



**STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION  
OF MACEWAN UNIVERSITY**

**Agenda for the Students' Council Meeting of the  
Students' Association of MacEwan University  
January 15, 2025 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 JANUARY 15, 2025***

**2.2 MOTION**

***TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF DECEMBER 18, 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. Audit Committee – Q2 (POON)**

**4.1.6. Executive Committee – Q2 (PRES)**

**4.1.7. Finance Committee – Q2 (VPGF)**

**4.1.8. Governance Committee – Q2 (VPGF)**

**4.1.9. Students' Council Operations Committee – Q2 (VPGF)**

**4.1.10. Strategy and Engagement Committee – Q2 (VPSL)**

**4.1.11. Students' Council Operations Committee Workplan (VPGF)**

**4.1.12. Tuition and Fees (VPGF)**

**4.1.13.**

**4.1.14.**

**4.2. Executive Committee Minutes**

Minutes of December 11 and 18, 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. U-Pass Referendum Question**

**Motion to approve the**

**7.2.**

### **8. Consultation**

**8.1.**

### **9. Evaluation**

**9.1.**

### **10. Recognition**

### **11. Adjournment**

***MOTION TO ADJOURN***

Next Meeting Date: February 19, 2025

Meeting adjourned at pm



**STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION  
OF MACEWAN UNIVERSITY**

**Minutes 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  
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Joehn Torres, Councillor  
Vincent Trinh, Councillor  
Chioma Uzor, Councillor  
Layal Zidan, Councillor  
vacant, Councillor  
vacant, Vice President External

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

Timothy Jobs, Chair  
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Alan Honey, Governance Advisor  
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Meeting called to order at 6:00pm.

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**2. Approvals**

**2.1 MOTION**

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

***UZOR/ZIDAN***

***CARRIED***

**2.2 MOTION**

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

***TORRES/DUTTA***

***CARRIED***

**3. Presentations**

**4. For Information**

**4.1. Reports**

**4.1.1. President**

**4.1.2. Vice President Academic**

**4.1.3. Vice President Governance & Finance**

Committee workplan update.

**4.1.4. Vice President Student Life**

MacEwan HR update.

**4.1.5. Executive Committee Workplan (PRES)**

**4.1.6. Strategy and Engagement Committee Workplan (VPSL)**

**4.2. Executive Committee Minutes**

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

**5. Question Period**

**5.1. Written Questions**

**5.2. Oral Questions**

Topics include: Financial Aid; student supports;

**6. In Camera Period**

**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/JACOBS**

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

**CARRIED**

**7.2. Finance Committee**

Nominees: Fisher, Trinh

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

**VPGF/ZIDAN**

Favour: All

**CARRIED**

**7.3. Governance Committee**

Nominees: Namoc, Jacobs,

**MOTION TO APPOINT COUNCILLORS NAMOC AND JACOBS TO THE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

**VPGF/GLASGOW**

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

**CARRIED**

**7.4. Students' Council Operations Committee**

Nominees: Uzor, Poon, Dare, Fisher

**MOTION TO APPOINT COUNCILLORS UZOR, POON, DARE, AND FISHER TO THE STUDENTS' COUNCIL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**

**VPGF/TRINH**

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

**CARRIED**

**7.5. Budget Reallocation**

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

**VPGF/JACOBS**

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

Oppose: Torres

**CARRIED**

**8. Consultation**

**9. Evaluation**

**10. Recognition**

**11. Adjournment**

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

**JACOBS**

**CARRIED**

Next Meeting Date: January 15, 2024

Meeting adjourned at 6:27pm



**STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION  
OF MACEWAN UNIVERSITY**

## Students' Council Report

### President

**January 15th, 2025**

Council,

There have been no significant decisions or items of strategic relevance to Students' Council to report on from the President portfolio during December 18<sup>th</sup> to January 9<sup>th</sup>.

\*Note: I encourage Councillors 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' ASSOCIATION  
OF MACEWAN UNIVERSITY**

## Students' Council Report

### Vice-President Academic

**January 15, 2025**

A new year shines through the wintery horizon, ushering promises of a new semester. As someone who spent most of my holiday break snoozing, I welcome the upcoming events, opportunities, and challenges.

