



**STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION
OF MACEWAN UNIVERSITY**

**Agenda for the Students' Council Meeting of the
Students' Association of MacEwan University
April 15, 2026 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
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
vacant, Councillor

SAMU Officials and Council Support:

Tim Jobs, Chair
Darryl Kostash, General Manager
Alan Honey, Governance Advisor
Aidan Fisher, 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 APRIL 15, 2026

2.2 MOTION

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MARCH 18, 2026

3. Presentations

3.1. Canadian Alliance of Student Associations

VPE -

3.2.

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

4.1.5. Vice President Student Life

4.1.6. Chief Returning Officer

4.1.7. Governance Investigations and Reinstatement Committee

4.1.8. Executive Committee

4.1.9. Audit Committee

4.1.10. Governance Committee

4.1.11. Finance Committee

4.1.12. Students' Council Operations Committee

4.1.13. Strategy and Engagement Committee

4.1.14.

4.2. Executive Committee Minutes

Minutes of March 11, 18, 25, and April 1, 2026 provided.

5. Question Period

5.1. Written Questions

5.2. Oral Questions

Topics include:

6. In Camera Period

6.1.

7. Motions & Business Orders of the Day

7.1. Audit Committee

Candidates:

**MOTION TO APPOINT COUNCILLOR _____ TO THE AUDIT COMMITTEE,
EFFECTIVE MAY 1, 2026, FOR A TERM ENDING OCTOBER 31, 2026**

VPGF/

Favour:

Oppose:

7.2. Governance Committee

Candidates:

MOTION **TO APPOINT COUNCILLOR _____ TO THE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE FOR A TERM ENDING OCTOBER 31, 2026**

VPGF/

Favour:

Oppose:

7.3. SAMU Fees policy

MOTION **TO APPROVE THE SAMU FEES POLICY**

VPGF/

Favour:

Oppose:

7.4. Finance Policy

MOTION **TO APPROVE THE FINANCE POLICY ON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

VPGF/

Favour:

Oppose:

7.5. Unbudgeted Expenditure – HR

MOTION **TO APPROVE AN UNBUDGETED EXPENDITURE OF UP TO \$50,000.00 FROM G/L 519000, \$15,000.00 FROM G/L 519100, AND \$5,000.00 FROM G/L 519200**

VPGF/

7.6. Unbudgeted Expenditure – Oilers Tickets

MOTION **TO APPROVE AN UNBUDGETED EXPENDITURE OF UP TO \$40,189.00 FROM G/L 563500 (OILERS TICKET PURCHASE)**

VPGF/

7.7.

8. Consultation

8.1.

9. Evaluation

9.1.

10. Recognition

11. Adjournment

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Next Meeting Date: May 20, 2026

Meeting adjourned at pm.



**STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION
OF MACEWAN UNIVERSITY**

**Minutes for the Students' Council Meeting of the
Students' Association of MacEwan University
March 18, 2026 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
Andrei Santiago, Vice President Governance
and Finance
Alem Tesfay, Vice President Student Life

Vincent Trinh, Councillor
Chioma Uzor, Vice President Academic
Shanna Villasenor, Councillor
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vacant, Councillor

SAMU Officials and Council Support:

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2. Approvals

2.1 MOTION

TO APPROVE THE AGENDA FOR MARCH 18, 2026

CAMPMANS/VPA

CARRIED

2.2 MOTION

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 18, 2026

TRINH/NAMOC

CARRIED

3. Presentations

3.1. 2026-2027 SAMU Budget

4. For Information

4.1. Reports

4.1.1. President

Secured affordable meal option at MacEwan; Affordability Plan; Sit in March 26; AVP Student Experience and Development search; SAMU By-Election/Election.

4.1.2. Vice President Academic

No cost textbook initiative;

4.1.3. Vice President External

4.1.4. Vice President Governance & Finance

Finance Committee meeting – finance policy; Scholarship, Awards, and Bursary update;

4.1.5. Vice President Student Life

4.1.6. Students' Council Operations Committee (will be provided In Camera)

4.2. Executive Committee Minutes

Minutes of February 11, 18, 25, and March 4, 2026 provided.

5. Question Period

5.1. Written Questions

Adeshina - The Finance consulting budget jumped from \$10,000 to \$65,000. The budget notes say this may include replacing our accounting software, but describes it as "potential." Has this decision been made? If not, why are we budgeting \$55,000 for something that hasn't been approved yet? I'm asking because it affects whether I'm confident the budget was properly vetted, which is exactly what we're supposed to assess

VPGF - Thank you for the question, Councillor Adeshina. The budget requests by each Department, as highlighted in the proposed 2026-27 SAMU Budget, reflect the intended use of funds for the following academic year. The decision to replace the accounting software cannot be made before the budget is approved, as the Department needs to have the allocated funding first in order to make these decisions. In regard to the vetting of the budget, majority of detailed questioning and deliberation happen on a committee level (in this case, the Finance committee). When a Committee brings forward a recommendation to Students' Council, it signifies that the committee has completed the proper vetting and deliberation and is confident in recommending the proposed item for approval at the Students' Council level. However, Councillors are still encouraged and should remain empowered to ask questions about items that are being brought forward to Council to ensure that they feel confident and informed about their decision making.

Adeshina - This budget projects a net income of only \$1,570 on \$9.18 million in spending. That leaves almost no room for error. What happens if we go over budget? 😞 Is there a reserve fund, and at what point does the Students Council get involved?

VPGF - Thank you for the question, Councillor Adeshina. Under the Post Secondary Learning Act (PSLA), the Students' Association of MacEwan University is registered as a non-profit organization, and is therefore required to present a break-even budget, or one that is as close to break-even as possible. With that being said, there is an extensive review history that the budget goes through prior to being approved (please see my Budget submission form to Council). This process reflects the organization's commitment to strong financial stewardship and the implementation of effective practices to ensure responsible use of student funds, which significantly reduces the likelihood of the organization going over budget. In the very rare case that the organization does go over budget, there are mechanisms outlined in our Finance policy to mitigate this risk, including our unrestricted funds

and internally restricted contingency reserve funds.

Ayodeji - For VPE: Could you kindly elaborate on the EPS Budget Consultation concerning the overall sentiment among students that you communicated? What was the nature of the discussion? Was the police commission receptive to the matter? Additionally, could you provide further details regarding the upcoming modifications to student loan eligibility as outlined by Minister McDougall?

VPE - The consultation included all the various stakeholder groups that interact with the city. The sentiments I conveyed were those of a mixed populace. When it comes to safety, some students may feel safer after COVID, while downtown students, especially those of visible minorities, may feel less safe. Especially with the prevalence of hate-motivated incidents, in our city I stated the work that is yet to be done on that profile. With our student population so diverse, Police Studies students may have a different view from other students who have had negative interactions with officers, so I highlighted the need for community engagement and awareness. The discussion was guided by questions posed by the commission regarding how safe groups feel, how effective we perceive EPS to be, and whether we believe EPS needs more funding. The discussion was in a question-and-answer format. As I covered in my report, the question of whether EPS needs more funding was addressed on my end by stating that EPS is among the highest-funded police services with guaranteed increases and from my perspective, did not need an increase. Additionally, I pitched the idea of partnering our social services with Peace officers, especially along the LRT line, with a dedicated funding line to support the partnership using the existing funds that the EPS has. As we were invited to provide input, it would be impossible to determine at this time how receptive the commission was to ideas, since they were present in an inquiring capacity.

The eligibility changes are currently pending budget approval, but, as presented, the proposed change would mean that, when applying for provincial student loans, students will be assessed based on their parental or spousal income rather than their individual income, as we have been for over a decade. Alberta was the only province that assessed students on an individual basis, with all other provinces and the Federal government assessing students on a spousal or parental basis.

The important factor with these changes is that the projected changes are set to take effect in the next fall semester. We are currently assessing how this policy change will impact students in conjunction with

If you would like to assess details, you may consult the Advanced Ed recording:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gugc4ygMZR0>

5.2. Oral Questions

Topics include: affordable meal sustainability; Fall Reading Break; affordable meal options for students with allergies, etc; alberta student loans policy change;

6. In Camera Period

MOTION TO GO IN CAMERA

VPA/VPGF

CARRIED

6.1. Chair of Students' Council

MOTION TO GO OUT OF CAMERA

VPGF/OKAI

CARRIED

7. Motions & Business Orders of the Day

7.1. SAMU Bylaws

MOTION TO GIVE SECOND READING, AND APPROVE, TO THE SAMU BYLAWS

VPGF/CAMPMANS

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

CARRIED

7.2. 2026-2027 SAMU Budget

MOTION TO APPROVE THE 2026-2027 SAMU BUDGET ON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

VPGF/VPSL

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

CARRIED

7.3. SAMU Fees policy

MOTION TO DISREGARD CLAUSE 3.3 AND 4.4 OF THE SAMU FEES POLICY ON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE, FOR THE 2026-2027 FISCAL YEAR

VPGF/ABOUGOUSH

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

CARRIED

7.4. Chair of Students' Council

MOTION TO REAPPOINT TIM JOBS AS CHAIR OF STUDENTS' COUNCIL FOR A TERM OF MAY 1, 2026 TO APRIL 30, 2027 ON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE STUDENTS' COUNCIL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

VPGF/RUSSELL

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

CARRIED

8. Consultation

9. Evaluation

10. Recognition

11. Adjournment

MOTION TO ADJOURN

VPGF

CARRIED

Next Meeting Date: April 15, 2026

Meeting adjourned at 7:11pm.



Students' Council Report

President

April 15th, 2026

Dear Council,

Elections season has (finally) wrapped up! I hope you all had fun watching it take place. Thank you for reading the agenda and attending the Students' Council meeting during a very busy time in the semester.

Here's my report on from the President portfolio from March 12th, 2026 to April 9th, 2026.

Executive Summary

- “Don’t Budget Off Our Backs” Affordability Campaign
- Municipal Advocacy with Vice President External Youbi Fansi
- Board of Governors Meeting – March 26th
- MacEwan University’s Associate Vice President, Student Experience and Development Search
- SAMU & MacEwan Presidents / Vice Presidents Meeting – March 23rd
- Edmonton Students Alliance (ESA) Meeting – April 9th

“Don’t Budget Off Our Backs” Affordability Campaign



Last month, the SAMU Executive and the Governance and Advocacy Supports Team (GAST) helped launch the “Don’t Budget Off Our Backs” affordability campaign across campus.

The objectives of this campaign were to inform students of the 2% domestic tuition hike, the 10% international tuition hike, which is the largest international tuition increase in the province, and that most Mandatory Non-Instructional Fees are increasing as well for the 2026/27 academic year, while providing them a proper channel to voice concerns through a letter writing campaign, which asked the Board of Governors to reconsider the tuition and fee hikes.

Students responded in an incredible way, submitting **over 1,100 letters** to MacEwan University’s Board of Governors calling for the proposed increases to be reconsidered. However, despite this clear student engagement, the University moved the Board meeting to a virtual format the day prior—effectively limiting students’ ability to participate in person and undermining plans for a peaceful sit-in intended to demonstrate student concerns directly to decision-makers.

I want to thank each and every single student that took the time to participate in this campaign, whether by writing a letter, spreading the message, or engaging in conversations across campus. Your voices make a powerful impact, and this level of student mobilization sends a clear message to the University: affordability matters, and students will not stay silent when decisions directly affect our ability to access education.

Municipal Advocacy with Vice President External Youbi Fansi

Vice President External Youbi Fansi and I were able to meet with various City Councillors to advocate for concerns that implicate students on a municipal level.



On March 19th, Edmonton City Councillor Michael Janz visited SAMU, where we discussed a wide-array of priorities such as housing affordability, public transit, and supports for newcomer students navigating life in Edmonton. We are incredibly thankful for the time that Councillor Janz has shared with us in figuring out ways to navigate shared challenges and advance solutions that improve the student experience and strengthen our broader community.



Figure 1: SAMU President Nathan Poon (left) and Vice President External Wilfrid Youbi Fansi (right) meeting with Edmonton City Councillor Michael Janz (middle)

On April 1st, we went to City Hall to meet with Edmonton City Councillor Jon Morgan to advocate for greater housing affordability and transportation challenges shared by MacEwan students. Councillor Morgan was incredibly receptive—connecting us with relevant city administration to pursue potential policy ideas going into the future. As a former MacEwan student, we are excited to invite Councillor Morgan back to MacEwan sometime in the near future to connect again.

President Report to Students' Council

Submitted: March 12th, 2026

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Figure 2: SAMU President Nathan Poon (left) and Vice President External Wilfrid Youbi Fansi (right) meeting with Edmonton City Councillor Jon Morgan (middle)

Board of Governors Meeting – March 26th

At MacEwan University's recent Board of Governors meeting, both student members voted against the 2026/27 Annual Budget, as we were unfavorable of a budget that was heavily reliant on student revenue. Unfortunately, the budget was still passed with majority, but we are always happy to voice our concerns and work to ensure MacEwan University is a Students' First institution.

