



**STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION  
OF MACEWAN UNIVERSITY**

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

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**Voting Members:**

Gabriel Ambutong, President  
Tolu Dare, Councillor  
Aryan Dutta, Councillor  
Aidan Fisher, Councillor  
Cornelius Glasgow, Councillor  
Darcy Hoogers, Vice President Academic  
Cierra Jacobs, Councillor  
Joseph A. La Torre, Vice President Governance  
and Finance  
Aleace Moom, Vice President Student Life  
Moselle Namoc, Councillor  
Maade Okai, Councillor  
Nathan Poon, Councillor  
Israel Reyes, Councillor

Joehn Torres, Councillor  
Vincent Trinh, Councillor  
Chioma Uzor, Councillor  
Loyal Zidan, Councillor  
vacant, Councillor  
vacant, Vice President External

***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 3:38pm.

<Intros>

**1. Treaty 6 Land Recognition**

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

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

**2. Approvals**

**2.1 MOTION**

***TO APPROVE THE AGENDA FOR DECEMBER 18, 2024***

**2.2 MOTION**

***TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 20, 2024***

**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 Governance & Finance

4.1.4. Vice President Student Life

4.1.5. Executive Committee Workplan (PRES)

4.1.6. Strategy and Engagement Committee Workplan (VPSL)

4.1.7.

**4.2. Executive Committee Minutes**

Minutes of November 6, 14, 20, 27, and December 4, 2024 provided.

**5. Question Period**

**5.1. Written Questions**

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**5.2. Oral Questions**

Topics include:

**6. In Camera Period**

6.1.

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

**7.1. Role and Responsibilities of the Chair of Students' Council**

**MOTION TO APPROVE THE ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CHAIR OF STUDENTS' COUNCIL POLICY ON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE STUDENTS' COUNCIL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE EFFECTIVE MAY 1, 2025**

**VPGF/**

**7.2. Finance Committee**

Nominees: Fisher, Trinh

**MOTION TO APPOINT COUNCILLORS FISHER AND TRINH TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**VPGF/**

**7.3. Governance Committee**

Nominees: Namoc, Uzor,

**MOTION TO APPOINT COUNCILLORS \_\_\_\_\_ AND \_\_\_\_\_ TO THE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

**VPGF/**

**7.4. Students' Council Operations Committee**

Nominees: Uzor,

**MOTION TO APPOINT COUNCILLORS \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, AND \_\_\_\_\_ TO THE STUDENTS' COUNCIL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**

**VPGF/**

**7.5. Budget Reallocation**

**MOTION TO APPROVE AN UNBUDGETED EXPENDITURE OF \$50,000.00 FOR G/L 531600**

**VPGF/**

7.6.

**8. Consultation**

8.1.

**9. Evaluation**

9.1.

**10. Recognition**

**11. Adjournment**

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

Next Meeting Date: January 15, 2024

Meeting adjourned at pm



**Minutes for the Students' Council Meeting of the  
Students' Association of MacEwan University  
November 20, 2024 at 6:00pm in the Council Chamber**

**Voting Members:**

Gabriel Ambutong, President  
Tolu Dare, Councillor  
Aryan Dutta, Councillor  
Aidan Fisher, Councillor  
Cornelius Glasgow, Councillor  
Darcy Hoogers, Vice President Academic  
Cierra Jacobs, Councillor  
Joseph A. La Torre, Vice President Governance  
and Finance  
Aleace Moom, Vice President Student Life  
Moselle Namoc, Councillor  
Maade Okai, Councillor  
Nathan Poon, Councillor  
Israel Reyes, Councillor

Joehn Torres, Councillor  
Vincent Trinh, Councillor  
Chioma Uzor, Councillor  
vacant, Councillor  
Loyal Zidan, Councillor  
vacant, Vice President External

**SAMU Officials and Council Support:**

Matthew Yanish, Chair  
Darryl Kostash, General Manager  
Alan Honey, Governance Advisor  
Caitlin Yambao, Admin Support

Meeting called to order at 6:00pm.

<Intros>

**1. Treaty 6 Land Recognition**

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

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

**2. Approvals**

**2.1 MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA FOR NOVEMBER 20, 2024**

**JACOBS/ZIDAN**

**CARRIED**

**2.2 MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 16, 2024**

**UZOR/FISHER**

**CARRIED**

**3. Presentations**

**3.1. kihêw waciston Presentation**

**MOTION TO TAKE A 5 MINUTE RECESS**

**VPSL/JACOBS**

**CARRIED**

**\*Called to order at 6:09pm**

**4. For Information**

**4.1. Reports**

**4.1.1. President**

EC Retreat.

**4.1.2. Vice President Academic**

As presented.

**4.1.3. Vice President Governance & Finance**

As presented.

**4.1.4. Vice President Student Life**

As presented.

**4.1.5. Governance Investigations and Reinstatement Committee (in camera)**

**4.1.6. Chief Returning Officer**

**4.2. Executive Committee Minutes**

Minutes of October 9, 16, 23, and 30, 2024 provided.

**5. Question Period**

**5.1. Written Questions**

Trinh - For VPA's Report - I notice that the report mentions that the success of keeping Reading Week will be kept specifically for the 2025/2026 Academic Year. Does that mean MacEwan will still plan to remove Reading Week for future terms? (Ex: 2026's Fall Reading Week)

VPA - Thank you for your question, Councillor Trinh. As it currently stands, MacEwan is not looking to remove the Fall Reading Break in the foreseeable future.

