

**Students' Association of Mount Royal College
Students' Council Meeting
March 1, 2010
Students' Council Chambers**

Present:

Robert Jones (chair)
Eily Sweeney
Troy McLeod (part)
Meghan Melynk
Jennifer Langille
Michael Decker
Marcy Fogal (ex-officio)

Erin Delamont
Tommy Lieu
Holly Mazur (part)
Tegan Smyth
Keeli Elaschuk
Rance Williams
Megan Borg (scribe)

Travis McIntosh
Jermyn Voon
Fadwa Hourieh
Kay Asiedu-Nketiah
Anna Piltingsrud

Regrets:

Sadiq Valliani

Guests:

Jackie Fisher (SAMRU) - part
Jane McNichol
Theresa Matis

1.0 Presentations

1.1 E-learning Presentation

Students' Council welcomed Jane McNichol and Theresa Matis.

Theresa explained that the February 3rd and 4th student consultations have been completed and they successfully surveyed 566 students. She stated that they have also done a qualitative survey for online students in the economics programs and early education programs.

She noted that the next step will be to analyze this information. She also noted that the continuing education surveys are currently in progress and they will be doing the start program students at a later date.

Jane noted that the participation rate was significant for the time period in which it was conducted and noted that the data from the online students will be a great new data set, as well as the feedback from the continuing education students. She noted that they are beginning to look at emerging issues from the data and noted that there was a lot more feedback from the online students.

Theresa noted that a lot of the feedback indicates that students would like a moderate amount of technology, but that is used well. She noted that students still want face to face classroom interactions.

Robert Jones stated that he would like a balance between hands-on time and e-learning because MRU has an awesome reputation for small and interactive classrooms. Jane replied that some of the comments from the survey indicated that they didn't want e-learning to take away from the personal interactions in the classroom with instructors and students. She stated that if MRU wants to expand e-learning in the future, they will need to pay attention to these comments. Theresa stated that students want the flexibility to have the option of taking online courses if they want in order to finish their degrees.

Travis McIntosh asked when they next survey data will be available. Theresa replied that it will be approximately 6-8 weeks and the next set of data collection will be gathered through staff consultations.

Erin Delamont noted that the University will be facing some budget issues and asked if e-learning is more cost effective for the institution. Theresa replied that it is not always more cost effective because in a normal class there are about 50 or so students, and in an online class, there is between 20-25 students enrolled. Jane also noted that the biggest cost involved with e-learning is the start-up expenses because they need to look at technology, infrastructure, and faculty development, education and training. She stated that the long term and ongoing effects can be more cost effective for a lot of institutions.

Theresa explained that not all programs are appropriate for e-learning, but that it makes a lot of sense for other programs, such as the early education program where a lot of the students cannot afford to take time off from working to attend classes because they are in low-income employment fields. She noted that a benefit of online courses is that they are transferable in order to move onto other programs.

Robert Jones asked if MRU follows the Campus Alberta model in their e-learning, or if they have a strategy in place in order to tie into the model and mirror other institutions. Theresa replied that most of the courses are delivered by the Campus Alberta model.

Erin Delamont asked where they will go with the next steps. Theresa replied that they will be going to the next level of consults and focus groups, and then compile all of the information and the committee will bring their recommendations forward. She noted that they hope to have all of these completed by the end of June.

Students' Council thanked Theresa and Jane for attending the meeting.

(Jane McNichol and Theresa Matis left the meeting)

1.2 SAMRU Volunteer Services Presentation

(Jackie Fisher joined the meeting)

Jackie Fisher explained that the SAMRU volunteer centers are modeled around engagement and peer-based service delivery. She stated that staff roles include recruitment, training and management of volunteers. She noted that currently there are approximately 100 volunteers within the service centers.

Jackie stated that the model principles of volunteer services are peer based, non-academic service focused, focus on member engagement and community connections.

Jackie noted that the model deliverables include service provision, community building, awareness and education and social opportunities.

