email at [savpstudentlife@macewan.ca](mailto:savpstudentlife@macewan.ca)

Cheers,

Aleace Moom (she/her)

VP Student Life, SAMU 2024/2025

## Students' Council Report

### Quarterly 1 Report: Audit Committee

October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Committee Members:

Sonia Yusuf (Chair), Councillor

Nathan Poon, Councillor

Layal Zidan, Councillor

Brian Gulbraa, Student-at-Large

Justin Learmonth, Student-at-Large

Resource Officials:

Michelle Malin, CPA CA, Associate Professor, MacEwan University

Cam Whiting, Senior Finance Manager, SAMU

Good Evening Council,

I hope everyone is enjoying the begin of the Fall semester!

This is the report from the Audit Committee for a reporting period from July 1<sup>st</sup> to September 30<sup>st</sup> (Quarter 1).

The Audit Committee met once this quarter to review the following:

1. Budget Variances
2. EC Spending
3. EC Toil

With analyzing all the information above the committee and I discussed and approved all the topics above.

We plan to meet again on October 21, 2024 to have our quarterly review.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any further question and concern!

Best,

Sonia Yusuf (She/ Her)

Quarterly 4 Report: Audit Committee

July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024

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**STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION  
OF MACEWAN UNIVERSITY**

Audit Committee Chair, SAMU 2023/ 2024

[yusufs6@mymacewan.ca](mailto:yusufs6@mymacewan.ca)



## Students' Council Report

Quarterly Report: Finance Committee

October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Committee Members:

<u>July 1<sup>st</sup> – September 30<sup>th</sup> 2024</u>
Joseph A. La Torre, Vice President Governance & Finance
Gabriel Ambutong, President
Aleace Moom, Vice President Student Life
Katherine MacDonald, Councillor
Nhi Phan, Councillor
Olad Ayodeji, Student-at-Large
Sewaj Grewal, Student-at-Large

Greetings Council,

This is the report from the Finance Committee for a reporting period from July 1<sup>st</sup> – September 30<sup>th</sup> (Quarter 1).

The committee met once this quarter to review the Q4 financials, review some of the proposed changes to the SAMU Fees policy, and potential investments. The discussion around the SAMU Fees policy mainly revolved around the changes to the SAMU Affiliate. As for potential investments, the committee tasked the myself and the senior finance manager to bring back more information on investment avenues for SAMU.

If you have any further questions or concerns, please contact me.



STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION  
OF MACEWAN UNIVERSITY

**Kind Regards,**

Joseph A. La Torre, (He/Him)

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'JALatorre'.

VP Governance and Finance, SAMU 2024/2025

[savoperations@macewan.ca](mailto:savoperations@macewan.ca)



## Students' Council Report

Quarterly Report: Governance Committee

October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Committee Members:

<u>April 1<sup>st</sup> – June 30<sup>th</sup> 2024</u>
Joseph A. La Torre, Vice President Governance & Finance
Nhi Phan, Councillor
Alem Tesfay, Councillor
Sonia Yusef, Councillor
Layal Zidan, Councillor
Vacant, Student-at-Large
Kris Ravelo, Student-at-Large

Greetings Council,

This is the report from the Governance Committee for a reporting period from July 1<sup>st</sup> – September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024 (Quarter 1).

The committee met once this quarter to review and recommend policies to Council.

During the meeting, the committee reviewed the Committees and Governance Transition policies and made a motion to recommend to Council for approval. There was fruitful discussion for a potential Attendance policy that centred around expectations when attending online and the technology SAMU would need to have to allow students to call in for Council meetings seamlessly. Lastly, we briefly spoke about potential Bylaw changes mainly centred on General



STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION  
OF MACEWAN UNIVERSITY

Members ability to campaign for Students' Council or the Executive Committee if they've been previously impeached or are currently suspended; more discussion is to be had.

If you have any further questions or concerns, please contact me.

**Kind Regards,**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'JALatorre'.

Joseph A. La Torre, (He/Him)

VP Governance and Finance, SAMU 2024/25

[savpoperations@macewan.ca](mailto:savpoperations@macewan.ca)



## Students' Council Report

### Quarterly Report: Strategy and Engagement Committee (SEC)

October 16<sup>th</sup> 2024

#### Committee Members:

May 1 <sup>st</sup> 2024- October 31 <sup>st</sup> 2024
Aleace Moom, Vice President Student Life
Joeseh A La Torre, Vice President Governance and Finance
Maade Okai, Councillor
Inder Singh, Councillor
Joehn Torres, Councillor
Chole Witherspoon, Student-at-Large
Nikita Van Der Leeden, Student-at-Large

Greetings Council,

This is the Strategy and Engagement Committee (SEC) report for the period of July 1<sup>st</sup> to September 30<sup>th</sup> (Q1 2024-2025)

SEC attempted to meet once during August however, We did not reach quorum to conduct the meeting. EC members finalized the decision for the BBQ that was held Monday August 26<sup>th</sup>. This BBQ was a way for all of us to get together and have fun before September hits. We played Jeopardy, Land Mines and UNO. We gave out prizes for the winners for each game and everyone had a great time. SEC also invited past Executive committee members and SAMU Student-at-Large Committee members. Unfortunately, we did not hear back from any SALs, and SEC will work on how to engage better with SALs through different events and professional development SEC organizes.

This would be the last time SEC meets before we appoint new committee members. It was wonderful to plan this event as my first time as Chair and I look forward to working with new members and planning more events to get together!





**STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION  
OF MACEWAN UNIVERSITY**

If you have any questions please feel free to reach out to me!

Cheers,

Aleace Moom, (she/her)  
VP Student Life, SAMU 2024/2025  
[savpstudentlife@macewan.ca](mailto:savpstudentlife@macewan.ca)

**Executive Committee Work Plan 2024-2025  
For Information to Students Council**

<b>Chaired By:</b>	Gabriel Ambutong, President
<b>Members:</b>	Darcy Hoogers, Vice President Academic Vacant, Vice President External Joseph A. La Torre, Vice President Governance & Finance Aleace Moom, Vice President Student Life
<b>Mandate:</b>	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.
<b>Approved by Committee:</b>	October 9 <sup>th</sup> 2024
<b>Received by Council:</b>	October 16 <sup>th</sup> 2024

**WORK PLAN UPDATES**

- Due to the Vacancy of the VP External the workload has been assigned as follows
  - o Increased Access to Grants – Initial Stages to Modified. Work is being done at CAUS
  - o Increased Access to Affordable Housing – Initial Stages to Modified. Work is being done at ESA
  - o ETS Safety – Initial Stages to Modified. Work is being done at ESA
  - o Increase to MacEwan Operational Grant – Initial Stages to Cancelled. No Capacity for EC to pursue further
  - o Interest Free/Cap on Provincial Loans – Initial Stages to Cancelled. No Capacity for EC to pursue further.
- Various Projects have been moved to being “On Hold” due to current capacity
  - o Open Educational Resources, Student Charter, Compensation for Committee Participation (VPA)
  - o Governance Engagement – Compensation for Committee Participation (VPGF)
  - o Cultural Supports Advocacy (VPSL)
- Fall Reading Break has been added to the EC Workplan with the VPA as the Executive Lead on the project.

## ADVOCACY

<b>Topic</b>	Statement on the Violent Sweep of Palestine Solidarity Encampments Asks
<b>EC Lead</b>	President
<b>Current Impact to Students</b>	Students' freedom of peaceful assembly and free expression are protected by the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, and SAMU is concerned to see university leadership infringe these rights. University administrators cannot and must not resort to committing, endorsing, or sanctioning violence against students as a response to breaches of universities' policies.
<b>Objective</b>	The three asks from our Statement on the Violent Sweep of Palestine Solidarity Encampments are met.
<b>Strategic Alignment</b>	Student Supports: 3.3 Student Supports: 3.4
<b>Status</b>	Ongoing
<b>Topic</b>	Governance Engagement Roundtable
<b>EC Lead</b>	President
<b>Current Impact to Students</b>	The issues are consistent low voter turnout, vacancies on representative bodies, and a lack of competitive elections. Students are also unaware of what SAMU is, the value of our work for them, and the value of governance to the student experience on campus. There is an absence of student empowerment especially in relation to areas SAMU advocates on.
<b>Objective</b>	Establish a relationship with engaged students to gain a better understanding of the student experience, increase visibility of SAMU governance, and enhance the value proposition of SAMU to students
<b>Strategic Alignment</b>	Student Experience and Engagement: 1.2, 1.3 Student Voice: 2.2
<b>Status</b>	Ongoing
<b>Topic</b>	Automatic Textbook Billing Models
<b>EC Lead</b>	Vice President Academic
<b>Current Impact to Students</b>	As this is currently a pilot initiative with limited scope, its current impact on students is minimal. However, the greater impact of these billing models appears by considering the scalability of automatic textbook billing: students' freedom of choice and market power is limited when only one option to source textbooks is present. Implementing Inclusive Access will, in effect, monopolize a segment of educational resources—limiting students' right to choose where they source materials—while providing minimal benefits for students.
<b>Objective</b>	Automatic textbook billing is dropped; MacEwan University retreats from implementing additional forms of automated textbook billing.
<b>Strategic Alignment</b>	Student Supports: 3.2
<b>Status</b>	Ongoing
<b>Topic</b>	Fall Reading Week

<b>EC Lead</b>	Vice President Academic
<b>Current Impact to Students</b>	MacEwan University has proposed removing the fall reading break in the 2025-2026 academic calendar
<b>Objective</b>	Consult Students on their perspective and advocate on the students' best interests, not removing fall reading week.
<b>Strategic Alignment</b>	Student Voice: 2.1 Student Supports: 3.2
<b>Status</b>	Ongoing
<b>Topic</b>	Open Educational Resources
<b>EC Lead</b>	Vice President Academic
<b>Current Impact to Students</b>	Open Educational Resources (OER) once held a stronger presence within MacEwan University, utilized by instructors across disciplines. Over the past few years, this presence has deteriorated. Thus, to address the rising cost of postsecondary education and educational materials, revitalizing MacEwan's culture of sourcing, developing, and applying OER's is vital to ensure students are not overburdened by financial pressures.
<b>Objective</b>	MacEwan Library expands its OER database while streamlining the process for instructors to upload, customize, and create OERs.
<b>Strategic Alignment</b>	Student Voice: 2.4 Student Supports: 3.1, 3.3, 3.4
<b>Status</b>	On Hold
<b>Topic</b>	Deferred Exam Fees
<b>EC Lead</b>	Vice President Academic
<b>Current Impact to Students</b>	The Deferred Exam Fee (hereafter, DEF) has a growing impact on student stress, highlighted by the 2024 Global Conflicts Survey. With deferred exam requests growing exponentially throughout the past two years, the current policy offers little consideration for students looking to defer an exam based on physical and mental health struggles. As the DEF operates as a deterrent through monetary pressure, students are disproportionately affected. Students with valid reasons for deferring an exam (medical, physical or mental) can be pressured to suffer through an exam—or not write an exam altogether—based on the DEF.
<b>Objective</b>	Lowering, or Expanding the Criteria for Waiving the Deferred Exam Fee
<b>Strategic Alignment</b>	Student Supports: 3.2
<b>Status</b>	Completed
<b>Topic</b>	Student Charter
<b>EC Lead</b>	Vice President Academic
<b>Current Impact to Students</b>	Student rights within MacEwan University policies are, at best, vague. At worst, they are absent. These policies, which affect every student on campus, can be confusing to interpret and often serve as a barrier for students to self-represent when navigating through academic