**5.2. Oral Questions**

Topics include: Exec Remuneration; Candidates & campaigning/election; Reading Break; student voice on calendar advisory committee;

**6. In Camera Period**

**6.1. Councillor Reinstatement**

***MOTION TO GO IN CAMERA***

***ZIDAN/OKAI***

***CARRIED***

***MOTION TO GO OUT OF CAMERA***

***VPGF/ZIDAN***

***CARRIED***

## 7. Motions & Business Orders of the Day

### 7.1. Councillor Reinstatement

**MOTION** *TO NOT REINSTATE SONIA YUSUF AS A COUNCILLOR FOR A TERM ENDING OCTOBER 31, 2025*

**VPGF/VPSL**

Favour: Pres, Poon, Uzor, Fisher, Glasgow, Dutta, Namoc, Trinh, Okai, Jacobs, Zidan, Dare, Vpsl, Vpa, Vpgf

Abstain: Reyes

**CARRIED**

**MOTION TO TAKE A 5 MINUTE RECESS**

**VPSL/ZIDAN**

**CARRIED**

### 7.2. Executive Compensation

\*Executive Committee declares a conflict of interest and leaves room during topic 7.2.

**MOTION** *TO REALLOCATE THE VPE SALARY FROM SEPTEMBER 15, 2024 TO APRIL 30, 2025 TO EACH OF THE EXECUTIVES, DUE TO THEIR TAKING ON A PORTION OF THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE VICE PRESIDENT EXTERNAL AFTER THE VICE PRESIDENT EXTERNAL RESIGNED. THE PERCENTAGE ALLOCATION OF THE SALARY WILL BE 27.5% TO THE PRESIDENT, 16.5% TO THE VICE PRESIDENT ACADEMIC, 5.5% TO THE VICE PRESIDENT GOVERNANCE AND FINANCE, AND 5.5% TO THE VICE PRESIDENT STUDENT LIFE*

**POON/ZIDAN**

Favour: Poon, Uzor, Fisher, Glasgow, Reyes, Dutta, Namoc, Trinh, Okai, Jacobs, Zidan, Dare

Abstain: Pres, Vpa, Vpsl, Vpgf

**CARRIED**

**MOTION** *TO AMEND THE AGENDA TO MOVE 7.7 STRATEGY AND ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE TO RIGHT BEFORE 7.3 AUDIT COMMITTEE*

**ZIDAN/DUTTA**

**CARRIED**

### 7.7 Strategy and Engagement Committee

Nominees: Reyes, Okai, Trinh, Uzor, Dare, Dutta,

**MOTION** *TO APPOINT COUNCILLORS OKAI, UZOR, AND DUTTA TO THE STRATEGY AND ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE*

**VPGF/JACOBS**

Favour: Pres, Poon, Uzor, Fisher, Glasgow, Reyes, Dutta, Namoc, Trinh, Okai, Jacobs, Zidan, Dare, Vpsl, Vpa, Vpgf

**CARRIED**

**7.3. Audit Committee**

Nominees: Reyes, Poon, Zidan

**MOTION TO APPOINT COUNCILLORS REYES, POON, AND ZIDAN TO THE AUDIT COMMITTEE**

**VPGF/OKAI**

Favour: Pres, Poon, Uzor, Fisher, Glasgow, Reyes, Dutta, Namoc, Trinh, Okai, Jacobs, Zidan, Dare, Vpsl, Vpa, Vpgf

**CARRIED**

**7.4. Finance Committee**

Nominees: Fisher, Trinh

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

**ZIDAN**

**CARRIED**

Next Meeting Date: December 18, 2024

Meeting adjourned at 8:20pm



## Students' Council Report

### President

December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Council,

Please see the report on my work as President during November 21<sup>st</sup> to December 11<sup>th</sup>.

### Executive Summary

- Meeting with MLAs Sheperd and Eggen
- Canadian Alliance of Students Associations (CASA) Advocacy Week

### Student Voice

*The Student Voice is amplified by SAMU.*

#### Meeting with MLAs

*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 was attended by me, the VPGF, the VPSL, SAMU support staff, and MLAs Sheperd and Eggen. During the meeting SAMU raised concerns around Student Financial Aid delays. Whether or not action will be taken by Advanced Education is uncertain.

#### CASA Advocacy Week

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

SAMU is a member of CASA, a federal advocacy body representing student interests across Canada. During the week I, alongside colleagues, met with several MPs, Senators, decision-makers, and relevant organizations to advocate for policy asks agreed upon by CASA's membership. Aside from the advocacy meetings, there is some concern around CASA as a whole. Overall, it is SAMU's perspective that the current President's Report to Students' Council

Submitted on August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024





direction of CASA, and its alignment with SAMU's priorities, is subject to review. SAMU as a member has some concerns that require a more in-depth analysis. Council will be updated 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 Academic

**December 18, 2024**

I'm struggling to think of a clever and witty introduction to this report. It feels like writing a paper that I've procrastinated about. A feeling quite familiar to the student experience.

This feeling tells me that we, as students, are looking forward to the winter break. A time to forget about finals, avoid assignments, and revel in festivities.

Be sure to take time for yourself during finals and over the break. Eat well, catch up on sleep, and arrive refreshed for the Winter semester.

### Executive Summary

- General Faculties Council overview and recap.
- Exam Centre changes
- Student textbook fund

### Student Voice

*The Student Voice is amplified by SAMU.*

#### General Faculties Council

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

The highest academic governing body, General Faculties Council (GFC), met on December 9<sup>th</sup>. During this meeting, I advocated for the addition of more student seats on GFC.



