



## STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION OF MACEWAN UNIVERSITY

**Minutes for the Students' Council Meeting of the  
Students' Association of MacEwan University  
March 19, 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  
vacant, Councillor  
Chistian Galera, 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  
Layal Zidan, 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 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 MARCH 19, 2025**

**FISHER/ZIDAN**

**CARRIED**

#### **2.2 MOTION**

**TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 19, 2025**

**UZOR/ZIDAN**

**CARRIED**

### **3. Presentations**

#### **3.1. SAMU Budget 2025-2026**

### **4. For Information**

#### **4.1. Reports**

##### **4.1.1. President**

Chamber of Commerce event; Pride Week Gala; Advo conference - SAMU/SAMRU.

##### **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. SCOC Recommendation (in camera)**

##### **4.1.6. Advocacy Affiliations (in camera)**

##### **4.1.7.**

#### **4.2. Executive Committee Minutes**

Minutes of February 5, 12, 19, 26 and March 5, 2025 provided.

### **5. Question Period**

#### **5.1. Written Questions**

Trinh - For VPSL: While I understand that Pride Week is primarily a MacEwan initiative and not a SAMU one, I was wondering if you can provide insight on the success of Pride Week this year since you did give a speech at the end of the Pride March. Furthermore, has SAMU considered directly partnering/working with MacEwan to provide more services during Pride Week, since SAMU already has these types of services.

VPSL – Thank you, Councillor Trinh, for your question. I was a part of the Pride Week planning committee in the months prior leading up to pride week. The full report of the week is yet to be done, however the executive committee was very happy to attend the event and noticed a large amount of people there to support.

Outside of the March, there were many activities throughout the week for community and students to engage in such as educational workshops, Art pop-ups and speaker series. SAMU did participate and collaborate with MacEwan on Pride week in a few ways.

Our events team collaborated with the Centre of Sexual Gender Diversity (CSGD) on having a pride week 'Margarita bar' and as well as Dirty Sexy Bingo taken place that week on Wednesday (12<sup>th</sup>) and Thursday (13<sup>th</sup>). SAMU services and events team hosted an event on Friday March 14<sup>th</sup> called 'collaging our queer agenda' to allow for a creative safe space. Our student group 'Inqueeries' participated by giving an opening speech during the march.

If you have ideas or thoughts on how pride week was this year, please let me know and I'd be happy to debrief at the committee level!

Trinh - For Pres: About the MoU Event that you attended, was the student housing specific to MacEwan students (i.e MacEwan's Residence) or general post-secondary students? If it's the former, then are there any details about how this will relate to MacEwan's current residence.

PRES - Fantastic question, Councillor. There was no specific mention of the housing being specifically for MacEwan students during the MoU event. There are no further details available, but Council will be update as relevant.

Zidan - President: would be able to clarify what's good people party? Who is the diplomat consulting? What outcomes or benefits of attending this event?

PRES - Good People Party is an event hosted by Diplomat Consulting (an organization that provides consulting services. For more information, please view: <https://diplomatconsulting.com/>) that serves as an opportunity for relationship building with government and other decision-makers. As per bullet 2.3 of the Strategic Plan, the outcome is to build collaborative relationships with organizations to enhance the collective student voice with all government levels.

Zidan - President: may you elaborate more on your meeting with CAUS banker? Is this a routine meeting or some concerns led to this meeting?

PRES –The nature of this meeting is operational and not within the scope of Students' Council. Although this item is being reported for information, I would be happy to elaborate on operational matters outside of Students' Council. Please reach out via [sapresident@macewan.ca](mailto:sapresident@macewan.ca) if you are interested in operational conversations and I would be happy to set up a meeting either virtually or in-person at a more appropriate avenue.

Zidan - President: what is ESA short for? And from what I understood is samu going to create a survey for all post secondary students in the city? And what time line do samu have this survey and what information is it expected to collect?

PRES - Councillor, for future reference, I encourage you to view the **Executive Summary** of the reports. As per my report, ESA stands for the Edmonton Student Alliance. The city of Edmonton is creating this survey in consultation with ESA. The survey is not finalized but the current scope is: Access to/availability of housing, Housing affordability, Sources of income, Barriers to accessing housing, Type of dwelling, Geographic location, Proximity to school, amenities, services, and transit, and SAMU had suggested the inclusion of Safety. The survey release date is undetermined, but it is likely going to be around next Fall.

Zidan - President: can you explain what do you mean by working on clarity regarding MNIFs please?