	and non-academic issues. Thus, the impact of this issue is significant as the policies addressed within the Guideline of Rights affect every student on campus.
<b>Objective</b>	Gain support through various committees, and ultimately have MacEwan adopt the Guideline of Rights as a policy.
<b>Strategic Alignment</b>	Student Supports: 3.1, 3.3
<b>Status</b>	On Hold
<b>Topic</b>	Compensation for Committee Participation
<b>EC Lead</b>	Vice President Academic
<b>Current Impact to Students</b>	Students who sit on Student Advisory Committees (SAC) within various faculties are not compensated whatsoever for their efforts
<b>Objective</b>	MacEwan University should compensate students who sit on SACs
<b>Strategic Alignment</b>	Student Supports, 3.4
<b>Status</b>	On Hold
<b>Topic</b>	In Year Allocation of MacEwan Forecasted Surpluses
<b>EC Lead</b>	Vice President Governance & Finance
<b>Current Impact to Students</b>	MacEwan has millions of dollars in surpluses yearly, and student affordability is an ongoing issue for students, so advocating to have a process to allocate funds to students in-year is a top priority.
<b>Objective</b>	Process is developed and students save money either through the waiving of a MNIF, ore in year scholarships/awards/bursaries, or other student savings
<b>Strategic Alignment</b>	Student Voice: 2.4 Student Supports: 3.3
<b>Status</b>	Ongoing
<b>Topic</b>	Mandatory Non-Instructional Fees Advocacy
<b>EC Lead</b>	Vice President Governance & Finance
<b>Current Impact to Students</b>	Students currently pay 5 MNIF's, looking to student affordability, are there savings within these MNIF's for students?
<b>Objective</b>	Audit of the MNIF's Audit of MNIFS resulting in tangible asks regarding the MNIF's to save students money.
<b>Strategic Alignment</b>	Student Voice 2.4
<b>Status</b>	Ongoing

<b>Topic</b>	Governance Engagement – Compensation for Committee Participation
<b>EC Lead</b>	Vice President Governance & Finance
<b>Current Impact to Students</b>	In our University Governance Representation Procedure, it notes certain MacEwan committees that we remunerate students for; however, it does not say all of them – such as Hiring Committees. Student compensation and audit on all the students sitting on MacEwan committees.
<b>Objective</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clarifying in procedure a process on appointment and the remuneration of students on MacEwan Hiring Committees.</li> <li>Audit of MacEwan committees – such as the amount of committee, their contacts and TORs.</li> </ul>
<b>Strategic Alignment</b>	Student Voice 2.2 Strengthening SAMU Operations 4.1, 4.5
<b>Status</b>	On Hold
<b>Topic</b>	U-Pass Contract Advocacy
<b>EC Lead</b>	Vice President Governance & Finance
<b>Current Impact to Students</b>	Students who pay a SAMU fee are able to access transit in and around the Edmonton area at a discounted rate. However, the U-Pass contract is expiring, and negotiations are taking place for the new contract. The cost of the U-Pass to students may increase and there are ongoing issues with transit safety.
<b>Objective</b>	U-Pass rate freeze and commitments to safety for students on ETS and an emphasis on ETS safety in stations.
<b>Strategic Alignment</b>	Student Voice: 2.3 Student Supports: 3.1, 3.2
<b>Status</b>	Ongoing
<b>Topic</b>	SAMU Health and Dental Coverage
<b>EC Lead</b>	Vice President Governance & Finance
<b>Current Impact to Students</b>	Despite the increase in benefits, the mental health coverage provided is not enough for students. As we know mental health is a downstream effect of the increasing cost of education and cost of living.
<b>Objective</b>	Support student mental health through a cost/benefit analysis of the coverage maximums within our plan.
<b>Strategic Alignment</b>	Student Supports: 3.1, 3.2
<b>Status</b>	Completed
<b>Topic</b>	Relationship Building with kihew waciston
<b>EC Lead</b>	Vice President Student Life
<b>Current Impact to Students</b>	Indigenous students have faced societal challenges going back to residential schools. Many indigenous people have inter-generational trauma with schooling institutions that were facilitating through the government. KW provides a community for students who may be struggling and need support for someone with culturally relevant and lived-in experiences.

<b>Objective</b>	Having a strong relationship with KW allows us to better understand what indigenous students need from their elected representatives and the student association. This relationship needs to be fostered from an organizational standpoint rather than an individual so we can further continue to foster our relationship in future relations.
<b>Strategic Alignment</b>	Student Engagement & Experience: 1.3 Student Voice: 2.4 Student Supports: 3.3
<b>Status</b>	Ongoing
<b>Topic</b>	Food Insecurity
<b>EC Lead</b>	Vice President Student Life
<b>Current Impact to Students</b>	As affordability remains a large struggle, we know rising food costs are becoming an issue and students need support to alleviate costs or have access to affordable healthy options on campus/at home. Students are left having to think about rental costs and school costs over food costs. We also want to factor in the students staying in residence staying on campus.
<b>Objective</b>	Explore the needs of students living in residence regarding food insecurity, discounting food for purchase of near expiry to reduce food waste and cost, ensuring a student voice around the table when discussing food services on campus
<b>Strategic Alignment</b>	Student Voice: 2.4 Student Supports: 3.1, 3.3, 3.4
<b>Status</b>	Initial Stages
<b>Topic</b>	Cultural Supports Advocacy
<b>EC Lead</b>	Vice President Student Life
<b>Current Impact to Students</b>	Students accessing Wellness and Psychological services (WPS) are looking for a diverse team to help foster inclusive support. A diverse team includes hiring for lived experiences and culturally relevant so all students can feel supported.
<b>Objective</b>	There is a diverse staff in WPS to assist all students for inclusive access and a safe accessible service for students if there is cultural relevance or lived in experiences
<b>Strategic Alignment</b>	Student Voice: 2.4 Student Supports: 3.1
<b>Status</b>	On Hold
<b>Topic</b>	Graduating Students Transition Supports
<b>EC Lead</b>	Vice President Student Life
<b>Current Impact to Students</b>	The impact of graduating students not feeling supported enough to transition into the workforce can be significant and multifaceted. Students graduating face increased stress and anxiety as they are moving into the next phase of their lives/careers and have difficult times securing employment, longer job search times, lack of experience contradictions and mismatched career expectations
<b>Objective</b>	Better promotion of careers and experience services including the student engagement record

Strategic Alignment	Student Experience and Engagement: 1,3 Student Voice: 2.4 Student Supports: 3.4
Status	Cancelled
Topic	Increased Access to Grants
EC Lead	Vice President External
Current Impact to Students	Students who do not qualify for grants or who qualify for a limited amount of grant money depend more on loans, part-time or full-time jobs, and other means to finance their education. This leads to issues with affordability of tuition costs, costs of living, and overall mental health and wellbeing.
Objective	Increased access to grants through the government. Decreased reliance on loans.
Strategic Alignment	Student Voice: 2.3
Status	Modified
Topic	Increased Access to Affordable Housing
EC Lead	Vice President External
Current Impact to Students	Students are currently struggling to afford housing at the current market rates. With the increase in inflation and the lack of a rent increase cap, students are at the mercy of the market. This leads to students having to work full-time or multiple jobs to try to make ends meet. Some students end up skipping meals to afford housing.
Objective	Increased access to affordable, dignified housing
Strategic Alignment	Student Voice 2.3
Status	Modified
Topic	ETS Safety
EC Lead	Vice President External
Current Impact to Students	Safety on transit remains a top priority for students. Being able to transit safely to and from the university is vital to ensuring that students can function optimally while pursuing their studies, especially because the majority of students rely on public transportation to get to and from school.
Objective	More secure, robust transit system that ensures that students feel safe while travelling on public transportation.
Strategic Alignment	Student Voice: 2.3
Status	Modified



Topic	Increase to MacEwan Operating Grant
EC Lead	Vice President External
Current Impact to Students	With the rising cost of education, students have to spend more money to finance their higher education. Universities such as MacEwan rely on two sources of income: operating grant, and student tuition and fees. Costs not covered by the operating grant has to be covered by students. An increase in MacEwan's operating grant would ensure that students have to bear less of the cost of education.
Objective	An increase in MacEwan's operating grant, leading to a reduced burden on students to cover the cost of tuition.
Strategic Alignment	Student Voice 2.3
Status	Cancelled
Topic	Interest Free or Cap on Provincial Loans
EC Lead	Vice President External
Current Impact to Students	Student debt is a huge factor for post-secondary students. The daunting reality of graduating university with a pile of debt is not aided by the thought of paying interest on top of the already heavy financial load. This leads to increased pressure on students to grapple with repayment struggles along with other factors such as rising inflation. Invariably, this affects students' mental health and wellbeing.
Objective	0% interest OR interest cap on provincial loans
Strategic Alignment	Student Voice 2.3
Status	Cancelled
<b>GOVERNANCE</b>	
Topic	Student Leadership Week (Formally GovWeek)
EC Lead	Vice President Governance & Finance
Strategic Alignment	Student Voice 2.2
Objective	Reduce Barriers and the misconceptions of Student Governance and hopefully have more individuals run for Students' Council.
Key Details	Projected Dates: September 17-19 2024
Status	Completed
Topic	EC for a Day
EC Lead	Vice President Governance & Finance
Strategic Alignment	Student Voice 2.2

Objective	Give individuals who are considering running for EC positions a chance to gain some insight into the position.
Key Details	Projected Date: November 5 <sup>th</sup> 2024, February 5 <sup>th</sup> 2025
Status	Ongoing
Topic	EC Transition
EC Lead	President
Strategic Alignment	Strengthening SAMU Operations: 4.2, 4.5
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	Completed
Topic	EC Midyear Retreat
EC Lead	President
Strategic Alignment	Strengthening SAMU Operations: 4.2, 4.5
Objective	Foster the team's working relationship, assess the team's status and re-evaluate the teams' goals.
Key Details	Projected dates: November 11-15 <sup>th</sup> 2024
Status	Ongoing
Topic	SC Training
EC Lead	President
Strategic Alignment	Strengthening SAMU Operations: 4.2, 4.5
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	Ongoing
Topic	SC Refresher
EC Lead	President
Strategic Alignment	Strengthening SAMU Operations: 4.2, 4.5

Objective	Ensure that members of our governing board are knowledgeable about governance and SAMU
Key Details	Projected Date: April or May 2025
Status	To Begin Soon
Topic	SAMU 2025/26 Budget
EC Lead	Vice President Governance & Finance
Strategic Alignment	Strengthening SAMU Operations: 4.2, 4.4
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 2024
Status	To Begin Soon
Topic	Town Hall
EC Lead	Vice President Governance & Finance
Strategic Alignment	Student Voice: 2.2
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 29 <sup>th</sup> 2025.
Status	To Begin Soon
Topic	Ponoka Site Engagement
EC Lead	Vice President Student Life
Strategic Alignment	Student Experience and Engagement: 1.2
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.
Key Details	Projected Date: September 13 Winter Date: TBD
Status	Ongoing

## Students' Council Report

### EC Distribution of Vice President External Portfolio

October 16th, 2024

#### **Role of the Vice President External Portfolio**

The Vice President External is responsible for overseeing the development of the external advocacy priorities for SAMU, while engaging with relevant external stakeholders, including government officials, on matters concerning SAMU and its membership. The VPE also serves as the SAMU representative for all external advocacy organizations SAMU is a member of and works to champion SAMU's priorities through these organizations

#### **Core Duties of the Vice President External Portfolio**

- Federal Advocacy: SAMU Primary delegate at the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA)
- Provincial Advocacy: SAMU Primary Delegate at the Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS)
- Municipal Advocacy: SAMU Primary Delegate at the Edmonton Student Alliance (ESA)
- Work to develop the external advocacy strategy alongside the Advocacy and Governance Office
- Strengthen relationships with other Student Associations through joint advocacy efforts
- Run for a leadership position in one of our external advocacy associations

## **2024-2025 VPE Advocacy Workplan Projects.**

On the 2024/2025 EC work plan, the VPE had 5 advocacy projects they were going to work on this year.

