



STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION OF MACEWAN UNIVERSITY

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

Voting Members:

Dalya Abougoush, Councillor
Shina Adeshina, Councillor
Olad Ayodeji, Councillor
Anna Campmans, Councillor
Tolu Dare, Councillor
Chistian Galera, Councillor
Jean Pierre Moreno, Councillor
Moselle Namoc, Councillor
Maade Okai, Councillor
Nathan Poon, President (absent)
Elizabeth Russell, Councillor
Kris Ravelo, Councillor
Andrei Santiago, Vice President Governance

and Finance
Alem Tesfay, Vice President Student Life
Vincent Trinh, Councillor
Chioma Uzor, Vice President Academic
Shanna Villasenor, Councillor
Liam Wilson, Councillor
Wilfrid Youbi Fansi, Vice President External (absent)

SAMU Officials and Council Support:

Tim Jobs, Chair
Darryl Kostash, General Manager (absent)
Alan Honey, Governance Advisor
Caitlin Yambao, Admin Support

Meeting called to order at 6:00pm.

<Intros>

1. Treaty 6 Land Recognition

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

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

2. Approvals

2.1 MOTION

TO APPROVE THE AGENDA FOR NOVEMBER 19, 2025

GALERA/NAMOC

CARRIED

2.2 MOTION

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 15, 2025

OKAI/TRINH

CARRIED

3. Presentations

3.1. Kihew Waciston Knowledge Keeper

4. For Information

4.1. Reports

4.1.1. President

4.1.2. Vice President Academic

4.1.3. Vice President External

4.1.4. Vice President Governance & Finance

Dept 12 budgeting update. T&F meeting. Convocation. MacEwan budget allocations. Digital IDs. Tech fee.

4.1.5. Vice President Student Life

4.1.6. Chief Returning Officer

4.2. Executive Committee Minutes

Minutes of October 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29, 2025 provided.

5. Question Period

5.1. Written Questions

Villasenor - For President: In your conversations at the MacEwan Means Business dinner, you highlighted issues like youth unemployment, food insecurity, and the rising cost of living. From a student-advocacy perspective, how do you see these insights shaping our broader priorities this year, particularly around improving affordability and reducing barriers for students at MacEwan?

Pres - Thank you for your question, Councillor Villasenor.

This is a wonderful question! Our focus from an advocacy perspective at SAMU is always amplifying the student voice to relevant stakeholders. Our advocacy priorities determine who we talk to and approach, not necessarily the other way around (gained insights *generally* don't affect our advocacy priorities, as we advocate based on what we hear from students, not from stakeholders). Affordability in terms of cost of education and cost of living are key priorities for SAMU this year, and our work on this advocacy includes the conversations highlighted in my report.

Villasenor - For VP External: In your conversations with the Minister of Technology and Innovation about potentially digitizing the part-time student funding platform, how do you see this advocacy advancing accessibility for students, especially those who face financial or scheduling barriers?

VPE - To clarify the conversation we had was brief and a more extensive conversation was had at a previous date with the deputy minister in this portfolio earlier this year. The current method of PDF submission can overcomplicate and slow down the process for many students who take part time studies. If the part-time funding were to be streamlined, students would have one less barrier to accessing funds efficiently and being priced out of education.

Villasenor - For VP Academic: Were any cost-related academic concerns raised with the Provost, such as course materials or lab fees, that Council should be aware of?

VPA – Thank you for your question, Councillor Villasenor.

At the meeting with the Provost, no cost-related academic concerns were brought up as most of the financial related advocacy is currently happening at the tuition and fees table which is a process

overseen by the VPGF. We have included asks per the VPGF's report regarding the cost of educational materials.

Moreno - For President: In your report, you mentioned engaging with multiple provincial and municipal stakeholders through events such as the State of the Province, Small Business Week functions, and the Chamber of Commerce dinner. Could you share any specific follow-up actions or commitments from these conversations that may directly impact SAMU's advocacy on student affordability and employment?

