



**STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION
OF MACEWAN UNIVERSITY**

**Minutes for the Students' Council Meeting of the
Students' Association of MacEwan University
December 17, 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
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

SAMU Officials and Council Support:

Tim Jobs, Chair
Darryl Kostash, General Manager
Alan Honey, Governance Advisor
Parvin Sedighi, External Stakeholder and Relations Manager

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 DECEMBER 17, 2025

TRINH/OKAI

CARRIED

2.2 MOTION

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 19, 2025

CAMPMANS/MORENO

CARRIED

3. Presentations

4. For Information

4.1. Reports

4.1.1. President

4.1.2. Vice President Academic

4.1.3. Vice President External

ESA – met with Councillor Elliot.

4.1.4. Vice President Governance & Finance

4.1.5. Vice President Student Life

MacEwan volunteer appreciation/recognition & volunteer awareness on campus.

4.1.6. Governance Committee Workplan (Chair: VPGF)

4.1.7. Finance Committee Workplan (Chair: VPGF)

4.1.8. Audit Committee Workplan (Chair: Councillor Russell)

4.1.9. Executive Committee Workplan (Chair: Pres)

4.1.10. Students' Council Operations Committee Workplan (Chair: VPGF)

4.2. Executive Committee Minutes

Minutes of November 5, 13, 19, 26, and December 3, 2025 provided.

5. Question Period

5.1. Written Questions

Trinh - For VPA or VPSL - In regards to the new UWill mental health service, did MacEwan consult students about the program before deciding to add it? How does UWill compare to the already existing mental health services? Considering MacEwan is increasing the Mental Health Fee by 110% to sustain UWill, I believe it's important to know whether this service is even worth it or not.

VPSL - With regards to consultation, the university did frame UWill as something that previous SAMU executives have supported and were consulted on, but our records don't support this conclusion. SAMU was not provided an opportunity to review the proposal surrounding UWill and to provide a formal SAMU position on the program, despite how the university has elected to frame the conversation. Further, we are also not in support of raising the mental health fee to cover the cost of UWill, as we believe it replicates existing supports, and creates further financial pressures for already-struggling students.

In terms of comparing services, UWill's model operates similarly to MyWellnessPlan, an online mental health resource already available to students as part of their Health and Dental coverage. UWill provides students with six free counselling sessions to begin, each lasting 30 minutes for a total of 3 hours. When these 3 hours run out, students can purchase additional counselling sessions via "credits", with each 30-minute slot costing 30 credits, or \$110. However, students are only able to purchase credits in batches of 60, meaning students would need to pay a minimum of \$220 upfront.

In comparison, MyWellnessPlan also offers three free hours to begin, and students would need to pay for time beyond those three hours. However, the cost to continue counselling beyond these sessions is significantly lower than that of UWill. Specifically, students can purchase 30-minute increments of counselling for \$45, and those enrolled in the health plan are eligible for reimbursement up to a limit of \$600 per year.

The UWill agreement has a two-year term, so while MacEwan has already committed for this term, our focus is on future years and ensuring that the selected supports are affordable, effective, and reviewed by those who will rely on them most: students.

Trinh - For VPE - In regards to Recommendation 5 in the Mintz Panel section of your report, can you explain how the suggested Tuition model benefits students? Aside from providing more consistency, I don't see how it addresses affordability since the maximum cap for tuition increase is already 2%.

VPE – To clear up any misunderstanding the primary directive of the report was as follows:
“The panel submitted their report and recommendations to the Minister of Advanced Education in August 2025, with recommendations assessing:

- current and alternative funding mechanisms
- impacts of federal immigration policies on Alberta's post-secondary institutions
- the cost of the administrative and regulatory burden on post-secondary institutions
- the overall competitiveness of Alberta's higher education system”

As was reflected within my report, the recommendations were all stated in the government's own words to ensure they reflected their intentions.

As you can see from the above criteria assessed through the recommendations, student affordability was not a factor in the recommendations. *To be clear, should the recommendation regarding Tuition be implemented, it would not address affordability due to removing safeguards currently in place.* This is where, as student representatives, we will be assessing how MacEwan chooses to adopt any recommendation put into practice by the government, since no action has been taken on the government's end to implement the recommendations as of now.

Ayodeji - For President: Could you please provide some information on how the conversations about issues students face were received overall by MPs at CASA's Advocacy Week Reception?

Pres - Thank you for your question, Councillor Ayodeji,

Generally, the MPs were responsive to the asks we presented, taking notes and asking clarifying questions. Our primary goal for these conversations is to lay the foundation for a tangible piece of follow-up, most commonly a formal letter of support or a commitment to raise the issue within their respective caucuses or relevant committees, which is typically coordinated and followed up on by CASA home office staff after Advocacy Week.

With distinct federal party mandates and priorities, the objectives of each meeting, and what we expect to gain from them are tailored accordingly. In some cases, the focus is on securing public or written support; in others, it is about increasing awareness, identifying champions within Parliament, or opening lines of communication for future policy discussions. Overall, the reception suggested a strong willingness to engage on student issues and provided a productive starting point for continued advocacy at the federal level.

Ayodeji - For VPE: Having audited CASA as a whole, could you please provide an account of the organization's current standing in relation to SAMU, if possible?

VPE - As reflected by the President and I within our reports, upon conclusion of our Observer year within CASA we will have prepared an audit for presentation to student council. This aligns with the direction from council at the vote to leave the organisation. This report will be released in July.

Dare - VPA: Can you go in more detail, on your 1:1 discussion with Craig Monk about MacEwan's waitlist management. Any upcoming or suggested changes to the system?

VPA – Waitlist management is an area of interest for the provost this year, he is considering what it may look like for lifting the waitlist for students that are reserved for students of one individual faculty, freeing those additional seats up to those who are out of faculty that are still on the waitlist earlier

than it currently happens. He has not provided any clear direction about if and when this would be implemented or when the waitlist would be removed. We are still having further discussions on the matter, and I will update council as I get more information.

Moreno - For VP Governance & Finance: From a Students First perspective, how is SAMU balancing affordability with access in response to the proposed 110% increase to the Mental Health Fee, and what alternative funding or mitigation strategies is SAMU actively pursuing to ensure students are not disproportionately impacted?

VPGF - Thank you for the wonderful question, Councillor Moreno.

To clarify, the Mental Health fee is a MacEwan Mandatory Non-Instructional Fee that is being charged to our students. While we heavily opposed the increase to the fee within the Tuition and Fees Consultation process, SAMU does not have the ability to stop fee increases. MacEwan has indicated that this service was consulted with previous SAMU executives, but upon further inspection of Minutes from CoSA and other records, we could not find any substantial evidence of meaningful consultation.

We are currently advocating for the development of a consultation process with MacEwan to ensure a shared understanding of what “consultation” entails moving forward. This would help create transparency and consistency when it comes to projects that MacEwan wants SAMU’s support and endorsement of as the official voice of the students as per the Post Secondary Learning Act.

5.2. Oral Questions

Topics include: Inquiries on meeting with Minister of Advanced Ed; Mintz panel and exceptional tuition increases; CASA & food insecurity; tuition increases; mental health services within MacEwan & SAMU – collaboration opportunity?; international students;

6. In Camera Period

7. Motions & Business Orders of the Day

8. Consultation

9. Evaluation

10. Recognition

11. Adjournment

MOTION TO ADJOURN

OKAI

CARRIED

Next Meeting Date: January 21, 2026

Meeting adjourned at 6:25pm.