## **Student Supports**

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

### Exam Centre Changes

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

During the November 25<sup>th</sup> Council on Student Affairs meeting, the Interim Associate Vice President, Students presented changes to the operating model of MacEwan University's Exam Centre. Currently, the Exam Centre provides exam services (proctoring, invigilation, administration, etc.) for all faculties and schools.

Administration is looking to shift the responsibility of facilitating and administering all non-ADR (Access & Disability Resources) onto individual facilities and schools, rather than the Exam Centre holding responsibility for the administration of all exams.

The re-modeling of the Exam Centre framework is still in consultation stages, with administration aiming to implement the new operating model in Fall 2025.

### Student Textbook Fund

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

After months of consultation with myself and other stakeholders, the MacEwan Library will be launching a new textbook fund to help students recover the costs associated with purchasing educational materials.

\$200,000 has been set aside for this fund and will be divided between awards and bursaries. More information will come regarding where and how to apply for this fund.



## **Closing Remarks**

As always, thank you for taking the time to review this report. I encourage you to submit written questions related to my portfolio. Additionally, if anyone wishes to meet for coffee to discuss anything related to the Vice President Academic portfolio, feel free to send me an email ([savpacademic@macewan.ca](mailto:savpacademic@macewan.ca)).

I look forward to seeing everyone at our next council meeting.

All the best,

Darcy



## **Students' Council Report**

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

**December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

Greetings Council!

I hope you are all doing well as we head into the holiday break!

There is nothing relevant in my portfolio to report this month to Students' Council from the period of November 15<sup>th</sup> – December 12<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Closing Remarks**

Please do not hesitate to email me or set up a meeting if you have any further questions or if you would like me to elaborate on anything.

I hope you all have a great holiday break and I will see you all in 2025.

**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)



## Students' Council Report

### Vice President Student Life

12-18-2024

Greetings Council!

The end of 2024 is near and what a whirlwind it has been. I hope you are all looking forward to a nice break with family and friends and all the cookies. I am looking forward to a much-needed break and relax before 2025 begins (New year, New me).

Please see my report from November 20<sup>th</sup>- December 19<sup>th</sup>

### **Executive Summary**

- Associate Vice President Student Support and Accountability Committee Wrap Up (AVPSS)
- Healthy Relationship Week planning (HRW)

### **Student Voice**

*The student voice is amplified by SAMU*

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

#### AVPSS Hiring Committee

After a long search and hiring process, I am pleased to say that my time on this committee has come to an end. We had 3 candidates join us on campus last month and come give a presentation and meet with the SAMU executive team. The team and I provided our feedback on who we see fit in the role and the comments were then



reviewed by the hiring committee. The next steps are for the top 2 selected candidates to come to campus for a final visit and then we will meet with our new AVPSS projected April 2025 or July 2025. This process was crucial to ensure the student's perspective and voice was heard in selecting the person to fill this role. More details to follow!

### Healthy Relationship Week

The Healthy relationship week planning committee has met a couple of times to plan the event which will be hosted during the week of February 10<sup>th</sup> to February 14<sup>th</sup>. This week is all about cultivating thriving connections and learning skills to enhance your relationships and community involvement. There will be various activities happening this week such as a skill fair, speaker series and workshops.

### **Closing Remarks**

Thank you for reading my report and I wish you all happy holidays and a well-deserved break!

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

**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 Alric Reid, 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>	December 11, 2024
<b>Received by Council:</b>	December 18, 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.
  
- EC reviewed their projects since the time the workplan was reported to Council, several projects have returned to being ongoing, and a few have been modified or cancelled. Cancellations can occur due to shifting priorities or being realistic with the time left in office.
  
- Modified Projects:
  - o VPA Compensation for Committee Participation: Included as both an in-year allocation and a budgetary ask to MacEwan.
  
- Cancelled Projects
  - o VPA Student Charter: Recommending this advocacy ask to be picked up by the next VPA, cancelled due to time constraints within the GFC structure



## 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>	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>	Ongoing
<b>Topic</b>	Student Ombudsperson Reinstatement
<b>EC Lead</b>	Vice President Academic
<b>Current Impact to Students</b>	As the institution continues to grow having a 3 <sup>rd</sup> party neutral ombudsperson provides students with confidential, impartial, informal and independent assistance to those who are experiencing conflicts or who have complaints.
<b>Objective</b>	Lay the framework for advocacy regarding the reinstatement of the student ombudsperson at MacEwan University
<b>Strategic Alignment</b>	Student Supports: 3.1, 3.3
<b>Status</b>	Initial Stages
<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>	Modified
<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.