Pres - Thank you for your question, Councillor Moreno.

In terms of follow-ups, as these events are in public settings, our main goal is to be able to continue these conversations in a private setting or through appropriate channels for communication to be able to share more about the student experience, and the troubles that students are facing which can be addressed through a municipal, provincial, or federal lens, which is led by the Vice President External. Similar to Councillor Villaseñor's question, follow-up actions and commitments would *generally* not impact SAMU's advocacy, as our advocacy is shaped based on what we hear from students, and not the other way around.

In terms of commitments and outcomes, these are all ongoing conversations, and we will report to Council when they are made by government stakeholders.

Moreno - For VPSL: Your report highlights ongoing collaboration with Athletics on student surveys and event promotion. Could you expand on how SAMU plans to measure the success of these collaborations, and whether there are plans to use similar strategies with other campus departments to strengthen overall student engagement?

VPSL - Thank you for your question, Councillor Moreno. The Athletics Survey is an initiative under my work plan to enhance campus engagement through athletics. As VPSL, I would measure success through the awareness the survey generates about our MacEwan Athletics teams and games, as well as the feedback we receive. This feedback can provide valuable insights to both SAMU and MacEwan on the barriers that prevent students from attending games.

Regarding similar strategies with other departments, that is certainly something we can explore. Additionally, the Spring Student Survey may present another opportunity to gauge student interests and identify broader engagement challenges.

Trinh - For President: In your appointment to the Strategy and Stakeholder Relations committee, what exactly does that mean for your work? Can you elaborate on how your work will be translated to your position in this committee.

Pres - Thank you for your question, Councillor Trinh.

The Strategy and Stakeholder Relations Committee provides oversight on MacEwan's strategic framework including the strategic plan and recommends the approval of the annual report. The Committee monitors the university's relations and reputation and reviews any honorific and philanthropic naming proposals. At the Board I am viewed as just a student member, not the SAMU President, therefore a lot of this work doesn't translate directly into my day to day responsibilities as SAMU President. My role within this committee is similar to my role on the Board of Governors, which is to speak to the student experience on campus and ensure that the student voice is heard on decisions that impact students a part of this community.

Trinh - For VPA or VPGF: I don't want to sound like a broken record since this has already been discussed in the last 2 meetings, but does SAMU have a plan going forward to address the issues surrounding Digital IDs and to get more communication on Digital IDs from MacEwan. It seems to me that a lot of students are still confused about Digital IDs and the context as to why MacEwan decided to swap to a digital format.

VPGE - Thank you for the question, Councillor Trinh.

Over my previous meeting with the VPFA, and as noted in my previous monthly report to Council, I have informed her about the current and potential issues that students are facing with MacEwan's swap to a digital format for the student ID. While we have not yet received a follow-up from her office, I will provide an update as soon as one becomes available. In the meantime, I strongly encourage you to have students reach out to us via email so we can track the problem from an organizational standpoint.

Ravelo - For President: Regarding the conversations with Joseph Schow (Minister of Jobs, Economy, Trade, and Immigration) or MLA Jackie Armstrong-Homeniuk, did either of these involve communicating housing affordability (e.g. overall direction or strategy re: SAMU's housing survey)?

Pres - Thank you for your question, Councillor Ravelo.

The SAMU Housing Survey is still ongoing, so it is not possible to draw statistical conclusions from the quantitative data. Rather, we can draw from previous data (such as the Annual Spring Survey) in providing us with what students at MacEwan are facing with regards to housing.

While we are able to advocate towards MLAs regarding the rising cost of housing, it is important to note that these conversations are more applicable to the jurisdiction of the Minister of Advanced Education and the Minister of Assisted Living and Social Services at a provincial level, and the municipal and federal governments.