Surprisingly, I have nothing relevant to report to Council.

Please don't let the absence of report items dissuade you from submitting strategic questions. Otherwise, I look forward to seeing everyone at our next meeting.

Best regards,

Darcy ([savpacademic@macewan.ca](mailto:savpacademic@macewan.ca))





**STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION  
OF MACEWAN UNIVERSITY**

## Students' Council Report

### Vice President Governance & Finance

January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Greetings Council!

I hope you are all doing well as we head into the Winter semester with renewed energy and joy.

Please see my Tuition and Fees Consultation 2024/25 Report, as there is nothing else relevant in my portfolio to report this month to Students' Council from the period of December 19<sup>th</sup> – January 9<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Closing Remarks**

Please do not hesitate to email me or set up a meeting if you have any further questions, if you would like me to elaborate on anything, or if you are interested in learning what the VPGF does.

**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

**01-15-2025**

Greetings Council!

Happy 2025! Looking forward to another year working with you all.

Please see my report from December 18<sup>th</sup> – January 15<sup>th</sup>

#### **Executive Summary**

- Mental Health Week Planning (MHW)
- Pride Week Planning Committee

#### **Student Voice**

*The student voice is amplified by SAMU*

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

#### Mental Health Week

After many weeks of planning Mental Health week is finally around the corner! Please join in various workshops, activities and connect with other campus and community partners. Mental Health Week will be running from Monday January 20<sup>th</sup> to Friday January 25<sup>th</sup>.

#### Pride Week



**STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION  
OF MACEWAN UNIVERSITY**

I have the opportunity to work within the Pride Week Planning Committee alongside with the Centre of Sexual Gender Diversity. Pride week is important to continue to show our support to LGBTQIA2S+ folks on campus and within our communities. Pride week will be held Monday March 10<sup>th</sup> -14<sup>th</sup>.

### **Closing Remarks**

Thank you for reading my report and I wish you all a great start to your semesters!

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 2 Audit Committee Report January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Audit Committee Members:

<b><u>October 1<sup>st</sup> – December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024</u></b>
Nathan Poon (Chair), Councillor
Layal Zidan, Councillor
Izzy Reyes, Councillor
Brian Gulbraa, Student-at-Large
Faith Tabladillo, Student-at-Large

Committee Resource Officials:

Cameron Whiting, Senior Finance Manager  
Michelle Malin, Resource Officer

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Greetings Council,

This is the report from the Audit Committee for the reporting period of October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024, through December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024 (Quarter 2). This committee met twice this quarter, once in October and once in December.

During the October meeting, the Audit Committee met to review Quarter 1 variances and utilization of resources by the Executive Committee (EC). As always, every quarter, we will continue to evaluate Executive Committee expenditures/utilization of resources such as sick leave and TOIL, and organizational budgetary variances to ensure full fiscal responsibility and accountability as stewards of Students' Association Fees.

Additionally, as it was the final meeting of the 2023/24 cycle of Voting Members, the Audit Committee conducted its annual Audit Review and reflected upon our auditor's findings, identifying emerging issues, and how we can strategically adapt and address those concerns through enhanced internal controls.

During the December meeting, which convened a new cycle of Audit Committee members, we went through the Terms of Reference for the role, appointed an Audit Committee Chair, Nathan Poon, and went through the 2024/2025



STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION  
OF MACEWAN UNIVERSITY

Workplan, including choosing a date for training sessions and deciding how to optimize quarterly meeting dates.

As always, my email is open if you have any questions, comments, or concerns, and I will happily address them.

Warm regards,  
Nathan Poon

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Nathan Poon'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the last name.

