

**Minutes for the Students' Council Meeting of the
Students' Association of MacEwan University
June 20, 2018 at 6:00pm in room #7-218**

In Attendance:

Andrew Bieman, Vice President External
Rachelle Drummond, Councillor
Jackie Kent, Vice President Academic
Sylvie Masson, Councillor
Jaden Melech, Councillor
Jared Millions, Councillor
Spencer Newton, Councillor
Emma Patterson, Vice President Operations
Sophia Qaderi, Councillor
Luis Ruiz, Councillor
Parvin Sedighi, President
Vanessa Sheppard, Councillor

Aubrianna Snow, Councillor
Tansy Spyker, Vice President Student Life
Kent Strayer, Councillor
Matthew Yanish, Councillor
vacant, Councillor
vacant, Councillor

SAMU Officials and Council Support:

Timothy Jobs, Chair
Alan Honey, Governance Advisor
Duncan Wojtaszek, Director of Advocacy & Governance

Absent:

Jacob Marler, Councillor

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 Amiskwacyi 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 JUNE 20, 2018**

PRES/SHEPPARD

CARRIED

2.2 MOTION **TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MAY 16, 2018**

STRAYER/SNOW

CARRIED

3. Presentations

4. For Information

4.1. Reports

4.1.1. President

EC met with FFAC students. Convocation sessions.

4.1.2. Vice President Academic

Met with sub-committee of research council re tedx event.

4.1.3. Vice President External

As presented.

4.1.4. Vice President Operations & Finance

As presented.

4.1.5. Vice President Student Life

Meeting with Roxanne Runyon about sexual violence training best practices to be included in club training.

4.1.6. Appointment Advisory Committee

4.2. Executive Committee Minutes

Minutes of May 9, 29, and 30, 2018 provided.

5. Question Period

5.1. Written Questions

Sheppard – To the President, due to the outcome that came from the board meeting that you called in to, do you think that your stance in the opposition would have been taken more seriously had you been there in person?

Pres - I don't believe my presence over the phone vs. in person impacted the outcome of the vote, no. I made arguments that, based on feedback from the board chair and members after the fact, were heard by the board in a meaningful way, but unfortunately not enough to sway their votes. This voting pattern is also consistent with past votes on tuition, where the student member has been the only one to oppose increases.

Newton - Madam President: With regard to the Cannabis Working Committee, has SAMU considered other universities' approaches to dealing with cannabis? Has CAUS or CASA made any recommendations on how to approach the new legislation? And to what extent will Edmonton bylaws limit MacEwan's ability to develop their own policies for Cannabis use?

Pres - As SAMU is not the one creating the policy, we have not been in conversation with other universities formally, though I've certainly encouraged the university to do so. We have been in conversation with SUs and SAs across the province, however, to learn best practices around supporting students as it relates to cannabis use on campus or campus properties. CAUS and CASA have not made recommendations as the legislation is not yet out and neither organization wishes to be speculative. City bylaws apply to MacEwan properties, so any policy the university writes will need to be in compliance with city bylaws.

Newton - Madam Vice-President Academic: After meeting with AGC, do you feel that they are any more open to the idea of introducing a Fall reading break? If so, how much longer do you project before students will be able to expect a Fall reading break?

Vpa - During the meeting, it was decided amongst the Council that there was not enough 'proper data' to prove that university members and students across programs are in favour of a full week, and accept the changes to the schedule that will need to take place to accommodate a full break. Dr. Saucier suggested that we survey all individual schools and faculties (students and faculty) in early September to get a better understanding of how students (and faculty) really think about this break. After the results of that survey are received, we will re-evaluate whether the full week is something that we want to continue to advocate for at this time. Regardless of the survey results, we are here to enact the will of the students, whatever that truly may be. If a full week is still what students want to see happen, we are hoping for Fall 2019, but at this rate we may be looking at Fall 2020.

Newton - Mr. Vice-President External: Did your attendance at the Healthy Campus Alberta Wellness Summit provide yourself and the organization you represented any new insight into supporting and addressing mental health? If so, what?

Vpe - Thanks for the question Councilor Newton! The Healthy Campus Alberta Wellness Summit (HCA Summit) was focused on internal programs and education this year. It looked at how to educate

staff, students, and faculty on how to become stronger supports in addressing mental health instead of leaving it strictly to mental health professionals. As I went on behalf of CAUS, it was good to see the different methods and programs that create environments that support mental health education and thereby help to address mental health on Campuses. HCA is also a community of practice and allows CAUS to tap into a wide breadth of knowledge and provides us with a network to address issues faced on campus.