Objective	Gain support through various committees, and ultimately have MacEwan adopt the Guideline of Rights as a policy.
Strategic Alignment	Student Supports: 3.1, 3.3
Status	Cancelled - Recommend to Future EC
Topic	Fall Reading Week
EC Lead	Vice President Academic
Current Impact to Students	MacEwan University has proposed removing the fall reading break in the 2025-2026 academic calendar
Objective	Consult Students on their perspective and advocate on the students' best interests, not removing fall reading week.
Strategic Alignment	Student Voice: 2.1 Student Supports: 3.2
Status	Completed
Topic	Deferred Exam Fees
EC Lead	Vice President Academic
Current Impact to Students	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.
Objective	Lowering, or Expanding the Criteria for Waiving the Deferred Exam Fee
Strategic Alignment	Student Supports: 3.2
Status	Completed
Topic	In Year Allocation of MacEwan Forecasted Surpluses
EC Lead	Vice President Governance & Finance
Current Impact to Students	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.
Objective	Process is developed and students save money either through the waiving of a MNIF, ore in year scholarships/awards/bursaries, or other student savings
Strategic Alignment	Student Voice: 2.4 Student Supports: 3.3
Status	Ongoing

Topic	Mandatory Non-Instructional Fees Advocacy
EC Lead	Vice President Governance & Finance
Current Impact to Students	Students currently pay 5 MNIF's, looking to student affordability, are there savings within these MNIF's for students?
Objective	Audit of MNIFS resulting in tangible asks regarding the MNIF's to save students money. Student Technology Fee audit of processes including a substantial TOR review
Strategic Alignment	Student Voice 2.4
Status	Ongoing
Topic	Governance Engagement – Compensation for Committee Participation
EC Lead	Vice President Governance & Finance
Current Impact to Students	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.
Objective	<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>
Strategic Alignment	Student Voice 2.2 Strengthening SAMU Operations 4.1, 4.5
Status	Ongoing
Topic	U-Pass Contract Advocacy
EC Lead	Vice President Governance & Finance
Current Impact to Students	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.
Objective	U-Pass rate freeze and commitments to safety for students on ETS and an emphasis on ETS safety in stations.
Strategic Alignment	Student Voice: 2.3 Student Supports: 3.1, 3.2
Status	Completed
Topic	SAMU Health and Dental Coverage
EC Lead	Vice President Governance & Finance
Current Impact to Students	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>	Ongoing
<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

Strategic Alignment	Student Voice: 2.4 Student Supports: 3.1
Status	Ongoing
Topic	Graduating Students Transition Supports
EC Lead	Vice President Student Life
Current Impact to Students	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
Objective	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

<b>Topic</b>	ETS Safety
<b>EC Lead</b>	Vice President External
<b>Current Impact to Students</b>	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.
<b>Objective</b>	More secure, robust transit system that ensures that students feel safe while travelling on public transportation.
<b>Strategic Alignment</b>	Student Voice: 2.3
<b>Status</b>	Modified

<b>Topic</b>	Increase to MacEwan Operating Grant
<b>EC Lead</b>	Vice President External
<b>Current Impact to Students</b>	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.
<b>Objective</b>	An increase in MacEwan's operating grant, leading to a reduced burden on students to cover the cost of tuition.
<b>Strategic Alignment</b>	Student Voice 2.3
<b>Status</b>	Cancelled

<b>Topic</b>	Interest Free or Cap on Provincial Loans
<b>EC Lead</b>	Vice President External
<b>Current Impact to Students</b>	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.
<b>Objective</b>	0% interest OR interest cap on provincial loans
<b>Strategic Alignment</b>	Student Voice 2.3
<b>Status</b>	Cancelled

<b>GOVERNANCE</b>	
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<b>Topic</b>	Student Leadership Week (Formally GovWeek)
<b>EC Lead</b>	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	Completed
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	Completed
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	Ongoing
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	Ongoing
Topic	Ponoka Site Engagement
EC Lead	Vice President Student Life

<b>Strategic Alignment</b>	Student Experience and Engagement: 1.2
<b>Objective</b>	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.
<b>Key Details</b>	Projected Date: September 13
<b>Status</b>	Completed

**Strategy and Engagement (SEC) Workplan 2024-2025**  
**For Information to Students Council**  
**Submitted: December 12<sup>th</sup> 2024**

<b>Chaired By:</b>	Aleace Moom, VP Student Life (VPSL)			
<b>Committee Members:</b>	Joseph A La Torre, VP Governance and Finance Maade Okai, Councillor Chioma Uzor, Councillor Aryan Dutta, Councillor Mabel Adesopo, Student-at-Large Alem Tesfay, Student-at-Large			
<b>Committee Mandate:</b>	The Strategy and Engagement Committee (SEC) strives to maximize student engagement with Students' Council, provides leadership development opportunities to members of Students' Council and acts as a consultation body for strategic priorities.			
<b>Approved by Committee:</b>	December 11 <sup>th</sup> 2024			
<b>Received by Council:</b>	December 18, 2024			
<b>Task</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Stakeholders</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Status</b>
Student Engagement Opportunities	Strategy and Engagement Committee develops a plan for Student Council to engage with SAMU members. (including, but not limited to: tabling, classroom visits, social media, etc.)  1-2 per semester	SAMU Students' Council Students at Large	Ongoing	Ongoing
Professional Development and Teambuilding	Strategy and Engagement Committee creates opportunities for members of Students' Council to develop leadership skills by: Researching and implementing	SAMU Students' Council	Ongoing	Ongoing

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



**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: October 30, 2024  
**VPSL/VPGF  
CARRIED**

TOPIC		DISCUSSION	ACTION/MOTION
1.	ISR Revitalization		Move to EC agenda right before retreat.
2.	Committee Appointment	GA – <a href="#">Michelle</a> has agreed to return as the public resource member for the Audit Committee. - Kris Ravelo has applied for GIRC	<b>MOTION</b>  <b>TO APPOINT MICHELLE MALIN TO THE AUDIT COMMITTEE AS THE PUBLIC RESOURCE MEMBER FOR A TERM ENDING OCTOBER 31, 2025</b>  <b>VPGF/VPSL CARRIED</b>