Jackie gave an overview of the SAMRU volunteer centers:

Peer Support Centre:

- Opened in 1992 – the oldest and best established centre
- Focus on service provision
- Connections with MRU through counseling in the Wellness Centre
- Partnerships with CIFB, Calgary Legal Guidance and U of C Food Bank

Native Students Centre:

- Opened in 1998 and was initiated by a club

- Focus on community building, education and awareness and social opportunities
- Connections with MRU and the community (Ex. Iniskim Centre)

Cultural Mosaic Centre:

- Established in 2003 and opened full-time in 2005
- Focus on community building, awareness and education and social opportunities
- Connections with MRU and the community (Ex. Human Rights Office)

Student Outreach & Safewalk:

- Safewalk established in 2002 & Student Outreach added in 2008 (part-time centre)
- Focus on services and awareness and education
- Connections with MRU through formal agreements with Security.
- Provides walks home, the Residence grocery bus and self-defense and safety courses.

AccessAbility Centre:

- Established in 2005 (part-time centre)
- Focus on services designed to help people with specific disabilities, community building and awareness and education
- Connections with MRU through Accessibility Services

Sustainability Centre:

- Opened January 2009
- Focus on services and awareness and education
- Connections with MRU through the MRU Sustainability Committee
- Opened an eco-store in CopyWrite Centre

Diversity Centre:

- Opened January 2009 (part-time centre)
- Focus on community building, awareness and education and social opportunities
- Connections with MRU through events collaboration (Ex. Pride Week, Gender Bender, Sexual Health Fair and work with the Positive Spaces program)

Jackie noted that the centers are all important because they allow members to connect with SAMRU in a meaningful way; they build inclusive communities, deliver services and programming and contribute to the campus community, including complementing existing services on campus.

Eily Sweeney asked which center is most utilized and has the most volunteers. Jackie replied that the Peer Support Centre is the most used center for services, but noted that the majority of the centers are awareness and education based; therefore it is hard to determine. She noted that all centers this semester and last semester met their targets for volunteers, which is something to commend.

Travis McIntosh asked how SAMRU maintains continuity with the turnover of volunteers and coordinators. Jackie replied that there is a lot of training involved with being a volunteer within a lot of the centers, which helps to maintain the continuity from year to year. She stated that there is a high level of commitment from the volunteers to keep the centers going.

Students' Council thanked Jackie for the presentation.

(Jackie Fisher left the meeting and Troy McLeod joined the meeting)

2.0 Approval of Agenda

Motion: To approve the March 1, 2010 Students' Council meeting agenda.

Jennifer Langille/Fadwa Khourieh

Carried

3.0 Approval of Consent Agenda

Motion: To approve the consent agenda with the removal of February 8, 2010 Students' Council meeting minutes, meeting feedback and Executive Committee meeting minutes and reports.

Holly Mazur/Fadwa Khourieh

Carried

4.0 Items Removed From Consent Agenda

February 8, 2010 Students' Council Meeting Minutes

Robert Jones noted that there have been scheduling conflicts and EC has not been able to meet yet in regards to recommendations to ECPPPC.

Eily Sweeney noted that regarding the CEC priorities that were mentioned at the last meeting, the elections awareness went well and SAMRU received great voter turnout of 10% of the student body. She also noted that the AGM was successful with a 30% increase in attendance. She noted that a lot of that success is due to the new clubs contest and she looks forward to continuing this for the next AGM.

Robert also noted that in regards to the CASA update, he and Travis will be compiling a report from the CASA conference to bring to SC.

February 8, 2010 Students' Council Meeting Feedback

Robert noted that the CASA budget report that was requested on the meeting feedback has been emailed to Council and stated that it is the most recent report from January 2010.

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes & Reports

Erin Delamont stated that budget discussions have been occurring in EC over the last several meetings and there was a concern that we may need to start covering operating expenses for our non-revenue generating areas due to the recent budget cuts and the University now receiving all of their funding in a package together. Erin commended Marcy Fogal for her strong relationships with the University Administration and her negotiating skills because the University will be covering the approximate \$700,000 in operating expenses. Travis noted that this funding will open up a lot of opportunities for our budget.

Motion: To do a dance of joy.

Keeli Elaschuk/Eily Sweeney

Carried

Travis McIntosh stated that the MRFA has donated a number of chairs to the SA and he has sent an initial thank you letter to the MRFA. He noted that EC are currently exploring ways to thank the MRFA and any suggestions are welcome.

Motion: To approve the February 8, 2010 Students' Council meeting minutes, meeting feedback and the Executive Committee meeting minutes and reports.