Audit Committee Chair, SAMU 2024/25  
[poonn3@mymacewan.ca](mailto:poonn3@mymacewan.ca)

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**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>	
<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





## Students' Council Report

Quarterly Report: Finance Committee

January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Committee Members:

<u>October 1<sup>st</sup> – October 31<sup>st</sup> 2024</u>	<u>November 1<sup>st</sup> – December 31<sup>st</sup> 2024</u>
Joseph A. La Torre, Vice President Governance & Finance	Joseph A. La Torre, Vice President Governance & Finance
Gabriel Ambutong, President	Gabriel Ambutong, President
Aleace Moom, Vice President Student Life	Aleace Moom, Vice President Student Life
Katherine MacDonald, Councillor	Aidan Fisher, Councillor
Nhi Phan, Councillor	Vincent Trinh, Councillor
Olad Ayodeji, Student-at-Large	Tatum Gademans, Student-at-Large
Sewaj Grewal, Student-at-Large	Christopher Hemsworth, Student-at-Large

Greetings Council,

This is the report from the Finance Committee for a reporting period from October 1<sup>st</sup> – December 31<sup>st</sup> (Quarter 2).

The committee met once this quarter for introductions, TOR review, and to review and approve the workplan for 2024/25.



STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION  
OF MACEWAN UNIVERSITY

**Kind Regards,**

Joseph A. La Torre, (He/Him)

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'JALatorre' in a cursive script.

VP Governance and Finance, SAMU 2024/2025

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

**Finance Committee Workplan 2024-2025**  
**For Information to Students Council**  
**Submitted: TBD**

<b>Chaired By:</b>	Joseph A. La Torre, VP Governance and Finance			
<b>Committee Members:</b>	Gabriel Ambutong, President Aleace Moom, VP Student Life Tatum Gademans, Student-at-Large Christopher Hemsworth, Student-at-Large Aidan Fisher, Councillor Vincent Trinh, Councillor			
<b>Committee Mandate:</b>	Finance Committee oversees the construction of the SAMU budget, assesses and reviews SAMU fees, and reviews SAMU financial statements			
<b>Approved by Committee:</b>	December 18 <sup>th</sup> , 2024			
<b>Received by Council:</b>	January 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2025			
<b>Task</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Stakeholders</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Status</b>
Annual Budget	Finance Committee oversees the construction of the annual SAMU budget and recommends it to Students' Council for Approval	Students' Council SAMU Students At Large SAMU Members SAMU Affiliates	Budget Training – TBD  Budget Presentations February 18th- 21st	Ongoing
Annual Review of Finance Policy	Finance Committee Reviews this policy Annually; Discuss Potential Investments avenues.	Students Council SAMU Finance Students At Large	February	Ongoing
Annual Review of SAMU Fees Policy	Finance Committee Reviews this policy annually consider: SAMU Affiliates, Ponoka Fee, Pause increase, Staff exclusions	Students Council SAMU Finance Students At Large SAMU Members SAMU Affiliates Ponoka Students	January-February	Ongoing



## Students' Council Report

Quarterly Report: Governance Committee

January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Committee Members:

<u>October 1<sup>st</sup> – October 31<sup>st</sup> 2024</u>	<u>November 1<sup>st</sup> – December 31<sup>st</sup> 2024</u>
Joseph A. La Torre, Vice President Governance & Finance	Joseph A. La Torre, Vice President Governance & Finance
Nhi Phan, Councillor	Cierra Jacobs, Councillor
Alem Tesfay, Councillor	Moselle Namoc, Councillor
Sonia Yusef, Councillor	Olad Ayodeji, Student-at-Large
Loyal Zidan, Councillor	Colton Bloudoff, Student-at-Large
Vacant, Student-at-Large	
Kris Ravelo, Student-at-Large	

Greetings Council,

This is the report from the Governance Committee for a reporting period from October 1<sup>st</sup> – December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024 (Quarter 2).

The committee did not meet this quarter.



STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION  
OF MACEWAN UNIVERSITY

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

**Kind Regards,**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'JALaTorre'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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: Students' Council Operations Committee

January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Committee Members:

<u>October 1<sup>st</sup> – October 31<sup>st</sup> 2024</u>	<u>November 1<sup>st</sup> – December 31<sup>st</sup> 2024</u>
Joseph A. La Torre, Vice President Governance & Finance	Joseph A. La Torre, Vice President Governance & Finance
Delaney Hutala, Councillor	Tolu Dare, Councillor
Nathan Poon, Councillor	Aidan Fisher, Councillor
	Nathan Poon, Councillor
	Chioma Uzor, Councillor

Greetings Council,

This is the report from the Students' Council Operations Committee (SCOC) for a reporting period from October 1<sup>st</sup> – December 31<sup>st</sup> (Quarter 2).

