



SAMRU's Mission

We represent and serve students to help them succeed.

SAMRU's Vision

Where every student can discover themselves, build meaningful relationships and make a difference in the world.

MINUTES

Student Governing Board

June 10, 2024

4:00PM – 7:00PM

Google Meets

Present:

Governors (voting):

Orion Tigley
Nancy Tran
Rafael Hernandez Alarcon
Jayden Baldonado
Angel Castillo
Reggie San Jose
Gordy Ha
Tristalyn GiVogue
Prairie Morgan (part)
Rodney Omoku (part)
Akash Parmar (part)

SAMRU Support (non-voting):

Maddox Nelles (Speaker)
Pat Cochrane (Governance Coach)
Fiona Chetty (Representation Executive Council VP Academic)
Anisa Tilston (Representation Executive Council VP Student Affairs)
Brian Walters (Executive Director)
Megan Borg (Governance Manager, scribe)

Regrets:

Abiola Famakinwa
Alexander Khan
Kyle Joseph

Topic	Motion(s)	Discussion
Land Recognition	<p><i>'Before we begin, we recognize that we are fortunate to be situated on Treaty 7 lands, including the Niitsitapi (nit-SIT-ah-pee, or Blackfoot) Nations of the Siksika (SICK-sick-ah), Kainai (GUY-nuy) and Piikani (pih-GAH-nee); the Tsuu T'ina (TSOO-tunuh) Nation; the Nakoda (nuh-KO-dah) Nations of the Bearspaw, Chiniki (CHIN-ee-kee) and Goodstoney; and the Metis Nations. Through this land acknowledgement we honour the agreements between the ancestral peoples of this land and the first Euro-Canadian settlers; agreements that have been historically dishonoured. We are all treaty people.'</i></p>	
Approval of Agenda	<p>Motion: To approve the agenda. Hernandez Alarcon/Tran Carried</p>	
Approval of Consent Agenda	<p>Motion: To approve the consent agenda. Hernandez Alarcon/Tran Carried</p> <p><i>Governor Morgan joined the meeting at 4:02PM</i></p>	
Governor Appointment	<p>Motion: To appoint Tristalyn GiVogue as a governor until the 2025 Annual General Meeting. Hernandez Alarcon/Tran Carried</p>	<p>Governor Tran explained that a job posting for the vacant position was opening to all students to apply. The work group interviewed for the position and have brought forward Tristalyn GiVogue for appointment until the next AGM in March 2025.</p> <p>It was noted that details of the other applicants if confidential within the work group.</p>

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Governor Oaths	<p><i>I, Tristalyn GiVogue, do solemnly and sincerely promise and swear:</i></p> <p><i>That I will fulfill my duties and obligations of my position to the best of my ability and judgment, in conformity with the Objects and Bylaws of the Students' Association of Mount Royal University.</i></p> <p><i>That I will adhere to and enforce the Students' Association's Code of Ethics. That I will, in all my acts, be governed by the principles of honesty, justice and fair play, and in every manner possible endeavor to promote and safeguard the best interest of the Students' Association of Mount Royal University, the high purposes of our Board, and the welfare of our membership.</i></p>	
Board Professional Development	<p>Governance Coach Cochrane provided a session to the board around board meeting skills and individual's place on the board.</p> <p><i>Governor Omoku joined the meeting at 4:09PM</i></p>	
2024 Governor Elections - CRO Report	<p>Motion: To accept the report of the Chief Returning Officer for the 2024 Governor Elections.</p> <p>Hernandez Alarcon/Tran Carried</p>	<p>The elections report was submitted to the board from the Chief Returning Officer.</p> <p>The CRO is an arms-length contractor hired by the board to carry out the elections as outlined in the board approved elections policy. The board is hands-off during the election process to ensure that they are not seen as influencing the outcomes of the elections.</p> <p>There were no complaints or concerns received from candidates during this election.</p> <p>Recommendations were also included in the report, specifically around polling and voter turnout.</p>

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		Discussion re: low voter turnout, expanding voting to outside of the meeting, and advanced voting for this year and restrictions only for religious accommodations.
2024 REC Elections - CRO Report	<p>Motion: To accept the report of the Chief Returning Officer for the 2024 Representation Executive Council Elections.</p> <p>Hernandez Alarcon/Tran Carried</p>	<p>The elections report was submitted to the board from the Chief Returning Officer.</p> <p>The report included information about a ballot error and a required re-vote.</p> <p>There were several changes made during this election that were very successful, including the candidate videos.</p>
CRO Appointment	<p>Motion: To appoint Shauna Hunter as the Chief Returning Officer to August 31, 2025.</p> <p>Hernandez Alarcon/Ha Carried</p> <p><i>Governor Parmar joined the meeting at 4:55PM.</i></p>	<p>Shauna has been the CRO for SAMRU for the last 15 years. She has a strong background in politics and has been excellent with SAMRU.</p> <p>In the upcoming year, management will be putting together a draft recommendation for succession planning for the CRO when Shauna decides to retire from SAMRU.</p> <p>There was a discussion around some of the challenges in the last election. ED Walters explained that elections were run the same way for a very long time and in the last few years we made a switch to introduce technology. We made a lot of changes to the process this year and some challenges happened. We have since put plans into place to ensure these issues do not happen in the future.</p>
2025 Governor Election Memo	<p>Motion: To accept the 2025 Governor Elections memo.</p> <p>Hernandez Alarcon/Ha Carried</p>	<p>ED Walters gave an overview of the elections timeline, noting the following changes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Extension of the nomination period for by one week - Looking at alternatives to the all-candidates meeting