PRES – For context, as per the minutes taken during the Student Leaders Meeting with Advanced Education (AE) that I reported on earlier in the year, “MacEwan representative commented about the guidelines stating that all necessary information should be provided to compare revenue from MNIFs with the cost of goods and services. AE explained that the definition of "necessary information" varies based on circumstances, as it is partly at the discretion of the institution and student organizations.” Further, SAMU is interested in identifying the definition of “meaningful consultation,” the purpose of MNIFs, and how collected funds are allocated by institutions. I am also referring the following section of the

Guidelines for Alberta Tuition Framework March 2024:

#### “MNIF Adjustments

Institutions are not permitted to substantively change the scope of the goods and services supported by an MNIF, or the student population to which the MNIF is charged, without consent of the students' council(s). The student populations that are subject to the MNIF and the goods and services which an MNIF supports are considered fundamental characteristics of an MNIF, and so changes to either of these characteristics would be treated as the introduction of a new MNIF (requiring student council consent). Guidelines for the Alberta Tuition Framework March 2024 Classification: Public 14 Annual

sign off of the Fee Classification Report (Appendix C6) generated by the Adult Learning System Fee Classification Tool (Appendix C5) is required to ensure the fees are still appropriately classified.”

The document itself is 37 pages and as such would be inappropriate to include as part of my response to your written question. However, if you are interested in exploring the document, I would be happy to set up a meeting outside of Students’ Council either in-person or virtually. My email is [sapresident@macewan.ca](mailto:sapresident@macewan.ca). I’m very happy to see interest in MNIFs and so I look forward to hearing from you, Councillor.

Zidan - President: why isn’t SC included or encouraged to take part in events such as pride march and UN Gala along EC as it used in previous years?

PRES – The VPSL sat on the Pride Week planning committee in the months prior leading up to pride week, so I encourage you to direct your question to the VPSL during oral question period. In terms of opportunities for “Students’ Council to engage with SAMU members” perhaps such as through Student Group events like the UN Gala, this is part of the mandate of the Strategy and Engagement Committee (SEC), chaired by the VPSL. As per the Committee Policy:

### **Mandate**

1. 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. **Roles of Committee**
2. SEC develops a plan for Students’ Council to engage with SAMU members.

As such, should engagement opportunities be of interest to you as the question would suggest, I encourage you engage with SEC, through the SEC chair.

In terms of previous EC, current or future iterations of EC, it can be expected to some degree that the actions and dynamics of EC will vary.

Zidan - President: what topics were discussed during your meeting with Dr. Trimbee? What’s band funding? Many students specifically PSA are frustrated by the position that the institution is taking and for not hearing or protecting their students. Was that something mentioned or discussed during your meeting with the president?

PRES - As per my report, the nature of my meeting is confidential. In terms of topics, aside from band funding, we discussed government relations, affordability, mental health, and advocacy. For your edification, here’s information from the Government of Canada website:

### **Band funding**

If you’re a Band member of a First Nation, you may be eligible for federal funding, administered through your Band office, to help you pay for your education. Here’s how to get started:

- [Find out how Band student support funding works.](#)
- [Use this interactive map to find and contact your Band office.](#)
- Read about this [Learning Clicks Ambassador’s](#) experience with Band scholarships.

### **About the program**

The program provides funds in the form of a grant and not a contribution agreement. Grants allow bands the flexibility to distribute funds according to their individual needs and priorities in meeting the cost of local government.

Program funding is distributed to First Nations based on a funding formula that takes into account a community's size and services it manages. Grants focus on costs related to the administration of programs and services funded by the department.

The maximum funding available for each band is determined by the following seven components:

- population according to place of residence (on-reserve and off-reserve population) as of December 31 of each year
- total number of cases per month in the income security program
- number and value of federal, provincial and territorial agreements
- value of major capital projects
- number of specialists required to deliver the services funded by INAC
- type and value of the basic services funded by INAC (such as education, income support, economic development, infrastructure, band management)
- geographic index (location based on remoteness and environmental conditions)

Find out more about these components and the funding formula in the Band Support Funding Program Policy.

If you have any other questions, regarding band funding, I encourage you to contact our indigenous centre, <https://www.macewan.ca/campus-life/kihew-waciston-indigenous-centre/>

Zidan - President: what recommendations did SAMU have for CASA?