			<p><b>MOTION</b></p> <p><b>TO APPOINT KRIS RAVELO TO THE GOVERNANCE INVESTIGATIONS AND REINSTATEMENT COMMITTEE FOR A TERM ENDING OCTOBER 31, 2025</b></p> <p><b>VPSL/VPGF CARRIED</b></p>
3.	Promoting meskanas ADR tool	Vpa – Centre for Teaching & Learning asking if we can help promote this tool. I think it would be good to promote but have concern with materials that were sent. This is promotion that could/should be done on MacEwan’s end. Recommend we don’t support this.	
4.	Marketing collaboration with the Library	Vpa -	<p><b>TABLED</b></p> <p><b>TO NEXT EC MEETING.</b></p>
5.	Student Groups	Vpsl -	<p><b>MOTION</b></p> <p><b>TO APPROVE THE PUNJABI YOUTHS OF MACEWAN UNIVERSITY STUDENT GROUP, THE MACEWAN MARKETING CLUB, THE TOWERS COLLECTIVE STUDENT GROUP, AND THE WOMEN IN BUSINESS STUDENT GROUP</b></p> <p><b>VPSL/VPGF CARRIED</b></p>
6.	Outstanding Action Items		
7.	Advo Wins		
8.	VP Academic’s Report	MacEwan grant adjudications. Academic & Curricular Calendar meeting.	
9.	VP Governance & Finance Report	Tuition/MNIFs consultation meeting update. Met with MacEwan CFO today. - international student tuition. - Ponoka tech fee - Medical clinic fee - safety.	<p>Action:</p> <p>RM to research if there are any rules (MacEwan/Govt) on MacEwan fee changes and report back in December.</p>
10.	VP Student Life’s Report	Met with Sydney Bennell - food advo/insecurity Met with Brett – Student Life Office - student experience record AVPS interviews update.	
11.	President’s Report		

12.	GM Report	KW update. SG updates. HR update. the griff update.	
13.	Recognition		

5. Adjournment  
Time: 2:46pm



**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: 1:45pm
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 7 region in Central Alberta.

In the spirit of respect, reciprocity, and truth, we acknowledge the traditional Treaty 7 Territory, which includes the Blackfoot Confederacy Nations of Siksika, Kainai, and Piikani, the Tsuut'ina First Nation, and our neighbours, the Îethka Stoney Nakoda Nation consisting of the Chiniki, Bearspaw, and Good Stoney Bands. This territory is also home to the Métis Nation of Alberta, Region 3, within the historical Northwest Métis homeland.

3. Approval of Agenda:  
**VPSL/VPGF  
CARRIED**
4. Approval of Minutes for: November 6, 2024  
**VPA/VPGF  
CARRIED**

TOPIC		DISCUSSION	ACTION/MOTION
1.	Student Groups		<b>MOTION  TO APPROVE THE MACEWAN FEM-STEM CLUB  VPSL/VPGF CARRIED</b>
2.	COSA		
3.	MacEwan Budget Asks	Vpgf – relating to our previous conversation. Due November 22. Are there any items we'd like to add to our request. Previously discussed: ombudsperson; compensation for students in MacEwan U committees?,	



		IAA – should we ask for in year requests to also be carried to the regular budget asks? Pres – yes, we should use both. Vpgf – Agreed.	
4.	Student Appointment		<b>MOTION</b>  <b>TO APPOINT MAADE OKAI TO THE BOOK OF THE YEAR COMMITTEE AS THE VPSL DESIGNATE FOR A TERM ENDING A JUNE 30, 2025</b>  <b>VPA/VPSL CARRIED</b>
5.	Outstanding Action Items		
6.	VP Academic's Report		
7.	VP Governance & Finance Report		
8.	VP Student Life's Report	AVPSS hiring update.	
9.	President's Report		
10.	GM Report	Carl – acting GM next week. SG updates. HR update. Budget season has arrived.	
11.	Recognition		

5. Adjournment  
Time: 2:08pm



**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: November 14, 2024  
**VPSL/VPA  
CARRIED**

TOPIC		DISCUSSION	ACTION/MOTION
1.	2025-2026 Budget	Vpgf – would like to move this topic to first EC meeting in December.	Action:  Add to December 4 EC meeting.
2.	Outstanding Action Items		
3.	VP Academic's Report		
4.	VP Governance & Finance Report	U-Pass update. SSJOC update.	
5.	VP Student Life's Report	COSA agenda update.	

6.	President's Report	ESA update.	
7.	GM Report	Tabled.	
8.	Recognition		

5. Adjournment  
Time: 2:18pm



**Minutes for the Executive Committee Meeting of the  
Students' Association of MacEwan University  
November 27, 2024 @ 2:00pm**

**Voting Members:**

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

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

In Attendance:  
Larissa Williams, Internal Advocacy Advisor

**Resource Officials:**

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: November 20, 2024  
**VPSL/VPGF  
CARRIED**

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION/MOTION
1. Student Groups		<b>MOTION</b>  <b>TO APPROVE THE MACEWAN HOPE TO HOUSE STUDENT GROUP</b>  <b>VPSL/VPGF CARRIED</b>
2. PAWSS	Vpsl – received emails from concerned students re MacEwan PAWSS program being canceled. I haven't heard this. Wanted to get team's thoughts. Vpgf – not familiar with them removing it. If true we should advocate to keep it. If that doesn't work is it something we could go back to providing.	<b>ACTION:</b> Vpsl to followup on this topic at next EC meeting.