The committee did not meet this quarter.



STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION  
OF MACEWAN UNIVERSITY

**Kind Regards,**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'J. La Torre'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Joseph' being partially obscured by the initials 'J.' and the last name 'La Torre' being clearly legible.

Joseph A. La Torre, (He/Him)

VP Governance and Finance, SAMU 2024/2025

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



## Students' Council Report

Quarterly Report: Strategy and Engagement Committee (SEC)

January 15<sup>th</sup> 2025

Committee Members:

November 1 <sup>st</sup> - October 31 <sup>st</sup> 2025
Aleace Moom, Vice President Student Life
Joseph A La Torre, Vice President Governance and Finance
Maade Okai, Councillor
Chioma Uzor, Councillor
Aryan Dutta, Councillor
Alem Tesfay, Student-at-Large
Mabel Adesopo, Student-at-Large

Greetings Council,

This is the Strategy and Engagement Committee (SEC) report for the period of October 16<sup>th</sup> 2024 to January 15<sup>th</sup> 2025 (Q2 2024-2025)

SEC met once during this period with our new members. In this meeting we discussed different opportunities for professional development and how we can create an environment where student at large members can interact with councillors and do team building together.

We had two events over the course of the fall semester, our first event was going to for a farewell dinner with the 2023/2024 councillors. This was a great opportunity for us to get together and engage with one another before some councillors continue forth. Secondly, We also had a small get together at Plaza bowling. This was a fun event for us to teambuild and end 2024 off on a good note.





**STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION  
OF MACEWAN UNIVERSITY**

As SEC works in quarter 3 be sure to prepare for different professional development opportunities and more fun to be had! And always if you have any recommendations or questions please don't hesitate to reach out.

Cheers,

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

**SCOC Workplan 2024-25**  
**For Information to Students Council**  
**Submitted: January 15, 2025**

<b>Chaired By:</b>	Joseph A. La Torre, Vice President Governance and Finance			
<b>Committee Members:</b>	Tolu Dare, Councillor Aidan Fisher, Councillor Nathan Poon, Councillor Chioma Uzor, Councillor			
<b>Committee Mandate:</b>	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.			
<b>Approved by Committee:</b>	January 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 2025			
<b>Received by Council:</b>	January 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2025			
<b>Task</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Stakeholders</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Status</b>
Executive Committee Remuneration	Discuss remuneration policy with respect to EC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Discussion on CPI inflation of EC salary and determine EC remuneration.</li> <li>- Discussion on EC and coursework for sustainability.</li> </ul>	Executive Committee Students Council	January/ February	Initial Stages
Chief Returning Officer (CRO) Evaluation Discussion	Discussion on how to evaluate the CRO.	Executive Committee/ Student's Council	January/ February	Initial Stages
Chief Returning Officer (CRO) Appointment	Appoint the CRO for the 25/26 SAMU elections.	Executive Committee, Students' Council	March/April	Initial Stages
Chair of Students' Council Appointment	Appoint the 25/26 Chair for Students' Council.	Students' Council, Executive Committee	March/April	Ongoing

Review the Students' Council's Operations	Review the meeting minutes and evaluations to report on and determine the effectiveness of Students' Council.	Students' Council, Executive Committee	As needed	Ongoing
Councillor Appointments	Appoint SAMU members to Student Councillor vacancies.	Students' Council, Executive Committee	As needed	Ongoing



## **Tuition and Fees Consultation Process 2024/2025 Report**

**January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

**Prepared for Students' Council**

### **Tuition and Fees Consultation Overview**

Tuition and Fees are regulated provincially by the Tuition and Fees regulation made under the Post-Secondary Learning Act (PSLA). The PSLA is the piece of legislation that governs the post-secondary sector and is the fundamental reason that SAMU exists the way that it does.