PRES – Collectively, both the Year-In-Review consultation and the Sustainable Growth Strategy consultation are 28 pages long and would be inappropriate to include as part of my response to your written question. At a high-level, SAMU made a number of recommendations to improve the strategic direction, membership engagement, governance, operations, financial sustainability, advocacy, and policies. I'm happy to see you interested, councillor. I do understand that for those curious, this may be an unsatisfactory response, so if you like, we can meet in-person or virtually to go over the consultation in much more detail than the scope of Students' Council would permit. My email address is [sapresident@macewan.ca](mailto:sapresident@macewan.ca)

Zidan - EC: I recently came across photos on social media of the President and VPGF with some candidates during the UN Gala (everyone looked stunning btw!). Could you clarify how this aligns with the election procedures regarding perceived endorsements?  
Help me to understand how this does not present a perceived conflict of interest during campaign period?

VPGF - The *Elections Procedure* only states officially endorsing a candidate, and a perceived endorsement do not result in a perceived conflict of interest. As a result, this is not applicable in this instance.

## **5.2. Oral Questions**

Topics include: grant funding for universities; SAMU budget week; Oilers tix; SAMU investments;

## **6. In Camera Period**

**MOTION TO GO IN CAMERA**

**TORRES/JACOBS**

**CARRIED**

**6.1. Umbrella Orgs (PRES)**

**6.2. Chair of Students' Council (VPGF)**

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

***JACOBS/OKAI***

***CARRIED***

***MOTON TO TAKE A 10 MINUTE RECESS***

***FISHER/UZOR***

***CARRIED***

**6.3.**

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

**7.1. SAMU Budget 2025-2026**

***MOTION TO APPROVE THE 2025-2026 SAMU BUDGET ON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE***

***VPGF/JACOBS***

Favour: Dare, Dutta, VPA, Zidan, Jacobs, Uzor, Okai, Reyes, Glasgow, Trinh, Namoc, Fisher, PRES, VPGF, Poon, Galera, Torres

***CARRIED***

**7.2. Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA)**

\*Special Resolution required – notice of motion sent out on March 5, 2025 per Advocacy Affiliations policy Clause 6.

***MOTION TO DIRECT THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO BEGIN THE PROCESS OF CEASING AFFILIATION WITH THE CANADIAN ALLIANCE OF STUDENT ASSOCIATIONS, TO THEN ENTER AN OBSERVER YEAR, AND TO REPORT BACK TO STUDENTS' COUNCIL UPON COMPLETION***

***VPGF/OKAI***

Favour: Dare, Dutta, VPA, Zidan, Jacobs, Uzor, Okai, Reyes, Glasgow, Trinh, Namoc, Fisher, PRES, VPGF

Oppose: Poon, Galera, Torres

***CARRIED***

**7.3. Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS)**

\*Special Resolution required – notice of motion sent out on March 5, 2025 per Advocacy Affiliations policy Clause 6.

***MOTION TO DIRECT THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO BEGIN THE PROCESS OF CEASING AFFILIATION WITH THE COUNCIL OF ALBERTA UNIVERSITY STUDENTS AND TO REPORT BACK TO STUDENTS' COUNCIL UPON COMPLETION***

***VPGF/JACOBS***

Favour: Dare, Dutta, VPA, Zidan, Jacobs, Uzor, Okai, Reyes, Glasgow, Trinh, Namoc, Fisher, PRES, VPGF

Oppose: Poon, Galera, Torres

**CARRIED**

**7.4. Unbudgeted Expense**

**MOTION**        **TO APPROVE AN UNBUDGETED EXPENDITURE OF \$67,824.00 FROM G/L 563500 (OILERS TICKETS)**

**VPGF/UZOR**

Favour: Dare, Dutta, VPA, Zidan, Jacobs, Uzor, Okai, Reyes, Glasgow, Trinh, Namoc, Fisher, PRES, VPGF, Poon, Galera, Torres

**CARRIED**

**7.5. Chair of Students' Council Reappointment**

**MOTION**        **TO REAPPOINT TIM JOBS AS CHAIR OF STUDENTS' COUNCIL FOR A TERM OF MAY 1, 2025-APRIL 30, 2026**

**VPGF/PRES**

Favour: Dare, Dutta, VPA, Zidan, Jacobs, Uzor, Okai, Reyes, Glasgow, Trinh, Namoc, Fisher, PRES, VPGF, Poon, Galera, Torres

**CARRIED**

**7.6. SAMU Fees Policy**

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

**VPGF/JACOBS**

Favour: Dare, Dutta, VPA, Zidan, Jacobs, Uzor, Okai, Reyes, Glasgow, Trinh, Namoc, Fisher, PRES, VPGF, Poon, Galera, Torres

**CARRIED**

**8. Consultation**

**9. Evaluation**

**10. Recognition**

**11. Adjournment**

**MOTION**        **TO ADJOURN**

**JACOBS**

**CARRIED**

Next Meeting Date: April 16, 2025

Meeting adjourned at 8:05pm