



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

September 22, 2025

4:00PM – 7:00PM

Council Chambers

Present:

Governors (voting):

Jessica Cuillierier

Malaika Kibonge

Hope Garvie

Taia Degenstein

TJ Tuling

Halen Deng

Jeff Park (part)

Alexander Khan (part)

Reggie San Jose

Jack McRae

Ilf Dharshi

Gordy Ha (part)

Abiola Famakinwa (part)

SAMRU Support (non-voting):

Charlie Nelles (Board Speaker)

Pat Cochrane (Governance Coach)

Brian Walters (Executive Director)

Megan Borg (Governance Manager, scribe)

Guests:

Student guest

Regrets:

Tala Abu Hayyaneh

Ada Sampot

The meeting was called to order at 4:12PM

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>	
Approval of Agenda	Motion: To approve the agenda. San Jose/McRae Carried	
Approval of Consent Agenda	Motion: To approve the consent agenda. Degenstein/Garvie Carried	
Governor Dharshi Oaths of Office	Governor Dharshi recited the following oaths of office: <i>I (person's name) do solemnly and sincerely promise and swear:</i> <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>	

Topic	Motion(s)	Discussion Notes
	<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>	
Committee Appointments	<p>Motion: To appoint Governor Dharshi to the Accountability Committee. Park/Degenstein Carried</p> <p>Motion: To remove Governor Park from the Agenda & Governance Committee. Park/Cuillerier Carried</p>	
Governance PD Session	The Governance Coach provided a PD session on latin in relations to Roberts' Rules of Order	
CRO Appointment	<p>Motion: To re-hire Shauna Hunter as Chief Returning Officer until August 31, 2026. McRae/Dharshi Carried</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The SAMRU annual elections are captured in the election policies as established by the Board. - The Board hires an external individual to run the elections as outlined in the policies, in order for the Board to remain at arms-length during the election process. - The current CRO has experience with provincial and federal elections, as well as many years working with SAMRU in the position, and the duties of the role are outlined in the SAMRU Bylaws.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Shauna Hunter has been SAMRU's CRO for the last 17 years and is being recommended as the best candidate for the position for this year. - The Board has the ability to seek out a new CRO; they would make that decision after the elections are completed in order to give the Board time to recruit; the best time would be after receiving the report from the last election. The Board can task management to begin the recruitment process at any time if they know ahead of time that they would like to recruit someone new. <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conversation about the current CRO and experience working with SAMRU.
SGB Representation and Advocacy Priorities	<p>Motion: To table the discussion to the October Board meeting.</p> <p>Park/Cuillerier</p> <p>Carried</p> <p>Action: Add to the October board meeting agenda.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - REC was unable to attend the meeting, ED Walters is presenting the information in their absence. - The Board is responsible for representation of the organization, and has the duty to approve the annual representation and advocacy priorities. The Board then delegates REC to carry-out these priorities. - There is one change to the priorities being presented; accessibility is being removed from Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion. Accessibility issues will be addressed under the other priorities. - The position statements are owned by REC; these statements allow for continuity year-to-year as new REC teams leave and enter into the positions. If there is additional discussion around the position statements, they can be brought to a future committee meeting.

Topic	Motion(s)	Discussion Notes
		<p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Further clarification around accessibility umbrella; physical, financial, cultural, etc. - The Board wanted additional clarification around accessibility, and had curiosity around REC's work with the EDI office and accessibility services. - REC is currently working under the list that was approved by the Board last year. <p><i>Governor Ha joined the meeting at 5:03PM</i></p> <p><i>Governor Khan left the meeting at 5:12PM</i></p>
Break		
Report on Discrimination and Prejudice on Campus		<p><i>The meeting resumed at 5:43PM</i></p> <p><i>Governor Famakinwa joined the meeting at 5:48PM</i></p> <p>ED Walters gave an overview of the report.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Board had made a request last year for additional information from around the campus after concerns over the Board's role/potential role, and the effects on students on campus.

Topic	Motion(s)	Discussion Notes
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Information on protests on campuses and the protest and camps specifically at the U of C campus. - The Board made the decision that the general welfare of students, and the business and operations of the organization, are the main concern of the organization. SAMRU represents the members of the organization, and wants to give students the opportunity to build dialogue with one another in order to educate. The specific Board motion from November 2024 reads: <p><i>Motion: To task the Executive Director with:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Investigating the prevalence of Islamophobia and Antisemitism on the MRU campus;</i> • <i>Researching the underlying issues contributing to these views and sentiments;</i> • <i>Developing strategies to help address the issues; and</i> • <i>Identifying opportunities to further support students who are most impacted</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ED Walters provided details around how SAMRU gathered information and who was targeted, making note that we had to be persistent in trying to get responses. - Overview of the various surveys: specific groups and general member surveys. Additional information was provided from security and the office of EDI. - Some recommendations were included in the executive summary; we have an opportunity to address this issue by raising awareness on campus, and using our own services to provide additional resources, such as through the SARC and the representation department.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SAMRU has also approved priorities related to EDI through the strategic plan. <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Providing additional training to our SARC; this area is now operated fully by paid staff instead of volunteers. - It was not recommended that we conduct this survey again as it strained our relationships with these groups; engaging them in ways that would be more comfortable with them would be a future approach. One education piece would be around supporting awareness with these groups, such as providing prime table space to groups to educate, or posting celebrated holidays. - There was a conversation about students not wanting to make reports as they feel nothing would change, or that it would put them in a vulnerable position. SAMRU wants to provide an opportunity for anonymous reports where students would feel safe and heard. - There was a discussion around reporting back to students on what the issues are, what we've done, and what the results are. The strategic plan has some additional information.
Strategic Plan Orientation & Action Plans		<p><i>Governor Park left the meeting at 6:10PM</i></p> <p>ED Walters provided an orientation to the strategic plan.</p>

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		<p>The Board is responsible for the strategic direction of the organization, and directs the ED on what they want that direction to be as outlined in the strategic plan.</p> <p>There was a discussion around how the goals are created and what student input is included in the development of the goals. Information was provided on the research conducted and how the student voice is brought into the development of the plan.</p> <p>ED Walters presented the strategic plan action plans in order to demonstrate the breadth of the work the organization has engaged in for the first year so far.</p>
Finance Training		ED Walters provided finance training to the Board in preparation for receiving the audit report at the October Board meeting.
Announcements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Next meetings: October 20, 2025 (Work Group/Committees) ONLINE and October 27, 2025 (Board) IN PERSON - Board Calendar- Board Team Building - Cooking class! September 29 at Blue Flame Kitchen, 5:00-7:30	
The meeting was adjourned at 6:56PM		