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Campaign materials will be produced by SAMRU - Allowing advanced voting to all voters - All voting will be done using a third-party software - Election results will be announced at the AGM <p>There was a discussion around looking at changes the bylaws so that we do not require voting to occur in conjunction with the AGM. This suggested change would be proposed at the next AGM.</p> <p>There was a discussion around the SAMRU produced campaign materials, including the videos.</p>
2025 REC Election Memo	Motion: To accept the 2025 Representation Executive Council memo. Ha/Baldanado Carried	ED Walters gave an overview of the elections timeline, noting the following changes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The pre-screening will be done by the board work group reviewing candidate submitted videos, which would be done with support from SAMRU staff. - Changing from two interviews to one interview - Top two candidates plus one alternate would be selected for each position. - Candidate selection would be done through a board special meeting - Nomination period was extended to allow candidates additional time to submit applications; staff support would be provided to help streamline the nomination process. - SAMRU produced campaign materials will be provided, an alternative for the all-candidates meeting would be developed, and a candidate meet and greet with food would be organized. - Voting and results announcement mirrors the governor timeline.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Our marketing department is looking at ways to create an elections campaign to educate students on the REC and board positions. <p>ED Walters provided some historical context on the changes that were made to the applications and elections process. The board has the authority to create the process to select these employees. ED Walters noted that this was the first year with a lot of big changes, specifically having board endorsed candidates.</p>
2025 Annual General Meeting	Motion: To hold the SAMRU Annual General Meeting (AGM) on March 26, 2025 at 7:30PM online. Hernandez Alarcon/Castillo Carried	<p>The recommended date aligns with both of the elections memos.</p> <p>The time of the meeting start has been recommended based on feedback from previous meetings. We have tried various times in the past.</p> <p>There was additional information provided on ensuring that we stick to the promised meeting time so that we do not diminish the importance and value of the AGM.</p>
2024-25 Board Calendar	Motion: To approve the 2024-25 board calendar. Ha/Baldanado Carried	<p>This schedule has been drafted based on feedback received from governors in the May 2024 survey - it was strongly indicated that more team building activities were desired, as well as a mix of a few in-person meetings throughout the year, while still allowing the flexibility of online meetings during the busy times. At the end of the 2025 winter semester, the Governance Manager will solicit feedback again.</p>

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Advisory Committee Public Member Appointment	Motion: To appoint Danish Haider as a public member of the Advisory Committee. Hernandez Alarcon/Tigley Carried	<p>One of the duties of the public members of the Advisory Committee is to do their own recruitment. They previously recommended Megan Nega to the board, but unfortunately, she was unable to commit as her schedule changed.</p> <p>They identified Danish Haider as a public member and would like to recommend them for appointment to the Board. Danish has previous experience with the SAMRU board as a governor.</p> <p>Governor Baldanado stated that he does not believe this individual's ethics align with SAMRU based off of their employment history in the oil and gas sector.</p> <p>Additional information was provided on the role of the Advisory Committee.</p>
Reserve Fund Transfer	Motion: To transfer \$2 million dollars from the Reserve fund to the Program Support Fund effective July 1, 2024. Tran/Hernandez Alarcon Carried	<p>This was discussed at the last committee meeting and is related to the decision made by the board to establish this new fund. This date would align with the new fiscal year.</p>
2024-25 Budget		<p>ED Walters presented the 2024-25 SAMRU budget and provided the board with information about questions they should be asking from a board perspective.</p> <p>Main points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Membership fees - Human resource expenses

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	<p><i>Speaker Nelles left the meeting at 6:36PM</i></p> <p>Motion: To appoint Governor Tran as Speaker for the remainder of the June 10, 2024 meeting. Ha/San Jose Carried</p> <p>Motion: To approve the 2024-2025 SAMRU Budget. San Jose/Hernandez Alarcon Carried</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Programs, services, and business changes - Board building - Capital projects and acquisitions - Additional budget details such as rentals, representation and lobbying, etc - Segregated funds overview
SAMRU Finance Policy	<p>Motion: To approve the Finance Policy. Hernandez Alarcon/Castillo Carried</p>	The draft was presented at last week's work group meeting. No additional discussion was required.
SAMRU Investment Policy Statements	<p>Motion: To approve the Investment Policy. Castillo/San Jose Carried</p>	

Topic	Motion(s)	Discussion
Signing Authorities	<p>Motion: To confirm Brian Walters and Jacqueline Fisher as authorized bank signatories for SAMRU and effective June 10, 2024 to require the signatures of both on the following Servus Credit Union bank accounts:</p> <p>81629-899-663817070663 General account</p> <p>81629-899-618511629142 Health account</p> <p>Hernandez Alarcon/Castillo</p> <p>Carried</p> <p>*Need two in person governor signatures this week!</p>	
Announcements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Next meetings: August 19, 2024 (Work Group/Committees) and August 26, 2024 (Board) - Governor Parmar's last meeting - Governance Coach survey - please respond by the end of day Friday, June 14th. 	
<i>The meeting was adjourned at 6:35PM</i>		