

Annual General Meeting

February 8, 2023

7:30PM-8:15PM

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

MINUTES

Quorum was reached and the meeting was called to order at 7:34PM by the meeting Chair, Derek Havens.

1.0 Approval of Agenda

Motion: To approve the February 8, 2023 Annual General Meeting agenda.

Taylor Tattrie/Andrea Barlaan

Carried

2.0 Approval of Minutes

Motion: To approve the February 9, 2022 Annual General Meeting minutes.

Mallary Siegal/Reggie San Jose

Carried

3.0 Presentation of Audited Financial Statements

Motion: To accept the 2021-22 Audited Financial Statements as presented.

Amanvir Sidhu/Kyle Joseph

Carried

SAMRU's Executive Director, Brian Walters gave the following presentation:

Typically, SAMRU's financial performance is stable and predictable.

The organization has strong internal controls, and an excellent policy framework around its finances and investments.

Each year the SGB approves a breakeven budget, and management closely controls expenditures to ensure that SAMRU stays within that budget.

Any operating surpluses that are realized at year end are held in a separate reserve fund to help protect the organization from future uncertainty and to ensure its long-term sustainability.

Last year, the continuation of fluctuating pandemic restrictions created some challenges for SAMRU.

Restrictions on gatherings forced the closure of all food court seating in Wyckham House, and the Winter semester transition to online classes impacted SAMRU's commercial partnership agreements and its ability to collect full rent from its tenants.

Fortunately, the SGB acted quickly and decisively to review and approve a mid-year budget revision, and management was able to reduce expenses and pivot certain programs and services between in-person and online during the year.

Through these actions SAMRU ended the year in a positive financial position, contributing its operating surplus into the reserve fund for future use.

The financial statements for the year were prepared by professional accountants in accordance with appropriate standards for not-for-profit organizations.

These statements were then reviewed, tested and audited by the firm PricewaterhouseCoopers which ranks as the second largest professional services network in the world.

The lead auditor on this year's engagement was Angela Loo, who is a partner in the Assurance division at PwC.

Ms Loo presented her team's audit findings report and unqualified audit opinion to the SGB on November 21, and the SGB subsequently approved the financial statements to be presented to the membership here at the AGM.

4.0 Appointment of Auditors

Motion: "Be it resolved by ordinary resolution of the Annual General Meeting of the Students' Association of Mount Royal University that the firm of PriceWaterhouse Coopers be approved as auditors for the Students' Association of Mount Royal University for the fiscal year of 2022-23".

Emmanuel Buhari/Chiamaka Udeogu
Carried

There was a question around the recommendation to continue with PwC instead of another firm. ED Walters responded that PwC has a familiarity with SAMRU's finances and policies and can easily provide a robust audit for SAMRU.

5.0 SAMRU Bylaws

Motion: Be it resolved by special resolution of the Annual General Meeting of the Students' Association of Mount Royal University, that the Bylaws be rescinded in their entirety and that the revised Bylaws be adopted in their stead.

Gregory Gaves/Nancy Tran

Carried

Emma Maguire noted that all of the recommended bylaw revisions are available in the agenda package and were posted at least 30 days in advance of the AGM on the SAMRU website. She also gave an overview of some the proposed bylaw changes, noting the following highlights:

- *There are several housekeeping changes included, such as adding the flexibility of virtual AGM meetings, adjusting Board meeting quorum, and the timing of appointing and reviewing the Board Speaker position among other housekeeping changes which are all listed in the agenda.*
- *There are also bylaw adjustments to clarify that Board members are not paid for their roles. This is included to comply with Alberta's requirements for certain fundraising opportunities.*
- *There is also another change which establishes SAMRU board members as the signing authorities on the bank account associated with these fundraisers.*
- *SAMRU receives a lot of money through these fundraising opportunities so the Board feels that it is valuable to comply with requirements in order to continue with those fundraising opportunities.*

Question re: Board member payments. It was responded that previously Governors were paid for an honorarium for committee work and other services. This is no longer permitted under our fundraising requirements. The Board looked at how Governors should be appreciated and recognized, and will be eligible to receive reimbursement of the requirement to be a credit student, in the form of tuition.

Question re: REC election process. It was clarified that they will still be elected, but there will be changes to the nominations process, including additional screening of potential candidates. The Board will be developing the process and will be advertised broadly to the student body.

6.0 Governor Elections

All of the 13 candidates were given an opportunity to introduce themselves.

The CRO, Shauna Hunter, explained the voting process.

The vote was launched and the following candidates were elected to the Student Governing Board:

1. Angel Castillo
2. Nancy Tran
3. Orion Tigley
4. Kyle Joseph

There was a tie for the 5th position, so a new vote was launched and the 5th candidate was elected:

5. Taylor Amy

7.0 SAMRU Report

The Board Speaker, Emma Maguire, gave the following report:

In the interest of time, the Board has asked me to deliver a combined report on behalf of the whole organization.

In this report, I will briefly explain SAMRU's structure and then provide a few highlights from the 2021-22 year.

To start off, SAMRU is a registered charity and a non-profit, membership organization overseen by a Student Governing Board.

The Board has up to 14 volunteer student governors and is collectively the highest decision-making body of SAMRU.

SAMRU's Board is a policy board. This means the Board approves the mission, vision, values, strategic goals, annual budget and policies, and then hires full-time employees to carry out the daily administration and representation work on its behalf.

For example, the Board employs an Executive Director to direct SAMRU's operations, which includes things like:

- *Managing the finances*
- *Maintaining the Wyckham House student centre, including commercial tenants, and*
- *Providing student services and programs.*

To carry out representation and advocacy work, the Board hires the 4 students who are elected by members to form your Representation Executive Council (or REC).

The Board delegates responsibility to this team to represent students' interests when meeting with the government, other student leaders, and MRU.

Those of you who were here last year may recall that it was another unusual year, with a mix of in-person and online course delivery. However SAMRU made sure our members were informed and connected with:

- *online and in-person events*
- *monthly emails*
- *an extensive member check-in survey*
- *town hall meetings*
- *volunteer and employment opportunities*
- *and much more*

As SAMRU adapted to the ongoing pandemic situation, we continued to provide students with important services and programs. A snapshot of the year shows that, among many other things, SAMRU:

- *Trained 133 volunteers who volunteered almost 1,800 hours,*
- *Had close to 3,000 students access the free breakfast program,*
- *Ratified 57 student clubs,*
- *Awarded over \$80,000 in awards and funds to students, and*
- *Continued to provide members with excellent health and dental benefits and support.*

Your Representation Executives were also very busy during the year, dealing with regular advocacy issues AND all the pandemic-related issues impacting students.

Some representation highlights from the past year include:

- *COVID advocacy — including extending the fee and drop-date deadlines and continuing the end-of-classes withdrawal deadline.*
- *Discussions with MRU and the MRU Faculty Association regarding a possible faculty strike — urging them to find common ground*
- *Sexual violence prevention advocacy,*

- *Consulting on a new learning management system,*
- *Tuition and fees consultation,*
- *Municipal and federal elections advocacy, and*
- *Provincial and federal student advocacy.*

Throughout this year of uncertainty, SAMRU focused on what was important: providing the best services and representation possible by connecting with, listening to, advocating for, and engaging our members — that's you, the students of MRU — to help them succeed.

More details about the past year can be found in our online annual report or in the board minutes — both of which I'd encourage you to review on the samru.ca website.

8.0 Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn the meeting.

Christy Tong/Joel Macwilliams
Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 8:36

8.0 Prize Winner Announcements

Kenneth Yeo - \$500 prize.