

Bylaws

Name

1 Established under the *Post-Secondary Learning Act* of Alberta, the legal name of this organization is "Students' Association of Grant MacEwan University". The operating name of this organization is "Students' Association of MacEwan University" (SAMU). Hereinafter, this organization is referred to as "SAMU".

Object

2 The object of SAMU is to exercise its powers and responsibilities in the interest of the students of Grant MacEwan University.

Membership

Classes of Membership

3 Members of SAMU include General Members, Secondary Student Members, and Honourary Members.

General Membership

4 A General Member of SAMU is a student enrolled in a credit course at Grant MacEwan University.

Secondary Student Membership

5 A Secondary Student Member of SAMU is a student enrolled in secondary level courses only at Grant MacEwan University.

Honourary Membership

6 An Honourary Member of SAMU is an individual who is not a General Member or a Secondary Student Member, and who has been granted Member status by special resolution of Students' Council. Honourary Membership may also be revoked by special resolution of Students' Council.

Fees

7 SAMU fees are assessed to General Members and Secondary Student Members only.

Rights

General Members

8 General Members have the right to access SAMU programming and services, sign referenda petitions, vote in SAMU elections and referenda, and serve as Councillors and Executives.

Secondary Student Members

9 Secondary Student Members have the right to access SAMU programming and services, sign referenda petitions, and vote in SAMU referenda.

Honourary Members

10 Honourary Members may not access SAMU programming or services, sign referenda petitions, vote in SAMU elections or referenda, or serve as Councillors or Executives.

End of Membership

11 General Membership and Secondary Student Membership in SAMU end when the Member ceases to be enrolled in a course at Grant MacEwan University.

Students' Council

Highest Authority

12 As established within the Post-Secondary Learning Act, all of the powers and responsibilities of SAMU not otherwise assigned in these Bylaws are vested in the Students' Council of SAMU, hereinafter referred to as "Students' Council".

Composition

13 Students' Council consists of fourteen Councillors and five Executives.

Powers

Interpretation of Bylaws

14 Students' Council holds the exclusive authority to interpret the Bylaws in cases of ambiguity.

Policy

15 Students' Council exercises the powers and responsibilities of SAMU by enacting Policies that set expectations for SAMU consistent with these bylaws, and by monitoring adherence to those Policies.

Vision and Mission

16 Students' Council approves the vision and mission of SAMU.

Borrowing Powers

17 Students' Council holds the exclusive authority to authorize the borrowing of funds and the pledging of SAMU assets as security. Such authorization shall be by special resolution.

Budget Approval

18 Students' Council gives final approval to the SAMU budget.

Committees

19 Students' Council may create committees and may delegate to them powers and responsibilities in a way that is consistent with these Bylaws.

Punitive Measures

20 Students' Council has the exclusive power to censure or remove from office Councillors and Executives.

Responsibilities

Annual Report

21 Students' Council provides for the creation of an Annual Report to the Members of SAMU, outlining the activities and status of SAMU.

Consultation

22 Students' Council ensures that it consults with students in the performance of its duties.

Meetings

Regular Meetings

23 Regular meetings of Students' Council are held at least once a month.

Special Meetings

24 Special meetings may be called by any two members of Students' Council with advance written notice of at least one week.

Town Hall Meetings

25 Town Hall meetings are held at least once per year.

Quorum

26 Quorum for any Students' Council meeting is a simple majority of all current voting members.

Special Resolutions

27 A Special Resolution of Students' Council requires two weeks notice of the motion, and at least 75% voting in favour.

Open Meetings

28 Meetings of Students' Council are open to the public.

Councillors

Qualifications for Office

29 Councillors must be General Members at the time of election or appointment, and in good academic standing with Grant MacEwan University throughout their elected term.

Elections

30 Elections for Councillors are held every year.

Terms

Term Beginning

31 The term of a Councillor starts on November 1 following their election, or on the date of appointment by Students' Council.

Term Ending

32 The term of a Councillor ends on October 31, upon SAMU's receipt of a letter of resignation from the Councillor, upon Students' Council's removal of the Councillor, or upon the Councillor's ceasing to meet the qualifications for office.