With MLA Armstrong-Homeniuk, I was able to draw those on our statistical factors and discuss how students are inundated with the cost of living, with a stronger focus on youth unemployment, as the ministry they are related to has introduced the Alberta Youth Employment Incentive program (Jobs, Economy, Trade, and Immigration (JETI) Ministry), and how the broader record-level youth unemployment rates are affecting everyday students. Due to time constraints with Minister Schow, we were only able to discuss the newly implemented Alberta Youth Employment Incentive program, which falls under his ministry.

Ravelo - For VPSL: Could you please provide further insight on Consent Action Week (CAW) regarding the overall feedback and student engagement/turnout?

VPSL – Thank you for the question, Councillor Ravelo. From the discussion at the Sexual Violence Prevention, Education and Response Committee (SVPEAC) meeting, I recall hearing that there was some success with several of the events held during Consent Action Week (CAW) outside of the Dodgeball Tournament. I've reached out to the coordinator who shared that information with me and will follow up once I receive more details.

From my end, I provided feedback on the CAW Dodgeball Tournament. While I believed it was a creative approach to spreading awareness, I shared concerns over the timing of the event and the impact it had on turnout. For context, the Dodgeball Tournament, organized by the CAW committee, also served as a fundraiser for the Sexual Assault Center of Edmonton (SACE). It was a great initiative; however, it took place between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. on a weekday when students are usually in classes.

Russell – Why is the report missing for VP Governance and Finance?

VPGE - Thank you for the question, Councillor Russell.

I apologize for the absence of my monthly report in the sent-out agenda. Last week, the Executive Committee was out of the city for our annual retreat. The training that takes place during the retreat involves rigorous, full-day sessions, which unfortunately impacted my capacity to complete and submit the report on time. Additionally, as per my email, I had some personal matters that needed to

be addressed as well that further limited my ability to get the report in on time. I appreciate your understanding, and I will do my best to not let this happen again.

Russell - What insights did the President gather from his conversation with MLA Jackie Armstrong-Homeniuk?

Pres – Thank you for your question, Councillor Russell.

That is a wonderful question. When speaking to MLAs who don't carry a specific ministerial portfolio that generally don't affect post-secondary education as a whole (an example of a ministerial portfolio that does is the Minister of Advanced Education), the most important factor is being able to speak to the student experience, which they may not be used to hearing in their day-to-day work. With this, I was able to provide MLA Armstrong-Homeniuk with deep insights as to how students are struggling with the cost of living, food insecurity, and youth unemployment.

As MLA Armstrong-Homeniuk's role falls under the JETI Ministry, youth unemployment and the introduction of the Alberta Youth Employment Program wage subsidy was the most pertinent discussion we had, where I was able to share how students are deeply concerned about the record-levels of youth unemployment in Alberta, and what steps could be taken or what programs could be implemented/reimplemented to address this concern.

Russell – What insights did the VP External receive about tackling unemployment during his conversation with Minister Schow?

VPE - As the focus of the session was small businesses there were no new developments regarding unemployment since any current knowledge is speculation on the government's part as to causes of youth unemployment specifically. The minister reiterated his belief that small businesses should be hiring on youth and the earlier introduction of the 8 million dollar Alberta Youth Employment Incentive but no strategy was presented going forward.

Wilson – PRESIDENT: Given the vital importance of having an Ombudsman for independent investigations against faculty misconduct, I think that there should be a strong sense of urgency in reestablishing such an office. Does the President have any updates on his progress so far?

Pres – Thank you for your question, Councillor Wilson.

SAMU has taken swift and immediate steps in addressing the absence of an Ombudsman when it was removed during the COVID-19 pandemic, including the implementation of our Student Advocacy Centre, which we are continuing to hear from students to be incredibly effective in assisting students in confidential academic and non-academic matters.

As outlined in the EC Workplan under Student Initiatives and Programs Advocacy, efforts related to exploring funding and advocacy for a re-established Ombuds Office are underway. These discussions with MacEwan are still in the early stages, and we do not yet have milestone updates to share.

While this is the case, it is important to recognize that university-established Ombudspersons are in fact **not** independent of the university, and fall under its budget and governing structure. In contrast, SAMU's Student Advocacy Centre remains structurally independent from MacEwan, allowing us to provide students with a supportive and impartial space to address both academic and non-academic matters.

