



STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION OF MACEWAN UNIVERSITY

**Agenda for the Students' Council Meeting of the
Students' Association of MacEwan University
August 19, 2026 at 6:00pm in the Council Chamber**

Voting Members:

Dalya Abougoush, Councillor
Shina Adeshina, Councillor
Anna Campmans, Councillor
Chistian Galera, Councillor
Jean Pierre Moreno, Councillor
Moselle Namoc, Councillor
Nathan N. Poon, President
Nathan R. Poon, Vice President Governance
and Finance
Elizabeth Russell, Vice President Student Life
Alem Tesfay, Vice President External
Vincent Trinh, Councillor
Chioma Uzor, Vice President Academic
Liam Wilson, Councillor
Izzy Reyes Councillor

Manojna Tumma, Councillor
Yulia Likhacheva, Councillor
vacant, Councillor
vacant, Councillor
vacant, Councillor

SAMU Officials and Council Support:

Tim Jobs, Chair
Darryl Kostash, General Manager
Alan Honey, Governance Advisor

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 AUGUST 19, 2026

2.2 MOTION

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JULY 15, 2026

3. Presentations

3.1. Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) (PRES & VPE)

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. Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) (Pres and Vpe)

4.1.7. SCOC Report on Councillor Vacancies (in camera)

4.1.8.

4.2. Executive Committee Minutes

Minutes of July 15, 22, 29, and August 5, 2026 provided.

5. Question Period

5.1. Written Questions

5.2. Oral Questions

Topics include:

6. In Camera Period

6.1. Councillor Vacancy

Vpgf -

6.2.

7. Motions & Business Orders of the Day

7.1. Councillor Vacancies

***MOTION TO ACCEPT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE STUDENTS' COUNCIL
OPERATIONS COMMITTEE AND APPOINT _____ AS A STUDENTS'
COUNCILLOR EFFECTIVE AUGUST 20, 2026 FOR A TERM ENDING
OCTOBER 31, 2026***

VPGF/

7.2.

8. Consultation

8.1. Get Out the Vote for AB Referendum

Vpe -

9. Evaluation

9.1.

10. Recognition

11. Adjournment

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Next Meeting Date: September 16, 2026

Meeting adjourned at pm.



STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION OF MACEWAN UNIVERSITY

**Minutes for the Students' Council Meeting of the
Students' Association of MacEwan University
July 15, 2026 at 6:00pm in the Council Chamber**

Voting Members:

Dalya Abougoush, Councillor
Shina Adeshina, Councillor
Anna Campmans, Councillor
Tolu Dare, Councillor
Chistian Galera, Councillor
Jean Pierre Moreno, Councillor
Moselle Namoc, Councillor
Nathan N. Poon, President
Nathan R. Poon, Vice President Governance
and Finance
Elizabeth Russell, Vice President Student Life
Alem Tesfay, Vice President External
Vincent Trinh, Councillor
Chioma Uzor, Vice President Academic
Liam Wilson, Councillor

Izzy Reyes Councillor
Manojna Tumma, Councillor
Yulia Likhacheva, Councillor
vacant, Councillor
vacant, Councillor

SAMU Officials and Council Support:

Matthew Yanish, Chair
Darryl Kostash, General Manager
Alan Honey, Governance Advisor
Caitlin Yambao, Admin Support

Meeting called to order at 6:00pm.

<Intros>

1. Treaty 6 Land Recognition

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

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2. Approvals

2.1 MOTION

TO APPROVE THE AGENDA FOR JULY 15, 2026

REYES/LIKHACHEVA

CARRIED

2.2 MOTION

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JUNE 17, 2026

MORENO/VPSL

CARRIED

3. Presentations

3.1.

4. For Information

4.1. Reports

4.1.1. President

4.1.2. Vice President Academic

4.1.3. Vice President External

The Griff interview re. Stampede attendance.

4.1.4. Vice President Governance & Finance

4.1.5. Vice President Student Life

4.1.6. Students' Council Operations Committee (VPGF)

4.1.7. Strategy and Engagement Committee (VPSL)

4.1.8. Governance Committee (VPGF)

4.1.9. Finance Committee (VPGF)

4.1.10. Executive Committee Workplan

4.2. Executive Committee Minutes

Minutes of June 10, 17, 24, and 30, 2026 provided.

5. Question Period

5.1. Written Questions

Trinh - For VPA - Can you elaborate on what the "Transfer Mandate Initiative" is and how does it impact students? Also, while feedback was gathered are you aware if any action will be taken based on the feedback?

VPA – Thank you for your question, Councillor Trinh.

The Transfer Mandate Initiative is part of an effort to engage stakeholders and interact with student leaders to understand what all institutions are dealing with in terms of transfer credit. The Transfer Mandate initiative is part of the 2030 Building Skills for Jobs by the Government of Alberta which is a 10-year strategy to improve post-secondary education.

The session was purposed to speak with student leaders to keep us to speed on the framework and timeline of the mandate. The feedback collected is expected to be implemented institutionally across all post-secondary institutions in Alberta. There is an opportunity for student leaders to be part of a focus group however more information on this will be communicated in the coming months. As far as my knowledge goes, they are only engaging with executives of students' associations/unions currently for feedback. SAMU has taken the topic of transfer credit into account, and we are currently implementing that into our advocacy efforts.

Trinh - For VPSL - With your meeting with the manager of the Kihêw Waciston Indigenous Centre, why did you both decide to use the remaining budget on swag? Is there nothing else that you could've allocated these funds for?

VPSL – Thank you for your question, Councillor Trinh.

In the meeting with the Manager of the kihêw waciston Indigenous Centre, I let them know that we had remaining funds that we wanted to use to support the Centre in any way that we could.

Rather than assuming what they needed, we wanted to remain accommodating and allow them to identify what would provide the most impact at this moment.

The Manager shared that they were seeking support to purchase swag for students as this can come with a hefty price tag. I believe this was an appropriate use of funds as a challenge expressed by the Manager was a lack of visibility of the Indigenous Centre across campus. Not only will this swag bring awareness, but it also fosters community and representation for Indigenous students.

Trinh - For VPE - In regards to the leadership orientation you had in Calgary, what do the updates and enhancements (MNIFs, Students with Disabilities, and the other topics mentioned in the report) look like and how do these effect students?

VPE – Thank you for the question, Councillor Trinh,

I will give a bullet point example on what's "new" to the upcoming year from the Advanced Education slides, but I will highly encourage you to look over the slides, which I can forward to you. Even as someone who is into the benefits students can utilize when it comes to funding, there were a lot of new things I learned from the presentation.

MNIFs:

updates are on the institutional level; they mentioned that Institutions are making, or have made, administrative updates to strengthen the level of detail in their MNIFs to Students.

Student Bursaries:

NEW for 2026/27: New Beginnings Bursary (NBB) funding has been increased by \$7M, for a total of \$12M, more than doubling the number of bursary recipients

Enhancements for Students with Disabilities:

- Students with disabilities who have an active Schedule 4 on file are automatically eligible for consideration under a reduced course load.
- The Canada Disability Benefit (CDB) will not be used as a resource on student aid and Repayment Assistance Plan (RAP) applications.
- The Alberta Disability Assistance Program (ADAP) will be recognised as an approved source of disability income.

Enhancements to Application and Services:

- New Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) income verification process for students and their spouses.
- Extensive improvements to applications, help text, and student letters to make it easier for students to apply and understand the 2026/27 changes.

Canada Student Financial Assistance Program (CSFAP) Changes:

- Updates to Monthly Living Allowances
- The dollar amount, which depends on the household status and number of dependents, has been adjusted to account for inflation.
- The income threshold for the maximum grant and the income threshold at which Grant Eligibility is cut off have changed.

Likhacheva - To VPA - Will there be additional opportunities for student leaders to provide feedback on the Transfer Mandate Initiative? If so, is SAMU planning to gather further input from MacEwan students about their experiences and challenges with the transfer process to inform future advocacy?

VPA - Thank you for your question, Councillor Likhacheva! Please refer to Councillor Trinh's question above for a similar response.