1. Increased Access to Grants
2. Increased Access to Affordable Housing
3. ETS Safety
4. Increase to MacEwan Operational Grant
5. Interest Free/Cap on Provincial Loans

## **Current Distribution of the Portfolio**

### **Federal Advocacy**

Regarding Federal Advocacy the President will be the primary and only SAMU delegate for CASA. Priorities for Federal Advocacy were set over the summer and the President will be the SAMU student voice at Advocacy Week in Ottawa.

### **Provincial Advocacy**

Our Previous VPE was the chair of CAUS though after their resignation an election was held and the President of UASU was elected to take over the chairship position. The President will become the Primary Delegate and the Vice President Academic will serve as the Secondary Delegate of CAUS, assisting the President with provincial advocacy.

### **Municipal Advocacy**

The President will be the primary delegate for municipal advocacy through the ESA. Municipal priorities were set earlier.

### **Workplan Advocacy**

Due to the Vacancy of the VP External the workload has been assigned as follows:

1. Increased Access to Grants – Individual additional work is not being done though work on this initiative is still occurring through CAUS.
2. Increased Access to Affordable Housing – Individual additional work is not being done though work on this initiative is still occurring through ESA.
3. ETS Safety – Individual additional work is not being done though work on this initiative is still occurring through ESA.
4. Increase to MacEwan Operational Grant – Due to a lack of EC capacity this advocacy item will no longer be pursued.
5. Interest Free/Cap on Provincial Loans – Due to a lack of EC capacity this advocacy item will no longer be pursued.

### **Other External Advocacy Opportunities**

Throughout the year there will be other external advocacy opportunities the VPE would typically attend. However, in this case, the President will be attending instead, and depending on the President's capacity, he may delegate attendance to other VPs.

### **Effect on Other EC Portfolios**

Due to the VPE vacancy, there were additional changes to the EC 2024/2025 work plan of other portfolios to encompass the changes of the redistribution of the VPE portfolio responsibilities. EC has attached their amended work plan with the adjustments for Council to view.



## Students' Council Report

Quarterly Report: Students' Council Operations Committee

October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Committee Members:

<u>July 1<sup>st</sup> – September 30<sup>th</sup> 2024</u>
Joseph A. La Torre, Vice President Governance & Finance
Delaney Hutala, Councillor
Nathan Poon, Councillor

Greetings Council,

This is the report from the Students' Council Operations Committee (SCOC) for a reporting period from July 1<sup>st</sup> – September 30<sup>th</sup> (Quarter 1).

The committee met thrice this quarter to discuss a few things.

During the first meeting, the committee discussed the CRO and Chair honorarium amounts. We decided to recommend that the CRO honorarium be increased by CPI annually until a cap of \$2000 is reached; this recommendation will go to the Governance Committee. For the Chair, the committee decided to recommend to Council an increase from \$125 to \$150 and for it to increase by CPI until an amount of \$175 is reached.

The committee met in late September to interview a candidate for the VPE vacancy, then met a separate time after considering the candidate and an



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alternative option for the VPE vacancy. As a result, the committee decided to recommend the redistribution of the workload of the VPE's workload to Council.

If you have any further questions or concerns, please contact me.

**Kind Regards,**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'J. La Torre'.

Joseph A. La Torre, (He/Him)

VP Governance and Finance, SAMU 2024/2025

[savpoperations@macewan.ca](mailto:savpoperations@macewan.ca)





**Minutes for the Executive Committee Meeting of the  
Students' Association of MacEwan University  
September 11, 2024 @ 2:00pm**

**Voting Members:**

Gabriel Ambutong, President  
Darcy Hoogers, VP Academic  
vacant, VP External  
Joseph A. La Torre, VP Governance & Finance  
Aleace Moom, VP Student Life

Alan Honey, Governance Advisor (Recording Secretary)

**In Attendance:**

Shannon Marshall, Executive Coordinator  
Larissa Williams, Internal Advocacy Advisor  
Parvin Sedighi, External and Stakeholder Relations  
Manager

**Resource Officials:**

Darryl Kostash, General Manager

1. Call to Order: 2:03pm
2. 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.

3. Approval of Agenda:  
**VPGF/VPA  
CARRIED**
4. Approval of Minutes for: September 4, 2024  
**VPA/VPGF  
CARRIED**

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION/MOTION
1. SC Presentation	VPGF – need to approve presentations at SC. This is an annual presentation once audit is completed.	<b>MOTION</b>  <b>TO APPROVE AN AUDIT PRESENTATION FROM MNP AT THE SEPTEMBER 18, 2024 STUDENTS' COUNCIL MEETING</b>  <b>VPGF/VPA CARRIED</b>
2. VPE Vacancy	VPGF – update provided on where we are in the process.	
3. Student Protests	PRES – potential protests coming – would like to discuss how SAMU will respond.	Action:

		<p>Sedighi – context hasn’t changed much since last conversation. Nothing has changed in how we will respond. Is there a role for us to play in dialogue between protesters &amp; MacEwan admin?  Vpa – stay with our original statement. Let MacEwan know if they want to engage with protestors we can try to help facilitate that.  Gm – be cautious and very careful in objectives. Don’t want anything spun against SAMU.  Vpgf – Did talk about whether we still want to expend social capital on this as we already decided that we completed this.  Sedighi – reach out to MacEwan to remind them about keeping students safe.</p>	<p>President to email MacEwan President &amp; University Relations on behalf of EC.</p> <p>President to bring topic of engaging with student protesters to MacEwan President &amp; University Relations exec.</p> <p><b>MOTION</b></p> <p><b>TO TAKE A 5 MINUTE RECESS</b></p> <p><b>VPGF/VPA CARRIED</b></p>
4.	Global Conflict Survey Info Sharing	<p>PRES – the griff has asked for info we gathered from students. Sedighi – currently info is formatted for internal purposes. Sharing externally would require elaboration. Can provide first few paragraphs of report.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No one opposed to sharing info as proposed</li> </ul>	
5.	Appointments		<p>Motion</p> <p><b>TO APPOINT</b></p> <p><b>MANREET KAUR TO THE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS COUNCIL FOR A TERM ENDING JUNE 30, 2025</b></p> <p><b>THEA ALFONSO TO THE SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND PREVENTION COMMITTEE FOR A TERM ENDING JUNE 30, 2025</b></p> <p><b>ALEXANDRA RHYZOVA TO THE FACULTY OF NURSING COUNCIL FOR A TERM ENDING JUNE 30, 2025</b></p> <p><b>LISA KOTELNISKI TO THE FACULTY OF FINE ARTS AND COMMUNICATIONS COUNCIL FOR A TERM ENDING JUNE 30, 2025</b></p> <p><b>SHASHWAT GUJJAR TO THE FACULTY OF SCIENCE COUNCIL FOR A TERM ENDING JUNE 30, 2025</b></p> <p><b>VPA/VPGF</b></p>

			<b>CARRIED</b>
6.	Fall Reading Break scheduling	VPA – briefing note provided. Looking for feedback from EC. *EC opposed to proposal	
7.	Outstanding Action Items		
8.	Advo Wins		
9.	VP Governance & Finance Report	Vpsl & I met with student re SC nominations. One on one with Carolyn Graham (BOG Chair) update. U-Pass meeting. Finance Committee meeting. BOG event attendance. PSC meeting update.	
10.	VP Student Life's Report	tabled	
11.	VP Academic's Report	Library bursary update. Tech fee update re Library laptops. Concerns from CNSA re clinical placement requirement.	
12.	President's Report	ESA update. CAUS update. Fall Fest – mayor attended. Met with potential SC candidate.	
13.	GM Report	Fall Fest update. Audit complete. HR update.	
14.	Recognition		

5. Adjournment  
Time: 3:38pm



**Voting Members:**

Gabriel Ambutong, President  
Darcy Hoogers, VP Academic  
vacant, VP External  
Joseph A. La Torre, VP Governance & Finance  
Aleace Moom, VP Student Life

**In Attendance:**

Shannon Marshall, Executive Coordinator  
Larissa Williams, Internal Advocacy Advisor  
Parvin Sedighi, External and Stakeholder Relations  
Manager  
Emily Lukacs, External Advocacy Advisor

**Resource Officials:**

Darryl Kostash, General Manager  
Alan Honey, Governance Advisor (Recording Secretary)

1. Call to Order: 2:00pm
2. 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.

3. Approval of Agenda:  
**VPGF/VPSL  
CARRIED**
4. Approval of Minutes for: September 11, 2024  
**VPA/VPGF  
CARRIED**

TOPIC		DISCUSSION	ACTION/MOTION
1.	SAMU Audit	*presentation from Cam Whiting	<b>MOTION</b>  <b>TO GO IN CAMERA</b>  <b>VPGF/VPA CARRIED</b>  <b>MOTION</b>  <b>TO GO OUT OF CAMERA</b>  <b>VPGF/VPSL</b>

			<b>CARRIED</b>
2.	Ponoka Debrief	<p>PRES – want to ensure we have a good idea of the structure and get feedback.</p> <p>VPSL – we’ve created action item to review submitted feedback monthly. Visit went well. Concern I have is what belongs to VPSL role and what is taken care of operationally.</p> <p>Viens – agree, clarity in roles would help us. Some form of package put together.</p> <p>VPGF – having CNSA there was a benefit – would like to see them attend annually.</p> <p>VPA – having uninvited guest (MacEwan Associate Dean) there shows that we’ve got MacEwan’s attention.</p> <p>GM – makes we wonder why MacEwan invited themselves but it’s a good thing to show that they’re concerned with reputation.</p> <p>VPSL – good to have CNSA there for tour.</p> <p>PRES – got feedback from CNSA – old equipment concern; program/curriculum; online accessibility concern for spring/summer; program reservations from psych students that don’t meet the need. Agree that operationalizing this visit makes sense, with only Exec oversight. Budget to accommodate CNSA reps attending with us. Having uninvited guest has concerns: confusion on representation, might intimidate students on providing feedback.</p> <p>Vpsl – if we can’t get enough survey feedback we should include incentives.</p> <p>Pres – also include swag in budgeting specifically for Ponoka students.</p> <p>VPGF – clarify if we’re going once or twice per year.</p> <p>PRES – would serve those students to visit twice a year.</p> <p>VPA – think our time would be best spent with one visit a year.</p> <p>VPGF – two visits.</p> <p>Viens – they have a student group now so there will be more connection with SAMU.</p>	<p>Action: Move Ponoka budget to department 7 next year</p> <p>Pilot 2nd trip to Ponoka this year.</p> <p>Operations to take lead on Ponoka trip – GM to report back by holiday break.</p> <p>VPGF/GM to look at SAMU fees for Ponoka students and report to EC by January 2025.</p> <p>Include Director of P&amp;S attend with EC.</p>
3.	Approval	<p>VPGF – because it’s more than \$35,000 it goes to EC for approval</p>	<p><b>MOTION</b></p> <p><b>TO APPROVE THE CHEQUE REQUISITION FORM FOR FM SYSTEMS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$37,041.90</b></p> <p><b>VPGF/VPSL CARRIED</b></p>
4.	Procedures	<p>VPGF -</p>	<p><b>MOTION</b></p> <p><b>TO APPROVE THE STUDENT GROUPS PROCEDURE ON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE PROCEDURE SUB-COMMITTEE</b></p> <p><b>VPGF/VPSL CARRIED</b></p> <p><b>MOTION</b></p>

