

Students' Council Meeting Minutes
November 28, 2011
Students' Council Chambers

Present:

Meghan Melnyk (Chair)	Jeni Langille	Kaylene McTavish
Sam Kemp-Jackson	Michelle Dennis	Serena Navarro
Shiv MacFarlane	Holly Mazur	Rhett McLeod
Gautam (Gary) Verma	Danish Haider	Alicia Lingenfelter
Amanda Martin	Yolanda Genu	Missy Chareka
Daniella Bustos	Alex Hardie	
Lexie Courtney	Marcy Fogal (Ex-officio)	Megan Borg (Scribe)

Guests:

Lucille (MRU – University Advancement)
Rachael (The Reflector)
Brian (The Reflector)

1.0 Presentation: MRU Branding

Lucille from MRU University Advancement gave a presentation on MRU branding.

(Lucille left the meeting)

2.0 Approval of Agenda

Motion: To approve the agenda with the following amendments:

- **Remove 4.1 Governor Passports**
- **Add 5.3 SC Chair Pilot**
- **Add 5.4 December 12th SC Meeting**

Shiv MacFarlane/Amanda Martin

Carried

3.0 Approval of Consent Agenda

- 3.1 Students' Council Meeting Minutes – November 14, 2011**
- 3.2 Students' Council Meeting Feedback – November 14, 2011**
- 3.3 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**

Motion: To approve the consent agenda.

Rhett McLeod/Danish Haider

Carried

Motion: To remove the Executive Committee meeting minutes from the consent agenda.

Dani Bustos/Alex Hardie

Carried

4.0 Items Removed from Consent Agenda

4.1 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes – November 3, 2011

Motion: To go in camera.

Jeni Langille/Dani Bustos

Carried

(All guests left the meeting)

Motion: To go out of camera.

Alex Hardie/Amanda Martin

Carried

(All guests returned to the meeting)

Motion: To approve the Executive Committee meeting minutes.

Shiv MacFarlane/Rhett McLeod

Carried

5.0 New Business

5.1 Elections Strategy

Motion: To postpone to a future SC meeting.

Kaylene McTavish/Michelle Dennis

Carried

5.2 Budget

Marcy explained that she and the management team have been working to bring forward a revised budget proposal for Council to approve as per the last meeting's budget conversations.

Marcy stated that they have tried to look for areas to cut back where it wouldn't directly affect student services or areas that affected people (students and staff).

Marcy explained that for now, they will just be dealing with the shortfalls from the fees we receive from students. The Hub will be left to fall into place overtime, as there is not a lot of data to work with yet. Marcy noted that she review the actual fees that we have received so far and compared them to historical data and has determined that there will be approximately a \$110,000 shortfall due to lower enrollment in the University.

Marcy presented the following changes to the budget:

- \$30,000 savings from the contingency fund
- \$5000 from the cancellation of Zimride
- \$2000 savings from the co-curricular record
- \$18,940 for remaining retreats (will be held in town, with catering only)
- \$6000 from professional fees
- \$13,000 savings from staff professional development and training
- \$6,250 unspent money from communications
- \$3,000 from the elections reserve fund

- \$6,750 from EC and SC special projects
 - \$5,000 savings from EC travel and conferences
 - \$2,500 from the Green Wyckham Committee budget
 - \$1,120 from hospitality and meeting expenses budget
 - \$700 savings from job ads
- = \$100,260 savings

Marcy noted that there have also been increased revenue streams identified from our suppliers and from pro-rated rent from a new bank machine.

Missy asked about the elections reserve. Marcy replied that each year, money is set aside for lobbying initiatives and campaigns for municipal, provincial and federal elections. Shiv clarified that there was still money available to use in this budget for the expected upcoming provincial election.

Danish asked if the cut backs to the EC travel and conference budgets will have an affect on our outside lobbying organizations. Marcy replied that we will still be sending two executives instead of all of the executives. Meghan also noted that the outside lobbying organizations are more related to the President and VPE portfolios. Michelle noted that SAMRU has a strong voice in ASEC and CASA because the President and VPE normally take on leadership roles in both of these organizations.