5.2. Oral Questions

Topics include: CASA membership decision; transferring credits between universities;

6. In Camera Period

7. Motions & Business Orders of the Day

7.1. Committee Appointment

Nominees: Reyes, Tumma, Likhacheva,

**MOTION TO APPOINT COUNCILLOR TUMMA TO THE STUDENTS' COUNCIL
OPERATIONS COMMITTEE FOR A TERM ENDING OCTOBER 31, 2026**

REYES/NAMOC

CARRIED

8. Consultation

9. Evaluation

10. Recognition

11. Adjournment

MOTION TO ADJOURN

TRINH

CARRIED

Next Meeting Date: August 19, 2026

Meeting adjourned at 6:21pm.



Students' Council Report

President

August 19th, 2026

Dear Council,

The last meeting of the summer is here! Here's my report on from the President portfolio from July 9th, 2026 to August 13th, 2026.

Executive Summary

- Alberta Student Loan changes – CBC Radio & News Interview
- Dean of Triffo School of Business – Stakeholder Consultation
- 2027/28 MacEwan x SAMU Tuition and Fees Consultation
- Introductory Meeting with MacEwan University Security Leadership
- MacEwan University President x SAMU President Meeting

Alberta Student Loan changes – CBC Radio & News Interview

For the 2026/27 academic year, post-secondary students will now have to prove that they are contributing double the expected minimum student contribution, from \$1,500 to \$3,000, as well as a mandatory consideration of parental or spousal income in order to be considered for provincial loans and grants.



We are concerned that these red-tape changes will increase financial and application barriers for students, and we are continuing to ensure that concerns raised by students are reflected in our provincial advocacy and discussions with Advanced Education. We encourage students who are affected by these changes to share their stories with their local MLA.

I had the opportunity to join Tara McCarthy on CBC Radio's Edmonton AM to discuss the new parameter changes, our position on them, and the holistic challenges and barriers that students will face as a result of the changes. I also had the opportunity to speak on CBC News regarding the changes, alongside other student leaders in the province.

CBC Radio Interview:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j8KcBrGVBQ4>

CBC News Interview:

<https://www.tiktok.com/@cbcedmonton/video/7670299743108599047>

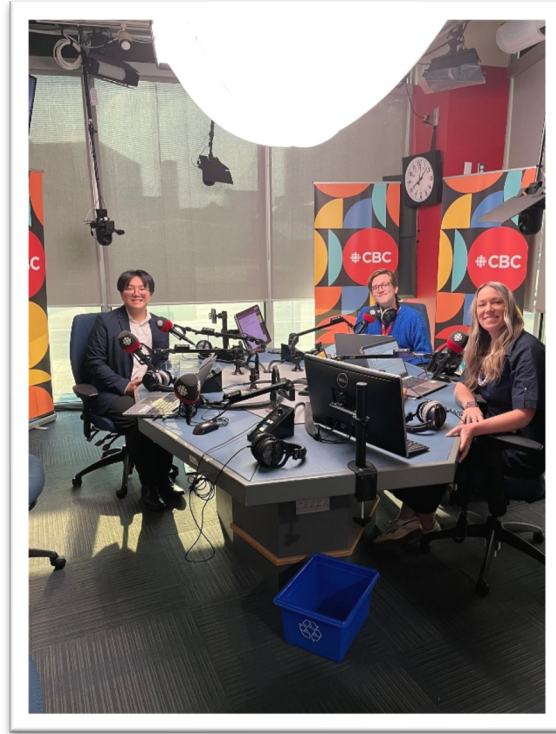


Figure 1: SAMU President Nathan N. Poon with CBC Radio's Tara McCarthy on Edmonton A.M.

Dean of Triffo School of Business - Stakeholder Consultation

SAMU's Executive Committee (EC) had the opportunity to partake in the stakeholder consultation session for the Dean of Triffo School of Business position, offering feedback on the scope and parameters of the role. We appreciated the opportunity to add the student voice to these important conversations. The process is confidential via a third-party, so I cannot share any details of the feedback at this time.

2027/28 MacEwan x SAMU Tuition and Fees Consultation

Vice President Governance and Finance Nathan R. Poon and I have begun the Tuition and Fees (T&F) Consultation process for the 2027/28 academic year with MacEwan



University's T&F team. As conversations have only begun, I am unable to share additional information, but will update Council as updates emerge.

Introductory Meeting with MacEwan University Security Leadership

EC had the opportunity to meet with MacEwan University's Security Leadership, which is typically done annually, where we had the opportunity to meet new additions to their team and get to know their priorities for the upcoming year. We had provided feedback on what we hope to see in the coming year, pursuant to a MacEwan University student's right to feel safe and dignified on campus.

MacEwan University President x SAMU President Meeting

President Trimbee & I had our monthly one-on-one discussion. At this time, I have no relevant discussion items to bring to Council and will bring forward items if they emerge.

Closing Remarks

Thank you for taking the time to read my report. Please take the remaining time in August to relax before the wave of studies begins in September! Please reach out to us if you have any questions.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nathan Poon', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Nathan Poon
President
Students' Association of MacEwan University



Students' Council Report

Vice-President Academic

August 19, 2026

Hello Council,

It's almost that time again! Yep, the school semester is about to begin. There are still a few weeks left of summer so its not over yet! Here is my report from July 15 – August 13!

Executive Summary

- Meeting with Associate Dean of Library: Dr. Eva Revitt
- Meeting with Dean of Business: Dr. Richard Perlow
- TAP Steering Committee

Student Voice

The Student Voice is amplified by SAMU.

Meeting with the Associate Dean of Library

Strat Point 2.1, 2.4

On July 21st, I had a meeting with the Associate Dean of Library, Eva Revitt for an introductory meeting. The meeting was meant to introduce ourselves to our plans for the term. We went over plans that have been set up for OERs, most specifically for the VPA Report to Students' Council

August 19, 2026

Page 1 of 3



textbook affordability program. We also went over changes that we are considering for the No-Cost Textbook Initiative to be expanded. During the meeting I suggested a change to the navigation on MyStudentSystem to move the filter interface into the user's view. This was further discussed in the TAP Steering Committee meeting to determine how it would be communicated further.

Furthermore, we discussed the allocation of funds to TAP and how they will be used for OERs and student engagement.

Meeting with the Dean of Business

Strat Point 2.1, 2.4

On July 22nd, I had an introductory meeting with Dr. Richard Perlow about our goals for the upcoming term. Most of our goals were synonymous with increasing professor hires so that more courses can be taught. On his portfolio he also discussed information pertaining to changes to resource material purchases, hiring of sessional professors, and addition of more minors for the Triffo School of Business. This was overall a fruitful initial discussion to start the year!

TAP Steering Committee

Strat Point 2.4, 3.3

On July 23rd, I attended the TAP Steering Committee meeting which is the first of the term. The meeting mostly consisted of updates to the program and updates from contributors. There was also a quick review of the TAP Guidelines. No significant changes were made in terms of the guidelines. Any further updates to TAP will be discussed in future meetings and will be reported to council. Changes to the user interface visibility of the No-Cost Textbook Filter were acknowledged and are currently being discussed within its necessary avenues.

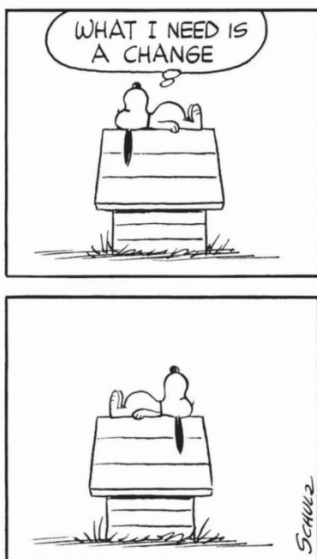


Closing Remarks

Ironically, I'm excited to see everyone in the hallways in a couple weeks!

It's been quite empty and slow, but it's given time for us to prepare to welcome you all back! Aside from due dates and exams coming back, I hope you are just as excited to jump back into the campus community after a long detox.

You know this but, my schedule is generally unpredictable and may be more packed than most days. Council can still 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 whenever you can.



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: August 19th, 2026

Greetings everyone,

As summer winds down, I hope you've been able to make the most of it. I know the wet weather affected many plans, but I see it as a testament to the resilience of the people in this city. Even amid the storms, it was great to see people still out and about and making the most of the summer. I invite you to read my report for the period of July 10 to August 13.