		IA – reach out to Chandelle to find out if it’s being cancelled or not. Need that info prior to deciding how to move forward. Vpa – I’ve. Heard there were unofficial service dogs being brought on campus. Program paused until they can ensure properly trained dogs are taking part.	
3.	Outstanding Action Items		
4.	VP Academic’s Report	COSA meeting update.	
5.	VP Governance & Finance Report		
6.	VP Student Life’s Report	Healthy Relationships Planning committee update.	
7.	President’s Report	tabled	
8.	GM Report	ConEd update. OUR meeting update. Business building update. All Gender Washroom update. HR update.	
9.	Recognition		

5. Adjournment  
Time: 2:25pm



**Voting Members:**

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

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

**In Attendance:**

Larissa Williams, Internal Advocacy Advisor  
Emily Lukacs, External Advocacy Advisor

**Resource Officials:**

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:  
**VPSL/VPGF  
CARRIED**
4. Approval of Minutes for: November 27, 2024  
**VPSL/VPGF  
CARRIED**

TOPIC		DISCUSSION	ACTION/MOTION
1.	Budget – Dept 7 & 12	VPGF presents draft budget amounts. Will send this document out to EC after this meeting – looking for any last feedback prior to submitting it before the winter break.	
2.	Student Representation at GFC	Pres – briefing note provided. Position: advocate for additional seats on GFC.	
3.	Outstanding Action Items		
4.	VP Governance & Finance Report		
5.	VP Student Life's Report	Met with OHR re cultural supports on campus. Met with OS re initiatives on campus.	
6.	VP Academic's Report	Tabled	

			<b>MOTION</b> <b>TO GO IN CAMERA</b> <b>VPGF/VPSL</b> <b>CARRIED</b> <b>MOTION</b> <b>TO GO OUT OF CAMERA</b> <b>VPSL/VPGF</b> <b>CARRIED</b>
7.	President's Report		
8.	GM Report	Staff holiday party. Holiday market update. Building update.	
9.	Recognition		

5. Adjournment  
Time: 3:23pm



**STUDENTS' COUNCIL MEETING SUBMISSION**

**AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION**

<b>Meeting Date</b>	<b>Submitted By</b>
December 18 <sup>th</sup> , 2024	Joseph A. La Torre, VP Governance and Finance

<b>Agenda Title</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Role and Responsibilities of the Chair of Students' Council Policy</b>
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<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>	Motion to approve the Roles & Responsibilities of the Chair of Students' Council on the recommendation of the Students' Council Operations Committee effective May 1, 2025
<b>Background Information</b>	After an environmental scan of the honorarium amounts for different Chairs in other student associations in Alberta, it was found that SAMU was on the lower end of honorarium amounts. Not to mention, since the introduction of the policy in 2014, the Chair's honorarium has not changed since 2018 where the honorarium amount increased from \$75/meeting to \$125/meeting. That said, the Students' Council Operations Committee (SCOC) decided to not only recommend increasing the Chair's honorarium to \$150/meeting, but to also increase it annually by Consumer Price Index (CPI) each year until a cap of \$175/ meeting is reached.
<b>Alternative Considerations</b>	Keep the Chair honorarium as it is.
<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>	N/A



Related Documents	Roles and Responsibilities of the Chair of Students' Council
Follow Up Action	
Review History	

## 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 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 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.4 Act as financial and environmental stewards and implement effective practices to enhance sustainability.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.5 Foster a professional and supportive work environment that lives the organizational values and delivers a culture of excellence.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

## Role and Responsibilities of the Chair of Students' Council

### Rationale

Clear responsibilities for the Chair of Students' Council ensure that the preparation for and the proceedings of Students' Council meetings are relevant and effective.

### Definitions

The **Chair** refers to the formally appointed Chair of Students' Council.

### Expectations

#### Roles and Responsibilities

- 1 The Chair adheres to SAMU bylaws and policies.
- 2 The Chair presides over meetings of Students' Council using *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised* and any other special rules of order.
- 3 The Chair is available for consultation on bylaws and policy development.
- 4 The Chair will serve as chair of the Governance Investigations and Reinstatement Committee.
  - 4.1 The Chair reviews Elected Representative Conduct Complaints and determines whether the complaints move forward in the complaint process or if they are dismissed on the grounds laid out in the appropriate procedure.
  - 4.2 In the event the chair is unable to fulfill the role, they will select an individual to chair a meeting of the Governance Investigations and Reinstatement Committee.
- 6 The Chair ensures that all motions and agenda items are within the scope of Students' Council and excludes any items from the agenda that do not meet this requirement.
  - 6.1 The Chair provides a written report highlighting any items submitted to but excluded from the agenda.
- 7 The Chair ensures that discussions remain focused and within the scope of Students' Council.
- 8 When applicable the Chair delivers a verbal report that includes disclosed and alleged conflicts of interest.

**9** The Chair has ongoing communication with elected representatives and SAMU employees on matters relating to governance or Students' Council business.

**10** The Chair will seek to enhance knowledge relevant to these responsibilities through professional development.

**11** The Chair is evaluated by the Students' Council Operations Committee in August and March each year.

#### **Appointment and Removal**

**12** Following a search process, the Chair is appointed by Students' Council for a one-year term that begins on May 1 and ends on April 30 of the following year.

**12.1** The appointment of the Chair is done no later than April 30 following the search process.

**12.2** The appointment of the Chair is renewable upon annual review and recommendation.

**13** If the Chair position becomes vacant, a new Chair or interim Chair may be appointed for the remainder of the current term.