MacEwan University's Associate Vice President, Student Experience and Development Search

As part of the AVP Student Experience and Development Hiring Process, SAMU's Executive Committee was provided the opportunity to meet with each candidate and



hear about their priorities if hired into the role. As this is a hiring process we are unable to provide specific details about the candidates or their potential goals at this time but we are looking forward to learning more about who the hiring committee recommends to fill the role in the future.

SAMU & MacEwan President's / Vice President's (PvP) Meeting – March 23rd

On March 23rd, SAMU and MacEwan's President's and Vice-President's met collectively for our last quarterly PvP meeting. While this was not a meeting where any decisions were made, we did have discussions regarding the evolution of AI in post-secondaries, identifying AI as a key priority from the Ministry of Advanced Education, as well as housing within the federal, provincial, and municipal directions.

Edmonton Students Alliance (ESA) Meeting – April 9th

The ESA met on April 9th to discuss future ESA elections, advocacy roundtables, and Charter review. Please refer to the Vice President External's report for more information.

Closing Remarks

Thank you for taking the time to read my report; especially considering everyone's busy schedule with finals approaching rapidly. At the April Students' Council meeting, please give a warm farewell to Vice President Governance and Finance Andrei Santiago and Vice President External Wilfrid Youbi Fansi, who both dedicated significant time and effort to ensuring the student voice is heard internally and externally.

Please reach out to us if you have any questions.



**STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION
OF MACEWAN UNIVERSITY**

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nathan Poon', written in a cursive style.

Nathan Poon

President

Students' Association of MacEwan University



Students' Council Report

Vice-President Academic

April 15, 2026

Looks like you're stuck with me for one more year!

I am SO excited about what's next. I am very grateful to have been re-elected, and I look forward to working with all of you moving forward!

Here is my report from March 19 – April 8th!

Executive Summary

- General Faculties Council Committee Meetings
 - General Faculties Council (GFC)
 - Committee on Academic Standards, Curriculum, and the Calendar (ASCC)
 - Committee on Academic Planning and Quality Assurance (APQA)
- TAP Steering Committee
- Meeting w/ the Provost

Student Voice

The Student Voice is amplified by SAMU.

General Faculties Council (GFC) Committee Meetings

Strat Point 2.4



General Faculties Council (GFC)

On March 23, I attended the General Faculties Council with the Vice President Student Life and our amazing GFC representatives. The GFC meeting covered the new Post-Baccalaureate Accounting Program as well as a review of the Course Feedback Survey. Conversations concerning the due date of the feedback survey once reviewed were initiated during the meeting and our representatives had the opportunity to provide their outlook on this detail.

Committee on Academic Standards, Curriculum, and the Calendar (ASCC)

On March 30, I attended Academic Standards, Curriculum, and the Calendar (ASCC) meeting. This meeting involved a plan to review the 2028/2029 Academic Schedule including any questions that needed to be asked to make the process much easier. We also discussed the new Enrollment Policy Suite; a policy created in replacement of four other academic policies which are now rescinded.

Committee on Academic Planning and Quality Assurance (APQA)

I attended the Academic Planning and Quality Assurance (APQA) meeting on March 30. This meeting contained ample review of many updates that are taking place with accreditation and course performance. In a nutshell, this meeting covered the suspension of the Asia Pacific Management Diploma, Accreditation program plan for the Physical Therapist and Occupational Therapist Assistant Major, diploma review of the Massage Therapy diploma, the accreditation report of the Bachelor of Child and Youth Care program, and self-study reports of the Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Design programs.

TAP Steering Committee

Strat Point 2.4

I attended the TAP Steering Committee meeting on April 2. This TAP Steering Committee meeting was a recap of what was done this year and how we can use our funding for the 2026/2027 academic term. The committee achieved a lot in terms of



OERs and Textbook Affordability. I look forward to what we can continue to push forward in this following term!

Meeting w/ the Provost

Strat Point 2.4, 3.2

On March 18, I had a quick meeting with the provost. We had the opportunity to talk about the functionality of the PeopleSoft enrolment system. I am dedicated to advocating for an enrolment system that works for students and helps them to get into the classes that they want. Dr. Craig Monk noted all details and mentioned that costs are the issue the system is not seeing the improvements we want. I am determined to ensure that there are ways the system is being looked into, nonetheless.

Closing Remarks

I hope that exam preparation isn't kicking you in the back! (If it is that's alright just remember to: **TAKE YOUR BREAKS!!**) You're amazing to have gotten thus far. I wish you the best as you all close the semester off. I wish you luck as you start your exams this term. You'll all do amazing! **Godspeed!**

As the semester gets busier, so do I! My schedule is gradually getting more jam-packed with meetings. Council may swing by my office to ask any questions or provide any feedback, **but please contact me before coming over** so that I can be well prepared for your concern and can fit you into my schedule as well! You can either email me or message me on Telegram.



Warmly as always,

Chioma V. Uzor (she/her)

2025/2026 VP Academic, SAMU

savpacademic@macewan.ca



Students' Council Report

Vice-President External

Date of Meeting: April 15th, 2026

It's report time once more! Hopefully, this report serves to provide all the information on advocacy efforts. Insert current event here: (I think, therefore I am).

Councillor Janz Meeting

1.1

On March 19th, the President and I invited Councillor Michael Janz to our campus to discuss municipal issues affecting students. Topics covered included Housing, Transit safety & availability, along with newcomer supports. In terms of housing we addressed the possibility of a landlord registry to root out bad actor landlords, raised the idea of a joint peace officer and social worker program with funding attached, and presented the newcomer welcome event as a way to promote city resources to newcomers and those entering adult life for the first time. Ensuring we have strong communication lines with the city council ensures the student voice is represented in the decisions made at the municipal levels of government.

CASA AGM

1.2

From March 24th to 28th, I, along with the EAA, travelled to Montreal to attend the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations' 2026 AGM. During this conference, the Board of directors were assessed on the completion of their plans. The National Indigenous Advocacy Committee also presented its Future Generation Plan for the next 3 years, which would guide its advocacy alongside CASA. Various internal policies were



approved, the federal grants extension was celebrated, and awards were distributed to the member schools for the year.

Jon Morgan Meeting

1.3

On April 1st, the RM, the President and I travelled to City Hall for a meeting with Councillor Jon Morgan. We covered a variety of topics, including: Transit safety, Housing affordability definitions and newcomer supports. The councillor expressed appreciation towards the student experience being raised, and we hope to have future meetings. As with any meeting, we always keep in mind that all councillors count as one vote, and it is our mission to ensure that all of the municipality, from administration to elected representatives, know the student priorities and how we plan to address them.

March ESA Meeting

1.4

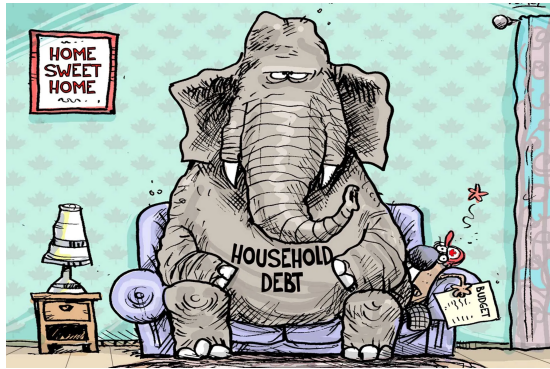
On April 9th, ESA held its monthly meeting regarding charter updates, the upcoming Vice Chair and Chair elections in May, and the logistics of our to-be-determined roundtable, which will include introductions between ESA members and the city Council and administrative team. A second fall roundtable would occur at a later date to discuss advocacy priorities once incoming delegates are settled.

We all float here,

Wilfrid Youbi Fansi



**STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION
OF MACEWAN UNIVERSITY**





Students' Council Report

Vice-President Student Life

April 15th, 2026

Greetings everyone,

Wow, just like that, we have now approached the last report of my Vice President of Student Life term and what a journey it has been! I'm grateful that I get to end with an absolute bang! This month has been busy with the meeting of the Assistant Vice President (AVP) candidates, meeting with MacEwan Admin, an interview with The Griff, a meeting on ShopperTrak, the Affordability Campaign, and much more. Other Executives will report on some topics I've mentioned as they fall more into their portfolios, but I invite you to read my report for the period of March 12 to April 10.

Executive Summary

- What 20\$ can you interview with MacEwan Students
- General Faculties Council (GFC) meeting
- Meeting with the General Manager Darryl



Student Experience & Engagement

The overall student experience is enhanced by the opportunities provided by SAMU

What 20\$ can you interview with MacEwan Students:

During this reporting month, I was approached by Communications students to be interviewed for a video about affordable food options around campus. They were trying to figure out what \$20 can realistically get you in and around the MacEwan community, and whether there are any affordable options.

For what \$20 can get students around campus, I mentioned restaurants like Mike's Famous, which offer student discounts on meals. Within campus, I noted that there are food options below \$20, especially now, since, through our advocacy efforts as EC, there is a permanent food option in Griffins Landing where students can pick from a daily rotation of healthy food priced at \$4.99. During our meeting with the administration, this was highlighted as an effort by MacEwan, which they spoke on and supported, in addition to the \$5 cooking classes and pop-up meals that occurred throughout last year and this year.

Lastly, the students asked if I had any general advice or tips on affordable food options. I mentioned students can ease their academic financial burden by taking advantage of resources like the SAMU pantry (student food bank), the monthly farmers' markets (free produce), and the weekly breakfast club (free breakfast). I also noted that students can save money by shopping with a group of friends at places like Costco or checking out discounted stores like Bianca's Liquidation. Overall, I appreciated the opportunity to share these resources with the student body.



Student Voice

The Student Voice is amplified by SAMU

General Faculties Council (GFC) meeting:

At the end of March, the VPA and I, alongside our GFC student representatives, attended the General Faculties Council meeting, the highest governing academic body at MacEwan. In that meeting, there were some significant announcements and conversations that I thought were significant for the council and the general student body to know. Firstly, during the provost report, Dr. Creig Monk mentioned that there was a surplus for the quarter. MacEwan is allocating 900,000 of those surpluses to bursaries, which is significant to the student body, as there have been more students accessing bursaries because of the current affordability crisis students are facing. The increase to bursaries was an ask within the in-year allocation request from the Executive Committee, so I recognize this as a win for the student body.

Secondly, there was extensive discussion on the student course feedback survey review, during which I raised concerns about the survey being conducted before the semester ended. I made an argument that this is not ideal for students as the priorities and capacity of most students at the end of the semester revolves around them getting the best grade possible, not necessarily doing an evaluation for their professors, and although I appreciated the fact that there were effort to streamline the evaluation process, I still suggested that evaluations should take place after exams are over so that students can have a fair amount of time to give feedback. I would also like to thank the student representatives in the room with me who spoke about their concerns regarding the timing of course feedback.



Student Supports

Student Supports provided by SAMU are responsive to unique and evolving needs.

Meeting with the General Manager Darryl:

As I have mentioned in previous reports, I have many meetings with the General Manager of SAMU, Darryl, because he's a great filter for ideas and the first point of contact for operations. This month, I brought up the importance of the Vice President of Student Life (VPSL) role having a report on the state of student groups. Each year, student groups fill out a year-end report to provide feedback. Because we don't hear from student groups during the spring survey, this is their primary opportunity to share their concerns. Due to the process's operational nature, student group feedback wasn't provided to the VPSL or Executive Committee (EC) in the past. However, this can create a gap between student concerns and the VPSL's understanding of them. I tried to close this gap by reaching out to as many student groups as possible at this year's Student Group Expo, asking whether there were any concerns I could understand and address as VP Student Life, given my oversight of student groups.

Thankfully, Darryl was receptive to the VPSL having a report on the state of student groups, so that future ECs are aware of any concerns being shared. Darryl also mentioned that this information can be shared after the operations staff gather it in May, and then shared with EC as well. I am glad to hear this, and I hope this becomes a tradition within SAMU, as it is an important way for the executives to stay aware of student needs and concerns.



Closing Remarks

To everyone reading this, thank you for taking the time to review my report. If anything raises questions or requires clarification, please don't hesitate to reach out, whether by written question, office visit, or email. I am always happy to connect. I want to give special recognition to our Governance and Support Team (GAST) for going above and beyond during the affordability campaign. As both a student and a student leader, I am grateful for the effort put in to spread awareness and engage students in tuition increases. I was recently asked what I'm most proud of during my time as Vice President Student Life in my exit interview, and as I reflect more on it, it all boils down to being unapologetically student-first, that's what I'm most proud of. I look forward to fighting for the student voice as the Vice President External. With that, I'll leave you with a quote I recently shared with a friend who's working on something meaningful: "Don't let the idea of perfection stop you from achieving greatness." -moi

Cheers,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the initials 'AT' with a stylized flourish.

Alem D. Tesfay

VP Student Life, SAMU 2025/2026

Email: savpstudentlife@macewan.ca

Website: Alemtesfay.ca

Campus IG page: @Alem.update

Vice President report to Students' Council

[04/10/2026]

Page 5 of 5



Students' Council Report

Chief Returning Officer
April 15, 2026

RE: Outcomes of the Students' Association of MacEwan University (SAMU) 2026 Executive Committee election and 2026 Executive Committee by-election

1.0 INTRODUCTION

I, Josh Stock, was appointed as Chief Returning Officer (CRO) by the SAMU Students' Council in accordance with section 2 of the SAMU *Elections and Referenda* policy on April 16, 2025, via motion number 7.9 of that meeting. This report has been prepared and submitted in accordance with section 3 of the SAMU *Elections and Referenda* policy and in accordance with section 6 of the SAMU *Role and Responsibilities of the Chief Returning Officer* policy. A summary of the eight (8) "suggestions for future improvements" is included as an appendix at the end of this report.