Executive Summary

- Edmonton Student Alliance (ESA) meetings
- The Calgary Stampede advocacy follow-ups

Student Voice

The Student Voice is amplified by SAMU

Edmonton Student Alliance (ESA) meetings

In this reporting month, I had the chance to attend two ESA meetings. For those hearing about ESA for the first time, ESA is the municipal advocacy body comprising universities, colleges, and polytechnics across the city. During the meeting on July 28th, we discussed communication expectations and established a policy committee and briefly spoke on municipal advocacy goals. During the August 11th meeting, we appointed members of the policy committee, which is currently comprised of the student association of MacEwan University (SAMU) and the Students Association of Norquest College (SANQC).



Stampede advocacy follow-ups

The External Team attended the Calgary Stampede for advocacy again this year. Since last year, the Stampede has become an advocacy opportunity that SAMU has utilized to connect with political leaders at all levels of government. This is important because currently, we aren't a part of any provincial or federal advocacy body. While the Stampede is commonly associated with "yeehaw" and festivities, we focus in on the numerous constituency events, receptions, and conferences that take place throughout the Stampede period. These events bring together elected officials from all levels of government, including city councillors, Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs), and Members of Parliament (MPs). These government officials are important decision-makers who can directly influence students' lives through decisions such as post-secondary funding, student employment opportunities, public transit, and other areas that affect students' daily lives. Engaging with these leaders provides us with an opportunity to build relationships, raise awareness of student issues, and ensure that the student perspective is part of these conversations.

This year was an even more successful advocacy effort, with the external team connecting with more than 20 political leaders. These initial conversations have also led to further engagement. The external team is currently working on follow-up emails, booking meetings, and planning roundtables to continue these discussions beyond the Stampede.



Closing Remarks

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 through a written question, an office visit, or email. I'm always happy to connect. Recently, I volunteered for Animethon, Canada's longest-running anime convention, and for those who didn't know, the first Animethon was held at MacEwan in 1994, back when the university was still called Grant MacEwan Community College. It was really cool to see MacEwan students still engaging with the convention. I also want to wish good luck to everyone studying for their summer semester exams, and to those participating in the Edmonton Marathon!

Cheers,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Alem' or 'A.D.', with a stylized, flowing script.

Alem D. Tesfay

Vice President External, SAMU 2026/2027

Email: savpexternal@macewan.ca

Website: Alemtesfay.ca

Campus IG page: [@Alem.updates](https://www.instagram.com/Alem.updates)



Students' Council Report

VPGF Report

August 19th, 2026

Good day, Council!

It's AUGUST! Time goes by fast; it's already August and it's felt like we have only had rain this whole summer and lots of mosquitoes. However, Some went on vacation, some stayed in Edmonton, and others got new jobs. So, I hope you all meet your expectations of what this summer entails. From now on I hope we get beautiful weather in August, no more rain, and no more flooding.

Below will be my report from July 16th to August 19th

Executive Summary

- SAMU and MacEwan Executive PVP meeting
- Stakeholder Consultation: Dean of Business
- Tuition and MNIF Consultation
- Quarterly 4 Budget Meeting
- Interview with The Griff

Student Voice

The Student Voice is amplified by SAMU.

SAMU and MacEwan Executive PVP Meeting

Strategy 2.4



Please refer to the VPSL's report

Stakeholder Consultation: Dean of Business

Strategy 2.4

I have participated and sat in this consultation but please refer to Pres's report.

Tuition and MNIF Consultation

Strategy 2.4

During this consultation we discussed SAMU's & MacEwan's Principles and Assumptions at a high level for this year. Listed below is our principles:

- SAMU is the only official voice for the students of MacEwan University, empowered by both the PSLA and open student elections.
- Education at MacEwan University should be affordable, accessible, and high quality.
- Students should not pay for services/benefits/spaces they will not get to use during their time at MacEwan
- Tuition should not increase following a year that ends with a surplus
- Though SAMU does not have decision making power over tuition, we will make every effort to accurately represent the student position to stakeholders.

We also discussed how the process for this year is going to look like. The process is standard and very similar to past years.

Interview with The Griff

Strategy 2.2 2.3



On July 20th, I met with The Griff to discuss this year's budget. The interviewer asked various questions regarding how the budget process is being implemented, where funds are being allocated, and what my priorities and concerns are for this year. I also answered any clarifying questions.

Strengthening SAMU Operations

SAMU is an innovative and sustainable organization with an engaging work environment.

Quarterly 4 Budget Meeting

Strategy 4.4

One of the duties of VPGF is to have quarterly budget meetings. So on July 15th, we had our Q4 budget meeting to discuss department 12 – Governance. During the meeting we reviewed and had oversight with department 12. With the review, we took into account how much is allocated and budgeted to each section of department 12. In conclusion, we are on the right track for the budget this year.

Closing Remarks

Thank you for reading my report this will be the last report before school starts and make the most out of your summer while it lasts.

Cheers,

Nathan R. Poon (he/him)

VP Governance and Finance, SAMU 2026/2027

savpoperations@macewan.ca



Students' Council Report

Vice-President Student Life

August 19, 2026

Greetings Council,

I hope you have all been enjoying your summer and are ready to head back to school!

Please see my report below.

Executive Summary

- Alumo Summit
- Meeting with AVP Student Support and Accountability
- Meeting with Director of Centre of Sexual and Gender Diversity
- P/VP Meeting

Student Voice

The Student Voice is amplified by SAMU.

Alumo Summit

Strat Point 2.3

July 6-9, I had the privilege of attending the 2026 Alumo Summit in Mont Tremblant alongside our GM. This conference hosted over 80 students' associations across



Canada. The purpose of this conference was to bring together the student benefit plan partners to network, collaborate, share ideas, and celebrate all that Alumo does for students. It was a very rewarding experience and I'm glad I was able to connect with executives from other institutions.

Meeting with Director of CSGD

Strat Point 2.4

On July 17, I met with the Director of CSGD for introductory purposes where we shared our priorities and explored any ways we could work together this year. We also discussed having recurring meetings to continue to share ideas and identify future areas of collaboration.

Meeting with the AVP Student Support and Accountability

Strat Point 2.4

On July 17, I met with my MacEwan counterpart, Allison Drew-Hassling, AVP Student Support and Accountability. I shared my priorities with Allison, and we discussed the areas in which our priorities overlapped. This was also an opportunity for us to get to know each other as it was our first meeting.

P/VP Meeting

Strat Point 2.4

On July 20, EC met with the MacEwan Executives. This meeting was a high-level discussion between SAMU and MacEwan, and no decisions were made. The primary topics focused on SAMU's affordability advocacy priorities: housing, food security, and tuition and Mandatory Non-Instructional Fees (MNIFs). Regarding housing, MacEwan is currently working with housing partners, and indicated that students will have the lowest



rates available with accessibility and walkability remaining key priorities in these partnerships. On food security, MacEwan confirmed that the \$5.00 pop ups are currently being planned for the upcoming academic year, and the permanent \$4.99 value meals will continue to be available throughout the fall. Finally on tuition and fees, MacEwan discussed how the consultation process is about to begin again and reaffirmed following the process laid out in the framework we previously developed with them. As the consultation process progresses the VPGF will continue to provide updates.

Closing Remarks

Thank you for taking the time to read my report. If you have any comments, questions, or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Regards,

Elizabeth Russell

Vice President Student Life 26/27

Student's Association of MacEwan University

savpstudentlife@macewan.ca

Canadian Alliance of Students' Association:
Final Report

Authored by: Nathan Poon, SAMU President 2026-2027

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Executive Summary

The Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) is a federal lobbying organization that advocates for the interests of post-secondary students across Canada. Founded in 1992, CASA works to influence federal policy on issues such as student financial assistance, education funding, and access to post-secondary education.

In February 2015, SAMU's Students' Council voted to join CASA to advocate for students with an eye to a growing shared responsibility for post-secondary funding under provincial and federal governments, particularly in relation to federal grants and loans. To meet the growing needs of advocacy, including CASA membership, SAMU's first VP External was elected in May 2015.

In April 2025, SAMU Students' Council voted to leave membership and enter an audit Observer Year, citing negative experiences of the SAMU delegates who had attended, with Council notified at the end of one-year reporting period.