			<p><b>TO APPROVE THE GENERAL MANAGER PROCEDURE ON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE PROCEDURE SUB-COMMITTEE</b></p> <p><b>VPGF/VPA CARRIED</b></p>
5.	Executive Projects	PRES – CNSA roundtable collaboration for event.	<p><b>MOTION</b></p> <p><b>TO APPROVE AN EXPENSE OF UP TO \$750.00 FROM G/L 524500 FOR A COLLABORATION WITH THE CNSA</b></p> <p><b>VPSL/VPA CARRIED</b></p> <p>Abstain: Pres</p>
6.	Associate Vice President, Students hiring committee	VPA – looking for someone to sit on hiring committee.	<p><b>MOTION</b></p> <p><b>TO APPOINT ALEACE MOOM TO THE ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT, STUDENTS HIRING COMMITTEE</b></p> <p><b>VPA/VPGF CARRIED</b></p>
7.	FAS Associate Dean Reappointment Advisory Committee	VPA - looking for someone to sit on hiring committee. Believe we could ask a councillor to sit on committee as a student at large member, not in any official capacity as a councillor.	<p>Action: Vpa to recruit student to fill role.</p>
8.	Student Groups		<p><b>MOTION</b></p> <p><b>TO APPROVE THE WARHAMMER 40K AT MACEWAN UNIVERSITY STUDENT GROUP</b></p> <p><b>VPSL/VPGF CARRIED</b></p>
9.	SAL Appointment		<p><b>MOTION</b></p> <p><b>TO APPOINT JOEHN TORRES TO THE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS COUNCIL FOR A TERM ENDING JUNE 30, 2025</b></p> <p><b>VPA/VPSL CARRIED</b></p>

10.	Outstanding Action Items		
11.	Advo Wins		Action: Vpa to communicate with Exec Coordinator to get the win communicated to students.
12.	VP Student Life's Report	Brain Freeze event in November. Mental Health week planning going well.	
13.	VP Academic's Report	GFC update (Academic Calendar). Met with President of MFA.	<b>MOTION</b> <b>TO GO IN CAMERA</b> <b>VPA/VPGF</b> <b>CARRIED</b>  <b>MOTION</b> <b>TO GO OUT OF CAMERA</b>  <b>VPSL/VPA</b> <b>CARRIED</b>
14.	VP Governance & Finance Report	VPE vacancy update. U-Pass – met with student leaders re. counter-proposal.	
15.	President's Report	CAUS Update (student financial aid; advo week; priorities identified). Met with student for coffee re. SAMU committees.	<b>MOTION</b> <b>TO GO IN CAMERA</b>  <b>VPSL/VPA</b> <b>CARRIED</b>  <b>MOTION</b> <b>TO GO OUT OF CAMERA</b>  <b>VPA/VPSL</b> <b>CARRIED</b>
16.	GM Report	SG Expo successful. HR updates. The griff update. Coffee with Me cards idea update.	
17.	Recognition		

5. Adjournment  
Time: 3:54pm



**Voting Members:**

Gabriel Ambutong, President  
Darcy Hoogers, VP Academic  
vacant, VP External  
Joseph A. La Torre, VP Governance & Finance  
Aleace Moom, VP Student Life

**In Attendance:**

Shannon Marshall, Executive Coordinator  
Larissa Williams, Internal Advocacy Advisor  
Parvin Sedighi, External and Stakeholder Relations  
Manager  
Emily Lukacs, External Advocacy Advisor

**Resource Officials:**

Darryl Kostash, General Manager  
Alan Honey, Governance Advisor (Recording Secretary)

1. Call to Order: 2:00pm
2. 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.

3. Approval of Agenda:  
**VPGF/VPSL  
CARRIED**
4. Approval of Minutes for: September 18, 2024  
**VPGF/VPSL  
CARRIED**

TOPIC		DISCUSSION	ACTION/MOTION
1.	Students Council Presentation		<b>MOTION</b>  <b>TO APPROVE A KW PRESENTATION AT THE NOVEMBER 2024 STUDENTS' COUNCIL MEETING</b>  <b>VPSL/VPGF CARRIED</b>
2.	Student Groups	Vpsl -	<b>MOTION</b>



			<p><b>TO APPROVE THE MACEWAN MINIATURE GAMING STUDENT GROUP</b></p> <p><b>VPSL/VPGF CARRIED</b></p> <p><b>MOTION</b></p> <p><b>TO APPROVE THE CODE BREAKERS STUDENT GROUP</b></p> <p><b>VPSL/VPGF CARRIED</b></p> <p><b>MOTION</b></p> <p><b>TO APPROVE THE MACEWAN SOCIOLOGY CLUB</b></p> <p><b>VPSL/VPGF CARRIED</b></p>
3.	Exec Projects	<p>Vpgf – SLW – for those who volunteered - \$20 Guusto giftcard</p> <p>Vpgf – Matt will present on the ‘people’ side of campaigning.</p>	<p><b>MOTION</b></p> <p><b>TO APPROVE AN EXPENSE OF UP TO \$180.00 FROM G/L 524500 FOR STUDENT LEADERSHIP WEEK</b></p> <p><b>VPGF/VPSL CARRIED</b></p> <p><b>MOTION</b></p> <p><b>TO APPROVE AN EXPENSE OF UP TO \$150.00 FROM G/L 524500 FOR MATTHEW YANISH TO PRESENT AT THE FALL 2024 ALL CANDIDATES MEETING</b></p> <p><b>VPGF/VPSL CARRIED</b></p>
4.	Ponoka Student Advo Initiatives	<p>Vpsl – shared email with everyone. Most asks have been addressed. Any further thoughts on this?</p>	<p>Action:</p> <p>Gm to provide recommendation to EC on options for Ponoka students re food insecurity (breakfast club) by end of October 2024</p>

			Vpgf to discuss gym access for Ponoka students with Maureen at next one on one and report back at next EC meeting
5.	Student Technology Fee Committee	<p>Pres – who wants to take a lead on this? Who will work on it?  Vpgf – do we have enough time to consider one card proposal &amp; TOR changes?  RM – from agenda it doesn't look like there are any items to approve included. Can we find out if that's an expectation?</p> <p>*stick with timeline &amp; Vpgf to take lead.</p>	<p>Action:</p> <p>Support staff to provide research info to Vpgf by October 8, 2024.</p> <p>Add topic to next EC agenda.</p>
6.	Appointments		<p><b>MOTION</b></p> <p><b>TO APPOINT ANIKA ANDERSON TO THE RESEARCH ETHICS BOARD FOR A TERM ENDING JUNE 30, 2025</b></p> <p><b>VPA/VPSL CARRIED</b></p>
7.	VPE Vacancy	Vpgf -	<p><b>MOTION</b></p> <p><b>TO GO IN CAMERA</b></p> <p><b>VPGF/VPA CARRIED</b></p> <p><b>MOTION</b></p> <p><b>TO GO OUT OF CAMERA</b></p> <p><b>VPA/VPSL CARRIED</b></p> <p>Action:  GAST to compile list of responsibilities for VPE and provide recommendation of where they should be assigned by October 9, 2024</p>
8.	Advo Wins	Advo Wins (Goes directly to Executive Coordinator)	
9.	VP Academic's Report	Fall Reading Break update.	
10.	VP Governance & Finance Report	Tuition & MNIFs meeting update.  BOG orientation update.	RM to schedule touchpoints re. tuition & fees.
11.	VP Student Life's Report	AVP hiring committee update. Met with MacEwan Student Life office manager.	
12.	President's Report	CAUS update. Meeting with Mayor's office (ESA). Elks game – Campus Clash.	

		Met with students interested in Council.	
13.	GM Report	The Lookout events coming up. Safewalk update. ConEd agreement update. HR update. The Griff update.	
14.	Recognition		

5. Adjournment  
Time: 2:59am



**Voting Members:**

Gabriel Ambutong, President  
Darcy Hoogers, VP Academic  
vacant, VP External  
Joseph A. La Torre, VP Governance & Finance  
Aleace Moom, VP Student Life

**In Attendance:**

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- 3. Approval of Agenda: 2:00pm  
**VPSL/VPA  
CARRIED**
- 4. Approval of Minutes for: September 25, 2024  
**VPGF/VPSL  
CARRIED**

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION/MOTION
1. Student Technology Fee Committee	Vpgf – IA will do some research about the OneCard so we have more information before the next Tech Fee meeting.	Action: Vpgf to bring topic and recommendations to next EC meeting
2. Appointments	VPA -	<b>MOTION</b>  <b>TO APPOINT ALEACE MOOM AND BRITTANY 'VICTORIA' CUSIAC TO THE COUNCIL OF STUDENT AFFAIRS FOR A TERM ENDING JUNE 30, 2025</b>

			<p><b>VPA/VPSL CARRIED</b></p> <p><b>MOTION</b></p> <p><b>TO APPOINT NATHAN POON TO THE FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCE ASSOCIATE DEAN REAPPOINTMENT COMMITTEE, TERM ENDING UPON THE DISSOLUTION OF THE AFOREMENTIONED COMMITTEE</b></p> <p><b>VPA/VPSL CARRIED</b></p>
3.	Donation Request	<p>GM – we received this and brought to EC for decision.</p> <p>Vpgf/Vpa – not appropriate to spend student \$ on something that won't benefit our student membership.</p>	<p>Action: Vpgf to work with GA to respond to request</p>
4.	Project 18-24.25 Camera Upgrade Marketing	<p>Vpa – is the current equipment at end of life cycle? GM – yes.</p>	<p><b>MOTION</b></p> <p><b>TO APPROVE AN EXPENSE OF UP TO \$11,025.00 FORM THE MAINTENANCE FUND FOR PROJECT 18-24.25 CAMERA UPGRADE MARKETING</b></p> <p><b>VPGF/VPA CARRIED</b></p>
5.	Governor General Visit and Reading Break GFC Vote	<p>VPGF – both things happening on October 28 – GG in the morning &amp; GFC later in the day. Is there some way we can leverage the two? Vpa – campaign team has yet to meet to formulate strategy – maybe return to this discussion at next EC meeting. GM – not sure we'll be able to leverage the GG. Ideally we focus on the GFC meeting.</p>	
6.	Outstanding Action Items		
7.	Advo Wins		
8.	VP Academic's Report	<p>FAS Dean reappointment update. Edmonton Chamber of Commerce event attendance.</p>	
9.	VP Governance & Finance Report	<p>SCOC update. Tech Fee update on what we support. Ponoka student update. Update on meeting timing &amp; timelines re. fees. Food services RFP update. MacEwan Financial Plan update.</p>	<p>Action: Vpgf to report back on in year allocation we're bringing to MacEwan.</p>
10.	VP Student Life's Report	<p>AVP Hiring schedule received – takes place over next couple months. International student thanksgiving next week.</p>	