2.0 PREPARATIONS

Planning for the Executive Council election began in April 2025, with the setting of the dates for the election. Most of the planning occurred in January and February 2026 via contact with the Returning Officer (RO), Alan Honey. This included a review of the Nominations Handbook and the slide deck for the All Candidates Meeting.

3.0 NOMINATIONS PERIOD

I was in occasional contact with the RO to check in on the number of candidates for each position. A total of fifteen (15) candidates put their names forward by the close of the nominations period.

Some requests for interpretation from prospective candidates were received and responded to prior to the All Candidates meeting.



3.1 Notable Decisions

One of the questions asked prior to the All Candidates meeting pertained to the prospect of two individuals appearing on the ballot with the same legal name, albeit that these individuals would be running for different positions. I reached out to Elections Canada for commentary on two scenarios where two candidates theoretically had the same legal name: the first, where two candidates with two different party affiliations (or one with a particular party affiliation and one independent) running in the same federal riding and, the second scenario, where two independent candidates running in the same federal riding. Elections Canada did not answer my second scenario, but for the first scenario, it was indicated that if the party affiliation is different, or as long as one candidate is affiliated with a party and one is an independent, that is the only distinction that appears on the ballot. It is ultimately the responsibility of the candidates who are running in the election to attempt to distinguish themselves (as they see fit) and for the voting public to educate themselves on who they are voting for. Given this clear precedent from one of the most prominent electoral agencies in the country, I conveyed to the prospective candidate that I drew a parallel between party affiliation and distinct positions on the Executive Committee. The hypothetical “two independents” scenario did not appear imminent, so I did not follow up further with Elections Canada as it was not necessary to do so. My response conveyed that a candidate for the Executive Committee can use whichever version of their legal name that they saw fit and could campaign using whichever version of their legal name they had supplied on their nomination paperwork. Additional discussions between myself and the RO were had pertaining to the addition of a note or some other addition to the ballots to note that there would be two candidates with the same name but this was ultimately decided against as adding such a note would bias the ballot by drawing attention to a particular set of candidates which would be unfair. To reiterate, the decision on this matter was not arbitrary, it was a good-faith effort to align voting practices implemented for this election with established electoral norms. Elections Canada, for example, does not require additional distinguishing markers where contextual differences, e.g., different party affiliations for two candidates with the same name, already exist and are marked. I fundamentally stand behind this decision for this election, where two candidates with the same legal name were running for two entirely separate roles – it is consistent with precedent and reasoned judgment and the decision is deliberate, made with external guidance, and maintains fairness and consistency. No appeal of this decision was made. I note the candidate who asked the question proposed using their middle initial but on receipt of their nomination paperwork, no middle initial was used – they would have been free to do so if they would have preferred.



3.2 Suggestions for Future Improvements

Historically, candidates have been permitted to use either their legal name or their preferred names for the purposes of what name appears on the ballot. I suggest some consideration be given to adding rules to what names a candidate can submit to prevent future hypothetical scenarios of undesired additions to nominations paperwork, e.g., nothing in SAMU's governing documents is preventing a candidate from (hypothetically) submitting the name 'Jane "The Best Candidate" Doe' for use on the ballot.

4.0 CAMPAIGN PERIOD

This portion of the Students' Council election process is traditionally the most intensive for CRO activity, decisions, and rulings. While section 5 of the *Role and Responsibility of the Chief Returning Officer* policy provides the CRO with the ability to respond to any requests for interpretation or approval within 24 hours, I was able to respond to most simple requests within an hour. More complex requests required consultation with the RO and other external parties but were generally responded to within the required time. Approval requests from candidates persisted throughout the entirety of the campaign period.

4.1 Notable Decisions

One (1) candidate withdrew their candidacy in writing to the RO only. As all requests of this nature are to be submitted to the CRO per section 29 of the *Elections and Referenda* procedure, that request was not actioned until submitted appropriately.

Two (2) candidates were disqualified from the election per section 18 of the *Elections and Referenda* procedure for failing to submit expense records by the deadline set out in section 17 of the *Elections and Referenda* procedure. Multiple reminders were issued throughout the campaign period.

One request for interpretation from a candidate was received on Tuesday, February 24, 2026. I conveyed my initial thoughts on a draft response to the RO for feedback within an hour of receiving the response. On Thursday, February 26, 2026, I received a follow-up from the same candidate requesting an update on the response. The RO was away sick on Wednesday, February 25, 2026, so the response with internal feedback that I had been awaiting did not materialize and I did not respond within 24 hours to the query. I responded to the candidate on Thursday, February 26, 2026, with an answer to the query and noted that the response was late and that this would be recorded in my report to Students' Council for awareness and transparency. No complaint was filed with respect to the delayed response.



Following an audit conducted on campus by the RO, one (1) written warning was issued to a candidate who has used an unauthorized type of affixation means for attaching physical posters to the glass bricks. The situation had been resolved prior to the written warning having been issued.

Six (6) complaints were responded to during the voting period. Two (2) complaints did not meet the minimum criteria for a “complete” complaint in accordance with the requirements of Section 41 of the *Elections and Referenda* procedure and was not investigated. Of the four (4) complaints investigated, two (2) were closed without action taken, one (1) resulting in follow-up action ordered pertaining to a candidate’s expense claim, and one (1) written warning was issued to a candidate who has used an unauthorized type of affixations means for attaching physical posters to the glass bricks.

Various emails were sent for review from candidates with their “observations” about other candidates. Candidates were reminded of their right to submit a complaint about the alleged conduct in accordance with the processes outlined in the *Elections and Referenda* procedure.

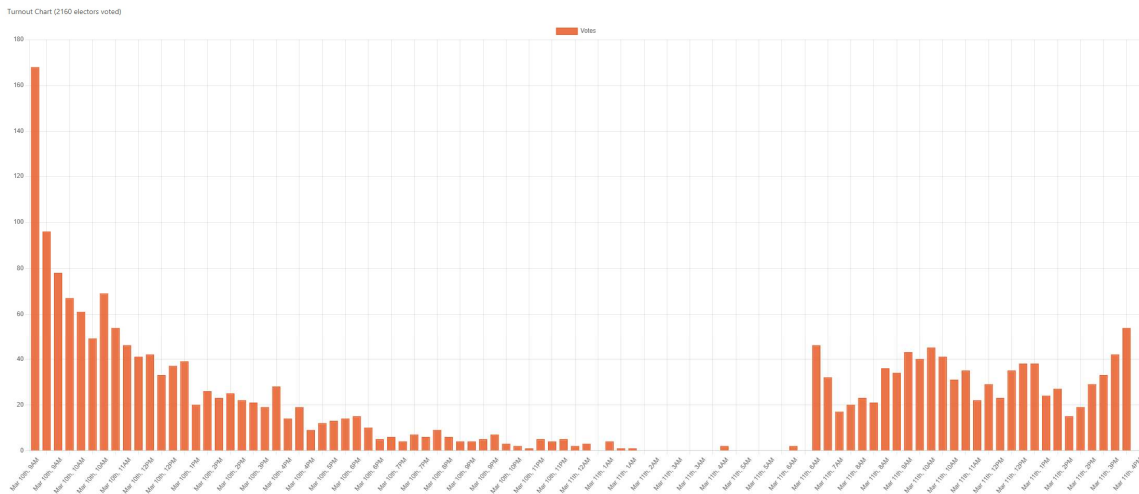
4.2 Suggestions for Future Improvements

Interpretation and approval requests have historically been submitted via email, but this process could benefit for a more robust workflow. It is suggested that the SAMU Governance Office work with the CRO and other SAMU departments to introduce a platform for such for interpretation and approval requests, e.g., a form on the SAMU website that candidates can use, etc.



5.0 VOTING DAYS

The voting software used for the election, Simply Voting, worked as programmed without any issues with the software itself. The voter turnout for the election was monitored by the RO and I throughout the voting period. A report published by the software indicates 1250 of the 2160 votes cast by General Members were recorded on the first day of voting, which is approximately 58% of the votes cast. The balance of the votes cast by General Members was recorded on the second day of voting. A "reminder" pre-programmed email was sent out on the second day of voting.



Above: Export from Simply Voting software showing when votes were cast

5.1 Notable Decisions

During an on-campus audit, it was discovered that one (1) candidate had used scotch tape to affix their physical posters to the glass bricks, which was communicated to all candidates repeatedly at the start of the campaign as not being permitted, i.e., only masking and painters' tape is permitted. The candidate in question was notified of this infraction and instructed to remove the scotch tape. It was noted that the candidate did not claim an approved fixation means on their expense report, and as the expense report deadline had lapsed, the candidate was not permitted to re-affix the physical posters using approved means as that would have been a breach of the Section 17.1 of the *Elections and Referenda* procedure, which states: "On submission of expense reports, the candidate may incur no further campaign expenses. Candidates found incurring further campaign expenses face disciplinary action from the CRO." This decision was not appealed.



Six (6) complaints were responded to during the voting period, one (1) of which was submitted prior to polls opening. One (1) complaint did not meet the minimum criteria for a “complete” complaint in accordance with the requirements of Section 41 of the *Elections and Referenda* procedure and was not investigated. Due to the complexity of the investigation required, one (1) complaint could not be responded to within 24 hours, as required by Section 43 of the *Elections and Referenda* procedure so an extension was invoked in accordance with Section 43.2 of the *Elections and Referenda* procedure. Of the five (5) investigated complaints, three (3) were closed without action taken, one (1) resulted in a written warning, and one (1) resulted in a recommendation for the SAMU Students' Group Manager to investigate what appears to be an infraction of the *Student Groups* procedure – the CRO has no authority to discipline a Student Group.

5.2 Suggestions for Future Improvements

Rules prohibiting Student Groups from endorsing candidates exist in both the *Elections and Referenda* procedure and the *Student Groups* procedure. As the CRO has no authority to discipline a Student Group, it is suggested that where this requirement is written be reviewed, i.e., it is in both the *Elections and Referenda* and the *Student Groups* procedures – should it be in both? It is also suggested that this rule be revisited as it appears to not be consistent with MacEwan University's “Free Expression on Campus Policy”.

Electronic ballots are suggested to contain verbiage reminding students who are casting their ballots to do so in private, which would be consistent with the requirements of Section 12.3 of the *Elections and Referenda* procedure which states: “Candidates and their supporters may not knowingly campaign within 5 meters of a student who is voting in order to maintain the integrity and secrecy of individual ballots.”

It appeared that there were several interpersonal conflicts at play during the campaign period (including voting days) that seems to be at the core of many complaints received. While Section 42.1 of the *Election and Referenda* procedure states that “[t]he CRO may dismiss any complaints that are frivolous, vexatious, trivial, vindictive, or unsubstantiated”, this was not acted upon. I suggest that SAMU review the prospect of partnering sessions for both the Executive Committee and Students' Council (including the Executive Committee members) to return focus to SAMU's core mandate and to try and resolve some of the interpersonal issues.



6.0 RESULTS

The unofficial results for the Executive Committee election yielded five (5) successful candidates and seven (7) unsuccessful candidates, with all positions having been contested.

The unofficial results for the Executive Committee election were ready to be issued approximately one (1) hour after the polls closed on the final day of voting, March 11, 2026.

The voter turnout for the Executive Committee election was 12.7%. For historical context, the results of the 2025, 2024, 2023, and 2022 Executive Committee elections were 20.6%, 6.3%, 15.2% and 10.0%, respectively.

6.1 Notable Decisions

In accordance with the *Elections and Referenda* procedure, the unofficial results would have become official 48 hours after the polls closed, i.e., on Friday, March 13, 2026, at 4pm. However, as the Governance Office advised two (2) appeals had been received within this window of time, and that the appeals appeared to meet the minimum threshold to be reviewed, the results were not able to be declared official. The Governance Office advised that at least one of the appeals had potential for the results of all five (5) positions to be declared invalid, so it was conveyed to all candidates that the official results for all positions were to be delayed until further notice.

A statement was requested by the Governance Office for one of the appeals to support the Governance Investigations and Reinstatement Committee (GIRC) in making a determination. This was provided.

On Wednesday, March 18, 2026, the Governance Office advised that GIRC reviewed both appeals and one (1) of the appeals had resulting in GIRC deeming that the resulting for election results for the positions of President and Vice President Governance & Finance were invalid. In accordance with the *Committees* policy, GIRC's decision is binding on SAMU. Results for the remaining three (3) positions were declared to be official.



6.2 Suggestions for Future Improvements

There do not appear to be any qualification requirements, e.g., education, experience, lack of conflict of interest (perceived or otherwise), lack of bias (perceived or otherwise), etc., with respect to the composition of students at large who serve on GIRC. Additionally, there is no review or appeal mechanism pertaining to GIRC's decisions. These points are suggested to be reviewed – currently, GIRC is a quasi-judicial body that appears to exist without checks and balances.