Jermyn Voon/Michael Decker

Carried

5.0 Generative Governance Topic Discussion: Co-curricular Record

Erin Delamont explained that the co-curricular record is a transcript for extra-curricular activities on campus. She stated that it is a growing trend that came to Canada in 2006 and noted that the U of C and many other Canadian institutions use it. She explained that students can use the program to search career boards and become connected with activities. She noted that learning outcomes and skills gained are also included with activities on the program. She noted that it is separate from an academic transcript.

Keeli Elaszuk asked if the record only contains activities at MRU. Erin replied that what happens on campus is only included because it needs to be verified activities that are associated with MRU. She noted that some schools have expanded to include activities outside of their institution.

Rance Williams asked if there is an opportunity for this program to be operated by the SA. Erin replied that it could be adopted by the SA, but it may not be worthwhile or legitimate. She noted that there is an idea for the SA to fund some of the start-up costs to ensure that we are involved.

Meghan Melnyk asked if there has been support from the University. Erin replied that there is a lot of MRU support, but the biggest drawback is funding. She explained that there is a sub-committee on campus that she and Ana Piltingsrud are involved in with other people on campus and there is a lot of momentum going for this initiative.

Erin explained that the sub-committee is currently trying to gain evaluative information for this project and would like to receive Council feedback. Erin asked Council to discuss in 4 groups the following questions:

- Have you heard of the co-curricular record?
- What are the benefits and negatives?
- How could you see students using this?
- What kinds of opportunities should be included in the CCR?

Council reported their group discussions:

Group One:

- 3/5 group members have heard of the co-curricular record
- Some benefits include: added value to scholarship and job opportunities, the information is in one place, there will be more volunteer participation, promotes the University, opens up more career opportunities, is kept online, and is a volunteer record building program.
- Some negatives include: it may take a long time to use the program, limits students to opportunities in school and only includes inside University work.
- How students will use: may build resumes selfishly, career and scholarship opportunities.
- What kind of opportunities should be included: volunteer opportunities with or without honorarium and verifiable information

Group Two:

- 3/4 group members have heard of the co-curricular record

- Some benefits include: credibility, encourages learning and give competitive advantages to students
- Some negatives include: students could use and take advantage of the program, the amount of time required to use the program, it gives no experience in making a resume and there would need to be hours included with opportunities.
- How students could use: entry to grad school and job opportunities
- Opportunities to include: connections to programs and skills development

Group Three:

- $\frac{3}{4}$ group members heard of the co-curricular record
- Benefits: increased volunteerism, more organized activities, well-rounded program, creates a liquid and traceable market.
- Negatives: costs of administration, unsecured system could lead to fraud, hard to evaluate what it valid, may not correspond to employment opportunities, some paid internships may be replaced and it needs to be properly defined and it may create an unfair advantage
- What should count: anything that expands upon the academic experience, skills for employment
- Ideas: Transferability of record to other schools and to include an application or appeal process, as well as include a class profile that includes the level of work for time and complexity

Kay Asiedu-Nketiah asked how it would create an unfair advantage. Travis McIntosh replied that if some people have more time to volunteer than others who hold part or full-time employment.

Holly Mazur noted that people who are on sports teams are volunteering their time and building up team-work experience. She asked if these opportunities can be considered for the record. Erin Delamont replied that there are various learning outcomes connected to each activity, such as community building, sports and leisure, arts, etc. She stated that skills are then connected to these learning outcomes.

Tegan Smyth stated that most people include a lot of their volunteer and extra-curricular activities on their resumes without a co-curricular record. She stated that the program involves a lot of costs. Meghan Melnyk argued that a huge benefit to the program is that students can use it to apply for grad school. Troy McLeod also stated that he believes the official record is good because you can use it to track hours involved, as well as recognizes specific skill sets.

Group Four:

- Want to ensure that our students are not disadvantaged if we do not have the record
- Are able to look up legitimacy online
- Encourages engagement on campus

Erin Delamont noted that she will be taking all of this information back to the sub-committee to discuss. She noted that the proposal will be taken to various groups on campus and they hope to do a pilot of the program in January 2011.

