

Annual General Meeting

February 9, 2022

Zoom

Chair:

Derek Havens (SAMRU Advisory Committee)

SAMRU Panel & Scheduled Speakers:

Ashley Hjorth (SAMRU Student Governing Board Speaker)

Spirit River Striped Wolf (SAMRU President, Representation Executive Council)

Brian Walters (SAMRU Executive Director)

Shauna Hunter (SAMRU Chief Returning Officer)

It was confirmed that quorum had been met with at least 101 members in attendance. The meeting was called to order.

Land Acknowledgement

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 Wesley; 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.

Chair Derek Havens gave an introduction of the AGM and an overview of the meeting process.

1.0 Approval of Agenda

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

Celine Provost/Taylor Amy

Carried

2.0 Approval of Minutes

Motion: To approve the March 31, 2021 Annual General Meeting minutes.

Jessica Cuillerier/Rafael Hernandez

Carried

3.0 Presentation of Audited Financial Statements (Executive Director, Brian Walters)

Motion: To accept the 2020-21 Audited Financial Statements as presented.

Mallary Siegal/Erin Hepburn

Carried

Brian Walters (SAMRU Executive Director) gave the following overview on the fiscal year of 2020-21 financial statements:

“Hello, and thank you very much. As mentioned I’m the Executive Director for SAMRU and I’m here to present the audited financial statements, and to report on SAMRU’s financial position.

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.

The onset of the pandemic in March 2020 created a very difficult financial situation for SAMRU.

Campus restrictions forced the closure of all businesses in Wyckham House and resulted in the suspension of SAMRU's commercial partnership agreements which had a substantial impact on the organization's revenues.

Fortunately, the SGB acted quickly and decisively, and management was able to transition most of its programs and services online and to dramatically reduce expenses for the year.

Through these actions, and favourable changes in the investment markets, SAMRU ended the year in a positive financial position, keeping its reserve funds intact and available 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 22, 2021, and the SGB subsequently approved the financial statements to be presented to the membership here at the AGM.

At this point, I would be pleased to answer any questions members may have specifically regarding the financial statements or the audit process".

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 PriceWaterhouseCoopers be approved as auditors for the Students' Association of Mount Royal University for the fiscal year of 2021-22.

Angela Faye Galeos/Nancy Tran
Carried

5.0 SAMRU Governor Elections

- a. Motion: To elect Tristalyn GiVogue as a Governor of the SAMRU Student Governing Board effective February 10, 2022 to February 11, 2024. Jamie Smith/Mallary Siegel Carried

Tristalyn spoke to the membership regarding her candidacy.

- b. Motion: To elect Leah Hart as a Governor of the SAMRU Student Governing Board effective February 10, 2022 to February 11, 2024. Travis Scarfe/Megan Davidson Carried

Leah spoke to the membership regarding her candidacy.

6.0 SAMRU Report

Board Speaker, Ashley Hjorth, presented the following SAMRU report to the membership:

Hi everyone. My name is Ashley Hjorth. It has been my privilege to serve as SAMRU's Student Governing Board Speaker for 2 years now.

In the interest of time, the Board has asked me to deliver a combined report on behalf of the whole organization instead of the usual 3 reports as outlined in the bylaws.

In this report, I will briefly explain SAMRU's structure and then provide a few highlights of work done in the 2020-21 year.

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.

Since the election today, we currently have 12 governors serving on the Board.

This means there are a couple more positions available, so please go to samru.ca to read more about these opportunities and see if they interest you.

The Student Governing Board is a volunteer policy board that takes a very high-level and strategic approach when overseeing the organization.

This means that rather than participating in daily administration or representation work, the Board hires full-time employees to carry out SAMRU's mission and vision on its behalf.

The Board approves the mission, vision, values, and strategic goals of the organization, as well as an annual budget and policies that — all together — guide the work of SAMRU's employees.

To carry out representation and advocacy work, the Board hires the 4 students who are elected by students 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.

Your REC team was busier than usual during the 2020-21 year, dealing with regular advocacy issues AND then all the pandemic related issues impacting students.

Among other things, in 2020-21 you REC team:

- *Convinced MRU to end online exam proctoring, mandatory webcam use, and put the U-Pass on hold*
- *Created an Indigenous student advisory committee*
- *Held an anti-racism event called The Loudest Silence, to amplify the voices of BIPOC students.*
- *Worked nationally to fight for more mental wellness funding and the Canada Emergency Student Benefit*
- *Demonstrated against provincial funding cuts to post-secondary, and*
- *Held virtual interactions with students, including a live Instagram series called Tea with REC, to increase accountability and transparency*

The Board also employs an Executive Director to manage SAMRU's operations on behalf of the Board, including things like:

- *Managing the finances*
- *Maintaining the Wyckham House student centre, including commercial tenants, and*

- *Providing student services and programs,*

As you all know, the 2020-21 year was challenging, but SAMRU adapted to the ever-changing regulations, and remained committed to providing students with important services and programs. A snapshot of the year shows that, among many other things, SAMRU:

- *Ratified 42 student clubs*
- *Trained over 100 volunteers and 89 club executives*
- *Gave away hundreds of food and hygiene care packages to students*
- *Provided \$41,000 in awards to students and about \$2,000 in Experiential Learning Funds*
- *Found new ways to engage students online; and*
- *Continued to provide members with excellent health and dental benefits and support*

Despite all the uncertainty and change, SAMRU was there for our members to make sure their voices were heard, that support was available, and that we were listening and responding to their needs.

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

7.0 Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn the meeting.

Amy Chen/Jaiden Hourie

Carried