It is suggested that appeals of decisions of the CRO and appeals of the election results be split into two distinct type of appeals with restrictions on timelines being applied to the former.

7.0 PREPARATIONS FOR BY-ELECTION

Planning for the Executive Council by-election began immediately upon receipt of an email notification sent on March 18, 2026, from the Governance Office that a GIRC has invalidated the results of the unofficial results of the Executive Committee election for the positions of both the President and the Vice President Governance & Finance positions. I was advised of some of the particulars of GIRC's decision but was told a full report was not going to be available for another week. A by-election was declared via email notification to the affected candidates from the prior Executive Committee election and candidates were advised additional information would be forthcoming. The particulars of the by-election were circulated to all candidates on March 19, 2026.

I fundamentally disagree with GIRC's decision, but as CRO, I am mandated to comply with their decision(s), and I respect the authority GIRC has and the legitimacy empowered to GIRC via the SAMU governing documents.

7.1 Notable Decisions

While it was communicated that GIRC intended for only any candidates with the same legal name to have their middle initials added to the ballot and to campaign materials, I found that this would have given all other candidates an advantage as they would not have to modify their existing campaign materials to the same extent. Therefore, all candidates who had a middle name were instructed to supply their middle initial for use on the by-election ballot and that they would need to use their middle initial in their campaign materials.



Following a clarification from the Governance Office regarding GIRC's decision, it was understood the intent of GIRC's decision was that all prior candidates for the positions of President and Vice President Governance & Finance to automatically be the candidates for this by-election, i.e., that a nominations period not be needed and no additional SAMU General Members would be eligible to nominate themselves for the by-election.

The *Committees* policy outlines that the rules for by-elections be the same as traditional elections except for rules pertaining to timelines. Acknowledging that running a long campaign is a very stressful experience for candidates, especially on the heels of an earlier campaign two weeks prior, and in accordance with recent precedence, I communicated to all candidates that the voting period was to be one (1) day, March 25, 2026, from 9am to 4pm. Similarly, the timelines for a compressed campaign period were communicated to all candidates.

Physical campaign materials were the cause of several complaints during the prior Executive Committee election. To attempt to minimize complaints, only physical posters, physical banners, and social media were permitted for use for campaign material.

7.2 Suggestions for Future Improvements

There is no formal channel of communication between GIRC and the CRO. When GIRC invalidates election results, the CRO needs to be informed in a timely manner of the decision and any additional conditions under which the by-election is to be conducted under. It is suggested that a condensed timeline be implemented for GIRC to issue a report and for a process to be formalized for how the report is distributed to the CRO.

8.0 CAMPAIGN PERIOD FOR BY-ELECTION

As with the Executive Committee election, while section 5 of the *Role and Responsibility of the Chief Returning Officer* policy provides the CRO with the ability to respond to any requests for interpretation or approval within 24 hours, I was able to respond to most simple requests within an hour. Again, more complex requests required consultation with the RO and other external parties but were responded to within the required time. Approval requests from candidates persisted throughout the entirety of the campaign period for the by-election.



8.1 Notable Decisions

One candidate did not submit their expense report by the 4pm deadline on the day prior to voting. In accordance with Section 18 of the *Elections and Referenda* procedure, this candidate was disqualified.

My emailed reply to one candidate's request for an interpretation appeared to get stuck in my email outbox after I had hit send. The response was conveyed to all candidates (including the one who had initially requested the interpretation) later that day via the shared daily update to all candidates. While this is technically in accordance with the requirements of the Role and Responsibility of the *Chief Returning Officer* policy, this is a deviation from the process communicated to all candidates, i.e., that the candidate who had requested the information would receive a direct response via email. It is unclear why the email did not clear my outbox, but in any event, I noted that this would be recorded in my report to Students' Council for awareness and transparency. No complaint was filed with respect to the delayed email response.

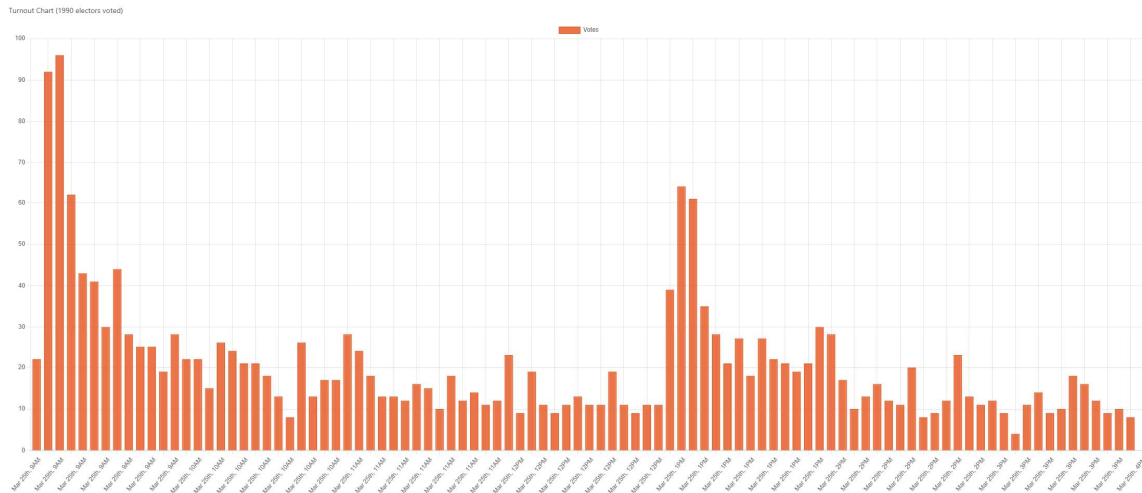
Two (2) complaints were responded to during the campaign period. One (1) complaint did not meet the minimum criteria for a "complete" complaint in accordance with the requirements of Section 41 of the *Elections and Referenda* procedure and was not investigated. One (1) complaint resulted in a recommendation for the SAMU Students' Group Manager to investigate what appears to be an infraction of the *Student Groups* procedure – again, the CRO has no authority to discipline a Student Group.

8.2 Suggestions for Future Improvements

None.

9.0 VOTING DAY FOR BY-ELECTION

The voting software used for the election, Simply Voting, worked as programmed without any issues with the software itself. The voter turnout for the election was monitored by the RO and I throughout the voting period. A "reminder" pre-programmed email was sent out at 1pm on the day of voting, resulting in a "spike" of votes cast.



Above: Export from Simply Voting software showing when votes were cast

9.1 Notable Decisions

In accordance with the suggestion for consideration listed in an earlier section of this report, email notifications for electronic ballots were updated to contain verbiage reminding students who are casting their ballots to do so in private, which would be consistent with the requirements of Section 12.3 of the *Elections and Referenda* procedure which states: "Candidates and their supporters may not knowingly campaign within 5 meters of a student who is voting in order to maintain the integrity and secrecy of individual ballots".

9.2 Suggestions for Future Improvements

None.

10.0 RESULTS OF BY-ELECTION

The unofficial results for the Executive Committee by-election yielded two (2) successful candidates and three (3) unsuccessful candidates, with both positions having been contested.

The unofficial results for the Executive Committee election were ready to be issued approximately thirty (30) minutes after the polls closed on the day of voting, March 25, 2026.

The voter turnout for the Executive Committee election was 11.7%. Which was slightly lower than the voter turnout for the Executive Committee election (12.7%) held two weeks prior and held over two days, as opposed to one.



10.1 Notable Decisions

The *Committees* policy outlines that the rules for by-elections be the same as traditional elections except for rules pertaining to timelines. I communicated to all candidates that the time allowance for appeals to be submitted was 24 hours, as opposed to 48 hours outlined in Section 44 of the *Elections and Referenda* procedure.

No appeals were received by the Governance Office. The results of the Executive Committee by-election were declared official at 4pm on March 26, 2026.

10.2 Suggestions for Future Improvements

None.

11.0 CONCLUDING REMARKS

As always, thank you to the RO, and to the people who worked in the election and the by-election.

In accordance with section 3.1 of the SAMU *Elections and Referenda* policy, I will attend the Students' Council meeting at which this report is presented to answer questions on the content of this report or any other relevant topics.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Josh Stock', is written over a white background.

Josh Stock
Chief Returning Officer



APPENDIX: SUMMARY OF SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE IMPROVEMENTS

As a reminder, none of these suggestions are binding on SAMU. I believe the Executive Committee and the Procedure Sub-Committee and the Governance Office are best tasked with reviewing these suggestions.

Suggestion #1

Historically, candidates have been permitted to use either their legal name or their preferred names for the purposes of what name appears on the ballot. I suggest some consideration be given to adding rules to what names a candidate can submit to prevent future hypothetical scenarios of undesired additions to nominations paperwork, e.g., nothing in SAMU's governing documents is preventing a candidate from (hypothetically) submitting the name 'Jane "The Best Candidate" Doe' for use on the ballot.

Suggestion #2

Interpretation and approval requests have historically been submitted via email, but this process could benefit for a more robust workflow. It is suggested that the SAMU Governance Office work with the CRO and other SAMU departments to introduce a more robust workflow for interpretation and approval requests, e.g., a form on the SAMU website, etc.

Suggestion #3

Rules prohibiting Student Groups from endorsing candidates exist in both the *Elections and Referenda* procedure and the *Student Groups* procedure. As the CRO has no authority to discipline a Student Group, it is suggested that where this requirement is written be reviewed. It is also suggested that this rule be revisited as it appears to not be consistent with MacEwan University's "Free Expression on Campus Policy".

Suggestion #4

Electronic ballots are suggested to contain verbiage reminding students who are casting their ballots to do so in private, which would be consistent with the requirements of Section 12.3 of the *Elections and Referenda* procedure which states: "Candidates and their supporters may not knowingly campaign within 5 meters of a student who is voting in order to maintain the integrity and secrecy of individual ballots."

Suggestion #5

It appeared that there were several interpersonal conflicts at play during the campaign period (including voting days) that seems to be at the core of many complaints received. While Section 42.1 of the *Election and Referenda* procedure states that "[t]he CRO may dismiss any complaints that are frivolous, vexatious, trivial, vindictive, or unsubstantiated", this was not acted upon. I suggest that SAMU review the prospect of partnering sessions for both the Executive Committee and Students' Council (including the Executive Committee members) to return focus to SAMU's core mandate and to try and resolve some of the interpersonal issues.



Suggestion #6

There do not appear to be any qualification requirements, e.g., education, experience, lack of conflict of interest (perceived or otherwise), lack of bias (perceived or otherwise), etc., with respect to the composition of students at large who serve on GIRC. Additionally, there is no review or appeal mechanism pertaining to GIRC's decisions. These points are suggested to be reviewed – currently GIRC is a quasi-judicial body that appears to exist without checks and balances.

Suggestion #7

It is suggested that appeals of decisions of the CRO and appeals of the election results be split into two distinct type of appeals with restrictions on timelines being applied to the former.

Suggestion #8

There is no formal channel of communication between GIRC and the CRO. When GIRC invalidates election results, the CRO needs to be informed in a timely manner of the decision and any additional conditions under which the by-election is to be conducted under. It is suggested that a condensed timeline be implemented for GIRC to issue a report and for a process to be formalized for how the report is distributed to the CRO.

**Executive Committee Work Plan 2025-2026
For Information to Students Council**

Chaired By:	Nathan Poon, President
Members:	Chioma Uzor, Vice President Academic Wilfrid Youbi Fansi, Vice President External Andrei Santiago, Vice President Governance & Finance Alem Tesfay, Vice President Student Life
Mandate:	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.
Approved by Committee:	December 10, 2025
Received by Council:	April 15 2026

WORK PLAN UPDATES

EC reviewed their workplan for the final time of their term, items that were not completely wrapped up have been marked as Recommended to Continue based on the current EC work.

Pres: Food Insecurity Initiatives: permanent low-cost food option is now available for remainder of Winter term, looking at continuing it into next year, acting as a pilot during the winter term. Working on Ombuds proposal to submit to MacEwan.

VPA: No Cost Textbook Indicator launched March 9 allowing students to see what classes utilize OER's for learning materials and not costly textbooks.

VPE: Government of Alberta invested 20million to a youth employment incentive over the next 3years, VPE spoke at the last infill meeting, and the downtown student housing incentive was passed at city council encouraging more affordable student housing to be built in the upcoming years. Canada Student Grant has been maintained for the upcoming year after potentially being cut down to pre-pandemic levels.

VPGF: Medical Clinic fee was reduced to \$5 in the winter 2025 term, alongside tech fee being waived in the 2026/27 year due to MNIF compliance advocacy. MacEwan does not want to establish a sustainable year-over-year more formal process for both in-year allocations and budget allocations. MacEwan allocated additional \$900,000 into bursaries in Winter 2026 as part of in-year allocation from MacEwan. MacEwan budget passed and included an additional \$4.5million in SAB's that was not initially earmarked for SAB's.

VPSL: Brought external start up housing company to EC for a presentation on services. Athletics survey went live and data was analyzed and disseminated to MacEwan sport and wellness to help increase awareness and athletics culture at MacEwan.