There are two scenarios Council can move forward with:

- Scenario A is leaving CASA altogether and finding alternative avenues to pursue federal advocacy. I continue to carry the belief that SAMU does not carry the capacity or ability to properly achieve this in the balancing act of pursuing municipal, provincial, and federal advocacy, especially given Alberta's federal geography (as only 8% of MPs in Alberta are from the governing party), and would carry heavy implications with respect to SAMU Strategic Plan Objective 2.3. There is a scenario (outlined in A-2) where we pursue this option, and reevaluate our standing with CASA via observership in three years, beginning in September 2029.
- Scenario B is ceasing SAMU's Observership Status and pursuing membership, as we had between 2015 and 2025.

My recommendations are as follows:

- 1) **Regarding CASA membership, rejoining when it is financially viable on SAMU's end,**
- 2) **Should we rejoin CASA's Membership, Students' Council direct Executive Committee to explore the development of an "Advocacy Affiliation Procedure," which would outline a three-to four cycle in which Students' Council regularly reviews federal advocacy affiliations.**

This report encompasses experiences at CASA Foundations 2026 and CASA's Policy and Strategy Conference 2026, as well as an analysis and next steps as an organization. Upcoming conferences such as CASA Advocacy Week 2026 and AGM will be left out of this report, as it falls outside of the reporting period.

CASA Foundations 2026

CASA Foundations is the first conference in CASA's annual conference cycle and serves as the *foundation* for an elected student leader's term, establishing the knowledge, relationships, and advocacy skills needed for the year ahead, particularly with respect to federal advocacy.

Personally, I found CASA Foundations 2026 (May 25-29th, 2026) to be an incredibly rewarding learning opportunity and a base for President's and VPE's around Alberta and across the country to meet. The inherent objectives of Foundations 2026 was similar to 2025, in that it carried a largely valuable educational component for student leaders, who are either new to the position or returning, in the upcoming year to prepare for their terms, as well as CASA Advocacy Week in November. CASA delegates go over policy ideation for the upcoming year, mock meeting training, deeper insights into how to advocate and lobby federally (and in general), equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) training, as well as the election of the 2026/27 CASA Board of Directors. As SAMU is not a member of CASA, we did not qualify to run for CASA's Board of Directors.

CASA Foundations is typically the first meeting of an Executive's term where all Alberta schools get together to meet initially and discuss upcoming priorities for the year, and one of the only chances to get to meet other SAs/SUs in Alberta and across the country en masse, as CAUS no longer exists.

Regarding the conference itself, aside from a longer-than-usual Board of Directors election due to a competitive race, I have no administrative or otherwise personal issues or dilemmas with this conference.

The conference itself was more organized this year than in 2025, and provided a strong professional development opportunity for myself as we were able to touch base on concepts that are imperative to an elected student leader's term. From my experience in 2026, I would consider Foundations to be a worthwhile component of the CASA model and a useful starting point for student leaders entering a new term.

CASA Policy and Strategy Conference 2026 (PoliStrat)

CASA's PoliStrat Conference is CASA's annual direction-setting conference, in preparation for Advocacy Week in November.

SAMU had the opportunity to provide consultation on a variety of items, including committee action plans and potential federal advocacy opportunities focused on issues such as the Canadian Dental Care Plan. SAMU also participated in further federal advocacy training and mock meetings designed to prepare student leaders for future lobby meetings. The skills developed through this training can be applied broadly to future federal, provincial, and municipal government meetings.

The PoliStrat conference also included consultation on CASA's Strategic Plan, which undergoes a formal evaluation every three years. SAMU had the opportunity to provide feedback on key areas for consideration in the next three-year Strategic Plan, including strengthening Board accountability and expanding membership consultation. PoliStrat is also an opportunity for CASA members to identify and pursue committee positions through which they can contribute to and shape CASA's advocacy work. As SAMU is not a member of CASA, but participates as an observer, we did not pursue any committee opportunities.

This year's conference also included a review of CASA's existing Strategic Plan, providing an opportunity to assess progress against its current objectives and consider areas that may require further attention in the next planning cycle.

Similar to Foundations 2026, I have no administrative or otherwise personal issues or dilemmas with this conference.

Analysis

I believe that, **outside of CASA, there are relatively few opportunities for student leaders to engage directly in federal advocacy** without undertaking the significant time, resources, and coordination required to pursue that advocacy independently. In comparison to SAMU organizing and conducting its own federal advocacy efforts, such as travelling to Ottawa and arranging meetings directly with federal decision-makers, CASA provides an established structure, network, and support system that substantially reduces the administrative burden on individual student associations. With that in mind, and setting aside any individual or interpersonal issues that may arise, **I found the conferences themselves to run very smoothly and required relatively administrative capacity on my part.**

I would note that **any concerns or challenges I have encountered with CASA have generally arisen from individual student delegates or Board members, whose participation and perspectives naturally change from year to year.** In my view, these experiences are better understood as the result of the particular group of students serving in those roles in a given year, rather than as a reflection of CASA as an organization or CASA's operations. **I have personally consistently found CASA's Home Office staff to be excellent, professional, and supportive.** Similarly, I have not had concerns with CASA's overall policy priorities or direction; while student delegates and Board members play an important role in shaping those priorities, they have generally aligned well with our own. As such, I would distinguish occasional interpersonal or professional-level challenges with Board members from any substantive concern with CASA itself.

The most understated benefit of these two CASA conferences is the ability to bring other Students' Associations and Unions across Alberta to the discussion table for the first time and having a chance to meet, which is incredibly difficult outside of CASA due to individual Students' Association's time capacities. **In my experience, CASA provides one of the only**

spaces in an elected year to bring together other Students' Associations/Unions in Alberta, as over my elected term, this has only held true for the Ministry's Student Leaders Orientation, which only occurs for one day.

Next Steps

There are two scenarios Council can move forward with, as outlined in Executive Summary:

1) Scenario A

Scenario A is leaving CASA altogether and finding alternative avenues to pursue federal advocacy.

The main benefit(s) of this is **1) an increase in budgetary capacity as we would no longer pay CASA Membership Fees**, and **2) being able to pursue targeted self-federal advocacy on our own**. I continue to carry the belief that SAMU realistically does not carry the capacity or ability to properly achieve focused self-federal advocacy in the balancing act of municipal, provincial, and federal advocacy, especially given Alberta's federal geography (as only 8% of MPs in Alberta are from the governing party), and would carry heavy implications with respect to SAMU Strategic Plan Objective 2.3: "Continue to build collaborative relationships with other Students' Associations and organizations to enhance the collective student voice with all government levels."

Realistically, **we do not have the alternative capacity to travel to Ottawa on our own to conduct our own Advocacy Week/Days**, as we do not have the resources or time to achieve this, or outreach reputation at a national level to do that. This is an important consideration as **most MPs for the governing party (Liberal) lie in Eastern Canada, with only two in Edmonton**. There may be opportunities in the future to go to Ottawa in the future with MacEwan, but these meeting priorities would be in coordination with MacEwan's institutional priorities, whereas CASA (and ourselves) leads Students' Association-targeted priorities.

Pursuing Scenario A, in my eyes, would also entail a closer examination in future years of the portfolio and purpose of the Vice President External portfolio. The VPE portfolio was partly introduced in 2015 to meet the growing demands of federal advocacy, and a complete cessation from CASA would generally be a mandate from Students' Council to pull back on federal advocacy and focus on provincial and municipal priorities (as there are not many options other than Stampede to advocate federally outside of CASA). As we are also not a part of an umbrella organization at the provincial level anymore, and in many years we do not hold a leadership position at the Edmonton Student Alliance, the purpose and what entails of a dedicated portfolio for external advocacy may need to be reconsidered in the 2027/28 academic year.

The question of resource access is also an important one. CASA has a plethora of non-duplicable resources and invaluable assistance dedicated to federal advocacy that SAMU, or any one

institution, is not able to replicate. In my view, outsourcing our federal advocacy logistics to an umbrella organization allows us to receive an extensive amount of resources, tools, and advocacy logistics.

Side Bar: Do we even need to prioritize federal advocacy?