The [Tuition and Fees Regulation](#) governs how post-secondaries determine tuition and fees increases for both domestic and international students, exceptional tuition increases, how institutions publish their fees and how they consult with their students.

The regulation states that the University is to consult with the students' association annually and have at least two meetings per year. In these meetings the university must provide a statement with the anticipated increases to tuition and Mandatory Non-Instructional Fees (MNIF's) for a 4-year period and provide all necessary information to compare the revenue from MNIF's to the costs of the specific goods and services paid for by the MNIF.

Following consultation with the Students' Association, the tuition and fees proposal goes to the MacEwan Board of Governors for approval. First going through its Finance, Property and Investment Committee, SAMU's VP Governance and Finance sits on as a student member.

It is important to note that while Student Associations used to have veto power regarding the cost of tuition and fees, that is no longer the case. Student Associations are only consulted, meaning ultimately, they have no control over the outcome, they can only advocate on behalf of students for the best possible outcome regarding the cost of education at their institution.

### **Consultation Format**

Our consultation process went beyond the required 2 meetings, this year, SAMU and MacEwan had a total of 4 meetings during this consultation. Our first meeting kicked off at the beginning of August where we meet to establish baselines for the process, request information and clarify any expectations.

Meeting 2 also occurs in August and was where MacEwan provided their financials including a report of tuition and MNIFs for the mandated 4-year period per the PSLA's Tuition and Fees Regulation and a revenue vs cost report of the MNIF's. SAMU was to verbally express the needs of the study body at this meeting.

Meeting 3 occurred in mid-September and was where MacEwan officially presented its proposed domestic and international tuition increases and any increases to MNIF's. After this meeting SAMU was provided one month to send in writing our position to the presented tuition and fees increases.



Meeting 4 occurred at the beginning of November and was a wrap up meeting where MacEwan responded to SAMU's written submission.

As well during this consultation process, MacEwan provided SAMU with the opportunity to provide a written submission stating where in-year allocations should be spent to best serve students, and to provide a written submission regarding budget expenditures for the upcoming fiscal year.

## **The Proposal**

This year, the proposal provided included a legislated cap of a 2% increase in domestic tuition applied equally across all programs, a 5% increase of international tuition applied equally across all programs, the waiving of the Student Technology fee for Winter 2025 semester and the 2025/2026 academic year, and all remaining MNIFs having a 2% increase applied.

## **Our Advocacy**

### Tuition and Fees

SAMU Executives have used the findings from the 2024 annual spring survey and findings from the 2024 affordability survey to draft our response to the tuition and fees.

In our response to the University's proposal we:

- Opposed any increase to tuition and MNIF's due to the ongoing affordability crisis students are facing.
- Did not support an across the board increase to MNIF's
- We believed that the Medical Clinic fee could not increase or else it would not be in compliance with the regulation and should be reduced in the cost to remain within compliance
- While pleased with the waiver of the Student Technology fee we believed that the fee should be waived completely for students at the Ponoka site as they do not reap any of the benefits from the tech fee.
- We believed that MNIF's should not increase in cost and that MacEwan has the operational budget to offset any increase of cost to the current programming as seen in their year-over-year surpluses and their current projected surplus.
- 

### In Year Allocation

As a part of the In-Year Allocation process, SAMU was asked to provide feedback on areas in which university funding and investment can be increased based on student needs. SAMU has compiled our asks and have summarized them as follows:

1. Waiving the Student Technology and the Medical Clinic Mandatory Non-Instructional Fees
2. Creation of a Learning Materials Bursary
3. Allocation of funds to Food Insecurity measures on Campus



4. Allocation of funds to remunerate students sitting on department Student Advisory Committees
5. Allocation of Funds to the Textbook Affordability project
6. Allocation of Funds to subsidize Material Special Fees in faculties with high material special fees within courses.