Vacancies

33 In the case of a Councillor vacancy, Students' Council will solicit a qualified Member for appointment.

Remuneration

34 Councillors are remunerated for their service.

Executive Committee

Authority

35 The Executive Committee of SAMU, hereinafter referred to as “Executive Committee”, holds the authority to exercise powers and responsibilities of SAMU consistent with these Bylaws.

Composition

36 Executive Committee consists of five Executives, including a President and four Vice Presidents.

Powers

General Manager

37 Executive Committee has the exclusive authority to select, negotiate the employment contract of, provide direction to, review the performance of, and release the General Manager.

Legal

38 Executive Committee has the exclusive authority to conduct legal proceedings on behalf of SAMU.

Contracts and Signing Authority

39 Executive Committee has the authority to negotiate, terminate, and sign contracts and documents on behalf of SAMU. Unbudgeted contracts over \$10,000.00 and contracts which exceed a one-year commitment must be approved by Students’ Council. Employment contracts are exempt.

Procedures

40 Executive Committee may approve Procedures that set expectations for SAMU consistent with these bylaws and with Students' Council Policies, and monitor adherence to those Procedures.

Responsibilities

Reporting

41 Executive Committee reports to Students’ Council.

Meetings

Calling Meetings

42 Meetings of Executive Committee are held on the call of any Executive.

Frequency

43 Meetings of Executive Committee will occur no less than twice per month.

Quorum

44 Quorum for any Executive Committee meeting is a simple majority of all current voting members.

Executives

Qualification for Office

45 Executives must be General Members at the time of their election or appointment, and in good academic standing with Grant MacEwan University throughout their elected term.

Elections

46 Elections for Executives are held every year.

Terms

Term Beginning

47 The term of an Executive starts on May 1st following their election, or on the date of appointment by Students' Council.

Term Ending

48 The term of an Executive ends on April 30, upon receipt by SAMU of a letter of resignation, upon removal from office by the Students' Council, or upon the Executive's ceasing to meet the qualifications for office, whichever occurs first.

Term Limits

49 An individual may hold Executive positions for no more than three cumulative terms. An Executive may hold no more than one Executive position per term.

Responsibilities

Reporting

50 Executives report to Students' Council.

Executive Portfolios

President

51 The President is responsible for community and university relations, excluding academic affairs, as well as such other responsibilities as are given in SAMU Policies.

Vice President Academic

52 The Vice President Academic is responsible for academic affairs, as well as such other responsibilities as are given in SAMU Policies.

Vice President External

53 The Vice-President External is responsible for government relations, as well as such other responsibilities as are given in SAMU Policies.

Vice President Operations and Finance

54 The Vice President Operations and Finance is responsible for internal affairs, as well as such other responsibilities as are given in SAMU Policies.

Vice President Student Life

55 The Vice President Student Life is responsible for programming and services, as well as such other responsibilities as are given in SAMU Policies.

Vacancies

56 In the case of an Executive vacancy, Students' Council will solicit a qualified Member for appointment.

Remuneration

57 The Executives are remunerated for their service.

General Manager

Authority

58 The General Manager of SAMU holds the authority to exercise powers and responsibilities of SAMU consistent with these Bylaws, and as otherwise assigned in Policies and Procedures.

Powers

Staffing

59 The General Manager holds authority to hire, negotiate terms of employment with, manage, review the performance of, and release the staff of SAMU.

Responsibilities

Consultation

60 The General Manager is responsible for consulting with Executives in the performance of their duties.

Reporting

61 The General Manager reports to Executive Committee.

Ensure Compliance

62 The General Manager acts in good faith to ensure compliance with SAMU Bylaws, Policies, and Procedures.

Referenda

63 SAMU will hold a referendum on a question given to it for that purpose by Students' Council, or by a petition stating the question and bearing the signatures, names, and student identification numbers of 10% of Members. Voting in a referendum is restricted to Members who would be affected by the outcome of the referendum.

Amendment

64 Amendments to these Bylaws may be made following a consultation at a Town Hall meeting and by two readings at Students' Council with a special resolution required for both readings.

Interpretation

65 Numbering, headers, and the capitalization of frequently used terms in this document are provided for convenience only, and do not affect the meaning of these bylaws. Where appropriate to the context, words implying the singular or plural shall be interpreted to imply the other. Where appropriate to the context, words in the present tense shall be interpreted to include the past and future tenses. In all circumstances, these Bylaws are subject to applicable law.