Dani asked about the winter SC retreat. Marcy replied that it was a recommendation last year to hold a day for SC to review their goals and progress.

Alex asked if some of the budget lines could be restored if later we have extra money. Marcy confirmed that they would be. Alicia asked when they would be re-evaluated. Marcy replied that we will receive the next two fee installments in December and February and that will give us a good sense of where the budget stands. At that time the budget could be reviewed.

Motion: To approve the recommendations to the 2011-12 operating budget omnibus.

Shiv MacFarlane/Rhett McLeod

Carried
Opposed:
Alex Hardie

Motion: To go in camera.

Alex Hardie/Serena Navarro

Carried

(All guests left the meeting)

Motion: To go out of camera.

Shiv MacFarlane/Serena Navarro

Carried

(Guests returned to the meeting)

Jeni thanked Marcy and the staff for working hard to make the budget balance.

5.3 SC Chair Pilot

(Chair role passed to Michelle Dennis)

Meghan presented an idea that she has explored in relation to one of her goals of reviewing the governance structure. The idea would be to pilot a neutral chair speaker for Council instead of the EC rotating chair. The purpose would be to provide a speaker that facilitates conversations during the meeting, but maintains a neutral perspective. Meghan explained that there can be difficulties with EC members at the chair because they have dual roles during the meetings. The pilot would be for the rest of the term and the successful chair would be provided with Roberts' Rules training. Meghan recommended that the idea be piloted for the remainder of the year and then brought to the membership as a bylaw recommendation if it is successful.

Alicia asked how they would appoint someone and if they would be paid an honorarium. Meghan replied that it would be a good opportunity for a student with SAMRU experience, such as a member of Academic Student Caucus. She also noted that the honorarium would be reviewed by EC and possibly incorporated into their EC budget.

Dani asked about having governors from the previous year. Meghan replied that they wanted to ensure there was a removal from SC to eliminate any biases and maintain the neutral role. Shiv noted that his concern would be external biases.

Motion: For Students' Council to appoint a neutral speaker position for the duration of the 2011/12 council year and to evaluate the effectiveness of this position at the end of term, no later than May 1st, 2012. That the speaker has knowledge of the SA, but not have been a sitting member of council in the last 12 months. That the speaker receives extensive training in Roberts' Rules, SA bylaws and all relevant policies. That a draft position terms of reference be drafted by the governance committee and be presented to Council by the second Council meeting of 2012.

Alex Hardie/Rhett McLeod

Carried

Meghan noted that individual recommendations for the chair can be brought to the governance committee.

(Chair role passed back to Meghan)

5.4 December 12th SC Meeting

Jeni stated that 3 members of EC will be presenting to the Board of Governors on December 12th at 4:00 and Meghan will be attending the meeting as the SAMRU representative. The SC meeting on the 12th could be pushed back to 5:00, moved to December 5th or canceled altogether.

Dani asked if the regular committee meetings will be rescheduled. Jeni replied that it is up to each committee.

(Marcy and Gautam left the meeting)

Motion: To reschedule the December 12th SC meeting to 5:00PM.

Lexie Courtney/Rhett McLeod

Carried

Amended Motion: To reschedule the December 12th SC meeting to 5:00 or cancel the meeting if there are no agenda items. Notice of cancellation will be made via email.

Shiv MacFarlane/Michelle Dennis

Carried

6.0 Announcements

6.1 AGM

The SAMRU AGM will be November 30th at 9:30 in The Hub. Governors are required to attend and volunteer at the event and should show up around 9:15AM.

6.2 SAMRU Holiday Party

RSVP's by December 5th. Event at The Hub December 10th at 7:00PM.

6.3 Calgary Student Caucus Meet & Greet

Event will be on December 1st at 5:30PM at SAIT

7.0 In-camera Session

Dani sponsored Brian from The Reflector. Brian asked about meeting to discuss The Hub. Meghan will speak to him after the meeting.

Motion: To go in camera.

Jeni Langille/Shiv MacFarlane

Carried

(Guests left the meeting)

Motion: To remain in camera.

Alex Hardie

Defeated

8.0 Meeting Feedback Form

9.0 Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn the meeting.

Alex Hardie/Shiv MacFarlane

Carried