This is obviously an important discussion, given that the federal government does not oversee post-secondary funding, and is typically considered a provincial jurisdiction. That being said, over the past two decades, **the federal government has become substantially more involved in the affairs of post-secondary education across the country.**

While the provinces retain primary responsibility for the administration and funding of post-secondary education, **the federal government has significant influence through a number of programs and policy levers that directly affect students and institutions.**

This includes federal transfers and agreements with provinces, student grants and loans, targeted funding programs, affordable housing initiatives such as Build Canada Homes, and funding and supports for Indigenous students. The federal government also has a broader role in areas that intersect with the student experience, including immigration, employment, research, and affordability. **As a result, while federal advocacy may not be as immediately apparent as provincial advocacy, there are still significant areas where federal decisions can materially affect students at MacEwan University and across the country.**

With that in mind, **I currently see CASA as the most effective vehicle available to SAMU for participating in federal advocacy.** This is not necessarily because every issue CASA advocates on is directly within federal jurisdiction, but because CASA provides an established national network, relationships with federal decision-makers, dedicated government-relations capacity, and opportunities for coordinated advocacy that would be difficult for SAMU to replicate independently. Pursuing this work entirely on our own would require substantially more staff/executive capacity, relationship-building, and coordination for what would ultimately be a much narrower advocacy effort.

The Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) is another federal lobbying organization, and I do not currently see sufficient value in joining. **My assessment is not that federal advocacy itself lacks value, but rather that, given the resources available to SAMU and the existing avenues for federal engagement, maintaining an effective relationship with a pooled voice of student organizations, such as CASA, provides a more compelling use of those resources at this time. This assessment could change if CASA's effectiveness or alignment with SAMU's priorities were to materially decline, or if the federal advocacy landscape changed sufficiently to warrant reconsideration.**

Scenario A-2: Revisiting Observership in the Future

An alternative to this scenario could be a motion from Students' Council to formally revisit CASA's Membership in three years (as we cannot revisit observership for a minimum of three years via CASA Operating Procedures), allowing Council to reassess the value of membership based on SAMU's experience and the federal advocacy landscape at that time. However, I personally do not see significant benefit in pursuing additional experimentation with independent federal advocacy in the interim. Over the past year, SAMU has had relatively limited opportunities to engage directly in federal advocacy outside of initiatives such as Stampede (where it is not possible to schedule a future meeting with many of the MPs we meet, given that they are geographically scattered across Canada, and we do not have the resources to pursue our own federal advocacy week in Ottawa) and a meeting with our local Member of Parliament which makes me relatively doubtful on whether a fully independent model could realistically provide the same level of access, coordination, and advocacy capacity as CASA. **In my view, a future review of membership can be beneficial to SAMU, as more time would be allocated to review our posture federally, but there is currently insufficient evidence to suggest that this would produce better outcomes for SAMU.**

An additional three years (if we revisited this in September 2029 for the 2029/30 Observership Cycle) would provide another 3 Executive Committee/Council administrations to cycle through and provide an opinion on CASA then. This would provide a wider data sample of opinions (1 year out of CASA (now) vs. 4 years), though I do not believe the importance of federal student advocacy nor CASA's operations will materially decline in the next three years.

2) Scenario B

Scenario B is ceasing pursuing CASA's membership, as we had between 2015 and 2025.

CASA membership provides a consistent structure and timeline for federal advocacy each year, particularly through CASA Advocacy Week. This is especially valuable at a time when provincial advocacy should remain SAMU's central advocacy focus, with federal and municipal advocacy serving as important, but secondary, areas of engagement.

There is certainly a benefit to leaving CASA in that SAMU would have complete control over its federal advocacy priorities and strategy, which could contribute to strengthening SAMU's independent federal advocacy. However, I ultimately see this as counterproductive. There are hundreds of student associations and student unions across the country seeking to engage with federal decision-makers, and an individual institutional voice can easily be lost among those competing perspectives. More importantly, I am not convinced that SAMU currently has the organizational capacity, resources, or established relationships necessary to conduct federal advocacy independently at a level comparable to what CASA provides.

This differs considerably from provincial advocacy. As a post-secondary institution located in Alberta's capital, SAMU has relatively direct access to provincial decision-makers. We do not

need to travel significant distances to meet with local MLAs, and while Edmonton currently does not have MLAs from the governing party, MLAs regularly travel to Edmonton, particularly during legislative sittings. This makes sustained provincial engagement considerably more accessible to SAMU than federal advocacy.

Outside of the Calgary Stampede advocacy circuit, which is primarily oriented toward provincial advocacy, and our meeting last year with our local MP, there are, in my view, **very few established or effective avenues for SAMU to independently pursue federal advocacy outside of CASA**. While this does not mean that independent federal advocacy is impossible, it does mean that leaving CASA would require SAMU to build much of the infrastructure, relationships, and advocacy capacity that CASA already provides.

The federal government is playing an increasingly significant role in areas that directly affect post-secondary students, including student grants and loans, youth employment, and affordable housing. Even where post-secondary education itself remains primarily a provincial responsibility, federal programs and investments increasingly intersect with the student experience.

There is also a significant professional development benefit to CASA Membership. CASA's professional development opportunities, both through its conferences and the resources it provides throughout the year, are highly valuable to elected student leaders. Speaking as a first-term elected President last year, I maintain that CASA served as a foundation for many of the professional skills I needed to effectively perform the role. Its training covered a number of specialized areas that SAMU's internal onboarding and training programs did not have the capacity to explore in the same depth, particularly given the extensive annual onboarding process required for five Executive Committee members over the summer.

This includes training on federal advocacy, lobbying, government relations, policy development, meeting preparation, and effective advocacy strategy. By leveraging CASA's existing resources and expertise rather than attempting to develop an equivalent federal advocacy training infrastructure internally, SAMU can provide its elected representatives with specialized professional development while preserving its own organizational capacity for other priorities.

I maintain that CASA's reputation and track record/federal wins (such as the \$1.2 billion federal injection to student aid CASA advocated for this year, as well as reforms around co-op parameters for international students, Indigenous student funding petition launched, youth employment funding injections) are invaluable to student advocacy. Its established relationships with federal decision-makers, combined with the credibility it has built over decades, provide student associations with a level of access and influence that would be difficult for SAMU to establish independently. From a student leader's perspective, CASA's structured advocacy cycle also provides an important degree of consistency and predictability, allowing

Executives to dedicate time to federal advocacy while balancing the competing demands of municipal and provincial advocacy. **Given the high turnover inherent in student leadership, having an established organization, timeline, and professional Home Office staff to support dedicated federal advocacy efforts is particularly valuable.**

Side Bar: What is the Cost?

At this time, it is not possible to generate an exact cost for a CASA Membership Fee given that the exact cost is based on the actual FLE and part-time student enrollment in 2026/27 (which we are not in yet), but as a point of reference, for the 2024/25 academic year, it was \$58,000. In 2015, when SAMU voted to join CASA, the membership fee was \$40,000. On average, this is around a 3.8% increase annually, and it would be reasonable to predict that 2026/27 could range from \$58,000 to \$62,500. This dollar figure will likely increase as MacEwan hits its targets of 30,000 by 2030.

The cost of CASA Membership was not included in the 2026/27 SAMU Budget approved by Students' Council, and would require an unbudgeted expenditure approval by Students' Council. **Regarding this year's budget**, this is a cost that would need to be accounted for by either shifting around departmental surpluses each quarter to account for this, or making budgetary cuts. While this is not impossible, it would certainly be an operational challenge to achieve this. **Beyond this year's budget**, it is my opinion that this would not have a long-term impact with respect to the drafting of future SAMU budgets, as not much time has lapsed since CASA Membership was included in SAMU's budget (before 2026/27's Budget, CASA Membership Fees were included, with the fiscal year beginning in July 2026).

The cost of flights, accommodations, and per diems are additional costs, and are already included in SAMU's budget per the 2026/27 SAMU Budget approved by Students' Council, and can range depending on factors, such as cost of the hotel and number of SAMU staff attending, from \$25,000-\$35,000 annually.

Side Bar: Other Considerations

I strongly see the benefit of developing a procedure for Students' Council to review CASA membership on a three to four-year cycle, which would account for material changes in Executive, Council, or potential government changeover, and would provide a regular accountability mechanism. This regularly empowers new Students' Councils to make an informed decision on whether federal advocacy affiliations meet the needs of MacEwan University students **at that time**, and would account for eras in the student movement when any governing leadership (at a federal level) who may be in power may be less responsive to student needs. For example, while at this time I strongly believe in and see the value proposition that CASA provides, this is partially due to a federal government that has been more collaborative with students, but this could ultimately change.