**14** If the Chair is found not to be upholding these expectations or otherwise acting against the interests of SAMU, Students' Council may censure or remove the Chair.

#### **Remuneration**

**15** The Chair is remunerated ~~\$150.00~~ for each Students' Council meeting attended.

Deleted: 125

15.1 The Chair remuneration will increase annually, on July 1, by the annual average of Alberta's CPI from December 1 to November 30 of the previous year until a cap of \$175.00 is reached.

15.2 Once a remuneration cap has been reached a review of the Chair remuneration will commence.

**16** The Chair is remunerated \$20.00 per complaint review or committee meeting up to \$300 for Committee work assigned per the committee Terms of Reference.

**17** The Chair remuneration will be reviewed every second year.

**18** Changes to remuneration of the Chair require the recommendation of the Students' Council Operations Committee.



**STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION  
OF MACEWAN UNIVERSITY**

Policy

**Indemnification**

**19** SAMU shall indemnify the Chair of Students' Council and hold them harmless for lawful acts or decisions made by them in good faith while performing their duties to the full extent allowed by law.

**Fact Sheet****Approvals:**

First Approval – March 19, 2014

Last Approval – July 17, 2024

**Date of Last Review:** July 17, 2024

**Related Documents and Forms:****Source and Updates:**

March 19, 2014: *Role and Responsibilities of the Chair of Students' Council* approved by Students' Council motion 2014-03-19-6.4. Source material drawn from *Students' Council Policy 23 – Chair of Students' Council*.

March 18, 2015: *Role and Responsibilities of the Chair of Students' Council* approved by Students' Council motion 2015-03-18-6.2 upon recommendation of the Appointment Advisory Committee.

March 21, 2018: *Role and Responsibilities of the Chair of Students Council* approved by Students' Council motion 2018-03-21-7.4 on the recommendation of the Governance Remuneration Advisory Committee. Changes include an update to use gender neutral pronouns as well as an increase in remuneration from \$75/meeting to \$125/meeting.

February 20, 2019: *Role and Responsibilities of the Chair of Students' Council* approved by Students' Council motion 2019-02-20-7.1 on the recommendation of the Bylaws and Policy Committee. The mandatory requirement to post the Chair position after a third term was changed to allow for the reappointment of the Chair upon annual review and recommendation.

December 21, 2022: *Role and Responsibilities of the Chair of Students' Council* approved by Students' Council motion 2022-12-21-7.1 on the recommendation of the Bylaws and Policy Committee. Added responsibility that the Chair reviews Elected Representative Conduct Complaints and decides how to move forward, identifies a process in the event the Chair is unable to perform their duties as Chair of the Governance Investigations Committee or the Students' Council Reinstatement Committee, and adds remuneration for the Chair in the event either committee is required to meet.

July 17, 2024: *Roles and Responsibilities of the Chair of Students' Council* policy approved by Students' Council motion 2024-07-17-7.1 on the recommendation of the Governance Committee. Updated to require the Chair remuneration be reviewed every two years and addition of an indemnity clause.



**STUDENTS' COUNCIL MEETING SUBMISSION**

**AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION**

<b>Meeting Date</b>	<b>Submitted By</b>
December 18, 2024	Joseph A. La Torre, VP Governance and Finance

<b>Agenda Title</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Committee Appointments</b>
<b>Action Requested</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Motion	<input type="checkbox"/> Consultation Item

**AGENDA ITEM DETAILS**

<b>Motion Title</b>	<p>Motion to appoint Councillors Fisher and Trinh to the Finance Committee</p> <p>Motion to appoint Councillors _____ and _____ to the Governance Committee</p> <p>Motion to appoint Councillors _____, _____, _____ and _____ to the Students' Council Operations Committee</p>
<b>Background Information</b>	<p>Per the Committees policy, councillor appointments to all standing committees happen at the regularly scheduled November meeting of Students' Council. Unfortunately all the appointments were not completed during the November Students' Council meeting.</p> <p>To note: during the November Students' Council meeting secret ballot voting results identified that Councillors Fisher and Trinh were both selected so their names have been pre-populated in the Finance Committee motion. The Governance Committee and Students' Council Operations Committee nomination, voting, and motion still need to be completed.</p> <p>Also to note: the first meeting of the Governance Committee is already scheduled for Monday January 13, 2025 from 11am-noon.</p>
<b>Alternative Considerations</b>	N/A

Risk Management Considerations	N/A
Strategic Alignment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Attached Strategic Alignment Checklist is complete</i>
Implications	Full committees are able to do their work while providing a greater diversity of student voices.
Related Documents	Committees policy - committee TORs.
Follow Up Action	n/a
Review History	n/a



## Strategic Alignment Checklist

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

**Mission:** SAMU builds a positive student experience by creating a place to engage and connect, being a champion for all students and providing opportunities that allow them to get the most out of their educational journey.

Focus Areas	Not consistent	N/A	Consistent
<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 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 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 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.3 Diversify revenue streams to reduce reliance on student fees.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.4 Act as financial and environmental stewards and implement effective practices to enhance sustainability.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## **Finance Committee**

### **Mandate**

1. Finance Committee assists Students' Council in fulfilling its financial oversight responsibilities through budgetary deliberations, reviewing SAMU fees and monitoring the financial well-being of the organization.