			<b>MOTION</b> <b>TO GO IN CAMERA</b> <b>VPSL/VPA</b> <b>CARRIED</b> <b>MOTION</b> <b>TO GO OUT OF CAMERA</b> <b>VPA/VPGF</b> <b>CARRIED</b>
11.	President's Report	MacEwan Pres meeting update. Met with students re. running for SC.	
12.	GM Report	Annual report almost complete – just needs Auditor review first. HR update. Furniture update. Q1 complete – ensure finance info is submitted. Breakfast Club has begun. the griff update.	
13.	Recognition		

5. Adjournment  
Time: 3:01pm



## STUDENTS' COUNCIL MEETING SUBMISSION

### AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION

<b>Meeting Date</b>	<b>Submitted By</b>
October 16, 2024	Joseph A. La Torre, Vice President Governance and Finance

<b>Agenda Item Title</b>	2023-2024 SAMU Annual Report
--------------------------	------------------------------

<b>Action Requested</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Motion	<input type="checkbox"/> Consultation Item
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### AGENDA ITEM DETAILS

<b>Motion Title</b>	To Approve the 2023-2024 SAMU Annual Report
<b>Background Information</b>	As per the Official Reporting Mechanisms to SAMU Membership policy, Council approves the annual report before it is provided to the public membership
<b>Alternative Considerations</b>	n/a
<b>Risk Management Considerations</b>	
<b>Strategic Alignment</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Attached Strategic Alignment Checklist is complete</i>
<b>Implications</b>	After approval it will be available on our website for public consumption
<b>Related Documents</b>	Official Reporting Mechanisms to SAMU Membership policy
<b>Follow Up Action</b>	Post the annual report on the website
<b>Review History</b>	SAMU Senior Leadership Team, Executive Committee MNP

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





STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION  
OF MACEWAN UNIVERSITY

**SAMU**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**2023-2024**

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## WHO WE ARE

The Students' Association of MacEwan University (SAMU) is a not-for-profit organization working independently from MacEwan University to support students. With over 50 full- and part-time staff, SAMU exists to serve students' non-academic needs.

We are governed by the elected student representatives who set the strategic vision on behalf of students. SAMU is guided by our 5-year Strategic Plan (2021 – 2026) and focuses its efforts on achieving the four Strategic Goals outlined in the plan.

This annual report represents the third time we report our accomplishments based on the 2021-26 strategic plan.

### 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.

### Vision

All students benefit from a vibrant student life and a culture of empowerment.

### Values

- Students First
- Inclusiveness
- Adaptability
- Relevance
- Accountability

### Good Governance

Good Governance, as practiced by a Students' Council composed of individuals who are well-informed and team-oriented, provides strategic direction for SAMU that aligns with the vision of the Association 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 of the Association.

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Another year has passed, and the Student Voice is as loud as ever! Being re-elected as your Students' Association President, a privilege I do not take lightly, has allowed me to continue fighting for you and your needs, alongside all the dedicated people at SAMU. In recognition of the unaffordability crisis, SAMU has been painstakingly advocating to MacEwan and all levels of government on behalf of students. Some of our institutional advocacy wins include:

- No Mandatory Non-Instructional Fee (MNIF) increases for ALL students for the 2024-2025 academic year.
- Only a 2% increase to International Student Tuition, despite the institution being able to increase tuition up to 10%
- Waving the Winter 2023/2024 Sports and Wellness fee, saving students \$1.2M, amounting to a savings of \$102 for EVERY MacEwan student.

Despite our best efforts, students continue to face rising costs of education, costs of living, and poor mental health. The year ahead is riddled with challenges, but as your Students' Association, we will continue to work diligently to provide you with much-needed supports, services, and serve as a champion for you and your needs.

I have seen the passion of students grow and continue to build momentum. As you undertake your academic journey, keep in mind that the Student Movement has not been idle. We work hard to understand your needs and the adversities that come with being a student. Our commitment to enriching your university experience is exemplified by your elected student representatives both at the Students' Council, our highest governing body, and your Executive Committee. The vibrancy of our campus is a testament to not only the great work that SAMU does but also the culture of empowerment shaped by thousands of exceptional students.

Whether you have questions, concerns, or ideas on how we can better serve students, we are always available to assist you throughout your academic journey. It is such a privilege to be your President, and I look forward to creating a vibrant and inclusive community with all of you!

**Warm regards,**



Gabriel Ambutong (He/Him)  
**2024/25 SAMU President**

## STRATEGIC GOALS & OUTCOMES

To achieve our vision, focus our priorities, and guide our actions, SAMU is driven by four strategic goals and five values as outlined in the 2021-26 [Strategic Plan](#). The Annual Report provides a summary of SAMU's achievements and progress on each strategic goal:

1. Student Experience & Engagement
2. Student Voice
3. Student Supports
4. Strengthening SAMU Operations

### 1. STUDENT EXPERIENCE & ENGAGEMENT

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

#### What It Means

The student experience goes beyond attending classes. SAMU offers people the fun and social side of student life by hosting programs and events and providing students space to connect. SAMU also provides volunteer and employment opportunities while supporting Student Groups on campus. The above reflects SAMU's commitment to making on-campus life more accessible for all students.

#### Strategies

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

The SAMU Building is a hit with students. With the word getting around that SAMU has some great places for working, studying, socializing and eating, the building is often full, with all tables being used. Plans were made to increase the capacity by adding more tables and chairs.

All five tenants in the SAMU Building continued operations and SAMU is receiving full revenue output from the leases. A number of building enhancements were made throughout the year to benefit students:

- Upgraded the main staircase with cushioned mats so that hanging out on the different levels is more comfortable.
- Upgraded some office spaces to better service staff and students:
  - more white boards, lowered the barrier at the front desk and added a countertop for more use. Ordered more desks to accommodate increased full and part-time staff.
- Composting waste containers added around the building.
- Added some more furniture configurations to the student groups area to add more seating.
- Student Group Space continued its longer operational hours for student groups and all students who can use the area.

- The Lookout event space was once again used for many SAMU and Student Group events. This year it was opened up for MacEwan to rent, when not in use, which has helped with extra revenue. SAMU and Students continue to have first access to use the Lookout.

With the new School of Business building, currently being under construction and due to open in 2027. This will have an impact on all of SAMU's resources with the increased students and traffic, planning has started for building upgrades and increased service capacity.

## **1.2 Increase student awareness of SAMU and its opportunities through strong communications and engaging marketing and branding.**

### **Awareness**

The annual Spring Student Survey provides valuable data and feedback that enables SAMU to ensure we are providing the programs, services and events that align with student needs. The 2024 survey had 2,174 responses, a 37% increase from 2023. This shows that students want to provide their feedback and that the feedback we receive is an accurate reflection of the broader student population. The data from the survey is used by all SAMU departments to plan for the upcoming year.

Ever since doing our first Spring Student Survey in 2020, it was clear that SAMU needed to focus more effort on raising awareness of not only who we are but all that we do for students – and we needed to get the message to students in their first year. SAMU has been steadily raising awareness amongst students year over year, with the 2024 Spring Student Survey showing only 5% of respondents being unaware of SAMU.

### **Student Communications**

SAMU's number one way to communicate to students is through the SAMU newsletter that is sent out every two weeks during Fall and Winter terms. Students identified email as the most preferred method of communication through the Spring Student Survey. The newsletter is sent to over 17,000 students each time and boasts a 68.7% average open rate. Programs, services and events aren't effective if students don't know about them and the newsletter continues to be the main and most effective point of communication.

Video is another very effective form of communication. SAMU hired a part-time videographer to produce a series of videos focusing on various aspects of SAMU and to engage students. This has been very successful with videos posted to Instagram Reels averaged 7,000 views each with one video achieving 10,000 views. The position will be hired again next fiscal to continue leveraging this important channel.

A website is central to SAMU communications. All other communication channels drive to the website that contains the information students need. Realizing the importance of this channel, the website was redesigned and launched in Fall 2023. The new design made the website quicker, more efficient and improved content delivery to students.

SAMU's Instagram account continues to gain attraction and be an effective supplement to other communication channels:

- Instagram: 5,679 followers (+18%), 36,069 profile views

### **New Student Events**

SAMU offers two key events that are focused on introducing and raising awareness of SAMU and its programs, events and services. Meet SAMU Week introduces SAMU to new and returning students by offering a whole week of fun and activities during the first week of school in both September and January. The week of popular activities includes:

- MacEwan New Student Orientation (NSO)
- Meet SAMU Tradeshow & Games (2 days)
- Fall Fest and Winter Fest

Meet SAMU Expo is key to raising awareness amongst new students. The event features all SAMU departments showcasing what they offer in a trade show format. Students can get information, ask questions, play games, pick up their U-Pass ARC card, grab a SAMU Student Handbook and enter for a chance to win \$1000 in tuition credits. It is estimated that over 250 students were engaged during NSO and over 500 students attended Meet SAMU Expo. Winter Meet SAMU had over 168 students in attendance.

### **SAMU Student Handbook**

The SAMU Student Handbook is another key tool in raising awareness of SAMU. The calendar planner includes both SAMU and MacEwan information and resources. The Handbook is supported financially through paid advertising. The Handbook continues to be very popular with 5,500 copies printed. Approximately 4900 were given out by the end of September 2022, and 400 were given out during the Winter term.

### **SAMU's 12 Days of Giving**

SAMU's 12 Days of Giving campaign, which debuted in December 2020, has become a welcome tradition by students, especially with student affordability being top of mind. The 12 Days of Giving Campaign is a successful way to engage students and raise awareness. Gift cards and tuition credits were used as prizes each day of the 12 Days of Giving Campaign, as this is what students said they most wanted for prizes (from Spring Student Survey 2022).

The 2023 campaign was the fourth time running the campaign and had the highest engagement numbers yet:

- 1322 average daily entries – 10% increase from 2022
- 15,863 total student entries – 10% increase from 2022

### **Ponoka Campus Visit**

EC visited the Ponoka Site again and engaged with MacEwan students there. They promoted the SAMU programs, services and events available to them and listened to concerns that students had. Easy access to drinking water and printers were top concerns. Working with MacEwan admin, EC was able to ensure that Ponoka students now have access to free and clean drinking water. Working with the Dean of Nursing, they also were able to make sure

any mandatory printed items are printed for free by faculty and have also reached out to get discounted student printing in Ponoka.

### **Promo Squad**

The SAMU Promo Squad initiative operated for its second year in 2023-24. Promo Squad is implemented through the Marketing & Communications department and consists of a part-time staff and student volunteers who help promote SAMU and its various initiatives. The volunteers engage with students through interactive games, prize draws and snack giveaways, either with a station set up in the pedway or by going mobile through campus. Results for 2023-24 compared to previous fiscal:

- Number of trained active members: 18 **(+13%)**
- Total number of promo squad shifts: 175 **(+88%)**
- Number of SAMU initiatives promoted: 38 **(+40%)**
- Average number of student interactions per shift: 70 **(+8%)**
- Total number of student interactions: 11,883 **(+213%)**

### **1.3 Increase student engagement by offering relevant and meaningful events, programs, services, volunteer activities and employment opportunities for students.**

Providing events, programs, and services is at the core of what SAMU does. Through student feedback and engagement, and experience, SAMU believes it has a good understanding of the types of activities students want and need. Each year we offer a combination of new initiatives along with the return of student favorites.

#### **Fall Fest and Winter Fest**

Fall Fest is the largest event that SAMU offers and is held as part of Meet SAMU Week to welcome all the students to a new school year and cap off the first week of the Fall Term. The weather and artist lineup (including BBNO\$, Emeline, Armani White, Jamie Fine and Dacey) was a big attraction for students, with approximately 3600+ students attending. 2023 marked the return of the event to the front lawn of MacEwan. Vendor tents, activity booths and the 360-video booth helped keep students engaged and entertained. The event also gives our Executive committee members exposure through the introduction of performers and a chance to engage with students face-to-face.