## **The Outcomes**

### *Tuition and Fees Consultation*

Despite our advocacy, MacEwan went forward with the 2% increase in domestic tuition and 5% increase in international tuition. Regarding MNIF's, SAMU was able to advocate for the permanent removal of the Tech fee for Ponoka Site students, as they do not reap any of the benefits that the tech fee provides students on the city centre campus. SAMU was also able to provide a strong case for MacEwan to not raise the cost of the Medical Clinic fee as we were not provided with sufficient evidence that the cost of the clinic had exceeded the amount the MNIF was collecting. MacEwan decided to then decrease the MNIF to \$10.00 moving forward indefinitely.

### *In-Year Allocation*

The in-year allocation conversation is where SAMU saw significant wins. After the submission of our proposal MacEwan's Executive Council reviewed it and recommended the following:

1. Waiving the student technology MNIF in the Winter 2025 term – this is a reduction of total student fees of \$650,000.
2. Reducing the medical clinic MNIF in the Winter 2025 term – this is a reduction of total student fees of \$80,000
3. Contribution to SAMU's food pantry operations to support food insecurity of \$100,000
4. Allocation of \$100,000 to explore innovative food projects with trusted collaborators to find options for healthy and affordable markets for students
5. A \$500,000 contribution to the Textbook Affordability Project, led by the library
6. A \$500,000 contribution to existing scholarships, awards and bursaries.

If you have any questions about this report before the Council meeting, please feel free to reach out to me through email: [savpoperations@macewan.ca](mailto:savpoperations@macewan.ca).

**Kind Regards,**

Joseph A. La Torre, Vice President Governance & Finance 2024/25



**Voting Members:**

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

**Resource Officials:**

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

**In Attendance:**

Shannon Marshall, Executive Coordinator  
Larissa Williams, Internal Advocacy Advisor  
Parvin Sedighi, External and Stakeholder Relations  
Manager  
Emily Lukacs, External Advocacy Advisor  
Megan Viens, Director of Programs and Services  
Carl Knowler, Director of Marketing and  
Communications

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/VPA  
CARRIED**

4. Approval of Minutes for: December 4, 2024

**VPA/VPGF  
CARRIED**

TOPIC		DISCUSSION	ACTION/MOTION
1.	Metrics Presentation	Megan Viens & Carl Knowler	Action: Move to quarterly reporting of metrics.  GM to report back on governance engagement developments at first EC meeting in February
2.	Maintenance Fund		<b>MOTION</b>

			<p><b>TO APPROVE AN EXPENSE OF UP TO \$60,000.00 FROM THE MAINTENANCE FUND FOR PROJECT 15-24.25 DESK CHAIRS &amp; STORAGE FOR SUPPORT HUB</b></p> <p><b>VPGF/VPA CARRIED</b></p> <p><b>MOTION</b></p> <p><b>TO APPROVE AN EXPENSE OF UP TO \$120,000.00 FROM THE MAINTENANCE FUND FOR PROJECT 16-24.25 STUDENT GROUP FURNITURE UPGRADE OPEN SPACE</b></p> <p><b>VPGF/VPSL CARRIED</b></p> <p><b>MOTION</b></p> <p><b>TO APPROVE AN EXPENSE OF UP TO \$150,000.00 FROM THE MAINTENANCE FUND FOR PROJECT 21-24.25 BUILDING LOCKS UPGRADE</b></p> <p><b>VPGF/VPSL CARRIED</b></p>
3.	Student Groups	<p>MacEwan Game Dev Club</p> <p>Latte and Literature Collective</p>	<p><b>MOTION</b></p> <p><b>TO APPROVE THE MACEWAN GAME DEV CLUB</b></p> <p><b>VPSL/VPA CARRIED</b></p> <p><b>MOTION</b></p> <p><b>TO APPROVE THE LATTE AND LITERATURE COLLECTIVE</b></p> <p><b>VPSL/VPGF CARRIED</b></p>
4.	EC Work Plan		



