



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

April 15, 2024

4:30PM – 7:30PM

Google Meets

Present:

Governors (voting):

Kyle Joseph
Akash Parmar
Prairie Morgan
Orion Tigley
Nancy Tran
Rafael Hernandez Alarcon
Alexander Khan
Reggie San Jose
Jayden Baldonado
Gordy Ha
Rodney Omoku
Abiola Famakinwa (part)

SAMRU Support (non-voting):

Maddox Nelles (Speaker)
Pat Cochrane (Governance Coach)
Joseph Nguyen (Representation Executive Council President)
Brian Walters (Executive Director)
Megan Borg (Governance Manager, scribe)

Guests:

Anisa Tilston (part)
Tala Abu Hayyaneh (part)

Regrets:

Angel Castillo

Topic	Motion(s)	Discussion
Land Recognition		
Meeting Expectations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cameras on unless have sent request to have off ahead of time (you can turn off briefly if eating or step away, just put it in the chat) - You are required to send advanced notice for any absences to the Speaker and Gov Manager (Google group chat message is okay too) - Please only use the chat for motions, voting, and information (ex. turning off camera briefly, going to restroom, etc). Do not use the chat to ask questions or make comments about the discussion happening. - If you would like to speak to a subject or ask a question, use the raise hand function and you will be called by the Speaker in order. 	
Approval of Agenda	Motion: To approve the agenda. Tran/Hernandez Alarcon Carried	
Approval of Consent Agenda	Motion: To approve the consent agenda. Tran/Hernandez Alarcon Carried	
Governor Oaths	<p>Abiola Famakinwa, Reggie San Jose, Gordy Ha, Jayden Baldonado, Rodney Omoku, and Alexander Khan recited the SAMRU Oaths of Office:</p> <p><i>I (person's name) 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>	

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Board Professional Development - Board Welcome	<i>Governance Coach Cochrane gave an introductory professional development session to the Board, outlining governance boards, meeting processes, bylaws and key policies, general SAMRU structure and governor roles and responsibilities.</i>	
Committee Appointments	<p>Motion: To add the following Governors to the Accountability Committee:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Governor San Jose 2. Governor Baldonado 3. Governor Khan 4. Governor Famakinwa 5. Governor Omoku <p>Hernandez Alarcon/Joseph Carried</p> <p>Motion: To add the following Governors to the Agenda & Governance Committee:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Governor Ha 2. Governor San Jose 3. Governor Famakinwa 4. Governor Khan 5. Governor Baldonado 6. Governor Omoku <p>Hernandez Alarcon/Khan Carried</p>	

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REC Elections	Motion: To accept the 2024 REC election results: Tala Abu Hayyaneh, REC President; Anisa Tilston, REC VP Student Affairs; Genri Licican, REC VP External; and Fiona Chetty, REC VP Academic. Hernandez Alarcon/Tran Carried	
Signing Authorities	Motion: To remove Joseph Nguyen, Prabhjit Grewal, Tala Abu Hayyaneh and Anisa Tilston as signing authorities as of May 1, 2024. Hernandez Alarcon/San Jose Carried	<p>- Signing authorities changing as a result of the bylaw changes - Need motion as a confirmation to our bank</p> <p>Action: Governors Khan and Famakinwa volunteered to sign, Gov Manager Borg will contact tomorrow morning.</p>
MRU Board of Governors Representatives	Motion: To appoint Tala Abu Hayyaneh and Anisa Tilston as the student representatives on the MRU Board of Governors effective May 1, 2024 until April 30, 2025 or if they cease employment with SAMRU prior to April 30, 2025. Hernandez Alarcon/Tran Carried	

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REC Presentation: Representation & Advocacy Priorities	<p><i>President Nguyen presented on the approved advocacy and representation work conducted by REC in the last year, noting that the incoming REC will receive recommendations on areas to focus on in the upcoming year, which will be brought to the board for discussion in May.</i></p> <p>Discussion/Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tuition and fees difficulties this year and changes made to improve process for next year - Affordable housing advocacy - Professor evaluations and tenure - Withdrawal date <p><i>The Board thanked REC for their work over the last year.</i></p> <p><i>REC VPs Abu Hayyaneh and Tilston left the meeting (6: 29PM).</i></p> <p><i>Governor Famakinwa left the meeting</i></p>	
In-camera Session	<p><i>REC President Nguyen left the meeting (6:29 PM)</i></p> <p>Motion: To go in camera. Hernandez Alarcon/Baldonado Carried</p>	