6.0 Dinner

7.0 New Business

7.1 Acceptance of the January 26, 2010 AGM Minutes

Motion: To accept the January 26, 2010 SAMRU Annual General Meeting minutes.
Jermyn Voon/Holly Mazur

Carried

Erin Delamont noted that the clubs contest went over successfully. Keeli Elaschuk suggested that they should create guidelines and rules for the contest for future years.

Tegan Smyth suggested that official guidelines for meetings be given to students who attend the AGM because it can be confusing.

Michael Decker stated that Council members should not be allowed to make and second motions during the AGM because it can be considered a conflict of interest because we manage our own budgets, etc.

Travis McIntosh suggested that a mock motion session be conducted before the meeting starts to ensure that students know the meeting process. He noted that all of the suggestions regarding the AGM will be given to the next EC.

7.2 E-awards Selection Committee

Eily Sweeney noted that one Council position is available to sit on this committee and the time commitment is approximately 20 hours. She noted that the duties will include reviewing applications before the meeting and choosing winners. Eily stated that the committee will be meeting approximately 2-3 weeks after the deadline, which was extended to the end of March 8th.

Kay Asiedu-Nketiah nominated Tommy Lieu, who accepted. Meghan Melynk nominated Holly Mazur, who accepted. Jennifer Langille and Fadwa Khourieh nominated themselves.

The nominees gave quick speeches and ballots were cast. Michael Decker counted the votes and announced that Tommy Lieu was nominated for the committee.

Kay Asiedu-Nketiah noted that the Councilor who is on this committee should not be allowed to vote for the Outstanding Councilor award. Erin replied that the SC and EC members on this committee will not be involved in selecting the recipient of this award.

7.3 EC Goals Assessment Report

Robert Jones noted that this discussion was tabled at the last meeting to allow Councilors more time to review the document and ask questions.

Motion: To accept the 2009-1- EC goals assessment report.
Michael Decker/Fadwa Khourieh

Carried

7.4 ASEC Lobby Document

Robert Jones explained that the lobby document was constructed by the ASEC EC with the mandate from the ASEC board. He noted that focuses in the document include student financial aid, BOG representation, students with disabilities, the Post-secondary Learning Act, among other things. He explained that they tried to create the document in an innovative way by listing a new set of focuses.

Robert noted that they have received great feedback in regards to forgiving portions of student debt through volunteerism and was able to successfully frame the argument regarding spousal and parental contributions. He also noted that the Minister is interested in following up regarding their argument on BOG representation.

Travis noted that Robert is the chair of ASEC and anyone with any specific questions can approach him to discuss this further.

7.5 Terms of Reference – Councilor & Commissioner Roles and Responsibilities Sub-committee

Meghan Melnyk noted that any comments or suggestions are welcome for the TOR and this committee will be nominated tonight pending approval of the document.

Motion: To approve the terms of reference for the Councilor & Commissioner Roles & Responsibilities Committee.

Robert Jones/Fadwa Khourieh

Carried
Abstentions:
Meghan Melnyk

Robert Jones explained that the focus of the group is to condense the Councilor and Commissioners roles and responsibilities into one document. He stated that the committee will research and discuss recommendations and will bring these forward to Council for final approval.

Robert suggested that voting is passed through consensus for the committee to ensure that the work has traction.

Motion: To amend section 1.1 (iii) to state: “Develop a set of standard roles and responsibilities for all councilors and commissioners to be adopted by the ECPPPC and to submit further recommendations to future Bylaw Review Committees”, remove section 1.1 (iv) and add section 7.0 that voting will be passed by consensus or super majority as minimum threshold should contention arise.

Robert Jones/Meghan Melnyk

Carried

Kay Asiedu-Nketiah suggested that 2.1 be amended from 6 members to 5 members. Meghan Melnyk replied that they figured 6 was a good working number for a committee, but they would be open to changing it to 5 members.

Motion: To amend section 2.1 from 6 members to 5 members.

Kay Asiedu-Nketiah/Jennifer Langille

Carried

Motion: To strike the Councilor & Commissioner Roles and Responsibilities Committee.

Meghan Melnyk/Fadwa Khourieh

Carried

Keeli Elaschuk nominated Sadiq Valliani for the committee. Jennifer Langille phoned Sadiq, who accepted. Michael Decker nominated Rance Williams, who accepted. Fadwa Khourieh, Ana Piltingsrud and Meghan Melnyk nominated themselves. There were no other nominations, therefore Sadiq, Rance, Fadwa, Ana and Meghan were automatically appointed as committee members.