ADVOCACY

Topic	Food Insecurity
EC Lead	President
Current Impact to Students	External factors outside of students' control, such as inflation and the rising cost of living have inundated MacEwan students and the post-secondary sector across Alberta and Canada. As per the Spring Annual Survey and student focus groups, food insecurity remains a significant issue across the student body. Students who face financial concerns often sacrifice eating as a means to sustain the cost of their education, resulting in weaker physical and mental health.
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Advocate for more initiatives on campus to tackle food insecurity including but not limited to, the inclusion of more university-led food pop-up markets and cooking classes in the 2025/26 and 2026/27 academic years, <li style="padding-left: 20px;">- working with other non-profits and private sector to support food security initiatives (?) - the inclusion of a permanent, sustainable, affordable food option, akin to the University of Calgary and University of Victoria's food programs, all while continuing to pursue and measure student feedback with quantitative and qualitative data.
Strategic Alignment	Student Voice: 2.1, 2.4 Student Supports: 3.3, 3.4
Status	Completed
Topic	Sustainable In-Year Allocation Process
EC Lead	President
Current Impact to Students	Students continue to be inundated with the rising cost of living and the rising cost of education. Coupled with external factors such as rampant inflation, many students at MacEwan have entered an affordability crisis, establishing a sustainable in-year allocation process will ensure that when MacEwan has surpluses SAMU can have a say in how in-year surpluses are spent.
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establish a consistent in-year allocation process with MacEwan
Strategic Alignment	Student Voice: 2.1, 2.4 Student Supports: 3.1, 3.3
Status	Cancelled
Topic	External Stakeholder Partnerships
EC Lead	President
Current Impact to Students	As we have ceased our membership with the Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS) and have entered an observer year with the Canadian Alliance of Students' Associations (CASA), it is crucial to build sustainable avenues for advocacy. It is imperative that we build and further relationships with External Stakeholders at a municipal, provincial, and federal level, as well as other Students' Associations, and organizations to expand advocacy efforts.
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strengthening external partnerships with other Students' Associations and the non-profit sector to expand advocacy efforts

Strategic Alignment	Student Voice: 2.1, 2.3, 2.4 Student Supports 3.3, 3.4
Status	Completed to Date
Topic	Student Initiatives and Programs Advocacy
EC Lead	President
Current Impact to Students	Cuts to provincial university funding pre-COVID and stagnant operating grant funding have led to a variety of programs and student initiative funding being either underfunded or cut by the university. An example of this is the removal of MacEwan University's Ombudsman Office, or the removal/set-back of key student initiative funding.
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Advocate to MacEwan University for funding to support pre-existing program infrastructure such as the MacEwan Ombuds Office, - Advocate for more financial and grant supports from MacEwan University for student initiatives, - Advocate for an increase in provincial operating grant funding
Strategic Alignment	Student Voice: 2.4 Student Supports: 3.3
Status	Recommend to Continue Advocacy
Topic	Open Educational Resources Advocacy
EC Lead	Vice President Academic
Current Impact to Students	In 2025, rising textbook tariffs increase costs by 5–20%, making it harder for low-income students to afford required materials. Many prioritize essential expenses like rent and groceries over buying textbooks. Lack of awareness about free Open Educational Resources (OERs) further limits access to affordable options.
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure open and clear communication of affordable textbook options to students - Advocating for a learning materials fund similar to the textbook affordability award offered in Winter 2025 semester - MacEwan Library expands its OER database while streamlining the process for instructors to upload, customize, and create OERs. - Automatic textbook billing is dropped; MacEwan University retreats from implementing additional forms of automated textbook billing
Strategic Alignment	Student Voice: 2.4 Student Supports: 3.1, 3.3, 3.4
Status	Recommend to Continue Advocacy
Topic	Student Charter / Accessible Student Rights Advocacy
EC Lead	Vice President Academic
Current Impact to Students	As MacEwan's campus grows, students may face challenges requiring dispute resolution. Easy access to their rights is essential but often lacking. Many students are unsure who to contact or whether their rights are being upheld. The current website is cluttered and difficult to navigate. This confusion can lead students to give up before resolving their issues.

Objective	Gain support through various committees, and ultimately have MacEwan adopt the Guideline of Rights as a policy. Make these changes accessible for students to find on the MacEwan Website
Strategic Alignment	Student Voice: 2.1, 2.4 Student Supports: 3.2, 3.3, 3.4
Status	Recommend to Continue Advocacy
Topic	Course Scheduling and Requirements Advocacy
EC Lead	Vice President Academic
Current Impact to Students	Students struggle to declare majors/minors on time due to full courses and unclear alternatives like visiting other institutions. Academic advising is inconsistent, leading students to seek help elsewhere. This results in missed opportunities and delayed graduation, often requiring an extra semester to complete required courses.
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Changes to the visiting student system, allowing late-stage students to take courses at other institutions with priority - Clear communication to students regarding visiting student requirements
Strategic Alignment	Student Voice: 2.1, 2.4 Student Supports: 3.1, 3.2, 3.3
Status	Initial Stages
Topic	Provincial Student Affordability Advocacy
EC Lead	Vice President External
Current Impact to Students	Students are facing an affordability crisis and need additional non repayable funding like grants or increased access to monies during the school year as cost of living grows in tandem with tuition.
Objective	Increase student financial aid including non-repayable grants and increase base funding for student aid
Strategic Alignment	Student Voice: 2.3 Student Supports: 3.4
Status	Recommend to Continue Advocacy
Topic	Increased Newcomer Supports Through Coordination at the Municipal Level
EC Lead	Vice President External
Current Impact to Students	Newcomers or international students are often dropped into the country with no support and are not adequately informed of options available to them for supports within university to connect them with municipal supports
Objective	Ensuring Newcomers get the support they need when they need it with welcome packages and events to gain connections early on.
Strategic Alignment	Student Voice: 2.4 Student Supports: 3.1, 3.2, 3.3
Status	Recommend to Continue Advocacy

Topic	Expansion of Work Placement Programs for Students
EC Lead	Vice President External
Current Impact to Students	Students are unable to find work that is applicable to their degree. They find little in options for summer work that goes towards experience for work after graduation.
Objective	- Advocate for diversified allocations to summer job program through province so students can more easily find work opportunities
Strategic Alignment	Student Voice: 2.3 Student Supports: 3.1, 3.2,
Status	Recommend to Continue Advocacy
Topic	Student Affordability in Housing
EC Lead	Vice President External
Current Impact to Students	Students that are in the midst of the Affordability crisis worry about rent costs in addition
Objective	- Create an advocacy package to detail potential implementations of basic rent control solutions or expanded social housing program so students can find affordable and appropriate housing in areas that are accessible to university without worrying about slum lords or bad faith landlords
Strategic Alignment	Student Voice: 2.3 Student Supports 3.1
Status	Recommend to Continue Advocacy
Topic	Municipal Election Debate/Forum
EC Lead	Vice President External
Current Impact to Students	Leading up to a municipal election there is a current disconnect between elected officials and constituents. Lack of awareness of municipal impacts on a student's day to day.
Objective	- Present students with a chance to bring questions to elected officials and opportunity to network with other officials who attend the event. - encourage voting in municipal election
Strategic Alignment	Student Voice: 2.3
Status	Completed
Topic	In-Year Allocation and Budget Advocacy
EC Lead	Vice President Governance & Finance

Current Impact to Students	Rising living costs and tuition fees are major barriers to students' access to post-secondary education. This leads to food insecurity, financial instability, and reduced academic performance. The combined effects of these hurdles are detrimental to students' physical and mental health.
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Submitting In-Year Allocation and Budget Proposals that meet student need and help alleviate the cost of education. - Developing a sustainable in-year allocation and budget proposal process in collaboration with MacEwan University
Strategic Alignment	<p style="text-align: center;">Student Voice: 2.1 Student Supports: 3.1, 3.3</p>
Status	Completed
Topic	Mandatory Non-Instructional Fee (MNIF) Advocacy
EC Lead	Vice President Governance & Finance
Current Impact to Students	Students are paying Mandatory Non-Instructional Fees that students are not able to completely take advantage of for varying reasons, and with the current affordability crisis, it is imperative to have certain fees be reduced, waived, or eliminated completely in the essence of student affordability.
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Waiving of the Tech Fee for the upcoming academic year - Removal of the Tech fee for all students and allocating the remaining funds to other student-centered initiatives - Evaluate MNIF's from a service provided for cost of service perspective and push to improve quality of services for students, or a reduction in the cost of service.
Strategic Alignment	<p style="text-align: center;">Student Voice: 2.4 Student Supports: 3.2, 3.3</p>
Status	Recommend to Continue Advocacy
Topic	Scholarships, Awards and Bursaries (SAB's) Advocacy
EC Lead	Vice President Governance & Finance
Current Impact to Students	Scholarships, Awards, and Bursaries are one of the key financial supports that students have access to in their academic journey. Given that these SAB's are provided on the basis of academic excellence, community service, and financial need, greater emphasis should be placed on rewarding excellence through various means to ensure that our students can be successful and well supported in their academic journey.
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Red tape reduction for the bursary application processes to address and alleviate student concerns - Push for more funds to be allocated to scholarships, awards and bursaries.
Strategic Alignment	Student Supports 3.1, 3.3
Status	Recommend to Continue Advocacy
Topic	Student Housing Affordability
EC Lead	Vice President Student Life

Current Impact to Students	Due to increased demand, MacEwan Residence recently limited housing to MacEwan students, causing wait times for placement. With rising downtown housing costs, students face higher rents, longer commutes, or poor-quality living conditions. These factors negatively affect their overall student experience.
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Advocate to explore partnerships and housing strategies with internal and external stakeholders - Explore the creation of a grant or bursary program for students struggling with affordable housing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Advocate for residency rent freeze
Strategic Alignment	Student Support: 3.1, 3.4
Status	Recommend to Continue Advocacy
Topic	Enhancing Athletics Awareness
EC Lead	Vice President Student Life
Current Impact to Students	Low attendance at Griffins games reflects weak student support for athletics at MacEwan, impacting team morale and school spirit. This decline in campus culture can deter recruits and contributes to underperformance. The result may be reduced enrollment, transfers, or and overall student retention
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Measure and Identify barriers to participation in athletics on campus, work to address and mitigate these barriers through internal and External Advocacy
Strategic Alignment	Student Experience and Engagement: 1.3
Status	Completed
Topic	Advocating for PD Opportunities
EC Lead	Vice President Student Life
Current Impact to Students	Many students face a gap between what they currently know and what they are expected to know when it comes to essential aspects of adulthood. These areas include cooking, taxes, driver's education, personal finance, and public speaking—skills that are crucial for independence but often not formally taught.
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Advocate for MacEwan to host a series of events or workshops that address student need in good life skills to have - Explore opportunities within SAMU to bridge some of these gaps identified by students
Strategic Alignment	Student Experience and Engagement: 1.3 Student Supports: 3.1, 3.3, 3.4
Status	Completed
Topic	SAMU Grant Funding
EC Lead	Vice President Student Life
Current Impact to Students	There has been a significant increase in the student body, however, that increase in the student body should be reflected in the dollar amount and number of grants such as Personal Development Grant (PD) and Events grant. The more PD grants there are, the more

	opportunities there will be for students to attend conferences and educational opportunities. The increase in Events Grant will allow more student groups to host events giving less strain on the 60/40 annual funding allocation model
Objective	- To meet where students are at: more PD grants, higher amount for PD grants and amendments to the Grants and awards Procedure
Strategic Alignment	Student Supports 3.1
Status	Completed

GOVERNANCE OVERSIGHT

Topic	Strategic Plan
EC Lead	Vice President Governance & Finance
Strategic Alignment	Strengthening SAMU Operations: 4.1, 4.5
Objective	SAMU's strategic plan expires in 2026, and a new strategic plan needs to be in the works to replace the current plan.
Key Details	Lead predominately by the General Manager with Executive Oversight and student leader input.
Status	Ongoing

Topic	SC Training & Refresher
EC Lead	Vice President Governance & Finance
Strategic Alignment	Strengthening SAMU Operations: 4.2, 4.5
Objective	Required per policy, it ensures that members of our governing board are knowledgeable about governance and SAMU
Key Details	Lead and planned predominately by operational staff with Executive Oversight Dates: September 25 2025 (Completed) April 25 2026 (Ongoing)
Status	Ongoing

Topic	SAMU 2026/27 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 2025

Status	Completed
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	Date: February 4 th 2026
Status	Completed



Students' Council Report

Quarterly 3 Audit Committee Report April 15, 2026

Audit Committee Members:

Elizabeth Russell, Councillor
Moselle Namoc, Councillor
Christian Galera, Councillor
Angela Zeballos, Student-at-large
Nikhil Duggal, Student-at-large

Committee Resource Officials:

Cameron Whiting, Senior Finance Manager
Michelle Malin, Resource Official

Greetings Council,

This is the report from the Audit Committee for the reporting period from January 1, 2026, through March 31, 2026 (Quarter 3). This committee met once this quarter, in February.