5.	2025-2026 Budget	Vpgf - Vpgf – Finalizing budget for submission next week. Deadline for any final updates is Tuesday Wednesday 17.	<b>MOTION</b>  <b>TO TAKE A 5 MINUTE RECESS</b>  <b>VPGF/VPSL CARRIED</b>
6.	Procedures	Student Groups Procedure  GFC Representation Procedure  University Governance Representation	<b>MOTION</b>  <b>TO APPROVE THE STUDENT GROUPS PROCEDURE ON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE PROCEDURE SUB-COMMITTEE</b>  <b>VPGF/VPSL CARRIED</b>  <b>MOTION</b>  <b>TO APPROVE THE GFC REPRESENTATION PROCEDURE ON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE PROCEDURE SUB-COMMITTEE</b>  <b>VPGF/VPA CARRIED</b>  <b>MOTION</b>  <b>TO APPROVE THE UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE REPRESENTATION PROCEDURE ON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE PROCEDURE SUB-COMMITTEE</b>  <b>VPGF/VPSL CARRIED</b>
7.	Outstanding Action Items		
8.	VP Student Life's Report		
9.	VP Academic's Report	Library update – OER development/awards & bursaries. GFC update.	
10.	VP Governance & Finance Report	FP&I update.	<b>MOTION</b>  <b>TO GO IN CAMERA</b>

			<b>VPGF/VPSL CARRIED</b>  <b>MOTION</b>  <b>TO GO OUT OF CAMERA</b>  <b>VPGF/VPSL CARRIED</b>
11.	President's Report	CAUS update.	<b>MOTION</b>  <b>TO GO IN CAMERA</b>  <b>VPA/VPSL CARRIED</b>  <b>MOTION</b>  <b>TO GO OUT OF CAMERA</b>  <b>VPGF/VPSL CARRIED</b>  Action EA to draft letter re Anti-Trans Legislation.
12.	GM Report	OUR meeting re messaging of changes coming. SG updates. Banking update.	
13.	Recognition		

5. Adjournment  
Time: 3:34pm



**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:  
**VPSL/VPA  
CARRIED**
4. Approval of Minutes for: December 11, 2024  
**VPA/VPSL  
CARRIED**

TOPIC		DISCUSSION	ACTION/MOTION
1.	Student Groups		<b>MOTION  TO APPROVE THE MACEWAN TOASTMASTERS CLUB  VPSL/VPA CARRIED</b>
2.	Maintenance Fund	Gm - I have been asked for the following: Lockable Storage lockers for Marketing Promo Squad so that we can set them up in the hallway in the delivery area on the 1 <sup>st</sup> floor. Also I was asked if we could get lockers for the front	<b>MOTION  TO APPROVE AN EXPENSE OF UP TO \$8,400.00 FROM</b>

		desk team so that they can securely store their coats and bags while working in the office.	<b>THE MAINTENANCE FUND FOR PROJECT 22-24.25 LOCKERS FOR PROMO VOLUNTEERS AND FRONT DESK</b>  <b>VPSL/VPA CARRIED</b>
3.	Outstanding Action Items		
4.	VP Academic's Report	Met with Bookstore/Library/Pearson Publishing re. inclusive access. Current one-time funding, no guarantee for future. Awards & bursaries update. Calendar update.	
5.	VP Governance & Finance Report	Tabled.	
6.	VP Student Life's Report	Food survey update.	
			<b>MOTION</b>  <b>TO GO IN CAMERA</b>  <b>VPSL/VPA CARRIED</b>  <b>MOTION</b>  <b>TO GO OUT OF CAMERA</b>  <b>VPA/VPSL CARRIED</b>  Action: Vpsl, Gm, RM, Pres to meet to discuss Indigenous Student representation in new year.
7.	President's Report	Met with MacEwan President & VPUR.	
8.	GM Report	AMICCUS meeting update. SCE meeting update. Budget updates. HR update.	
9.	Recognition		

5. Adjournment  
Time: 2:55pm



**STUDENTS' COUNCIL MEETING SUBMISSION**

**AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION**

<b>Meeting Date</b>	<b>Submitted By</b>
January 15th, 2025	Joseph A. La Torre, Vice President Governance and Finance

<b>Agenda Title</b>	<b>Item</b>	2025 U-Pass Referendum Question
<b>Action Requested</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Motion	<input type="checkbox"/> Consultation Item