Drummond - For the VPA- regarding OER's and the *Northeastern OER Summit*. It is noted in your report that there were lots of strategies that were taken away from this conference. If possible, I would like to get more specifics regarding some of these strategies. Over the past two years I have seen things such as campaigns/surveys in the school asking students opinions on OER's and textbook prices, but I was curious if there were any concrete strategies or new textbook programs that were being looked at for being executed in the near future?

Vpa - It comes as no shock when I say that students think textbooks/learning materials are overpriced, and expensive textbooks do not help students learn (no matter how great they are) when they cannot afford the resource. This past year there were two campaigns – the first being to students to spread alternative methods of acquiring the resources required other than buying a book full price, and the second was a faculty campaign that showed them how expensive textbooks affected students learning. The promotion of OER adoption is just one method that faculty can enact to help students, and is one that I am a big fan of. Of course, the biggest challenge with trying to get resource costs down is the act of trying to convince someone who is either set in their ways, or is convinced they know what is best. Some of the strategies that I took away from this conference, and hope to implement during my term, were to strategically target specific faculty (instead of just a broad awareness campaign) who teach multiple sections of a course to increase the impact to students. Another strategy was to order a couple of hard copies of an OER, and bring them directly to faculty to have a look at. Once they can better visualize the quality of an OER, it is shown that they are more likely to adopt. The final strategy that I will mention today is creating a committee or group on campus, comprised of different stakeholders, that is dedicated to the textbook affordability cause. Multiple voices are much louder than one, and I am currently creating/editing the TOR for this committee to be created.

Drummond - For the President- In regards to the increase of tuition for domestic students to 1.75%, how was this quantum decided on, and were there reasons given for the increase? Following the increase, are there specific strategies that SAMU is considering to provide support to the students impacted?

Pres - There wasn't a specific rationale given for that increase, but it is consistent with inflation, so my educated guess would be that the increase is meant to address increasing costs. EC is currently in discussions about an action plan regarding tuition for the fall, but no concrete details are available as of yet.

Drummond - For the VPSL and VPX- regarding the *Campus Master Plan Public Open House*, after reading the campus master plan it appears very geared towards appeasing to the public. Was there any specifics that were discussed or observed that you thought were largely focused on student's needs?

Vpe - Excellent question Councilor Drummond. You are correct. It seems to be primarily geared towards pleasing the eye. However, there was talk about increased study space, more collaborative space, and increased green space for students. On top of this, the plan included the School of Business getting their own building too. I think one thing that was concerning is that it eliminates much of the parking on campus and relies heavily on the idea that MacEwan would be a commuter campus, if Edmonton can make its public transit system more efficient.

Vpsl - Thank you, Councilor Drummond, for the question. The main concern that appears to be focused on was the expansions of space. There was mentions of increased gathering spaces indoor

and outdoor, but honestly the plan left me wanting. I am interested to hear about what they have/will come up with for increasing accessibility for all.

5.2. Oral Questions

Topics include: Role on Pres on SVPEC; SAMU building position being heart of campus; Fall Reading break;

6. In Camera Period

6.1 Councillor Appointments

MOTION TO GO IN CAMERA

RUIZ/MILLIONS

CARRIED

MOTION TO GO OUT OF CAMERA

MASSON/VPE

CARRIED

7. Motions & Business Orders of the Day

7.1. Councillor Appointments

MOTION TO APPOINT COLE BAKER & ALYCIA STEWART AS COUNCILLORS ON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE APPOINTMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

PRES/SHEPPARD

Favour: Vpe, Drummond, Masson, Millions, Newton, Qaderi, Ruiz, Sheppard, Snow, Strayer, Yanish, Melech, Pres, Vpa, Vpo, Vpsl

CARRIED

7.2. Audit Committee

Nominees: Stewart, Baker, Strayer, Ruiz, Melech, Yanish

MOTION TO APPOINT COUNCILLOR STEWART, COUNCILLOR BAKER, AND COUNCILLOR YANNISH TO THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

NEWTON/MILLIONS

Favour: Vpe, Drummond, Masson, Millions, Newton, Qaderi, Ruiz, Sheppard, Snow, Strayer, Yanish, Melech, Baker, Stewart, Pres, Vpa, Vpo, Vpsl

CARRIED

8. Consultation

9. Evaluation

10. Recognition

11. Adjournment

MOTION TO ADJOURN

YANISH

CARRIED

Next Meeting Date: July 18, 2018

Meeting adjourned at 6:55pm.