During the February meeting, the Audit Committee addressed the reconciliation of the data corruption issue from October 2025. We also reviewed the Q2 variances and, as always, the EC Credit Cards/TOIL/Vacation/Sick time to ensure fiscal responsibility of student fees. Finally, we reviewed the CRA remittances.

If you have any questions or comments, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Best,

Elizabeth Russell

Audit Committee Chair, SAMU 2025/26
russelle9@mymacewan.ca



Students' Council Report

Quarterly Report: **Strategy and Engagement Committee**

SC Meeting Date: April 15th, 2026

<u>Committee Members:</u>	<u>November 1st - October 31st 2026</u>
Alem Tesfay,	VP Student Life (Chair)
Andrei Santiago,	VP Governance & Finance
Tolu Dare,	Student Councillor
Dalya Abougoush,	Student Councillor
Moselle Namoc	Student Councillor
Shine Estigoy,	Student-at-Large
Alek Kosoric,	Student-at-Large

Greetings Council,

This is the Strategy and Engagement Committee (SEC) report for the reporting period of January 15th 2026 to April 15th, 2026 (Q3 2025-2026)

In the past quarter, the report noted that the SEC committee briefly discussed the timeline for the Toastmasters PD opportunity at the 2025 final meeting. At the beginning of this year, I executed on that timeline. I planned and organized the Toastmasters PD opportunity with the help of SAMU staff and our guest from the Paragon Toastmasters club, who facilitated the session at the chambers. From what I heard from the students in attendance, which included councillors' and a student-at-large, the response was positive, so I am hoping this is a tradition we continue in future years.



We met once this quarter, and in my many years on the Student Council, this was one of the most productive meetings, if not the most productive I have ever been on in SEC. The committee not only decided to do a team-building activity for this semester but also planned a Professional Development (PD) session for the next academic year, with factors such as inclusivity, timing, and capacity considered, which led to a deliberation process for that PD. The team-building opportunity was thorough, and I want to thank this committee for its engagement in the meeting. For team building, the committee unanimously decided to hold an activity after the students' council refresher this year, with poll options sent to the Students Council for voting. We also unanimously decided on an exciting PD opportunity that involved MacEwan Careers and Experience. I leave it at that for now. I don't want to spoil the title of the PD opportunity, but it's going to be really good! That being said, as the chair of this committee I'm really proud of the year I have had, both with the incoming and outgoing committee members, and look forward to the amazing things y'all will do under the leadership of my successor. If anything in this report raises questions, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Cheers,

Alem D. Tesfay

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the initials 'AT' with a stylized flourish.

VP Student Life, SAMU 2025/2026

savpstudentlife@macewan.ca

alemntesfay.ca

Campus IG page: [Alem.update](#)s



**Minutes for the Executive Committee Meeting of the
Students' Association of MacEwan University
March 11, 2026 @ 2:00pm**

Voting Members:

Nathan Poon, President (Chair)
Chioma Uzor, VP Academic
Wilfrid Youbi Fansi, VP External
Andrei Santiago, VP Governance & Finance
Alem Tesfay, 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

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:
**VPA/VPSL
CARRIED**
4. Approval of Minutes for: [March 4, 2026](#)
**VPA/VPGF
CARRIED**

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION/MOTION
1. Student Groups	Vpsl -	Motion To approve the Faith Amplified student group Vpsl/Vpgf carried
2. SC Presentation	Vpgf -	Motion To approve a 2026/2027 SAMU budget presentation at the March 18, 2026 Students' Council meeting

			Vpgf/Vpsl carried
3.	Outstanding Action Items		

5. Adjournment
VPGF
CARRIED

Time: 2:20pm



**Minutes for the Executive Committee Meeting of the
Students' Association of MacEwan University
March 18, 2026 @ 2:00pm**

Voting Members:

Nathan Poon, President (Chair)
Chioma Uzor, VP Academic
Wilfrid Youbi Fansi, VP External
Andrei Santiago, VP Governance & Finance
Alem Tesfay, 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

1. Call to Order: 2:02pm
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.

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3. Approval of Agenda:
**VPSL/VPGF
CARRIED**
4. Approval of Minutes for: March 11, 2026
**VPGF/VPSL
CARRIED**

TOPIC		DISCUSSION	ACTION/MOTION
1.	Student Groups	Vpsl -	MOTION TO APPROVE THE PAKISTANI STUDENT NETWORK STUDENT GROUP VPSL/VPGF CARRIED
2.	Teaching Awards Adjudication Committee	IAA – need to appoint a student to this committee as the timelines are in conflict with members of EC schedules.	MOTION TO APPOINT MANOJNA TUMMA TO THE TEACHING

	Appointment		AWARDS ADJUDICATION COMMITTEE DURING THE 2025/2026 ACADEMIC CYCLE AND TO PROVIDE AN HONOURARIUM OF UP TO \$225.00 FROM G/L 524100 AS A COMMITTEE HONOURARIUM VPGF/VPSL CARRIED
3.	Outstanding Action Items		
4.	VP Governance & Finance's Report	Policy work. Special BOG meeting attendance. FPI meeting attendance. SC – presentation & report work. Finance Committee meeting yesterday.	
5.	VP Student Life's Report	The Griff interview re. UWill. Connected with Brian from MacEwan Alumni.	
6.	VP Academic's Report	Tabled.	
7.	VP External's Report	Provincial budget – update provided. SAMRU joint letter re affordability. Meeting with Michael Janz tomorrow. CASA AGM next week.	
8.	President's Report	The Griff interview re affordability. SoB building tour. Pride Week opening ceremony. Campus Planning Committee. (closed session) Alumni Advisory Council meeting.	
9.	GM Report	Conference update provided. Lawyer update.	MOTION TO GO IN CAMERA VPGF/VPSL CARRIED MOTION TO GO OUT OF CAMERA VPGF/VPSL CARRIED
10.	Recognition		

5. Adjournment
Time: 2:28pm



Voting Members:

- Nathan Poon, President (absent)
- Chioma Uzor, VP Academic
- Wilfrid Youbi Fansi, VP External (absent)
- Andrei Santiago, VP Governance & Finance (Chair)
- Alem Tesfay, 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

1. Call to Order: 2:37pm
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.

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3. Approval of Agenda:
**VPSL/VPA
CARRIED**
4. Approval of Minutes for: March 18, 2026
**VPSL/VPA
CARRIED**

TOPIC		DISCUSSION	ACTION/MOTION
1.	AVP Campus Services Hiring Panel	IAA - 2 applicants for this hiring panel – need to submit appointment today. We'll approve an honourarium next week.	MOTION TO APPOINT SHINA ADESHINA TO THE AVP CAMPUS SERVICES HIRING PANEL

			VPA/VPSL CARRIED
2.	Tech Fee	<p>IAA – Pres & Vpe have been reached out to about the ‘donation’. Just want to flag, and ensure we’re on the same page, that this isn’t technically a donation. Many reasons it shouldn’t be considered a donation, and we shouldn’t accept naming rights. This is student money going toward tech in the new business building.</p> <p>GM – this was a decision of the Tech Fee committee years ago.</p> <p>VPGF – for transparency, is there a way to ensure students know about this decision of the committee.</p>	<p>Action:</p> <p>Pres to respond to MacEwan that this is not a SAMU donation.</p>
3.	Outstanding Action Items		
4.	Recognition		

5. Adjournment

**VPA
CARRIED**

Time: 2:54pm



Voting Members:

Nathan Poon, President (Chair)
Chioma Uzor, VP Academic
Wilfrid Youbi Fansi, VP External
Andrei Santiago, VP Governance & Finance (absent)
Alem Tesfay, 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

1. Call to Order: 2:30pm
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.

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3. Approval of Agenda:

VPA/VPSL

MOTION

TO ADD 4.0 CASA TO AGENDA

VPE/VPSL

CARRIED

CARRIED

4. Approval of Minutes for: March 25, 2025
VPA/VPE
CARRIED

TOPIC		DISCUSSION	ACTION/MOTION
1.	Metrics Presentation	Carl/ Megan	MOTION TO RECESS FOR 10 MIN VPA/PRES CARRIED
2.	2026 SC Refresher	Parvin/Alan – agenda provided FYI.	Called to order at 3:37pm.
3.	AVP Campus Services Hiring Panel Honorarium	IAA – dollar value provided is based on the precedent of rate for Hiring Panels, and an estimated 10 hours for the entire panel.	MOTION TO PROVIDE SHINA ADESHINA WITH AN HONORARIUM OF UP TO \$250.00 FROM G/L LINE 524100 TO RECOGNIZE WORK ON COMMITTEE VPA/VPE CARRIED
4.	CASA		MOTION TO GO IN CAMERA VPA/VPSL CARRIED MOTION TO GO OUT OF CAMERA VPSL/VPA CARRIED Action: Add topic to next week's agenda
5.	Outstanding Action Items		
6.	VP Student Life's Report	AVP Candidate meeting. Met with Shandelle. Shoppertrack meeting (with VPGF/GM). GAASC update. GFC meeting.	
7.	VP Academic's Report	Committee on Academic Quality Assurance meeting. Committee on Academic Curriculum & Calendar meeting. GFC meeting.	
8.	VP External's Report	CASA conference last week. Met with Michael Janz (city councillor). John Morgan (city councillor) meeting.	
9.	VP Governance & Finance's	tabled	

	Report		
10.	President's Report	John Morgan & Michael Janz meetings. Alumni Gift deliberation. BOG event last week. MacEwan budget passed. SAMU Awards night. Met with MacEwan President. PVP meeting – all EC.	
11.	GM Report	MacEwan's Banner policy. Business building update. Comedy show update. Finance/CPA update.	MOTION TO GO IN CAMERA VPE/VPA CARRIED MOTION TO GO OUT OF CAMERA VPA/VPSL CARRIED
12.	Recognition		

5. Adjournment
Time: 4:45pm



STUDENTS' COUNCIL MEETING SUBMISSION

AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION

Meeting Date	Submitted By
April 15, 2026	Andrei Santiago, Vice President Governance and Finance

Agenda Item Title	Committee Appointments
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Action Requested	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Motion	<input type="checkbox"/> Consultation Item
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AGENDA ITEM DETAILS

Motion Title	<p>Motion to appoint Councillor _____ to the Audit Committee, effective May 1, 2026, for a term ending October 31, 2026</p> <p>Motion to appoint Councillor _____ to the Governance Committee for a term ending October 31, 2026</p>
Background Information	<p>With the recent resignation of Councillor Ravelo and Councillor Russell being elected as the incoming VP Student Life, there are vacancies on the Audit and Governance Committees.</p> <p>The Audit Committee vacancy will be effective May 1, as Councillor Russell will remain on the committee until April 30, 2026</p> <p>The Governance Committee vacancy should be filled immediately.</p> <p>The Terms of Reference for both committees has been included in the agenda for you review.</p>
Alternative Considerations	N/A
Risk Management Considerations	N/A
Strategic Alignment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Attached Strategic Alignment Checklist is complete</i>

Implications	Full committees are able to do their work while providing a greater diversity of student voices.
Related Documents	Committees policy - committee TORs.
Follow Up Action	n/a
Review History	n/a

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
Student Experience & Engagement			
The overall student experience is enhanced by the opportunities provided by SAMU.	<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"/>
Student Voice			
The Student Voice is amplified by SAMU.	<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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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"/>
Student Supports			
Student supports provided by SAMU are responsive to unique and evolving needs.	<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"/>
Strengthening SAMU Operations			
SAMU is an innovative and sustainable organization with an engaging work environment.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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"/>



Audit Committee

Mandate

1. Audit Committee assists Students' Council in fulfilling its financial oversight responsibilities.

Authority

2. Audit Committee is granted unrestricted access to SAMU information relating to its mandate or to the roles of the committee.

Roles of Committee

3. Audit Committee monitors, evaluates, advises, and makes recommendations on:
 - 3.1. matters affecting external, internal, or special audits;
 - 3.2. policies and practices related to internal controls; and
 - 3.3. compliance with legal, statutory, and regulatory requirements.

Standing Orders

4. Audit Committee reviews Executive spending and work, vacation, and sick hours quarterly.
5. Audit Committee reviews budget variances quarterly.
6. Audit Committee reviews out-of-budget and exceptional authorizations or expenses.
7. Audit Committee reviews compliance with recommendations made by SAMU's auditors.
8. Audit committee may add to its work plan any item of concern relating to its mandate or roles which has been brought to its attention by committee members, Councillors, Executives, SAMU staff, SAMU members, or SAMU's auditors.
 - 8.1. The identity of any individual who brings a concern before Audit Committee is kept confidential and is not disclosed during Audit Committee investigations, in minutes or in reports.

Composition

9. The voting members of Audit Committee are three Councillors and two students-at-large.
 - 9.1. If voting positions of the Audit Committee cannot be populated by Councillors, students-at-large will fill the remaining positions.
 - 9.2. Preference will be given to students-at-large with financial experience.
10. The resource officials of Audit Committee are a public member with professional accounting experience and a full-time staff member of the Finance Department.

11. No SAMU official with signing authority may serve on Audit Committee.
12. Any Councillor is entitled to attend a committee meeting in a non-voting capacity.

