



**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
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.

1. Treaty 6 Land Recognition

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

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

2. Approvals

2.1 MOTION

TO APPROVE THE AGENDA FOR MARCH 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.