



STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION OF MACEWAN UNIVERSITY

Minutes for the Students' Council Meeting of the Students' Association of MacEwan University February 19, 2025 at 6:00pm in the Council Chamber

Voting Members:

Gabriel Ambutong, President
Tolu Dare, Councillor
Aryan Dutta, Councillor
Aidan Fisher, Councillor
vacant, Councillor
Darcy Hoogers, Vice President Academic (absent)
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
Layal 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

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 FEBRUARY 19, 2025

TORRES/FISHER

MOTION TO AMEND THE AGENDA TO ADD 6.3 EXECUTIVE REPORTS

JACOBS/ZIDAN

CARRIED

CARRIED

2.2 MOTION

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JANUARY 15 AND 29, 2024

UZOR/ZIDAN

CARRIED

3. Presentations

3.1. Umbrella Organizations

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

PAWSS update.

4.1.5. Town Hall (VPGF)

4.1.6. Students' Council Operations Committee (In Camera)

4.1.7. Governance Investigations and Reinstatement Committee (In Camera)

4.1.8.

4.2. Executive Committee Minutes

Minutes of January 8, 15, 22, & 29, 2025 provided.

5. Question Period

5.1. Written Questions

Zidan - For VPA: will SAMU promote or bring an attention to the faculty panel event?

Vpa – Thank you for your question, Councillor Zidan; I appreciate the opportunity to draw attention to this event. I'm happy to report that SAMU is promoting the Adventures in Open Education Publishing: Faculty Panel through our newsletter.

Zidan - VPGF: regarding the decrease in attendance for the town hall, how will this be articulated in the future for next town hall and for the incoming VPGF?

VPGF – The Events team and the Executive Committee debriefed on Town Hall. We discussed how the event went and improvements we can make in the future, such as focusing more on gathering student feedback and implementing more metrics. The feedback will be communicated to the next VPGF during transition and the debrief and planning documents will be accessible via Sharepoint.

Zidan - Executives: from EC minutes and regarding replacing the PRES for VPSL in GFC, will this be in consideration even if the number of students in GFC stays the same?

VPA - Great question, Councillor Zidan. The General Faculties Council (GFC) discusses, debates, reviews, oversees, and engages with items which significantly relates to the Vice President Student Life (VPSL) and Vice President Academic (VPA) portfolios.

As the Executive Committee's advocacy matures, we identify that many items brought to GFC would significantly benefit from direct contributions by the VPSL. Additionally, the VPA and VPSL have an opportunity to collaborate through joint advocacy on GFC, enhancing the work done within the Executive Committee.

If the number of student seats on GFC grows or remains the same, the VPSL will replace the President on GFC. If student seats shrink, the Executive Committee will revisit this decision and determine a strategy forward.

Uzor - For VPSL or VPA: Apologies if this is operational. I was made aware last semester that two faculty members who were usually in charge of the Black History Month event planning are,

unfortunately, no longer staff as they moved on to other endeavours. How was Black History Month planned differently this semester in comparison to last year?

VPSL - Thank you councillor Uzor for your question. Last month I met with a new member of the Office of Human Rights, their role is an education and engagement facilitator (EEF), and they focus on campus inclusivity and diversity on campus. The planning of Black History Month planning was overseen by the office over faculty to allow an ease of responsibilities off faculty and create more structure and centralization of this event. There was an open call out to faculty, students and committee members and the committee had 15 members. Everything was done differently from last year and unfortunately the EEF did not have access to historical data but the committee has done a great job to include diversity in staff and students on the committee and have different events throughout the month.

The events this month that have happened (and ongoing) include workshops, tea times, mentorship meetups, visual displays and other social activities. you can find the events linked [here](#) for whats remaining for the month.

Uzor - For VPA: The approval for the Data Science and Public Relations majors is great news! Do you have any details as to when this news will be made known to all current and prospective students if it hasn't already?

VPA – Excellent question, Councillor Uzor. MacEwan has yet to share a timeline for communication to current and prospective students.

Zidan - VPSL: Could you provide insights on how Mental Health Week went, including student engagement and overall turnout?

VPSL - Thank you for your question councillor Zidan. As I was a part of the Mental Health planning committee, the committee looked at last year's low engagement and decided to revise areas of timing and activities planned.

Mental Health Week 2025 had a wide variety of engagement opportunities focused on building connections, gaining skills, and learning about available resources on and off campus. There was a variety of events that included education sessions and connection-based sessions to allow engagement at different levels. In addition to active engagement events, there were also opportunities for passive engagement such as the gratitude trees that were strategically placed across campus and resource information boards. This year about 1400 students/campus members were engaged in the different activities that take place with key highlights being the skill building workshops such as safeTALK and assisting students in distress sessions. Additionally, the social sessions were also successful, highlighting higher engagement from last year.

If you would like to see the full evaluation report, I would be happy to arrange a meeting with you to share that information.

Zidan - President: In reviewing the recent monthly reports submitted to Students' Council, I noticed that there have been no updates provided for the past few months. Given that these reports serve as an important tool for transparency and accountability, can you clarify why there hasn't been anything to report? Additionally, can you outline what steps are being taken to ensure that Council remains informed about ongoing projects, priorities, and key developments affecting SAMU and its members?