Committee Operations

13. Audit Committee selects a Chair from among the Councillors on the committee.
14. Regular quarterly meetings of Audit Committee are held once per fiscal quarter, on dates determined at the first meeting following the initial appointment of Councillors to committees.
 - 14.1. Voting members who fail to attend a regular quarterly meeting are automatically removed from the committee.
15. The Committee Chair may call additional meetings as required.



Governance Committee

Mandate

1. The Governance Committee ensures the relevance and consistency of SAMU Bylaws and Policy and assists in governance process development.

Roles of Committee

2. The Governance Committee ensures the proper and timely review of SAMU Bylaws and Policy.
 - 2.1. The Governance Committee utilizes the policy review regulations set in the Governing Documents Policy.
3. The Governance Committee may recommend amendments to a current bylaws or policies.
4. The Governance Committee may create new policies.
5. The Governance Committee ensures the alignment of Policy with the SAMU Bylaws, Vision, and Mission.
6. The Governance Committee consults with SAMU staff in the course of its deliberations where the creation and revision of policies affects department operations.
7. The Governance Committee may be consulted regarding process development for Students' Council and the Executive Committee.

Composition

8. The voting members of Governance Committee are the Vice President Governance and Finance, two Councillors, and two students-at-large.
9. The resource official of Governance Committee is the Governance Advisor.
 - 9.1. The Governance Committee may call on the Chair of Students' Council to provide feedback or advice to the committee.
10. Any member of Students' Council is entitled to attend a committee meeting in a non-voting capacity.

Committee Operations

10. The Vice President Operations and Finance serves as Chair of Governance Committee.
11. Meetings of the Governance Committee are held at least quarterly.
12. The Committee Chair may call additional meetings as required.



STUDENTS' COUNCIL MEETING SUBMISSION

AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION

Meeting Date	Submitted By
April 15, 2026	Andrei Santiago, Vice President Governance and Finance

Agenda Item Title	SAMU Fees Policy
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Action Requested	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Motion	<input type="checkbox"/> Consultation Item
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AGENDA ITEM DETAILS

Motion Title	Motion to approve the SAMU Fees Policy
Background Information	<p>Errors were identified with respect to the SAMU Affiliate Fees as listed in this policy - edits have been made to correct these errors and bring them in line with the agreement SAMU has with MacEwan's School of Continuing Education.</p> <p>Also, the MacEwan program previously titled "University Prep" has been changed to "Academic Upgrading" so this language has been updated.</p> <p>Lastly, Appendix A was redundant so has been removed.</p>
Alternative Considerations	.
Risk Management Considerations	
Strategic Alignment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Attached Strategic Alignment Checklist is complete</i>
Implications	
Related Documents	y
Follow Up Action	n/a

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
Student Experience & Engagement			
The overall student experience is enhanced by the opportunities provided by SAMU.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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"/>
Student Voice			
The Student Voice is amplified by SAMU.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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"/>
Student Supports			
Student supports provided by SAMU are responsive to unique and evolving needs.	<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"/>
Strengthening SAMU Operations			
SAMU is an innovative and sustainable organization with an engaging work environment.	<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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

SAMU Fees

Rationale

The operations of SAMU are partially funded by fees levied on its membership as per the Post-Secondary Learning Act (Alberta). A policy is needed to define what these fees are and how they are assessed and collected.

Definitions

An **academic term** is a period of time in which classes are held. MacEwan University has three academic terms: Fall (September – December), Winter (January – April), and Spring/Summer (May – August).

Expectations

General

- 1 SAMU General Membership Fees and SAMU Affiliate Fees are collected by the Office of the University Registrar.
- 2 This policy may only be amended by Special Resolution.

General Membership Fees

- 3 SAMU assesses a General Membership Fee to students enrolled in undergraduate credit courses at MacEwan University on a per credit basis.
 - 3.1 SAMU Members are assessed to a maximum of fifteen credits per academic term.
 - 3.2 The SAMU membership fee is \$13.50 per credit in both the Fall and Winter academic terms, and \$6.75 per credit in the Spring/Summer academic term.
 - 3.2.1 The SAMU Membership Fee is \$2.50 per credit for those students whose classes only take place at the MacEwan University Ponoka site.
 - 3.3 The SAMU membership fee will increase yearly by the annual average of Alberta's CPI from December 1 to November 30 of the previous year.
 - 3.3.1 If the annual average of the CPI results in a negative number, it will be regarded as a zero percent increase.

SAMU Affiliate Fees

- 4 Upon entering a formal written agreement with MacEwan University SAMU assesses an Affiliate Fee to students enrolled in non-undergraduate credit courses at MacEwan University as defined in Appendix A.
 - 4.1 Students enrolled in the [Academic Upgrading](#) Program are assessed a fee of \$57.52 if taking one course, \$115.05 if taking two courses, and \$172.57 if taking three courses, in both the Fall and Winter academic terms.

Deleted: University Prep.

Deleted: 05

4.1.1 Students enrolled in the Academic Upgrading Program are assessed a fee of \$28.71 if taking one course, \$57.52 if taking two courses, and \$86.29 if taking three courses, in the Spring/Summer academic term.

Deleted: University Prep.

Deleted: 02

4.2 Students enrolled in the English as an Additional Language (EAL) program are assessed a fee of \$57.52 if taking one course, \$115.05 if taking two courses, and \$172.57 if taking three courses, per academic term in both the Fall and Winter terms.

Deleted: 05

4.2.1 Students enrolled in the English as an Additional Language (EAL) are assessed a fee of \$28.76 if taking one course, \$57.52 if taking two courses, and \$86.29 if taking three courses, in the Spring/Summer academic term.

4.3 Students enrolled in the School of Continuing Education International program will be assessed a fee of \$431.43 per year.

4.4 The SAMU Affiliate Fees will increase yearly by the annual average of Alberta's CPI from December 1 to November 30 of the previous year.

4.4.1 If the annual average of the CPI results in a negatives number, it will be regarded as a zero percent increase.

Dedicated Fees

5 Additional fees assessed to students must be established by referendum.



Deleted: Appendix A

1 Students enrolled in the University Prep program are assessed a fee of \$57.52 if taking one course, \$115.05 if taking two courses, and \$172.57 if taking three courses, per academic term.

2 Students enrolled in the English as an Additional Language program (EAL) are assessed a fee of \$57.52 if taking one course, \$115.05 if taking two courses, and \$172.57 if taking three courses, per academic term.

3 Students enrolled in the School of Continuing Education International program (SCE INTL) will be assessed a fee of \$517.71 per year.

4 The SAMU Affiliate Fee will increase yearly by the annual average of Alberta's CPI from December 1 to November 30 of the previous year.

5 If the annual average of the CPI results in a negatives number, it will be regarded as a zero percent increase.

Fact Sheet**Approvals:**

First Approval: April 6, 2009
Last Approval: January 29, 2025

Date of Last Review: January 29, 2025

Related Documents and Forms:**Source and Updates:**

ITEM#: UNKNOWN DATE – Policy Format created, designated Policy 26
2011-08-16-6.11 – Updated expectation 6.1
2011-03-21-5.3 – Policy updated to reflect name change of SC Policy 27.
2012-05-16-5.3 – “Executive Council” updated to “Executive Committee”
2012-11-12-6.5 – Committees updated to follow Policy 25, Committees Policy

September 5, 2013: *SAMU Fees* approved by Students' Council motion 2013-09-04-6.1. Policy updated to new format. Source material Students' Council Policy 26 – SA Fees.

October 21, 2015: *SAMU Fees* approved by Students' Council motion 2015-10-21-6.2 on the recommendation of the Bylaws and Policy Committee. Secondary Student Membership Fee increases from \$3.50/credit to \$3.85/credit beginning in the 2016/17 academic year, then increases to \$4.24/credit in the 2017/18 academic year, and then to \$4.66/credit in the 2018/19 academic year.

September 20, 2017: *SAMU Fees* approved by Students' Council motion 2017-09-20-7.4. Distance students reference removed.

January 23, 2019: *SAMU Fees* approved by Students' Council motion 2019-01-23-7.1 on the recommendation of the Budget and Finance Committee to take effect July 1, 2019. Changes include: students assessed SAMU Fee up to fifteen credits, increased from nine credits; SAMU membership fee decreased from \$13.00/credit to \$11.75/credit; future SAMU Fee will increase annually by Alberta's average CPI from previous year.

July 1, 2020: SAMU fees for 2020-2021 updated to \$11.95 based on a CPI increase of 1.7%.

June 16, 2021: *SAMU Fees* approved by Students' Council motion 2021-06-16-7.2 on the recommendation of the Budget and Finance Committee. Updated to identify that students enrolled part-time who are considered full-time by MacEwan University will be assessed SAMU Fees at a nine credit rate.

July 1, 2021: SAMU membership fees for 2021-2022 updated to \$12.09/credit based on a CPI of 1.2%.

July 1, 2022: SAMU membership fee for 2022-2023 Updated to \$12.66/credit based on a CPI of 4.7%.



Policy

July 1, 2023: SAMU membership fee for 2023-2024 updated to \$13.50/credit based on a CPI of 6.6%.

July 1, 2024: SAMU Membership fee frozen at the current rate for the 2024-2025 fiscal year based on Students' Council motion 2024-01-17-7.1.

January 29, 2025: *SAMU Fees Policy* approved by Students' Council motion 2025-01-29-7.1 on the recommendation of the Finance Committee. Changes include updating the language of General Members and SAMU Affiliates to correspond with the SAMU Bylaws and Appendix A was added. Additionally, per Students' Council motion 2026-01-29-7.2, the SAMU Membership Fee was frozen at the current rate for the 2025-2025 fiscal year.

February 19, 2025: *SAMU Fees Policy* approved by Students' Council motion 2025-02-19-7.3 on the recommendation of the Finance Committee. Changes include reducing the SAMU Fee by 50% during the Spring/Summer academic term and reducing the SAMU Fee to \$2.50/credit for students whose classes only take place on the MacEwan University Ponoka site.

March 19, 2025: *SAMU Fees Policy* approved by Students' Council motion 2025-03-19-7.6 on the recommendation of the Finance Committee. Changes include reducing the SAMU Affiliate Fee by half during the Spring/Summer academic term.



STUDENTS' COUNCIL MEETING SUBMISSION

AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION

Meeting Date	Submitted By
April 15, 2026	Andrei Santiago, Vice President Governance and Finance

Agenda Item Title	Finance Policy
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Action Requested	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Motion	<input type="checkbox"/> Consultation Item
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AGENDA ITEM DETAILS

Motion Title	Motion to approve the Finance Policy on the recommendation of the Finance Committee.
Background Information	<p>MacEwan University collects the Global Education Fee (\$3.50) on behalf of SAMU and SAMU disperses it. SAMU's Finance team has identified that, how this fee is used should be captured within policy. The breakdown of the fee, \$1.00 to the Student Refugee Fund & \$2.50 to the WUSC Fund, is based on the result of a referendum SAMU ran in 2008, so it cannot be changed currently.</p> <p>This policy has been updated to capture the two funds so that there is transparency in what the funds can be used for and how expenditures are made. Note that all money in the WUSC Fund is used yearly to support the sponsored refugee student(s).</p>
Alternative Considerations	.
Risk Management Considerations	
Strategic Alignment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Attached Strategic Alignment Checklist is complete</i>
Implications	
Related Documents	y
Follow Up Action	n/a

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
Student Experience & Engagement			
The overall student experience is enhanced by the opportunities provided by SAMU.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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"/>
Student Voice			
The Student Voice is amplified by SAMU.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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"/>
Student Supports			
Student supports provided by SAMU are responsive to unique and evolving needs.	<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"/>
Strengthening SAMU Operations			
SAMU is an innovative and sustainable organization with an engaging work environment.	<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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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"/>



Finance

Rationale

A policy on finances and investments provides a list of all funds that SAMU holds and jointly oversees or manages. This policy provides proper guidelines on how finances and investments work, what they look like, and how they can be monitored at the governance level.

Definitions

Restricted funds are funds whose purpose is pre-determined by either SAMU or a donor.

A **short-term cash flow shortage** occurs with the SAMU operating account due to the timing of when the transfer of fees from MacEwan University are received when the operating account is low in funds. As a result, the operating account will require top-off funds to continue with its day-to-day operations from other SAMU funds until the transfer of fees is received.

Unrestricted funds are funds used in the day to day operations of SAMU.

Expectations

General

- 1 SAMU's fiscal year begins on July 1st of each year and ends on June 30th of the following calendar year.
- 2 The annual operating budget reflects the strategic plan and current priorities of SAMU.
- 3 Expenditures may not exceed the amounts approved in SAMU budget.
- 4 Professional bookkeeping exists for SAMU's finances.
- 5 An independent auditing firm annually audits financial statements.
- 6 Alterations to this policy require a recommendation from the Finance Committee and a Special Resolution of Students' Council.

Maintenance Fund (Internally Restricted)

- 7 The Maintenance Fund is dedicated to Furniture, Fixtures, and Equipment (FF&E), leasehold improvements, and building renovations.
- 8 Expenditures from the Maintenance Fund require formal approval by Executive Committee and will be reported to Students' Council at their next regularly scheduled meeting..