Winter Fest is an event used to welcome new students starting in January and welcome back existing students from the holiday break. The theme for this event was a Y2K Dance Party, held at and in collaboration with the Starlite room. A total of 187 tickets were sold (\$5 each) and attendance was still strong (131 students) considering the extreme cold weather of -50 Celsius. The dance party events continue to be popular with students and SAMU plans to hold another one or even two again in 2025.



### **Comedy Series and Speaker Series**

Comedy Series was first offered in the 2022-2023 year and was a hit with students. In November 2023 SAMU brought in stand-up comedian Atsuko Okatsuka to entertain students. Well known for her unique style of humor and her HBO special, Atsuko brought smiles to students' faces during an evening of fun. The event sold 83% of tickets at an affordable rate of \$5 for early bird tickets, and \$10 after early bird. Select students were offered the chance to get autographs and photos with Atsuko Okatsuka.

Speaker Series is an event that brings in a guest celebrity or speaker that students are interested in hearing from. The event allows the students to get up and close to the speakers and even engage them with their own questions. In March 2024, SAMU hosted Josh Peck, an actor, comedian and YouTuber. The event was popular with 97% of tickets sold at the same affordable price as Comedy Series. Select students were also offered the chance to get autographs and photos with Josh Peck.

### **New Events**

Putting on events for students takes a lot of planning. To help with the wide variety of offerings to students, the Events team hired two students as part-time event assistants.

Campus Clash was a new event that was offered to students in partnership with the Edmonton Elks football team and in collaboration with MacEwan University and other post-secondary institutions in Edmonton. The event allowed students to experience a CFL Football game at an affordable cost. It also allowed students to have some fun competition with other schools to see who could show the most school spirit. MacEwan had a great presence with 727 tickets sold which also meant the Edmonton Elks donated \$1454 back to the SAMU Pantry. A pre-party at Towers Pub and transportation to the game was arranged by SAMU for MacEwan students.

### **Maker Series and Games Cafe**

Introduced as new events in 2022-23, Maker Series and Games Café were very popular and brought back again this past year. Maker Series features some DIY crafts for students. Candle Painting, Hot Chocolate Kit Making, Valentines Card Making and Plant Pot Painting was offered over the course of 6 days throughout Fall and Winter terms with a total of 632 students participating.

Games Café is an event where students can drop into The Lookout (SAMU event space) and enjoy playing some new and classic board games with friends along with some snacks and refreshments. It's a great way to relax between classes or take a break from studies. There were three Games Café sessions held this past fiscal year with 464 students dropping by for some games with friends.

### **Last Class Bash**

Last Class Bash is a tropical group trip for MacEwan and NAIT students organized by SAMU and NAITSA. The second post-covid trip was held in 2023-24 and was once again popular with students. A total of 27 MacEwan students travelled to Mexico at the beginning of May to enjoy some sun, sand and well-deserved relaxation. Group activities and excursions were planned and held for the group while they were there.

## **SAMU Markets**

Due to the ongoing success of SAMU's annual Holiday Market in December, a second market was added with an Eco focus. Both markets allow students, alumni and locals to set up a table to sell locally made crafts and items. The Holiday Market had 37 vendors and over 1400 people attending.

The Spring Awakening Market was held during Eco Month in March and featured student and community vendors who uphold sustainable business practices. The Spring Awakening Market had 39 vendors and 900 people attending.

## **Zen Zone**

The Well-Being Portfolio's Stressless was rebranded as Zen Zone to align more with campus needs. The rebrand gave the Programs department space to set a new precedent for in-person and online resources and wellness initiatives:

- Reintroduced free coffee for students at Breakfast Club
  - Fall: 700 students served
  - Winter: 750 students served
- Expanded reach across campus partnering with: Mental Health Week (MHW) and Healthy Relationships Week (HRW).
- Fall Term: Ask A Banker financial wellness lunch and learn initiative with United Way - 25 students attended
- Wellness Bags: Distributed 1300+ in Fall Term
- Winter Term: Mental Health Week - contributed 300 wellness bags to MHW and 150 to HRW
- Ask a Banker: Financial wellness lunch and learn initiative with United Way. - 35 students attended
- Wellness Bags: Distributed 1150+ in the Winter Term

## **Discounted Ticket Programs**

The Edmonton Oilers ticket program continued in 2023-24 and was popular with students, with most games selling out. The Oilers ticket program allows students to experience hockey games at a cost which is more affordable than purchasing at the box office.

- 270 pairs of tickets available
  - 2 pairs donated
  - 265 pairs sold to students at a discount
  - 3 pairs sold on Ticketmaster (didn't sell in time for to students)
  - Stanley Cup Playoff run home tickets were available to students at well below secondary selling market price.

Students also had the opportunity to purchase discounted ski lift tickets for Marmot Basin, Lake Louise and Sunshine. This was the second year offering the ski passes and a total of 130 passes were sold, 4% less than previous year.

## Artworks Factory

Artworks Factory introduced a Flower-Pressing showcase during Fall Fest that became a “big hit” with students. The lineup for participation spanned the entire Fall Fest with 600 students making imprints on reusable bags. Over 350 students attended the two Artworks Factory showcases in Winter, which were facilitated by student artists.

## The Griff

After the September 2023 launch of the brand refresh of the Griff, the publication settled firmly into its new direction by January 2024. This refresh has proven to be very successful with The Griff being awarded Student Publication of the Year by the Canadian University Press, in a tie with the Western Gazette.

After the Griff’s publishing cycle ended for the 2023-2024 academic year, the editor-in-chief was assisted by a dedicated part-time staff member to begin development on new fact-checking processes, a code of conduct, contributor supports, and other administrative documentation processes.

It’s the opinion of the editor-in-chief that, qualitatively, printed content in this timeframe was very strong compared to the previous year. With new fact checking and workflow processes, the Griff’s content will be more relevant and accurate for students. The publication is attracting a greater variety and higher number of contributors.

Highlights from The Griff strategic plan implementation includes:

### Brand

- Underwent a complete rebranding.
- Changed the publications logo/masthead, branding, content style, and approach to reporting.
- Increased visibility and relevance to students which played a large part in the increased metrics compared to the previous year.

### Content

- 217 articles published in print and/or online (**35% increase from previous year**)
- 112 of those articles were written entirely or in-part by volunteer contributors (**119.6% increase**)
- 12 additional contributions were solely visual, either illustrations or photographs.

### Magazine Distribution

- 11,400 copies of the Griff printed (**46.5% increase**)
- 10,062 magazine pickups (**54.7% increase**)
- 88 per cent pickup rate (**5% increase**)

### Website

- 28,295 website visits (From Aug. 29, 2023 - June 30, 2024)
- 51,739 page views, 43,590 unique page views
- Main traffic came from search engines, then direct entry, then social networks

- Most successful story was “Is Yegwave a news thief?” with 3,016 page views

Note: Social Media analytics are not included as The Griff is affected, along with all other Canadian news organizations, by the social media account bans. The Griff has found success by publishing content on LinkedIn. The Griff will continue to explore other alternative ways to reach its audience in the upcoming year.

#### Contributors

- Attendance for 24 contributor meetings: 96 students (not unique students)
- Total of 46 unique contributors

#### Volunteer and Part-Time Positions

SAMU’s volunteer program is vital to providing opportunities for students to gain real experience while, in turn, helping SAMU to run its programs, events and services. This past year saw another year over year increase in the volunteer program:

- 201 volunteers (+3% compared to 2022-23)
- 5,924 volunteer hours (+3% compared to 2022-23)

SAMU hires students for part-time positions which helps students gain employment while they are going to school and provides valuable experience, often pertaining to their chosen career, which can help them gain employment upon graduation. These positions are also vital to adding increased capabilities to SAMU, allowing it to offer enhanced programs, services and events. SAMU added three new Part-time positions in 2023-24, for a total of 28 positions hired – a 12% increase from 2022-23. SAMU was pleased to add the following positions:

- Bookkeeper, Graphic Design Assistant and Videographer

#### **1.4 Support Student Groups by offering networking opportunities, meeting space, outreach support and online platforms.**

Student Groups and the Student Groups space saw an increase in activity and engagement as both Student Groups and the SAMU Building saw an increase in popularity. Student Groups planned various events and training to help raise awareness of Student Groups, encourage new group start-ups, and assist existing groups with recruiting members. The Student Groups Connect platform, the new online platform that was introduced two years ago and is helping Student Groups grow and enhance efficiency.

- Student Groups Mingler: an in-person networking event for groups and their members to get to know one another and share ideas while playing various board games. Two Minglers were held, one in the Fall and one in the Winter term, attended by 75 (+7% from year prior) and 95 (+27% from year prior) students, respectively. The Fall Mingler received an 85% satisfaction rate and the Winter received a 95% satisfaction rate.
- Student Groups Expo: The Student Groups Expo is a chance for students to see what groups are available in a tradeshow format. An expo was held each of the Fall and Winter terms. The Fall expo had 45 groups participate (+29% from the previous year)

and Winter had 48 (+14%). The Expos were busy with students exploring all the groups and successful for the groups in recruiting new members with over 900 students total attending the two Expos.

- **Student Groups Connect:** This was the third year on the new platform, and it grew to over 3200 users, a 60% increase from 2022-23. The platform continues to be built out and improved to ensure it is used to its full potential. The addition of the room booking platform Skeeda in May further enhanced the efficiency and effectiveness of room bookings for Student Groups. A total of 130 room bookings were made from May – June.
- The Student Groups department hosted the first “Student Group Appreciation Night” in April to show their appreciation for all the hard work the various student groups do in enhancing our university community. The appreciation night provided an opportunity for groups to get together and celebrate their accomplishments. Over 150 students attended the event. Based on a post-event survey, the overall satisfaction was 90%

### **Student Groups Event Grants**

Student Groups helps to increase student engagement by providing Event Grant Funding to groups so they can put on events for students. SAMU awarded \$39,571 in Event Grant Funding which helped groups host 69 events, a 3.6% decrease compared to the year prior. Groups used the funding for events ranging from small-scale game nights to large-scale galas. The funding means groups can focus more time on planning to make their event successful, and less time on fundraising.

## **2. STUDENT VOICE**

The Student Voice is amplified by SAMU.

### **What it Means**

SAMU is a Students' Association, meaning it provides ways for students to be heard collectively by the University and at all levels of government. Students also have a voice through its democratic processes, electing Students' Council and Executive Committee members to govern SAMU.

### **Strategies**

**2.1 Develop an Advocacy Plan and implement processes to strengthen SAMU's advocacy program.**

#### **Global Conflicts Survey**

In order to better understand the needs of students impacted by various wars and military conflicts across the world, SAMU conducted a Global Conflicts Survey, which ran for the course of one week, from January 19th to January 28th, and received 90 complete responses. Participants were asked about the scale and areas of impact on their lives as a result of these conflicts, as well as where they would like to see continued or improved support on campus.

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

### **Pizza & Portfolios (EC for a Day)**

This was an opportunity for students to learn more about the Executive Committee roles before the upcoming Executive Committee elections. Students asked current EC members questions about the role and what it is like to be an advocate for students. The event had over 150 students attend the 2-hour event, and students received a slice of pizza for their participation.