A final important consideration to note is that **there are several substantial administrative changes coming to CASA that will determine the organization's direction in the coming years.** An example of this is the Executive Director recently departing, as well as the recent departure of their Member Relations Officer and Government Relations Officer. Hiring has already been completed for the new Executive Director and the new Member Relations Officer, with the new Executive Director beginning on August 17th, 2026, and the Member Relations Officer just beginning at the start of August. While a turnover in staff is healthy and normal for any non-profit organization, there is an obvious future lack of predictability that arises with respect to operations or organizational culture.

Conclusion

Ultimately, I believe Students' Council should pursue CASA membership, while recognizing that this is a decision that should be periodically revisited. My assessment throughout this reporting period has been that CASA provides SAMU with a level of federal advocacy infrastructure, access, professional development, and national coordination that would be difficult to replicate independently. The experiences at Foundations and PoliStrat reinforced this assessment: both conferences were well organized, professionally valuable, and provided opportunities for advocacy training, policy development, strategic consultation, and relationship-building with student leaders from across Alberta and Canada.

More importantly, I do not believe that leaving CASA would simply mean replacing one form of advocacy with another. It would require SAMU to independently develop the relationships, resources, travel capacity, advocacy infrastructure, and national profile necessary to effectively engage the federal government. Given the competing demands of municipal, provincial, and federal advocacy, I do not believe SAMU currently has the capacity to replicate what CASA provides. This is particularly relevant because federal advocacy opportunities available to SAMU independently have been relatively limited, while CASA provides a dedicated national structure and coordinated advocacy strategy.

I also believe federal advocacy itself remains worthwhile. While post-secondary education is primarily a provincial responsibility, federal decisions increasingly affect students through grants and loans, housing, employment, Indigenous student funding, and other programs that intersect directly with the student experience. CASA provides SAMU with a practical mechanism to participate in those conversations without requiring the organization to build an entirely independent federal advocacy operation.

There are legitimate arguments for leaving CASA. Independence would give SAMU complete control over its national advocacy identity and priorities, and membership represents a meaningful financial commitment. The projected membership cost for 2026/27 is approximately \$58,000 - \$62,500, in addition to travel and accommodation expenses, and membership costs

were not included in the current SAMU budget. These are monetary costs that Students' Council should weigh against the benefits of membership.

However, I do not believe the appropriate comparison is simply between the cost of CASA membership and the cost of doing nothing. **The more relevant comparison is between the cost of membership and the resources SAMU would need to independently achieve a comparable level of federal advocacy.** In my assessment, CASA currently provides substantially more advocacy capacity, access, professional development, and national coordination than SAMU could reasonably reproduce on its own.

For that reason, my recommendation remains that SAMU **rejoin CASA as a full member when it becomes financially viable.** At the same time, I believe Council should avoid treating this as an indefinite commitment. If SAMU does rejoin, I strongly recommend that Students' Council direct the Executive Committee to develop an **Advocacy Affiliation Procedure** establishing a three- to four-year review cycle. This would allow future Councils to evaluate CASA's effectiveness, alignment with SAMU's priorities, financial value, and the broader federal advocacy environment rather than allowing membership to continue indefinitely without formal review, which lacks accountability.

Finally, I want to emphasize that this recommendation is ultimately about giving Students' Council the information and capacity to make the best decision for MacEwan University students. I have presented the benefits, costs, limitations, and alternatives as I understand them, and I recognize that Council may reasonably arrive at a different conclusion. My assessment, based on this reporting period and my experience with CASA, is simply that **membership currently provides the strongest and most practical avenue for SAMU to maintain an effective federal advocacy presence while preserving its capacity to focus on the provincial and municipal priorities that remain central to our work.**

Canadian Alliance of Students' Associations (CASA) Report to Students Council- Alem

TOPIC	For Students' Council to make the decision whether the Students' Association of MacEwan University (SAMU) should rejoin CASA.
BACKGROUND INFORMATION: (CASA)	Who: CASA is the leading national advocacy body for post-secondary students. Similar to SAMU, they are a non-profit, non-partisan student organization. CASA membership comprises student associations representing undergraduate, graduate, and polytechnic students. When: CASA was established in 1995, and SAMU has been a member since 2015. During March 2025, the students' council voted to leave CASA. As per policy, after we voted to leave the membership, we entered observer status. Where: CASA is headquartered in Ottawa, Ontario Wins: CASA's wins can't be understated. Some of the recent wins include \$321 million invested in Canada Summer Jobs for 2025-26, \$1.1 billion extension of elevated Canada Student Grants and Loans through 2025-26, \$242 million extension of elevated indigenous student aid through 2026-27, \$500 million in youth mental health funding through 2026-27 and more.
For Students' Council's CONSIDERATIONS: (why,)	Why: Approximately two years ago, Students' Council made the decision to leave CASA after weighing the advantages and disadvantages of membership. Following one year as observers, Nathan N. Poon and Wilfrid Youbi Fansi submitted their respective reports, sharing their perspectives and experiences with CASA. Now that our observership is coming to an end, the current SAMU External Executives, Nathan N. Poon and I, will be presenting our respective recommendations to Council on whether SAMU should rejoin CASA. In my report, I will assess the costs and value of CASA membership, outline the benefits and concerns I identified through my experience as an observer, and provide my recommendation. I will also present potential alternatives for the council to consider in determining whether SAMU should rejoin CASA or not

	Cost: The total cost of participating in CASA can be upwards of \$100,000+ annually when considering membership fees, travel and conference expenses, and the opportunity cost associated with the time and wages of the external team. Although SAMU can budget for this, it doesn't necessarily equal value to the student body. Value: The primary benefits of CASA membership include: <u>Federal lobbying opportunities:</u> Opportunities to engage directly with federal politicians and policymakers, including meetings on Parliament Hill. <u>Professional development:</u> Governance, advocacy, and leadership training opportunities, including role-playing exercises and training on parliamentary procedures such as Robert's Rules of Order. <u>Contributing to priorities:</u> The ability to contribute to CASA's advocacy priorities and through leadership positions. <u>Networking and idea sharing (Bonus):</u> I really appreciated the opportunity to connect with student executives and leaders from student associations across the country, share ideas, and learn what works and what doesn't with their Association.
MY RECOMMENDATION:	Unlike the previous external team, I have limited experience with CASA, as I was elected as VP External near the end of our observership period. As such, my recommendation comes down to the cost and value to the MacEwan student body. Membership in CASA does not guarantee that SAMU will have a leadership role within the organization. While we can still contribute to and influence priorities as a member, the most effective way to directly shape CASA's priorities and direction is through a leadership position, whether that is serving as a chair or on the board. As it stands, SAMU is no longer a full member of CASA, and our observer status is coming to an end. The decision before Council is therefore whether to rejoin the organization. My recommendation is that we wait at least two years before making that decision. Now that our observer status has ended and there is no need to attend conferences outside of Alberta, I want to see how effective our federal advocacy can be independently. Over the past few years, SAMU has increased its internal capacity for external

	advocacy, and the External Executive Team have more support from external advocacy staff. Taking two years outside of CASA would give us an opportunity to assess how effective our internal approach to federal advocacy can be without membership in an external advocacy organization. It would also allow us to evaluate whether the benefits CASA provides justify the cost of membership. There is also uncertainty within CASA itself. Between the two conferences I attended, and now, there has been a staff changeover of three of CASA's organization, including the Executive Director. Given these significant staff changes, waiting two years would allow us to assess the organization's stability, direction, and effectiveness as well.
Alternatives:	Professional Development Opportunities One of the key benefits I experienced through attending the two conferences was the professional development and governance training opportunities. These included role-playing exercises, training on the basics of Robert's Rules of Order, and opportunities to practice engaging with federal politicians and policymakers. SAMU already provides some of these training opportunities internally through our Governance and Advocacy Support Team (GAST). However, if there is limited capacity within GAST, or if the External Executive team determines that additional training would be beneficial, an alternative would be to engage an external facilitator to provide specialized governance, advocacy, or professional development training. Lobbying and Advocacy Opportunities The Calgary Stampede was an advocacy opportunity that SAMU first explored last year. It proved to be an effective opportunity to engage with politicians across different levels of government. Although the primary focus was provincial advocacy, the event also created opportunities to connect with federal politicians and arrange meetings with them. The Chamber of Commerce is another avenue that SAMU has explored for political engagement and advocacy. These events provide opportunities to connect with politicians and other stakeholders across different levels of government. Overall, while CASA provides structured advocacy opportunities like Advocacy Week, some of these benefits may also be achievable through existing events and relationships that SAMU has developed independently.