SAMU/MacEwan Major Expenditures Fund (Jointly Restricted)

9 The SAMU/MacEwan Major Expenditures Fund is dedicated for major building expenditures.

9.1 This fund is created per the requirement of the Lease Agreement with MacEwan section 5.1(f) section ii to iii for the SAMU Building.

9.2 This fund is overseen by MacEwan and SAMU through the SAMU Building Operations Committee as per the Lease Agreement and the Operations and Maintenance Agreement.

Contingency Reserve Fund (Internally Restricted)

10 The Contingency Reserve Fund may be used for operational deficits.

11 When the Contingency Reserve Fund contains 75% or more of the prior year's operating budget, excluding amortization expense, additional funds are not transferred into it.

12 Expenditures regarding operational deficits may only occur with both unanimous approval of the Executive Committee and simple majority approval of Students' Council.

13 The Contingency Reserve Fund may be used for short-term cash flow shortages.

13.1 Once the transfer of funds from MacEwan University is received the money taken out from the fund will be returned to this fund in a timely fashion.

13.2 Expenditures regarding short-term cash flow shortages may only occur with unanimous approval of the Executive Committee and will be reported to the Finance Committee and Students' Council at the earliest scheduled meeting.

Health and Dental Reserve Funds

14 The Health and Dental Reserve Funds should be sufficient to provide for student health needs in the case of a health emergency.

14.1 If the Health and Dental Reserve Funds, including ASO fund, reach 50% or more of SAMU's estimated yearly premiums, the Executive Committee may, on the recommendation of the Finance Department, gradually increase coverage or decrease student fees.

14.2 Any changes to the assessed Health and Dental fees will be reported to Students' Council at the earliest scheduled Council meeting.

15 As the Health and Dental plan is under an Administrative Services Only (ASO) model, at least 15% of the previous years claims will sit in a reserve fund with the insurer.



16 The Health and Dental Reserve Funds may only be used to cover the costs of the health plan or dental plan.

Student Groups Fund

17 The Student Groups Fund is the account that SAMU uses to hold the money Student Groups collect and is available for Groups to withdraw from.

17.1 Expenditures from the Student Groups Fund adhere to approval practices established in procedure.

USD Fund

18 The USD Fund is used for U.S. Dollar transactions to avoid foreign exchange rate differences and fees.

Transit Fund

19 The Transit Fund is a low-risk account that is used to facilitate electronic fund transfers and auto deposits from customers.

SAMU Cares Endowment Fund

20 The SAMU Cares Endowment Fund holds a principal amount of \$1,000,000 that accrues interest which is used to provide financial relief to students in need through the SAMU Cares Bursary.

21 This endowment is held by MacEwan's Alumni and Development Office, due to Canadian Charity regulations that SAMU does not have the ability to hold.

21.1 Distribution of funds is managed by SAMU.

Grants and Donations Funds

22 The Grants and Donations Funds holds financial grants and donations received by SAMU.

23 Expenditures from the funds will be used to enhance SAMU's operating budget.

24 Expenditures from the funds can only be used for the original grant's or donation's stated purpose.

25 Expenditures from the funds require formal approval from Executive Committee and must be reported to Students' Council at their earliest scheduled meeting.

25.1 Unbudgeted revenue from Grants or Donations will effectively raise the corresponding expense G/Ls by the same amount, with no further approvals required.

Operating Fund



26 The Operating Fund provides for the day-to-day budgeted expenditures of SAMU.

27 The Operating Fund holds two months' worth of operating expenses at one time, with any surplus funds transferred to the Operating Savings Fund.

28 Expenditures from the Operating Fund adhere to approval practices established in procedure.

Operating Savings Fund

29 The Operating Savings Fund is used to minimize the risk of keeping large cash deposits in our Operating Fund.

30 The Operating Savings Fund is used to protect SAMU's funds from fraud as it is a non-chequing account that no outside parties have access to its account information.

Student Refugee Fund (Restricted)

31 The Student Refugee Fund is used to donate money overseas for underprivileged schools and students.

32 The Student Refugee Fund is solely funded through the collection of the Student Refugee Program (SRP) fee paid by MacEwan University students.

32.1 \$1.00 of the collected \$3.50 SRP fee is allocated to the Student Refugee Fund.

33 Expenditures from this fund are approved by Executive Committee, on a recommendation from Operations, and reported to Finance Committee.

WUSC Fund (Restricted)

34 The WUSC Fund is used to sponsor refugees at MacEwan University.

35 The WUSC Fund is solely funded through the collection of the Student Refugee Program (SRP) fee paid by MacEwan University students.

Operating Surplus

36 Any operating surplus (excluding amortization expense and building levy revenue) at the end of the fiscal year will be allocated as follows:

- 20% to the Maintenance Fund
- 30% to the SAMU/MacEwan Major Expenditures Fund
- 30% to remain as unrestricted funds
- 20% to the Contingency Fund

36.1 If the SAMU Cares Endowment Fund drops below the principal amount of \$1,000,000, up to 10% of the operating surplus allocated to the Maintenance Fund will be allocated to the SAMU Cares Endowment Fund.



Investments

37 The primary objective of SAMU investments is the preservation of capital, therefore investments need to be low-risk (ex. guaranteed investment certificates, bank account deposits, certificate of deposit, T-bills, government bonds, etc.)

38 Any investments will need to be transacted through a firm registered with the Investment Dealers Association, a schedule I, II, or III bank, a government owned financial institution, or a credit union.

39 The Finance department will perform a liquidity analysis to ensure that any investments will not affect the cash levels SAMU requires for day-to-day operations.

40 Executive Committee approves investments, [or changes to investments](#), based on a recommendation from the Finance Department

41 Any investments will be reported to the Finance Committee



Fact Sheet

Approvals:

First Approval – August 21, 2013

Last Approval – April 16, 2025

Date of Last Review: April 16, 2025

Related Documents and Forms:

Source and Updates:

August 21, 2013: *Finances and Investments* approved by Students' Council motion 2013-08-21-6.5. Source material drawn from *Policy 16 - Finance, Policy 27 – Building Fund, Policy 37 – Contingency Reserve Fund, and Policy 45 – Health and Dental Reserve.*

February 19, 2014: *Finances and Investments* approved by Students' Council motion 2014-02-19-6.1. Policy update based on recommendations from our auditors.

October 1, 2014: *Finances and Investments* approved by Students' Council motion 2014-10-01-6.1 upon the recommendation of the Budget and Finance Committee.

March 15, 2017: *Finances and Investments* approved by Students' Council motion 2017-03-15-7.3 on the recommendation of the Budget & Finance Committee.

March 21, 2018: *Finances and Investments* approved by Students' Council motion 2018-03-21-7.7 on the recommendation of the Budget and Finance Committee. Building Fund updated to reflect current needs and preparation for opening and operation of the SAMU building.

June 19, 2019: *Finance* (renamed from *Finances & Investments*) approved by Students Council motion 2019-06-19-7.3 on the recommendation of the Budget and Finance Committee. Policy updated to move away from saving for a building to ensuring the SAMU building opening in Fall 2019 has a Maintenance Fund and a Major Expenditures Fund as well as defining where operating surpluses are allocated.

April 1, 2020: *Finance* approved by Students' Council motion 2020-04-01-4.1 on the recommendation of the Budget and Finance Committee. Contingency Reserve Fund section updated so that once maximum is reached any excess funds will be allocated to the operating budget instead of the SAMU Cares Fund.

June 16, 2021: *Finance* approved by Students' Council motion 2021-06-16-7.1 on the recommendation of the Budget and Finance Committee. Identified that any amortization expense incurred would be excluded when calculating the operating surplus at the end of the fiscal year.

June 15, 2022: *Finance* approved by Students' Council motion 2022-06-15-7.1 on the recommendation of the Budget and Finance Committee. Substantial updates include: removal of Building Fund due to completion of SAMU building, identifying that the Contingency Fund can be used for short-term cash flow shortages, addition of the Student



Groups, USD, and Transit Funds, identifying the principal amount of \$1,000,000 for the SAMU Cares Endowment Fund, addition of the Operating Savings Fund, and updates to how an operating surplus is allocated.

March 22, 2023: *Finance* approved by Students' Council motion 2023-03-22-7.1 on the recommendation of the Budget and Finance Committee. Changes include: noting that the 25% requirement within Contingency Reserve Fund excludes amortization expense, requiring the Operating Fund to hold 2 months worth of operating expenses instead of 4, and excluding building levy revenue from the calculation of an operating surplus.

April 17, 2024: Finance Policy approved by Students' Council motion 2024-04-17-1 on the recommendation of the Finance Committee. Changes include updates to how any surplus is allocated at the end of the fiscal year. This includes addition of 'unrestricted funds' and its definition.

April 15, 2025: *Finance* Policy approved by Students' Council motion 2025-04-16-7.2 on the recommendation of the Finance Committee. Major updates include the addition of both the Grants and Donations Funds section and the Investments section.



STUDENTS' COUNCIL MEETING SUBMISSION

AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION

Meeting Date	Submitted By
April 15, 2026	Andrei Santiago, Vice President Governance and Finance

Agenda Item Title	Unbudgeted Expenditure - HR
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Action Requested	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Motion	<input type="checkbox"/> Consultation Item
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AGENDA ITEM DETAILS

Motion Title	Motion to approve unbudgeted expenditures of up to \$50,000.00 from G/L 519000, \$15,000.00 from G/L 519100, and \$5,000.00 from G/L 519200
Background Information	<p>The 2026-2027 Budget was passed at the March 2026 Students' Council meeting and included funding for some new full-time staff positions. The General Manager would like to start some of these new positions in the current fiscal year, as well as some due to HR related leaves, but these were not accounted for in the current (2025-2026) budget. Because they weren't originally budgeted for, this request is coming to you as Students' Council has the authority to approve an unbudgeted expenditure.</p> <p>The \$50,000 would encompass full-time salaries, while the \$15,000 and \$5,000.00 amounts cover the CPP and EI costs associated with staffing/hiring.</p> <p>SAMU is currently forecasting a surplus so there are no financial concerns associated with approving these amounts.</p>
Alternative Considerations	To not approve the expenditure.
Risk Management Considerations	n/a
Strategic Alignment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Attached Strategic Alignment Checklist is complete</i>
Implications	Approving this unbudgeted expenditure will allow the General Manager to begin the process of hiring the new staff without having to wait until July 1 (which is when SAMU's fiscal year begins). This then provides more opportunities to get a head start on the work that needs to be done for the next academic year.

Related Documents	SAMU Operating Budget policy
Follow Up Action	n/a
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
Student Experience & Engagement			
The overall student experience is enhanced by the opportunities provided by SAMU.	<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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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"/>
Student Voice			
The Student Voice is amplified by SAMU.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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"/>
Student Supports			
Student supports provided by SAMU are responsive to unique and evolving needs.	<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"/>
Strengthening SAMU Operations			
SAMU is an innovative and sustainable organization with an engaging work environment.	<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"/>



STUDENTS' COUNCIL MEETING SUBMISSION

AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION

Meeting Date	Submitted By
April 15, 2026	Andrei Santiago, Vice President Governance and Finance

Agenda Item Title	Unbudgeted Expenditure - Oilers Tickets
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Action Requested	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Motion	<input type="checkbox"/> Consultation Item
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AGENDA ITEM DETAILS

Motion Title	Motion to approve an unbudgeted expenditure of up to \$40,189.00 from G/L 563500 (Oilers Ticket Purchase)
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Background Information	<p>SAMU purchases season tickets for the Edmonton Oilers each year that we sell to students at minimal markup so that they have an opportunity to attend games at a reasonable price compared to the market prices.</p> <p>We just received our invoice for Oilers playoff tickets for the current year, and the cost is higher than originally budgeted for so we're asking for Students' Council to approve this unbudgeted expenditure. (From the Approval Authority procedure an unbudgeted expenditure, in relation to this ask, is defined as "any expenditure from a budget line...that was contemplated but now exceeds the approved budget line." We currently have \$32,387.00 remaining budgeted for this, but the cost will be \$72,576.00.</p> <p>This additional cost will be fully recovered by the end of the NHL playoffs because we won't have any trouble selling the tickets, which is not a cause for concern. That's to say, this unbudgeted expenditure will be offset by selling the tickets. If the Oilers do not play all the way through to the Stanley Cup Finals, any leftover tickets are automatically canceled and the corresponding funds will be applied to our account as a credit towards the 2026-2027 Oilers tickets purchase price.</p> <p>Lastly, there are no concerns with this cost financially as SAMU can afford this purchase, and furthermore, the department will not be overbudget at the end of the fiscal year.</p>
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Alternative Considerations	To not approve the expenditure.
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Risk Management Considerations	n/a
Strategic Alignment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Attached Strategic Alignment Checklist is complete</i>
Implications	<p>Approving this unbudgeted expenditure will allow SAMU to provide more cost-effective Oilers tickets to our students.</p> <p>Not approving this would force students to pay a much higher markup price if they want to attend an Oilers playoff game. Also, SAMU would miss out on receiving a small amount of revenue.</p>
Related Documents	Approval Authority Procedure
Follow Up Action	n/a
Review History	n/a

Strategic Alignment Checklist

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