Wilson - VP EXTERNAL: Can the VP External please expand on the proposal to digitise part-time student aid? Why is it not already digitised if full-time student aid is? If there is an issue with feasibility, is it a logistical or political concern? Streamlining student aid, for part-time as well as full time students, is aligned with the SAMU strategic plan and so I think this would be important to continue working on.

VPE – While I wouldn't be able to speculate on the current reasons for why the government has not implemented an online platform for Part time funding, I will say, based on my conversations with ministers, that this is something that would be addressed under the red tape reduction committee. Often, processes may have areas where issues are highlighted and not addressed for a myriad of reasons and the red tape reduction committee usually uses their own discretion as to pick what to address first with an ever-growing list of issues. In this case I will keep advocating for more efficient processes to allow for more students to reach the funds they need.

5.2. Oral Questions

Topics include: Work integrated learning policy.; Bachelor Action Plan; Student Charter; WAGS; digital IDs; committee workplans; proposed tuition and fees increase; MacEwan Athletics survey;

6. In Camera Period

7. Motions & Business Orders of the Day

7.1. Audit Committee

Nominees: Okai, Galera, Adeshina, Russell, Ayodeji, Namoc

MOTION TO APPOINT COUNCILLORS GALERA, RUSSELL, AND NAMOC TO THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

VPGF/VPA

Favour: Abougoush, Adeshina, Ayodeji, Campmans, Dare, Galera, Moreno, Namoc, Okai, Russell, Ravelo, VPGF, VPSL, Trinh, VPA, Villasenor, Wilson

CARRIED

7.2. Finance Committee

Nominees: Wilson, Villasenor,

MOTION TO APPOINT COUNCILLORS WILSON AND VILLASENOR TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

VPGF/MORENO

Favour: Abougoush, Adeshina, Ayodeji, Campmans, Dare, Galera, Moreno, Namoc, Okai, Russell, Ravelo, VPGF, VPSL, Trinh, VPA, Villasenor, Wilson

CARRIED

7.3. Governance Committee

Nominees: Trinh, Ravelo, Wilson, Galera, Abougoush, Villasenor, Namoc, Dare

MOTION TO APPOINT COUNCILLORS RAVELO AND GALERA TO THE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

VPGF/CAMPMANS

Favour: Abougoush, Adeshina, Ayodeji, Campmans, Dare, Galera, Moreno, Namoc, Okai, Russell, Ravelo, VPGF, VPSL, Trinh, VPA, Villasenor, Wilson

CARRIED

7.4. Students' Council Operations Committee

Nominees: Trinh, Okai, Galera, Russell, Campmans, Ayodeji, Dare, Namoc, Abougoush

MOTION TO APPOINT COUNCILLORS OKAI, TRINH, CAMPMANS, AND AYODEJI TO THE STUDENTS' COUNCIL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

VPGF/MORENO

Favour: Abougoush, Adeshina, Ayodeji, Campmans, Dare, Galera, Moreno, Namoc, Okai, Russell, Ravelo, VPGF, VPSL, Trinh, VPA, Villasenor, Wilson

CARRIED

7.5. Strategy and Engagement Committee

Nominees: Abougoush, Dare, Wilson, Namoc

MOTION TO APPOINT COUNCILLORS ABOUGOUSH, DARE, AND NAMOC TO THE STRATEGY AND ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

VPGF/OKAI

Favour: Abougoush, Adeshina, Ayodeji, Campmans, Dare, Galera, Moreno, Namoc, Okai, Russell, Ravelo, VPGF, VPSL, Trinh, VPA, Villasenor, Wilson

CARRIED

8. Consultation

9. Evaluation

10. Recognition

11. Adjournment

MOTION TO ADJOURN

VILLASENOR

CARRIED

Next Meeting Date: December 17, 2025

Meeting adjourned at 7:15pm.