### **GovWeek**

GovWeek is an initiative to promote awareness and encourage students to campaign for Students' Council. Throughout the three-day event, there were tabling events on the second floor of the SAMU building such as nominations tabling, Campaigning 101, Build Your Platform, and ended with Councillor Q&A. There was a total of 557 students who attended the multiple tabling events and Councillor Q&A. There were 247 entries for the two \$500 tuition credit prizes students had a chance to win.

### **Town Hall**

Town Hall is an event where 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 Councillors who discussed the topics and answered questions from students. Vietnamese subs were given to students participating and grocery gift cards were used for prizing. A total of 274 students attended the event, which is a 59% increase in attendance from last year's Town Hall. A feedback form was provided to attendees, and 31 students filled out the form, which will help to plan next year's Town Hall.

### **Student Governance and Leadership Engagement**

SAMU's Marketing department was tasked with developing a new marketing plan to increase awareness and engagement in Students' Council (SC) and Executive Committee (EC) elections and other governance opportunities such as Committees. Collaborating with the Governance and Advocacy Supports team, work has started on a plan that will be rolled out for the SC Election in September 2024.

### **Executive Committee Training**

An external Project Manager was hired on a contract to develop and implement a series of online Executive Committee training modules. This new tool was used to help train our Executive Committee in April and May 2024. Work will continue to ensure the training modules remain effective and updated.

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

### **CAUS Advocacy Week**

SAMU participated in the Council of Alberta University Students' annual Advocacy Week, meeting with MLAs and business/community leaders, with the goal of pushing for a government response to student issues including affordability and mental health.

### **CASA Advocacy Week**

Three student representatives from SAMU participated in the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations' Advocacy Week, targeting MPs, Senators, civil servants, and NGOs in the Ottawa area.

### **ZBR Advocacy**

In collaboration with other students' associations and unions in the city, SAMU's VP External successfully advocated for the passing of the proposed Zoning Bylaw Renewal, the first significant update in over forty years.

### **Edmonton Student Alliance**

Following the election of the SAMU VP External as Chair for the Edmonton Student Alliance (ESA), SAMU led the development and planning of a meeting between the members of the ESA and the City's elected officials and civil servants. This included the office of the Mayor, several city councillors, and lead staff on portfolios such as housing, transportation, and community engagement.

### **Assembly of First Nations' (AFN) Annual Water Symposium and Trade Show**

SAMU's VP External was invited to attend and speak at the 7th annual water symposium, hosted by the AFN. This was following other engagements with the AFN throughout the year, as a part of the VP External's focus on advocating for Indigenous students and their experience on campus.

### **Meeting with Minister Randy Boissonnault**

The SAMU Executive Committee had the chance to host Minister Randy Boissonnault, the federal Minister of Employment, Workforce Development, and Official Languages of Canada. Advocacy topics included affordability of education, cost of living impacts on students, as well as the need for meaningful and high-quality employment for students during and after their studies.

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

### **Tuition/MNIF Meetings**

The President and VP Governance and Finance (VPGF) represented students to MacEwan during the ministry-mandated tuition and fees consultation process. The university is not required to follow SAMU's feedback, but this process resulted in a 2% increase in domestic tuition and international tuition, some of the lowest in the province (factoring in there was a 10% increase ceiling for International students this year).

### **VPGF on Board of Governors**

A change was made to have the VPGF sit on the Board of Governors as the second Board representative to increase SAMU's effectiveness and impact when advocating on the Board level because the VPGF will have sat on the Tuition/MNIFs consultation meetings and will continue to advocate on students' behalf at the Board with the President.

### **MacEwan Day on the Hill**

For the first time, SAMU's VP External participated in a joint advocacy effort with MacEwan University to advocate on student issues including access to housing.

### **Brain Freeze**

SAMU partnered with MacEwan again in 2023 to offer the Brain Freeze Festival to students in December. Brain Freeze offers students a chance for a little bit of fun during the last week of classes before the Winter Break including: activities, games, food and drinks, a local vendor market and more. SAMU had a booth to promote its Last Class Bash trip, along with other upcoming events. It was noted by the organizing committee that if the event is to be repeated next year, an earlier date and start time be selected to make it easier for students to attend.

### **Open House**

SAMU participates in MacEwan's Open House to engage with potential students and let them know how SAMU supports their student journey at MacEwan. SAMU has a booth on the second floor pedway to engage with potential students and tell them about SAMU's building and the programs, services and events it offers.

## **3. STUDENT SUPPORTS**

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

### **What it Means**

Student life can be difficult. SAMU offers students a variety of programs and services to help with financial, mental, physical, and social stresses. SAMU is an inclusive organization, supporting diversity and participation of all students. As student needs evolve, SAMU watches trends and listens to students to ensure that SAMU offerings are reflective of those needs.

### **Strategies**

#### **3.1 Develop and deliver initiatives that are inclusive and are responsive to all student needs.**

SAMU is proud of all our support services that help enhance the student experience. Being a student is stressful at any time, but inflation and the cost of education have made it even more challenging. SAMU does whatever it can to make it a little easier for students. Our lineup of support services that we offered included:



### **Breakfast Club**

Breakfast Club is always a very popular service with students. SAMU supplied 6,051 meals through 10 pop-up breakfasts, which included one hot breakfast. This is a 15.5% decrease in meals served and four fewer pop-up breakfasts than the previous year. However, the average number of meals served per event increased by 18%. The increase in the cost of food and the growing popularity of the event was the reason for the decrease, so demand did not exceed the budget.

### **The Pantry**

In 2023-24, 1020 new website accounts were created. A total of 2284 hampers were given out this fiscal, a 40.5% increase from 2022-23. With the cost of food and other expenses continuing to increase, students are feeling the financial pressure more than ever. The Pantry is an important service that helps those students in need with a hamper that has approximately two weeks of food. The Pantry supported 1,410 students with hampers during Fall and Winter terms.

### **Peer Support**

Peer Support conducted 51 sessions over Fall and Winter, an increase of 19% from the previous fiscal. This number doesn't include students who visit the Support Hub in person to ask questions or get resources, which totalled 485 for Fall & Winter.

Of the students who utilized peer support, 49% were Mental health-related, 36% were school stress-related, and 19% were relationship-related (note: a conversation can be multiple topics). Approximately 24% of students disclosed they were facing thoughts of suicide, double the amount from the previous fiscal.

### **Safe Walk**

Safe Walk is a service provided by SAMU and student volunteers. Students can request a walk and are escorted by two volunteers to their car or bus stop. A total of 32 walks were conducted in Fall and Winter terms, a 146% increase from the previous year.

### **Student Advocacy Centre**

The SAMU Student Advocacy Centre supports students facing academic or non-academic issues, but also provides policy guidance, edits on correspondence with MacEwan faculty or staff, and can attend meetings with students.

The Student Advocacy Centre had a total of 116 students submitting initial submissions. Of these 116 students, 58 (50 %) met with a Centre Representative to discuss their concern further. Out of the 58 students that met with a Centre Representative, 39 (67.2%) students sought on-going support from their Centre Representative.

The breakdown of student visits by faculty are as follows: 56% Faculty of Arts and Science, 16.4% School of Business, 13.8% Faculty of Nursing, 7.6% Faculty of Health and Community Studies, 4.3% Faculty of Fine Arts and Communications, and 1.8% School of Continuing Education.

The top issues that the Student Advocacy Centre assisted students through were: Academic Misconduct Violations 19.8%, Filing Complaints 15.5%, Reassessment of Marks 12.1% and Required to Withdraw 12.1%.

Satisfaction surveys were sent to students who deal with the Student Advocacy Centre. Of the students who completed the survey, 60% rated their satisfaction high (4-5 stars), 20% were either indifferent or neutral (2-3 Stars), and 20% of students were dissatisfied with the service level that they received (0-1 stars).

### **Eco SAMU**

Eco SAMU offered a variety of programming for students including:

- Eco SAMU started off the term with a successful Free Store that saw over 100 students come and help themselves to free items that are offered by SAMU.
- ECO SAMU collaborated with Aramark and MacEwan Eats to develop a Fall Harvest Menu inspired by SAMU's Stepping Stones, Urban Farming Plot. Held on the first day of Autumn, ECO SAMU served 350 students.
- Offered monthly environmental programming tailored to our Fall and Winter semesters:
  - Monthly Community Mixers in Fall: Environmental Lunch & Learn, Queer Time Tuesday, and Inner Development Goals Living Workshop
  - Winter Term: Healthy Relationship Week collaboration, Community Mixers, Black History Month Support/Showcase, ECO Month.
- Queer Time Tuesday: Collaboration with Deville Coffee to bring more awareness to curated Queer Community Spaces on the last Tuesday of every month.

### **3.2 Evaluate and assess student supports to remain relevant and accountable to students.**

#### **Student Affordability Survey**

The number one concern of students for the past few years, according to the annual Spring Student Surveys from 2021 to 2024, is the cost of education in terms of textbooks, tuition, and other fees. To get a complete picture of this issue, the External and Stakeholder Relations Manager, Parvin Sedighi, and the VP Academic (VPA) worked together to develop and launch a Student Affordability Survey. The survey received thousands of responses and provided valuable data and insights on the real-life, ground-floor experiences of how students are struggling to pay for education. The data and report will help to plan strong and accurate advocacy points for ongoing projects and priorities for the student body.

#### **SAMU Cares**

The SAMU Cares program is a bursary which assists students and families and is funded by the creative fundraising efforts of the SAMU community. The bursaries are to help students and their families with financial assistance in the Fall and Winter terms.

In 2023-24, the SAMU Cares' process for accessing the bursary was updated to better suit students and staff through the implementation of a digital application with unique identifier codes.

In Fall, 40 students were able to benefit from the bursary and 34 students in the Winter (2 more than the previous fiscal). With the endowment announcement, SAMU will now open applications for the spring and summer term of each academic year, making bursaries available to students year-round. (Fall, Winter, Spring).

### **Student Groups**

The Student Groups department conducted verbal and written surveys to assess satisfaction with events and other aspects of Student Groups.

- Student Groups Appreciation Event was the most enjoyed event with a 90% satisfaction rate
- 76% of groups are satisfied with the Student Groups Connect platform (**62% previous**)
- 86% of groups are satisfied with the Student Groups Handbook (**76% previous**)
- 82% of groups are satisfied with their overall experience as a student group (**80% previous**)

The overall increase in satisfaction with student groups is linked to the increase in quantity and quality of training opportunities and resources. Specifically with regards to the Handbook and Student Groups Connect, groups were more satisfied because they were better equipped to navigate and utilize these resources.

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

#### **Cause Collaboration with MacEwan**

SAMU is always keen to help advocate for initiatives and causes that benefit or interest students. SAMU and EC collaborated with MacEwan to help promote several worthy causes to students, including: Pink Shirt Day, Black History Month, Pride Week, Mental Health Week, Healthy Relationships Week, Sexual Violence Awareness Week and Truth & Reconciliation Day.

#### **Student Groups**

Over the past year, the Student Groups Department has built and maintained relationships with various MacEwan Departments, including MacEwan Conference Services, the International Department, the Office of Sexual Violence Prevention, Education, and Response (OSVPER), Center for Sexual and Gender Diversity, MacEwan Residence, Student Affairs, MacEwan Student Experience Record, and MacEwan Alumni. These relationships will benefit student groups in various ways, such as helping them access services, reach audiences, and collaborate for future activities.