Jacobs - I've noticed that your reports to Students' Council have been consistently blank for the past few months, and I'm concerned about the lack of reporting in meeting the expectations outlined in the *Roles and Responsibilities of Elected Representatives Policy*(Section 13). These reports are important for keeping Council informed about your goals, projects, and key issues affecting SAMU and its members. Could you share any insights on why there hasn't been anything to report? Additionally, is there anything preventing you from meeting this expectation?

PRES – Fantastic question, Councillors. Due to the similarity in your questions, I will respond to both

your questions. To clarify, you are referring to [Roles and Responsibilities of Elected Representatives Policy, Section 13](#), which states:

“Members of Executive Committee provide up-to-date, written reports to Students' Council on their respective areas of responsibility, to be submitted with the Students' Council agenda package. These reports include goals and projects, significant issues affecting SAMU or its members, as well as decisions made at meetings attended on behalf of SAMU.”

I believe you're referring to the report for December which included CASA and a Meeting with MLAs, and how prior months as well as January and February had no items of relevance or would have been redundant as more portfolio specific items had already been reported on by the Vice-Presidents.

It is understandable why this reporting style may be confusing to some, especially as SAMU as an organization continues to evolve. For transparency and your edification, I'll elaborate on the rationale. There are a number of factors that contribute to an efficient and effective report. With the information and resources provided by SAMU's Governance Advisor, executives have the freedom to choose their own reporting style, so long as they adhere to policy.

The following are points from the aforementioned SAMU resource:

- Be as **concise** as possible; we all have lives. Consider the use of point form where possible, especially where a lot of information has to be provided.
- **Decisions and actions** should be the focus of a report. Unless the item is highly unusual and interesting, there's **no need to report** on items for which there was only **discussion**. **Report only** on things that have **already happened**, **not on events scheduled for the future**.
- **Supply thorough information** on report items that may **pertain to a vote**, but try **not** to sway people's opinions and **create bias**.
- **Avoid opinion** in reports, as this may bias councilors' opinions on events.
- When there is a policy requirement to report meetings you have attended, **don't report in detail on all meetings**. **Unless major decisions were made or actions** were undertaken, simply providing the date and time will suffice.
- The **President should report on events that the entire executive attended**, **or they should assign another executive to report on that event**. Having the **event appear in all four reports is redundant**.
- In general, the vice presidents should report only on portfolio-specific items.
- **Closing remarks should be neither too formal nor too fluffy**. Be courteous and brief, avoiding anything of substance that would fit better in the body of the report itself.

For ease of reading, I've highlighted key points relevant to the President portfolio.

As per policy, members of the Executive Committee ensure to “report significant issues affecting SAMU or its members, as well as decisions made at meetings attended on behalf of SAMU.” There have been no significant decisions made or items of strategic relevance to Students' Council that would be appropriate in my report. Although the VPGF's Town Hall report, Tuition and Fees consultation, Student Leadership Week, Finance Committee meetings, and the VPA's Fall Reading Break and GFC reports to name a few, can give Council an idea of how my time is spent, multiple portfolios reporting on an item multiple times would be redundant. Some items may be confidential and, therefore, cannot be reported on.

As for “goals, projects, and key issues affecting SAMU and its members,” all relevant portfolio specific work that I support is reported on by myself, SAMU’s Vice-Presidents or through the Executive Committee Workplan. As a member of the Executive Committee, I provide up-to-date reports to SC on goals and projects through the Executive Committee Workplan and I ensure to report on portfolio specific issues impacting SAMU members as well as decisions made on behalf of SAMU.

This particular policy does not cite accountability or transparency as metric, but I do recognize that this misconception may persist due to poor reporting standards in past years. In the interest of transparency however, should Council wish more operational information on my day-to-day work outside of SC meetings, I encourage you to attend an EC meeting or to schedule a meeting with myself either in-person or virtually. Otherwise, I am always happy to respond to written or oral questions at SC.

5.2. Oral Questions

Topics include: Town Hall; BOG representation; GFC representation; President reporting; Exam Services; PAWSS program;

MOTION TO RECESS FOR 5 MINUTES

VPSL/ZIDAN

CARRIED

6. In Camera Period

6.1. Councillor Vacancy

MOTION TO GO IN CAMERA

TORRES/FISHER

CARRIED

6.2. Councillor Reinstatement

6.3. Executive Reports

MOTION TO GO OUT OF CAMERA

REYES/VPSL

CARRIED

MOTION TO TAKE A 5 MINUTE RECESS

PRES/TORRES

CARRIED

7. Motions & Business Orders of the Day

7.1. Councillor Vacancy

***MOTION TO APPOINT CHRISTIAN GALERA AS A COUNCILLOR FOR A TERM
ENDING OCTOBER 31, 2025***

UZOR/JACOBS

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

CARRIED

7.2. Councillor Reinstatement

MOTION TO REINSTATE CORNELIUS GLASGOW AS A COUNCILLOR FOR A TERM ENDING OCTOBER 31, 2025

DUTTA/ZIDAN

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

CARRIED

7.3. SAMU Fees Policy

MOTION TO APPROVE THE SAMU FEES POLICY, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025, ON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

VPGF/ZIDAN

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

CARRIED

7.4. Unbudgeted Expense

MOTION TO APPROVE AN UNBUDGETED EXPENDITURE OF \$59,984.31 FROM G/L 519000

VPGF/TORRES

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

CARRIED

8. Consultation

9. Evaluation

10. Recognition

11. Adjournment

MOTION TO ADJOURN

UZOR

CARRIED

Next Meeting Date: March 19, 2025

Meeting adjourned at 8:02 pm