**AGENDA ITEM DETAILS**

<b>Motion Title</b>	Motion to approve the 2025 U-Pass referendum question to be included in the March 2025 elections
<b>Background Information</b>	<p>Eligible MacEwan students have had the UPASS since its introduction in 2007, and has seen multiple referendums pass in 2007, 2010, 2013, 2017, and 2021. Before the upcoming UPASS referendum this March 2025, Council must first approve the Referendum Question that will go out to students who are eligible to vote. In other words, you are deciding whether or not you approve the Referendum Question students will see when they vote.</p> <p>Note: The eligible student body will decide if the UPASS will be kept or not, and requires a two-thirds vote in favour.</p> <p>For further context, last summer and well into the fall, myself, together with some of our staff, alongside other student representatives and their staff from other students' associations – including the University of Alberta undergraduate and graduate students' union, Nait students' association, Concordia undergraduate students' association, and NorQuest students' association – negotiated the next UPASS contract with ETS and the surrounding regional transit providers (Strathcona, St. Albert, Beaumont, Leduc, Spruce Grove, and Sherwood Park).</p> <p>After a back and forth of counter proposals, and attempting to get the best possible deal for students during these negotiations, we all came to an agreement on a 3-year contract spanning from September 2025 to August 2028 (As detailed in the Referendum Question).</p>

Alternative Considerations	
Risk Management Considerations	
Strategic Alignment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Attached Strategic Alignment Checklist is complete</i>
Implications	Full and part-time SAMU members will have the opportunity to participate in a referendum to determine if we continue with the U-Pass.
Related Documents	Elections and Referenda Policy, Elections Procedure, Referenda Procedure,
Follow Up Action	Promote upcoming Referendum to students
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 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"/>

## U-Pass Referendum

Do you support the renewal of a mandatory Universal Transit Pass (U-Pass), subject to the following conditions/changes:

1. The U-Pass would provide unlimited usage of regular transit services from Edmonton Transit Service (including Route 747), St. Albert Transit, Strathcona County Transit, Spruce Grove Transit, Fort Saskatchewan Transit, Leduc Transit, and Beaumont Transit (excluding special events, contracted and charter transit services offered by any municipalities, or any transit service for which regular transit fares do not apply) to all Students' Association of MacEwan University members and affiliates who are enrolled in courses on Grant MacEwan University campuses located within the Edmonton City Limits for:

- Fall Term (Aug 25 - December 31);
- Winter Term (January 1 - April 30); and
- Spring/Summer terms (April 20 – August 31).

2. The cost of the U-Pass to each participating student would be mandatory. The rate will be as follows:

- 2025/26: \$180 per each term for the Fall, Winter, and Spring/Summer
- 2026/27: \$182.50 per each term for the Fall, Winter, and Spring/Summer
- 2027/28: \$185 per each term for the Fall, Winter, and Spring/Summer

3. The U-Pass would be optional for the following:

- a. Students registered for Disabled Adult Transit Service (DATS) or any other accessibility transit service within participating municipalities;
- b. Students with a valid Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB) registration card;



- c. Students in a co-op or practicum program who are taking no on-campus credit courses lasting more than 8 consecutive weeks of a School Term, and are fulfilling their course requirements outside the boundaries of participating municipalities for the majority of that School Term;
- d. Students who are currently a full-time continuing employee of MacEwan University taking credit courses;
- e. Students employed by any of the participating municipal transit services;
- f. Students enrolled in another post-secondary educational institution and are required to participate in a transportation program similar to the U-Pass Program being offered by MacEwan University.
- g. Students who are, or will be turning 65 years of age or older during the relevant School Term;
- h. Students with a valid registration in the Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH) program during the relevant School Term; or
- i. Students whose principal residence is outside of a 100 km radius, measured from the main campus on which their in-person courses are delivered.

4. The U-Pass will expire upon the outcome of a subsequent referendum or if it is no longer practicable for the Students' Association to adhere to any of (1) through (4) above.

- Yes, I support the mandatory U-Pass program
- No, I do not support the mandatory U-Pass program
- Abstain from voting