### **Roles of Committee**

2. Finance Committee reviews and recommends the annual SAMU Operating budget to Students' Council for approval
3. Finance Committee monitors, evaluates, advises, and makes recommendations on policies and practices related to internal financial controls.
4. Finance Committee provides recommendations regarding new or current SAMU fees.
5. Finance Committee monitors and recommends changes to the SAMU Membership Fee.
6. Finance Committee reviews the quarterly financial statements of the organization, reviewing any allocation adjustments over a 5% variance.
7. Finance Committee monitors the financial well-being of SAMU.

### **Composition**

8. The voting members of Finance Committee are the President, the Vice President Operations and Finance, the Vice President Student Life, two Councillors and two students-at-large.
  - 8.1. Preference will be given to students-at-large with financial experience.
9. The resource officials of Finance Committee are the General Manager and a full-time staff member of the Finance Department
10. Any Member of Students' Council is entitled to attend a committee meeting in a non-voting capacity.

### **Committee Operations**

11. The Vice President Operations and Finance serves as Chair of Finance Committee
12. Meetings of the Finance Committee are held at least quarterly.
13. The Committee Chair may call additional meetings as required.



## **Governance Committee**

### **Mandate**

1. The Governance Committee ensures the relevance and consistency of SAMU Bylaws and Policy and assists in governance process development.

### **Roles of Committee**

2. The Governance Committee ensures the proper and timely review of SAMU Bylaws and Policy.
  - 2.1. The Governance Committee utilizes the policy review regulations set in the Governing Documents Policy.
3. The Governance Committee may recommend amendments to a current bylaws or policies.
4. The Governance Committee may create new policies.
5. The Governance Committee ensures the alignment of Policy with the SAMU Bylaws, Vision, and Mission.
6. The Governance Committee consults with SAMU staff in the course of its deliberations where the creation and revision of policies affects department operations.
7. The Governance Committee may be consulted regarding process development for Students' Council and the Executive Committee.

### **Composition**

8. The voting members of Governance Committee are the Vice President Governance and Finance, two Councillors, and two students-at-large.
9. The resource official of Governance Committee is the Governance Advisor.
  - 9.1. The Governance Committee may call on the Chair of Students' Council to provide feedback or advice to the committee.
10. Any member of Students' Council is entitled to attend a committee meeting in a non-voting capacity.

### **Committee Operations**

10. The Vice President Operations and Finance serves as Chair of Governance Committee.
11. Meetings of the Governance Committee are held at least quarterly.
12. The Committee Chair may call additional meetings as required.



## **Students' Council Operations Committee**

### **Mandate**

1. Students' Council Operations Committee advises and reviews Students' Council, interviews and vets candidates for appointments made by Students' Council, and annually reviews the remuneration and compensation provided to Councillors, Executives, and other Students' Council appointments performing governance roles at SAMU.

### **Roles of Committee**

2. Students' Council Operations Committee reviews Students' Council's decisions in relation to their adherence to SAMU Bylaws and Policies.
  - 2.1. Students' Council Operations Committee may call a re-vote on a decision where it deems the decision was a violation of Bylaws or Policies.
  - 2.2. Members of Students' Council may request a review of a decision in relation to its adherence to Bylaws and Policies.
    - 2.2.1. Requests must be made in writing to the Chair of Students' Council Operations Committee within 10 business days of the disputed decision.
    - 2.2.2. Students' Council Operations Committee will have 30 days to respond in writing to Students' Council with its decision.
3. Students' Council Operations Committee reports on the effectiveness and progress of Students' Council.

### **Students' Council Appointments**

4. The committee reviews all applications for appointments made by Students' Council and ensures candidates considered for appointment meet the criteria for positions laid out in SAMU's bylaws and policies.
5. The committee develops additional criteria for appointed positions consistent with SAMU's bylaws and policies.
6. The committee interviews all appropriate candidates for positions appointed by Students' Council.
7. The committee provides candidates with further information regarding the position upon request.
8. The committee provides written recommendations on all vacancies.



**STUDENTS' COUNCIL MEETING SUBMISSION**

**AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION**

<b>Meeting Date</b>	<b>Submitted By</b>
December 18, 2024	Joseph A. La Torre, VP Governance & Finance

<b>Agenda Item Title</b>	<b>Budget Reallocation</b>	
<b>Action Requested</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Motion	<input type="checkbox"/> Consultation Item

**AGENDA ITEM DETAILS**

<b>Motion Title</b>	Motion to approve an unbudgeted expenditure of \$50,000.00 for G/L 531600
<b>Background Information</b>	<p>Due to a performer cancellation we did not use the full budgeted amount from G/L 531100. We would like to reallocate the unspent budgeted amount of \$50,000.00 to G/L 531600 so we can bring in other performers in the Winter Term.</p> <p>Technically, per the Approval Authority Procedure, this is considered an 'unbudgeted expenditure' so that is why the motion is written as it is.</p> <p>This request is coming to Students' Council as they have the authority to approve this.</p> <p>Note that if approved, this would NOT cause the overall budget for Department 5 - Events to exceed the originally approved total budget for the department.</p>
<b>Alternative Considerations</b>	Do nothing and the surplus at the end of the fiscal year would be allocated as defined in the Finance Policy.
<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>	

Related Documents	
Follow Up Action	
Review History	

## Strategic Alignment Checklist

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		Budget 2023-2024				
Account Number	Account Name	Jul - Sep	Oct - Dec	Jan - Mar	Apr - Jun	TOTAL
<b>5 - EVENTS</b>						
531100	Fall Fest	181,000	-	50,000	-	231,000
531600	Winter Week	2,500	2,500	5,000	-	10,000