



SAMRU's Mission

We represent and serve students to help them succeed.

SAMRU's Vision

A vibrant and inclusive campus community where every student feels connected, supported, and empowered.

SAMRU's Values

Support, Inclusion, Integrity, Creativity, Community

Minutes

Student Governing Board

April 14, 2025

4:00PM – 7:00PM

Club House (3rd floor, Wyckham House)

Present:

Governors (voting):

Alexander Khan
Reggie San Jose
Gordy Ha
Hope Garvie
Jack McRae
Taia Degenstein
Ada Sampot
TJ Tuling
Jeff Park
Rodney Omoku (part)
Malaika Kibonge (part)
Jessica Cuillerier (part)

SAMRU Support (non-voting):

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

Guests:

Anisa Tilston, REC VP Student Affairs (part)
Fiona Chetty, REC VP Academic (part)
Genri Lichlican, REC VP External

Regrets:

Abiola Famakinwa
Halen Deng

The meeting was called to order at 4:01PM

Topic	Motion(s)	Discussion Notes
Land Recognition	<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>	
In-person Meeting Expectations	<i>Speaker Nelles reviewed the in-person meeting expectations</i>	
Approval of Agenda	Motion: To approve the agenda. Ha/San Jose Carried	
Approval of Consent Agenda	Motion: To approve the consent agenda. Ha/Khan Carried	

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Oaths of Office	<p>Governors Park, McRae, Garvie, Sampot, Tuling, Degenstein, Kibonge, Cuillerier recited the SAMRU Oaths of Office</p> <p>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> <p>Governors Omoku and Kibonge joined the meeting at 4:11PM</p> <p><i>*Halen Deng is yet to recite oaths</i></p>	
Strategic Plan Orientation	<p>ED Walters provided an orientation to the 2025-2030 SAMRU strategic plan.</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Information provided on the research and preparation of data for developing the plan. - Conversation re: increasing student understanding of the Board and REC; roles and areas of responsibility. - Plans shared for elements of EDI in strategic plan. 	

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Social Media Policy	Motion: To approve the Social Media Policy. Ha/McRae Carried	ED Walters gave an overview of the social media policy. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Policies are determined by the Board; the ED follows the policies as directed by the Board; the ED creates and follows procedures based on the policies. - The scope of the social media policy applies to SAMRU staff, REC, and board members. - The social media policy already existed, this revised draft has been developed based on the existing policy, in addition to feedback that has been received over the last year from the Board.
Social Media Training	ED Walters led a discussion on using social media as a Governor.	
Team Building Activity	Governance Coach Cochrane led a team building activity Governor Cuillerier joined the meeting at 5:20PM Governor Cuillerier recited the SAMRU Oaths of Office Governor Tuling left the meeting at 5:24PM	
Break	The board took a 20 minute recess and resumed at 5:50PM	

Topic	Motion(s)	Discussion Notes
2024-25 Representation & Advocacy Priorities	<p><i>Anisa Tilston and Fiona Chetty joined the meeting</i></p> <p>ED Walters provided information on the post-secondary learning act, the board's duties, and the role of the Representation Executive Council. REC advocacy and representation priorities are approved by the board and they receive monthly reporting on priorities progress. REC presents the priorities at the end of their term annually.</p> <p>The REC presented on the progress of the following approved REC advocacy and representation priorities for the 2024-25 year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Financial & affordability (MRU budget, tuition & fees, textbook affordability, student awards) - Student services & wellbeing (student services and facilities, mental health & wellbeing, student employment and work-integrated learning, experiential learning, student housing) - Diversity, equity, and inclusion (Gender-based violence prevention, indigenous advocacy) - Academic support & policy (MRU governance and policy (reading week, MRU early learning representation), MRU courses (program availability, universal design for learning, GNED re-development participation) - Artificial intelligence in teaching and learning - Faculty feedback - External advocacy: transportation advocacy, Alberta post-secondary education system - Federal advocacy: international students, federal student financial aid <p><i>The REC VPs Tilston and Chetty left the meeting at 6:40PM</i></p>	
Committee Appointments	<p>Motion: To add the following Governors to the Accountability Committee:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Governor Tuling 2. Governor Park 	

