



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

October 28, 2024

4:00PM – 8:00PM

Google Meets



Present:

Governors (voting):

Angel Castillo
Rafael Hernandez Alarcon
Jayden Baldonado
Reggie San Jose
Tristalyn GiVogue
Prairie Morgan
Abiola Famakinwa
Nancy Tran
Alexander Khan
Rodney Omoku
Gordy Ha

SAMRU Support (non-voting):

Maddox Nelles (Speaker)
Pat Cochrane (Governance Coach)
Brian Walters (Executive Director)
Tala Abu Hayyaneh (Representation Executive Council President)
Rachel Timmermans (Representation Manager, scribe)

Absent with regrets:

Kyle Joseph

Absent without regrets:

Topic	Motions	Discussion
Land Recognition		
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 / San Jose Carried</p>	
Items removed from consent agenda (if applicable)	N/A	
SAMRU Audited Financial Statements	<p>Motion: to go in-camera Tran/San Jose Carried</p> <p>Motion: to go out of in-camera. Tran/ Hernandez Alarcon Carried</p> <p>Motion: To accept the 2024 audited financial statements and to refer them to the membership for approval at the 2025 SAMRU Annual General Meeting. Hernandez Alarcon/Ha Carried</p> <p>Action item: Two Governors to sign the audit</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ED Walters provided some highlights of revenues and expenses in the 2024 financial statements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - investment performance did well compared to previous years - health and dental costs were higher than expected - good year for in fundraising and grants - expenses were increased year over year - ended the year with a surplus, more revenue than expected and lower expenses than budgeted for. - PWC presented the audit report to the board <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Materiality level has increased this year due to SAMRU's increased revenue. - <i>Board moved in-camera</i> - <i>Board moved ex-camera</i> - 2024 Audited financial statements approved via motion of the SGB

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Governors Hernandez Alarcon & Joseph will sign the audited financial statements 	
Board PD		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Governance Coach Cochrane discussed the topic of conflict of interest with the board. - <i>4:35 pm Governor Omoku joined the meeting</i>
2020-2025 Strategic Plan Follow up		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ED Walters presented Strategic Plan 2020-2025 Final Year Update to the SGB
Governor Tigley Resignation	<p>Motion: To accept Governor Tigley's resignation effective October 1, 2024 Baldando/Tran Carried</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Resignation accepted via motion of the SGB
Governor Personnel Work Group (in-camera)	<p>Motion: to move in-camera Tran/Hernandez Alarcon Carried</p> <p>Motion: to move out of in-camera San Jose/Tran Carried</p> <p>Motion: to accept recommendations one through three from the Governor Personnel Work Group. These recommendations are: 1. That the Board commits to regular Board self-evaluation processes and that the Agenda and Governance Committee develops these processes. Processes may include individual & group evaluations yearly, approx 3</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>SGB moved in-camera</i> -

	<p>months into a new term, and a half-day event in June or July, including a reminder of documents signed during orientation.</p> <p>2. That the Agenda and Governance committee includes a 'Governor Personnel' standing item on its agenda to bring forward any written warnings, or discussing upcoming end of governor terms, celebrating governor successes, etc.</p> <p>3. That all Governors receive annual social media navigation training and training on the role, responsibilities, and duties of the Speaker both during orientation and as a group at the first Board Committees meeting following the AGM elections of new Governors.</p> <p>Omoku/Kahn Carried</p> <p>Motion: That the Board officially sanctions Governor Tigley in absentia Hernandez Alarcon/ Ha Carried</p>	
<p>Advisory Committee appointments</p>	<p>Motion: To appoint Governor Khan to the Advisory Committee Tran/Ha Carried</p>	<p>- Additional workload for governors is 3 meetings a year</p>

Advisory Committee Recommendations		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ED Walters presented the letter of recommendation submitted by the Advisory Committee. The letter provides recommendations on best practices on handling sensitive issues.
SAMRU Divestment Proposal	<p>Motion: to direct ED Walters with the support of the Governance Coach to work with the authors of the divestment proposal to determine the root issues which led to its creation.</p> <p>Ha/Baldonado Carried</p>	<p>Governor Baldando presented a proposal on SAMRU Divestment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Governor Castillo asked if there is any precedent at any other Student Association or Post-Secondary Institution in Canada that has successfully divested? - Multiple governors requested additional research and data to be provided. The sources cited in the proposal do not meet the academic standard expected by these governors. - Governor Hernandez-Alarcon disagreed with the proposal and its effectiveness given the complexity of capital markets; also warned of a 'slippery slope' for pick and choosing issues - Some governors requested academic support in gathering or receiving more information to inform any potential further development of the proposal. - Governor Tran shared the opinion that the intent of broad statements or directives of the board can be lost over time. The board was encouraged to ensure they are being specific with their directives. - Governor Baldando asked if they can receive support from SAMRU staff in further developing this proposal. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ED Walters shared that the SGB has access to the resources of SAMRU and support from staff can be provided if formally requested by the SGB. - REC President Abu Hayyaneh discussed the risks that can come from making public statements. She highlighted that SAMRU should ensure that students and their needs are central in any statements made. - Governor Baldanado recommended that any recommendations or directives made to the REC should

		<p>be broad so they can be interpreted by the REC to decide how to take specific action(s).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Governor San Jose stated concern of the potential negative impacts to students if the proposal is not amended with support from staff or other professional support. - Governor Khan shared the opinion that there could be reputational benefits from the proposal if some students feel the proposal represents their opinions on the matter. - Governor Castillo suggested that potentially SAMRU could engage in qualitative research to gain clarity on the student opinion on this matter. - REC President Abu Hayyaneh shared concern about whether or not the proposal supports SAMRU's mandate. - Governor GiVogue shared the opinion that SAMRU should focus on what it can do to support its members. Suggestions provided include: additional promotion of SAMRU support services, promotion of supports outside of SAMRU, or expanding existing services if needed. - ED Walters shared concerns regarding the proposal including: no articulation of the problem the proposal is trying to address; issues of using SAMRU as a tool and platform for social activism and the slippery slope of causes; SAMRU's purpose and potential for mission drift; SAMRU-supported alternatives for students to engage in social activism (clubs); negative impacts and implications of the proposed changes to the investment portfolio structure; the proposal's scope and arbitrary approach determining what investments would be allowed or not
<p>Announcement</p>		<p>Next meetings: November 18, 2024 (Work Group/Committees) ONLINE and November 25, 2024 (Board) ONLINE - Board Calendar</p> <p>Strategic Plan Focus Group - November 4 IN PERSON, Cara</p>

		Thompson will be contacting you with details
Adjournment		Meeting adjourned at 8:26pm