7.6 November 2009 Operating Reports

7.7 December 2009 Operating Reports

Motion: To accept the November 2009 and December 2009 operating reports omnibus.

Keeli Elaschuk/Fadwa Khourieh

Carried

Travis McIntosh noted that the Executive Committee expenses are mainly composed in the governance section, which has been reviewed in detail by EC. Travis noted that the SA is generally tracking well and are in a strong financial position. He noted that the SA follows their budget extremely well.

Eily Sweeney noted that there is a significant amount of money left in the SC special projects budget and SC should continue to think of ways to use this. She noted that the CEC has had an idea to do a one-day Council outing. Travis noted that there is \$2400 remaining in this budget to be used.

8.0 Announcements

Eily Sweeney announced the following:

- E-awards deadline has been extended – Councilors are encouraged to apply for the Outstanding Councilor Award. There will be a booth for E-awards on Main Street this week where Councilors have an opportunity to volunteer and hand out applications
- Live Underwear Auction in collaboration between the SA and the Wellness Center will be on March 16th from 12:00-1:30. All funds will go to the YWCA for gift cards. Councilors are welcome to volunteer as models and volunteer for awareness of the event. Eily and Brian Fleming will be MCs for the event.
- There will be a Sweat Lodge on Wednesday at 4:00 and hopefully one held every 2 weeks.
- Go Green Competition during the month of March. There will be 3 challenges per week with groups of at least 2 people. Councilors are welcome to participate and should go to the Sustainability Centre for more information.

Erin announced that the elections are over and welcomed and congratulated Robert Jones, Meghan Melnyk, Ana Piltingsrud, Eily Sweeney, Fadwa Khourieh and Sadiq Valliani on successful campaigns.

Erin announced that MRU scholarship applications are due online tonight at midnight.

Robert Jones announced the following:

- The Alberta budget has been released and post-secondary education lost the 2nd most. He noted that all funding was rolled up to the Campus Alberta grant pool with the biggest area affected being access. For MRU this means that grant funding has been frozen and strings have been taken off funding. Robert noted that MRU has chosen quality over access and enrollment will be frozen. Robert explained that traditionally the resource argument was inner-institutional and it will not be inter-institutional. Robert stated that MRU has a sound plan to focus on taking care of students. Robert also noted that the provincial budget has rumors floating that the step funding budget has been cut.
- There will be reports coming on the CASA lobby conference, as well as both the ASEC lobby and assessment conferences.

- Had a conference call with the CASA west region regarding the lobby document. Concerns were expressed, but generally the document is good. Robert noted that our feedback will be taken into consideration.
- Has requested the expenses explanation document from the CASA National Director and hopes to see this in the near future to submit to Council.
- Will be away next week for the CASA lobby conference.

Travis announced the following:

- Will be away this Thursday to March 15th to attend the federal budget announcements and the CASA conference in Ottawa. Travis can be followed via Twitter.
- Will be attending meetings in Ottawa with CASA and all major political party MPs and Senators.
- The Executive Committee will be thanking MRU in regards to the budget and keeping their promises for students. He noted that the intention is to recognize good work, governance and management. Travis encouraged Councilors to talk to their faculties about this.

Jennifer Langille announced that she has been working with Erin Delamont on the E-award policies and have made a number of recommended changes to the policies including: online applications, name change to SA Scholarships and Bursaries, reference letters eliminated with a list of references to replace this, SC GPA requirement to 2.0 or higher and all applicants GPA requirement to 2.0 or greater, allow part-time students to apply, add the awards ceremony date in the information books and inform successful applicants before the awards ceremony.

Eily Sweeney thanked Jennifer for the suggestions and stated that she appreciates the initiative to improve the policies.

Troy McLeod announced that it is Native Awareness Month and encouraged all Councilors to participate.

Travis McIntosh also announced that there is a musical festival going on in the conservatory and encouraged Councilors to attend.

9.0 Action Items

10.0 Board Meeting Feedback

11.0 Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn the meeting.

Keeli Elaschuk/Tegan Smyth

Carried