Topic	Motion(s)	Discussion Notes
	<p> 3. Governor McRae 4. Governor Garvie 5. Governor Sampot 6. Governor Degenstein 7. Governor Kibonge 8. Governor Cuillerier </p> <p>McRae/Omoku Carried</p> <p>Motion: To add the following Governors to the Agenda & Governance Committee:</p> <p> 1. Governor Cuillerier 2. Governor Sampot 3. Governor Garvie 4. Governor Park </p> <p>Park/Ha Carried</p>	
ED Performance Review Work Group	<p>Motion: To appoint Governor Sampot to the ED Performance Review Work Group.</p> <p>Garvie/Cuillerier Carried</p>	<p>Overview:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The board reviews the performance of the ED annually and reports findings back to the SGB - 2-4 hours commitment - Work will occur in May - The structure is set up and staff support is available - Looking for one new governor; the work group already has two governors.

Topic	Motion(s)	Discussion Notes
2025 REC Elections	Motion: To accept the 2025 REC election results: Tala Abu Hayyaneh, REC President; Anita Surujbally, REC VP Student Affairs; Mariana Mejia Salazar, REC VP External; and Meekena Erkin, REC VP Academic. Ha/Sampot Carried	Ratification of election results required as outlined in the SAMRU bylaws.
Signing Authorities	Motion: To appoint Governor Garvie as a signing authority on the SAMRU casino accounts. Sampot/Ha Carried	ED Walters provided information on the SAMRU fundraising casino and uses of the funds raised from that initiative. He provided details on the signing authorities duties.
MRU Board of Governors Appointments	Motion: To appoint Tala Abu Hayyaneh and Anita Surujbally as the student representatives on the MRU Board of Governors effective May 1, 2025 until April 30, 2026 or if they cease employment with SAMRU prior to April 30, 2026. McRae/Degenstein Carried	
Speaker Review Work Group	<i>The chair role was passed to Governor San Jose, Speaker Nelles left the meeting.</i> <i>REC VP Lichlican left the meeting.</i>	

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	<p>Motion: To go in camera. Cuillerier/Garvie Carried</p> <p>Motion: To go out of in camera. Ha/McRae Carried</p> <p>Motion: That the Board provide a fully satisfactory performance review to Speaker Nelles. Ha/Park Carried</p> <p>Motion: That the Board extend Speaker Nelles' contract for an additional year, to the end of August 2026. Cuillerier/Sampot Carried</p> <p><i>Governor Degenstein left the meeting at 7:05PM, Speaker Nelles returned to the meeting at 7:05PM</i></p> <p><i>The chair role was passed back to Speaker Nelles</i></p>	

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Governor Personnel Work Group	<p>Motion: To go in camera. McRae/San Jose Carried</p> <p>Motion: To go out of in camera. Garvie/Kibonge Carried</p> <p>Motion: That the March 24, 2025 Governor Personnel Work Group meeting with Orion Tigley is considered the appeal process as per section 14 of the Governor Personnel Policy. Garvie/Omoku Carried</p> <p>Motion: That the Board maintain its decision from October 28, 2024 to sanction Orion Tigley. Sampot/Ha Carried</p>	
Announcements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Board Calendar Updates: Board meetings all moved to in person; June 23 Board Evaluation session added - Board Meet & Greet - April 28, 2025, 4:00-6:00 - Next meetings: May 5, 2025 (Work Group/Committees) ONLINE and May 12, 2025 (Board) IN PERSON - Board Calendar 	

Topic	Motion(s)	Discussion Notes
	- Board Team Building - May 26 (activity, location, time all TBA)	
The meeting was adjourned at 7:25PM.		