Topic	Motion(s)	Discussion
	<p><i>REC President Nguyen returned to the meeting (7:12 PM)</i></p> <p><i>REC President Nguyen left the meeting (7:27PM)</i></p> <p>Motion: To go out of camera. Joseph/Hernandez Alarcon Carried</p> <p>Motion: To terminate the employment of the REC Vice-President External effective April 16, 2024. Tran/Baldonado Carried Abstention - 1</p>	
<p>Governor Recruitment Work Group</p>	<p>Motion: To appoint the following Governors to the Governor Recruitment Work Group to begin a recruitment process and to bring a governor appointment recommendation to the Board:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Governor Tran 2. Governor Hernandez Alarcon 	

Topic	Motion(s)	Discussion
	<p>3. Governor Joseph 4. Governor San Jose Khan/Tran Carried</p> <p><i>REC President Nguyen returned to the meeting (7:42PM)</i></p>	
SAMRU Program & Service Review (Pre-Budget Presentation)	<p>Motion: To move to the May Work Group meeting. Hernandez Alarcon/San Jose Carried</p>	
Finance Policy	<p>Motion: To approve the finance policy draft revisions version 2. Baldonado/Tigley Carried</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Revisions reviewed at the work group meeting - Feedback was received around the associate executive director acting in the ED's absence. ED Walters provided the policy with this revision and one without; the board can decide which version they would be comfortable with approving.
Casino Account Signing Authority	<p>Motion: To remove Joel MacWilliams as a signing authority on the SAMRU casino accounts. Tran/Hernandez Alarcon Carried</p> <p>Motion: To appoint Governor Hernandez Alarcon as a signing authority on the SAMRU casino accounts.</p>	

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	Tran/Baldonado Carried	
Board Self-Governance Issue		<p><i>Discussion transcribed verbatim:</i></p> <p><i>Speaker Nelles: "During the April 8, 2024 Work Group Meeting, Governor Tigley asked a question about advocating to have MRU remove bathroom graffiti that says "Death to Israel"</i></p> <p><i>Governor Baldonado responded with the verbal comment "As it should be", apparently supporting the graffiti and the message, and then went on to write comments in the chat about genocide supporters having no place on campus.</i></p> <p><i>These remarks were highly offensive to people in the meeting.</i></p> <p><i>In accordance with our code of ethics, Governors must not participate in or condone malicious statements that harm the membership or integrity of the Association.</i></p> <p><i>SAMRU is a representative organization and a segment of our membership are Jewish students who are already struggling with a rise of antisemitic sentiment on-campus and in the community. Comments like these are</i></p>

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		<p><i>completely inappropriate especially at the level of the Student Governing Board.</i></p> <p><i>Governor Baldonado, as you are new to the Board I would like to give you the opportunity to retract your comment and apologize to the Board”.</i></p> <p>In chat message during Speaker Nelles’s initial statements, Governor Baldonado: <i>“Opposing genocide is not a malicious statement”</i></p> <p>Response: Governor Baldonado: <i>“What happens if I don’t?”</i> Speaker Nelles: <i>“At that point, I would review with Governance Manager Borg and Governance Coach Cochrane to determine how those comments fit in with the code of ethics and if disciplinary action is required”</i> Governor Baldonado: <i>“Sure, I’ll retract that specific message but I will not retract my opposition of the genocidal regime.”</i> Speaker Nelles: <i>“Thank you. Do you wish to apologize at all to the Board for the comment that you have chosen to retract.”</i> Governor Baldonado: <i>“Sure, the way I put it may have been insensitive.”</i> Speaker Nelles: <i>“Thank you.”</i></p>
Announcements	- Next meetings: May 6, 2024 (Work Group/Committees) and May 13, 2024 (Board) - Board Calendar	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Governor Orientation: April 22 and (TBD) - all new Governors are required to attend training. If any returning Governors would like a refresh, please let Megan know and you will be added to the calendar invite. - April 25, 2:00-4:00 - REC Appreciation (formerly Wine & Cheese); business casual - April 29 (5:00-7:00) - Governor Team Building - BOWLING!! - RSVP by tomorrow morning please. 	
Adjournment		