Resources:

Links: <https://www.casa-acae.com>



Voting Members:

Nathan N. Poon, President (absent)
Chioma Uzor, VP Academic (Chair)
Alem Tesfay, VP External
Nathan R. Poon, VP Governance & Finance
Elizabeth Russell, 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:

**VPSL/VPGF
CARRIED**

4. Approval of Minutes for: June 30, 2026

**VPSL/VPE
CARRIED**

TOPIC		DISCUSSION	ACTION/MOTION
			MOTION
1.	Student Groups	VPSL -	TO APPROVE THE CLOSURE OF THE SPEECH LEADERS STUDENT GROUP

			VPGF/VPE CARRIED
		<i>For the time being, please submit your TOIL requests using this form: Executive Committee TOIL Request Form</i> <i>Requests should be submitted at least 24 hours prior to the EC meeting where they will be considered for approval.</i>	
2.	TOIL Requests	Submitted TOIL Requests	
3.	Outstanding Action Items		
4.	VP External's Report	Met with Lara. The Griff interview.	
5.	VP Governance & Finance's Report	SCOC meeting. SEC meeting. Q4 budget update with Finance.	
6.	VP Student Life's Report	OHR meeting. H&D conference update. SEC meeting – welcome back event for SC.	
7.	VP Academic's Report	Met with Provost this morning. Meeting with the Library coming up.	
8.	President's Report	Tabled.	
9.	GM Report	Building update – first floor study space. H&D update.	
10.	Recognition		

5. Adjournment
Time: 2:18pm



Voting Members:

Nathan N. Poon, President (absent)
Chioma Uzor, VP Academic (Chair)
Alem Tesfay, VP External
Nathan R. Poon, VP Governance & Finance
Elizabeth Russell, VP Student Life

Resource Officials:

Darryl Kostash, General Manager
Alan Honey, Governance Advisor (absent)

In Attendance:

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2. Approval of Agenda:

**VPGF/VPSL
CARRIED**

3. Approval of Minutes for: July 15, 2026

**VPGF/VPE
CARRIED**

TOPIC		DISCUSSION	ACTION/MOTION MOTION
1.	Contingency Fund	GM - per policy, we need to request approval to move money out of contingency, money will be replaced when next fee payment comes in.	TO APPROVE A TRANSFER OF \$1.993 MILLION FROM THE

			CONTINGENCY FUND TO THE OPERATING FUND VPE/VPGF CARRIED
2.	Procedures	Grants Procedure – to be retired conditional on the Student Groups Grants Procedure and the Student Professional Development Grants Procedure being approved. Student Groups Procedure – to be approved. VPSL – GAASC made the recommendation to split the procedures for better alignment VPGF – PSC reviewed all recommendations from GAASC and have put forward the following motions RM – all recommendations came from feedback over the past year’s cycle VPE – is everything going to be in effect for this year or is anything going to be delayed RM – everything is going into effect upon approval	MOTION TO APPROVE THE STUDENT GROUPS GRANTS PROCEDURE AND THE STUDENT PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT GRANTS PROCEDURE ON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE PROCEDURE SUB- COMMITTEE VPSL/VPGF CARRIED MOTION TO RETIRE THE GRANTS PROCEDURE ON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE PROCEDURE SUB- COMMITTEE VPGF/VPE CARRIED MOTION TO APPROVE THE STUDENT GROUPS PROCEDURE ON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE PROCEDURE SUB- COMMITTEE VPSL/VPE CARRIED

3.	Referendum Campaign	EAA - going to be an Alberta referendum happening this fall, other student associations are doing get out the vote campaigns wanted to check in with EC, recommendation from GAST is not to run a campaign. VPA – these topics are things that our student population should be educated on, we shouldn't not run a campaign because the topics at hand are sensitive, running a campaign would help educate them EAA – we speak to lots of sensitive issues, but we run those campaigns traditionally with student volunteers, and being able to teach volunteers how to speak to some of those sensitive issues is going to take significant capacity RM – it's a high-risk engagement but we could take it to SC for consultation as well, doesn't mean we cannot do anything to encourage voting in the referendum. VPE – agree with the recommendation from GAST, capacity being a big issue VPSL – unsure of path forward at this time VPGF – unsure of path forward at this time GM – referendum itself isn't partisan, but it is political	Action Item: Discuss referendum campaign at Advo Campfire Action Item: Draft a consultation piece for August SC Meeting regarding referendum campaign
4.	Residence Move-In	RM - Historically Execs have attended residence move-in in the past, we will send a signup sheet around please sign up for shifts once it is circulated.	
5.	TOIL Requests	<i>For the time being, please submit your TOIL requests using this form: Executive Committee TOIL Request Form</i> <i>Requests should be submitted at least 24 hours prior to the EC meeting where they will be considered for approval.</i> Submitted TOIL Requests	
6.	Conflict of Duty Reminder	RM - Conflict of Interest moreso, not a conflict of duty. Reminder of clauses around not doing things to your own private benefit. If you are unsure about what is or isn't a conflict of interest, please ask the chair beforehand, not after.	
7.	Outstanding Action Items		
8.	VP Governance & Finance's Report	Q4 Budget Meeting PSC Meetings Griff Interview	
9.	VP Student Life's Report	Introduction meeting with Director for Centre of Sexual and Gender Diversity Meeting with AVP Student Support and Accountability	
10.	VP Academic's Report	Meeting with Associate Dean of the Library Meeting with the Dean of Business	
11.	VP External's Report	Was away on vacation	
12.	President's Report	Tabled	

13.	GM Report	Building Updates Strategic Plan Update Finance Update	
14.	Recognition		

4. Adjournment
Time: 2:45pm



Voting Members:

Nathan N. Poon, President (Chair)
Chioma Uzor, VP Academic
Alem Tesfay, VP External
Nathan R. Poon, VP Governance & Finance
Elizabeth Russell, VP Student Life

Resource Officials:

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2. Treaty 6 Land Recognition

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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 the Agenda
**VPA/VPSL
CARRIED**
4. Approval of Minutes for: July 22, 2026
**VPGF/VPSL
CARRIED**

TOPIC		DISCUSSION	ACTION/MOTION
			MOTION
1.	Student Group Closure	VPSL – recieved a request from student group department, club executives not interested in continuing student group	TO CLOSE THE OPERATION FREE

			THINKERS STUDENT GROUP VPSL/VPE CARRIED
2.	TOIL Requests	<i>For the time being, please submit your TOIL requests using this form: Executive Committee TOIL Request Form</i> <i>Requests should be submitted at least 24 hours prior to the EC meeting where they will be considered for approval.</i> Submitted TOIL Requests Pres – unable to flex day due to meetings booked	MOTION TO APPROVE AN ACCUMULATION OF UP TO 1.5 HOURS ON JULY 31, 2026 FOR NATHAN N. POON FOR CBC RADIO INTERVIEW VPA/VPE CARRIED
3.	Outstanding Action Items		
4.	VP External's Report	Council Reports	
5.	VP Governance & Finance's Report	Improv Session Tuition and Fees Consultation Preparation Dean of Business Position Consultation Tech Fee Meeting	
6.	VP Student Life's Report	Project Planning and Implementation Dean of Business Position Consultation Meeting	
7.	VP Academic's Report	TAP Steering Committee Meeting Dean of Business Stakeholder Consultation	
8.	President's Report	Media Requests – Student Loan Changes in Alberta Stampede follow-ups ESA Meeting Tech Fee Meeting Tuition and Fees Consultation Preparation	
9.	GM Report	Building Updates Audit Update Finance Update	
10.	Recognition		

5. Adjournment
Time: 2:15pm



Voting Members:

