



NEWS RELEASE

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For immediate release

MacEwan students worried about impact of University of Alberta cuts

Edmonton, Alberta – Classroom cuts at the University of Alberta have students at MacEwan University worried about the greater impact on Alberta’s post-secondary system. Recently the University of Alberta’s Board of Governors approved across the board cuts of 4% despite a 2% increase in funding from the Government of Alberta and dramatic increases to international student tuition and residence fees.

“Cuts in university classrooms have an impact beyond just individual campuses. Hundreds of University of Alberta students transfer to MacEwan University and vice versa, so this damages post-secondary education across the city,” said Stephanie Nedoshytko, President at the Students’ Association of MacEwan University. “These cuts are also unnecessary, given funding announcements made by the Government of Alberta. Students at MacEwan University are concerned.”

MacEwan University is one of the largest receiving institutions in Alberta, with thousands of students transferring to MacEwan University from other institutions. In 2016, over 600 students transferred from the University of Alberta, while over 1,000 MacEwan students went on to continue their studies at the University of Alberta. MacEwan University has over 19,000 students compared to 38,000 at the University of Alberta. All Alberta institutions, including MacEwan University and the University of Alberta, have received annual 2% increases to their base operating funding from the Government of Alberta since 2015 and the recently tabled provincial budget includes a 2% increase for next year as well as additional funding to offset the lost revenue from the tuition freeze.

“I think students are worried that MacEwan University will see what is happening at the University of Alberta and look to cut classroom funding as well, so we are hoping that the University of Alberta will reconsider their budget decisions in light of increased funding from the provincial government,” concluded Nedoshytko. “We support the students at the University of Alberta as they seek to reverse a decision that hurts the entire post-secondary system in Alberta.”

About SAMU: The Students’ Association of MacEwan University exists to enrich the student experience. As the collective student voice and champion for leadership and advocacy, we empower students through our programs and services, creating an engaging environment that maximizes opportunities. [For more information visit www.samu.ca.](http://www.samu.ca)

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