## Period Products

Free period product dispensers were installed in SAMU's female and all-gender washrooms. Feedback from students indicates a high satisfaction level:

- Overall satisfaction with the period products 4.7/5
- Ease of dispenser use 4.9/5
- Quality of products 4/5

## 3.4 Enhance relationships with external organizations to leverage resources and supplement new and existing initiatives.

### Splash and Bash

Splash and Bash is a collaborative event with UASU, NAITSA and West Edmonton Mall and was held again for students on February 2nd. The event allows students to enjoy an exclusive pool party at the World Waterpark at a discounted price. The event sold out with 691 tickets being sold to students and their friends, a 69% increase from the previous year.

### U-Pass

U-Pass saw increased activation rates (percentage of students who were assessed for U-Pass and activated it) this past Fall and Winter. SAMU still had free ARC Cards from its initial delivery to give away to first-time users but ran out in March. Moving forward, ARC cards will be charged for new users and for replacements.

#### Fall 2023

14,575 Students Participated in Fall 2022 U-Pass **(+7%)**

9368 Activated U-Pass **(+19%)**

64% Activation Rate **(58% previous)**

#### Winter 2024

14,310 Students participated in Winter 2023 U-Pass **(+7%)**

9080 Activated Winter U-Pass **(+8%)**

63% Activation Rate **(63% previous)**

#### Spring/Summer 2024

4607 Students participated in Spring/Summer 2023 U-Pass **(-0.6%)**

2495 Activated Spring/Summer U-Pass **(-4%)**

54% Activation Rate **(56% previous)**

### Student Refugee Program (SRP)

SAMU welcomed a newly sponsored student, and they are integrating well and have been given the tools and support to maintain successes and achievements. Increased Local Committee Membership and operations with MacEwan Academic and Finance strengthened relationships with MacEwan for all matters concerning SRP. Local Committee Members are actively searching for better ways to support SRP Students' Self-Reliance and Settlement here in Edmonton and SAMU will welcome a new SRP member in Summer of 2025.

## 4. STRENGTHENING SAMU OPERATIONS

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

### What it Means

SAMU can best serve students when its own house is in order. By fostering strong relationships between elected student roles and staff, documenting policies and processes and being responsible stewards of resources, SAMU can be a supportive and sustainable organization for students for years to come.

### Strategies

#### 4.1 Review SAMU governance structures and make improvements to reduce duplication of efforts and delays in decision-making processes.

##### Governance Review Project

Through a third-party governance review in 2021/22, SAMU started work in 2022-23 on 45 of the recommendations that came from the review. Work continued and the project was completed in 2023-24.

#### 4.2 Document main policies and processes to support business continuity and transitions in leadership and staff.

##### Internal Advocacy Advisor

An important new full-time position was added to the SAMU operations team. An Internal Advocacy Advisor was hired in April to help our Executive Committee with internal advocacy-related initiatives. The position quickly showed its value and success, and work has started on another position being added to support the External Advocacy support of the Executive Committee for 2024-25.

##### Directives

During the Governance Review process, it was recommended to review, retire and update existing operational procedures and turn them into Directives. A committee was established and the work is ongoing and is helping to better clarify operational rules within SAMU.

#### 4.3 Diversify revenue streams to reduce reliance on student fees.

##### Advertising Revenue

SAMU and the SAMU Building offer opportunities to generate revenue through various advertising channels including posters, tabling, digital displays, email newsletter and the student handbook. Advertising for the Handbook offsets the cost of printing.

- SAMU Building & Campus advertising revenue: \$33,000 (+72%)
- SAMU Student Handbook advertising revenue \$20,260 (-56%)

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

##### **SAMU Membership Fee Increase Paused**

SAMU paused the increase of the membership fee for the 2024/25 year in response to ongoing affordability struggles for students. SAMU will still be able to deliver high-quality programming, events, and services. Collectively, this saves students a total of over \$100,000.

#### **4.5 Foster a professional and supportive work environment that lives the organizational values and delivers a culture of excellence.**

##### **SAMU Awards**

SAMU Awards Night is a chance to celebrate the 36 students, staff, and Student Groups nominated for a SAMU Award. A total of 93 people (nominees and guests) enjoyed a buffet dinner in The Lookout (SAMU's event space), applauded all the nominees and winners and played some fun Kahoot trivia games afterward. SAMU Awards recognize outstanding individuals who have interacted, supported, or assisted with the goals and efforts of the SAMU organization and community.

##### **Remuneration Review**

A comprehensive review was started in 2021-22 by a third-party consultant, resulting in a number of recommendations, most of which were implemented in 2022-23. The remaining recommendations were completed in 2023-24, and a new RRSP/TFSA program for staff will be implemented in the early 2024-25 fiscal.

##### **Human Resources (HR) Processes**

A new HR process for conducting staff performance reviews and employee satisfaction surveys was piloted this past fiscal year. The process is a feature of the online HR system, BambooHR, used by SAMU. This process is more efficient and collaborative than the previous method and will be rolled out organization-wide in 2024-25.

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTION RESULTS

### Official 2024 Executive Committee Election Results

Number of Students Voting	Eligible Voters	Percentage
953	15196	6.3

3 Candidates ran for 4 positions

### Previous Year – 2023 Executive Committee Election Results

Number of Students Voting	Eligible Voters	Percentage
2173	14325	15.20%

8 Candidates ran for 5 positions

### Official 2023 Vice-President External By-Election Results

Number of Students Voting	Eligible Voters	Percentage
1008	14322	7.00%

2 Candidates ran for 1 position

## STUDENTS' COUNCIL ELECTION RESULTS

### Official 2023 Students' Council Election Results

Number of Students Voting	Eligible Voters	Percentage
1333	15548	8.6%

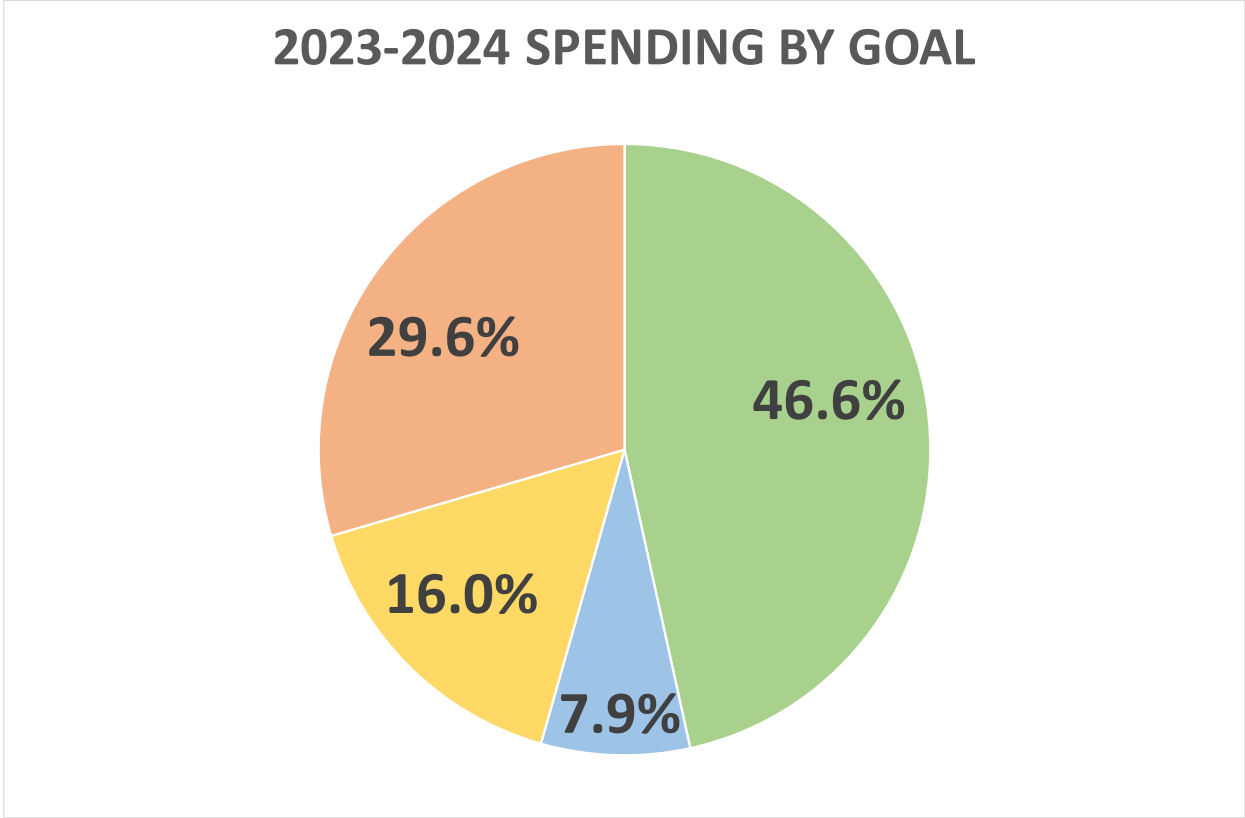
13 Candidates ran for 14 positions

### Previous Year - 2022 Students' Council Election Results

Number of Students Voting	Eligible Voters	Percentage
948	14683	6.5%

13 Candidates ran for 14 positions

# SPENDING BY STRATEGIC GOAL



Strategic Goal		2023-2024
1. Student Experience and Engagement	The overall student experience is enhanced by the opportunities provided by SAMU.	46.6%
2. Student Voice	The student voice is amplified by SAMU.	7.9%
3. Student Supports	Student supports provided by SAMU are responsive to unique and evolving needs.	16.0%
4. Strengthening SAMU Operations	SAMU is an innovative and sustainable organization with an engaging work environment.	29.6%





**STUDENTS' COUNCIL MEETING SUBMISSION**

**AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION**

<b>Meeting Date</b>	<b>Submitted By</b>
October 16 <sup>th</sup> , 2024	Joseph A. La Torre, VP Governance and Finance

<b>Agenda Title</b>	<b>Item</b>	
	Students' Council Remuneration Frequency	
<b>Action Requested</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Motion	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consultation Item

**AGENDA ITEM DETAILS**

<b>Motion Title</b>	N/A
<b>Background Information</b>	<p>We review Student Councillor remuneration annually, and a comment came up on potentially changing the frequency of when Counillors receive their remuneration, which is currently at the end of their term after October 31st. In addition, with affordability being a concern for many students and considerations when we budget, this is something that we should consider.</p> <p>Below are some potential changes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Quarterly (once every 3 months)</li> <li>- Biannually (Twice a year)</li> <li>- No change</li> </ul> <p>For this consultation, please focus your comments on if you think the frequency should change or not, and choose one of the options provided above.</p>
<b>Alternative Considerations</b>	Keep Council Remuneration the same frequency or change it.
<b>Risk Management Considerations</b>	n/a
<b>Strategic Alignment</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Attached Strategic Alignment Checklist is complete</i>

<b>Implications</b>	Budget considerations, Finance department implications.
<b>Related Documents</b>	Remuneration of Elected Representatives
<b>Follow Up Action</b>	Governance Office and Students' Council Operations Committee to look into.
<b>Review History</b>	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
<b>Student Experience &amp; Engagement</b>			
<b>The overall student experience is enhanced by the opportunities provided by SAMU.</b>	<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"/>
<b>Student Voice</b>			
<b>The Student Voice is amplified by SAMU.</b>	<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"/>
<b>Student Supports</b>			
<b>Student supports provided by SAMU are responsive to unique and evolving needs.</b>	<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"/>
<b>Strengthening SAMU Operations</b>			
<b>SAMU is an innovative and sustainable organization with an engaging work environment.</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>