Nathan N. Poon, President (Chair)
Chioma Uzor, VP Academic
Alem Tesfay, VP External
Nathan R. Poon, VP Governance & Finance
Elizabeth Russell, VP Student Life

Resource Officials:

Darryl Kostash, General Manager
Alan Honey, Governance Advisor (Absent)

In Attendance:

Shannon Marshall, Executive Coordinator
Larissa Williams, Internal Advocacy Advisor (Recording Secretary)
Parvin Sedighi, External and Stakeholder Relations Manager
Emily Lukacs, External Advocacy Advisor

1. Call to Order: 2:06pm
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: July 29, 2026
**VPSL/VPGF
CARRIED**

TOPIC		DISCUSSION	ACTION/MOTION
1.	Committee Appointments	IAA - We have alot of motions to get through and some consensus amongst EC for Candidates, others we will need to discuss, recommend going to committee of the whole for more open discussion	MOTION TO MOVE INTO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE VPA/VPSL

			CARRIED MOTION TO MOVE OUT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE VPSL/VPA CARRIED MOTION TO MOVE INTO A 5-MINUTE RECESS VPA/VPSL CARRIED MOTION TO APPOINT ALEX-KAREEM DUNBERRY TO THE GFC COUNCIL ON STUDENT AFFAIRS FOR A TERM ENDING JUNE 30, 2027. VPA/VPSL CARRIED MOTION TO APPOINT ARIZA FATIMA, L, RASHAN SRAO AND JOSHUA WAGNER TO THE FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCE COUNCIL FOR A TERM ENDING JUNE 30, 2027. VPSL/VPGF CARRIED MOTION TO APPOINT MATTEO SICOLO, MANREET KAR MANREET AND SARAH PERSON TO THE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS COUNCIL FOR A TERM ENDING JUNE 30, 2027.
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			VPSL/VPA CARRIED MOTION TO APPOINT MARIA ARCA YNA, AND STEPHANIE CHAN TO THE FACULTY OF FINE ARTS & COMMUNICATIONS COUNCIL FOR A TERM ENDING JUNE 30, 2027. VPGF/VPA CARRIED MOTION TO APPOINT KELSEY BYERS TO THE FACULTY OF HEALTH AND COMMUNITY STUDIES COUNCIL FOR A TERM ENDING JUNE 30, 2027. VPSL/VPA CARRIED MOTION TO APPOINT FAITH OLUWASIKEMI FADAHUNSI, AND ALEX RUMAK TO THE FACULTY OF NURSING COUNCIL FOR A TERM ENDING JUNE 30, 2027. VPGF/VPSL CARRIED MOTION TO APPOINT SHASHWAT GUJJAR, AND BEENADD SEBHAT TO THE RESEARCH ETHICS BOARD FOR A TERM ENDING JUNE 30, 2027. VPA/VPGF CARRIED
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			MOTION TO APPOINT KAYMIE DUFFIELD TO THE ANIMAL RESEARCH ETHICS BOARD FOR A TERM ENDING JUNE 30, 2027. VPGF/VPSL CARRIED MOTION TO APPOINT AVAREY FRAYN TO THE BOOK OF THE YEAR COMMITTEE FOR A TERM ENDING JUNE 30, 2027. VPSL/VPA CARRIED MOTION TO APPOINT ABBEY HENDERSON-TANGUAY, AND MARCUS TARANGER TO THE SEXUAL VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR A TERM ENDING JUNE 30, 2027. VPA/VPGF CARRIED
2.	EC Event	RM- Event details Intent to have VPSL join the VPGF and the GM to this event	MOTION: TO APPROVE UP TO \$275 FOR ELIZABETH RUSSELL ATTENDANCE AT CHAMBER EVENT FROM G/L LINE 525600 VPGF/VPA CARRIED Abstain: VPSL
3.	TOIL Requests	<i>For the time being, please submit your TOIL requests using this form: Executive Committee TOIL Request Form</i>	

		<u>Requests should be submitted at least 24 hours prior to the EC meeting where they will be considered for approval.</u>	
		Submitted TOIL Requests	
4.	Outstanding Action Items		
5.	VP Academic's Report	Project Planning Work	
6.	VP External's Report	tabled	
7.	VP Governance & Finance's Report	Tuition and Fees Meeting Prep	
8.	VP Student Life's Report	GAASC Meeting	
9.	President's Report	Meeting with MacEwan President. Various interviews with CBC regarding student financial aid	
10.	GM Report	Finance Updates Building Updates	
11.	Recognition		

5. Adjournment
Time: 3:05pm



**STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION
OF MACEWAN UNIVERSITY**

STUDENTS' COUNCIL MEETING SUBMISSION

AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION

Meeting Date	Submitted By
August 19, 2026	Nathan R. Poon, VP Governance and Finance

Agenda Title	Item
	Councillor Vacancy
Action Requested	☒ Motion ☐ Consultation Item

AGENDA ITEM DETAILS

Motion Title	Motion to accept the recommendation of the Students' Council Operations Committee and appoint _____ as a Students' Councillor, effective August 20, 2026, for a term ending October 31, 2026
Background Information	The Students' Council Operations Committee has provided a recommendation, in camera, to appoint this student as a Councillor to fill one of our current vacancies. Completing this appointment ensures that we continue to have as many student voices at the Council table as possible.
Alternative Considerations	Not appoint this student to a vacant seat.
Risk Management Considerations	
Strategic Alignment	☒ Attached Strategic Alignment Checklist is complete
Implications	
Related Documents	Bylaws, Roles and Responsibilities of the Chief Returning Officer
Follow Up Action	
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.	☐	☒	☐
1.1 Put the finishing touches on the SAMU building, enhancing the safe and intentional spaces for students to gather, relax and study.	☐	☒	☐
1.2 Increase student awareness of SAMU and its opportunities through strong communications and engaging marketing and brand	☐	☒	☐
1.3 Increase student engagement by offering relevant and meaningful events, programs, services, volunteer activities and employment opportunities for students	☐	☒	☐
1.4 Support Student Groups by offering networking opportunities, meeting space, outreach support and online platforms	☐	☒	☐
Student Voice			
The Student Voice is amplified by SAMU.	☐	☒	☐
2.1 Develop an Advocacy Plan and implement processes to strengthen SAMU's advocacy program.	☐	☒	☐
2.2 Enhance awareness and interest in SAMU's democratic processes through education and encouraging student participation	☐	☐	☒
2.3 Continue to build collaborative relationships with other Student Associations and organizations to enhance the collective student voice with all government levels	☐	☒	☐
2.4 Foster positive relationships with MacEwan University to better serve students	☐	☒	☐
Student Supports			
Student supports provided by SAMU are responsive to unique and evolving needs.	☐	☒	☐
3.1 Develop and deliver initiatives that are inclusive and are responsive to all student needs.	☐	☒	☐
3.2 Evaluate and assess student supports to remain relevant and accountable to students	☐	☒	☐
3.3 Strengthen collaborations and partnerships with MacEwan University to expand supports and resources for students.	☐	☒	☐
3.4 Enhance relationships with external organizations to leverage resources and supplement new and existing initiatives	☐	☒	☐
Strengthening SAMU Operations			
SAMU is an innovative and sustainable organization with an engaging work environment.	☐	☒	☐
4.1 Review SAMU governance structures and make improvements to reduce duplication of efforts and delays in decision-making processes.	☐	☒	☐
4.2 Document main policies and processes to support business continuity and transitions in leadership and staff.	☐	☒	☐
4.3 Diversify revenue streams to reduce reliance on student fees.	☐	☒	☐
4.4 Act as financial and environmental stewards and implement effective practices to enhance sustainability.	☐	☒	☐
4.5 Foster a professional and supportive work environment that lives the organizational values and delivers a culture of excellence.	☐	☒	☐



STUDENTS' COUNCIL MEETING SUBMISSION

AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION		
Meeting Date	Submitted By	
Agenda Item Title		
Action Requested	Motion	Consultation Item
AGENDA ITEM DETAILS		
Motion Title		
Background Information		
Alternative Considerations		
Risk Management Considerations		
Strategic Alignment	Check this box if in alignment with Strategic Plan	
Implications		
Related Documents		
Follow Up Action		
Review History		

If you require more writing space for an item please include it on a separate sheet. Remember to attach that document to this when submitting.

Strategic Alignment Checklist

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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.

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