



### **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**

**June 9, 2025**

4:00PM – 7:00PM

Council Chambers



**Present:**

**Governors (voting):**

Jessica Cuillerier (Speaker)

Gordy Ha

Malaika Kibonge

Hope Garvie

Abiola Famakinwa (part)

Taia Degenstein (part)

Ada Sampot

TJ Tuling

Halen Deng

Jeff Park

**SAMRU Support (non-voting):**

Pat Cochrane (Governance Coach)

Brian Walters (Executive Director)

Tala Abu Hayyaneh (Representation Executive Council President)

Megan Borg (Governance Manager, scribe)

**Regrets:**

Alexander Khan

Reggie San Jose

Jack McRae

Rodney Omoku

Maddox Nelles

The meeting was called to order at 4:02PM

Topic	Motion(s)	Discussion Notes
<b>Speaker Appointment</b> (Gov Coach Cochrane)	<b>Motion: To appoint Governor Cuillerier as Speaker for the June 9, 2025 Board meeting.</b> Park/Garvie Carried	
<b>Land Recognition</b>	<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>	
<b>Approval of Agenda</b>	<b>Motion: To approve the agenda.</b> Ha/Sampot Carried	
<b>Approval of Consent Agenda</b>	<b>Motion: To approve the consent agenda.</b> Kibonge/Garvie Carried	

Topic	Motion(s)	Discussion Notes
<b>Governance PD Session</b>	<p><i>Governor Famakinwa joined the meeting at 4:06PM.</i></p> <p>Governance Coach Cochrane provided a session on making decisions through motions and amendments</p>	
<b>Segregated Funds Policy</b>	<p><b>Motion: To approve the SAMRU Segregated Funds Policy.</b></p> <p>Park/Garvie</p> <p>Carried</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- This was discussed at the committee meeting and tabled from the last board meeting</li> <li>- Removes the election reserve fund and transfers money into the general reserve fund. This reserve fund is no longer necessary and includes additional administration duties and fees.</li> <li>- The election reserve fund would be available for the regular purposes of the reserve fund.</li> </ul>
<b>Advisory Committee Appointment</b>	<p><b>Motion: To appoint Governor Ha to the SAMRU Advisory Committee.</b></p> <p>Deng/Garvie</p> <p>Carried</p>	<p>ED Walters provided information about the SAMRU Advisory Committee, noting that the Governor's role is to be a direct link from the Board to the Advisory Committee.</p> <p>*Next meeting: June 24, 6:30-8:00PM</p>
<b>2025-26 Representation &amp; Advocacy Priorities</b>	<p><b>Motion: To approve the 2025-26 Student Governing Board representation and advocacy priorities.</b></p> <p>Famakinwa/Ha</p> <p>Carried</p>	<p>REC President Abu Hayyaneh provided the current priorities and noted that the REC team will take the summer to create action plans around these priorities, and will bring information back in August for the Board to approve.</p>

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		<p>This is the opportunity for the board to present additional priorities for the REC to pursue in the upcoming academic year.</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Parking and transportation strategy; includes city-wide transportation and access.</li> <li>- The priorities are not ranked by importance and it has been requested that the numbering be removed.</li> <li>- Discussion re: REC members involvement in each of the individual priorities; some of the goals will cross over into different portfolios depending on the scope (internal MRU vs provincial government).</li> <li>- Discussion re: updating list throughout the year if areas come up that need representation.</li> <li>- Discussion re: supportive board and organizational structure that participates in the success of REC priorities</li> <li>- Discussion re: AI advocacy with MRU</li> </ul>
<b>2025-26 SAMRU Budget</b>	<b>Motion: To eliminate the requirement for the SAMRU food court tenants to contribute \$1000 per year to the Scholarship Fund.</b>  Ha/Deng  Carried	ED Walters provided an overview of the proposed 2025-26 budget: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Budget introduction and the Board's role in reviewing and approving the budget</li> <li>- Opportunities, challenges, focus; budget assumptions, SAMRU membership fees (largest area of revenue for the organization),</li> </ul>

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	<p><b>Motion: To transfer \$300,000 from the Reserve Fund to the Scholarship Fund.</b> Park/Degenstein Carried</p> <p><b>Motion: To approve the 2025-26 SAMRU Budget.</b> Garvie/Tuling Carried</p>	<p>human resources expense (largest expenditure of the organization), SAMRU programs, services, and business changes, board building, capital acquisitions, and projects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- This is going to be a major project year for SAMRU, including the introduction of a new business kiosk, facility rentals and catering expansion, increasing events and engagement, and capital improvements in the building.</li> </ul> <p><i>Governor Degenstein joined the meeting at 5:25PM</i></p> <p><i>Governor Famakinwa left the meeting at 5:26PM</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- We are seeing growth again in WGS since returning to full service after the pandemic; we are planning for additional expansions in that area this upcoming year. We will be continuing with the model of WGS in the new kiosk and plan for the same model for a future SAMRU business.</li> <li>- Expansion of the peer support program, awards and bursaries, and expansion of the representation and advocacy areas of the organization.</li> <li>- Board building expansion and supporting the board's important work.</li> </ul>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Capital projects overview was presented at the last meeting</li> <li>- Overview of source of funds and the use of funds</li> <li>- Overview of the budget details and variances over last year.</li> <li>- Information provided on food court tenants.</li> <li>- There was an overview provided of the segregated funds areas, including the health and dental reserve fund, the scholarship fund (awards and bursaries, experiential learning fund, and the student refugee program), the capital campaign fund, the reserve fund, and the program support fund (created by the board last year to provide support for students experiencing food and financial insecurities), the capital reserve fund, the casino funds, the Deanna Cardinal Memorial fund, and the club development fund.</li> </ul> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Casino fund usage and managing the funds.</li> </ul> <p><i>The board took a 10 minute recess to 6:10PM</i></p>
2025-26 Board Schedule	<b>Motion: To approve the 2025-26 Board schedule.</b> Garvie/Kibonge Carried	

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<b>2025 Elections CRO Report</b>	<b>Motion: To accept the 2025 elections reports of the Chief Returning Officer.</b>  Park/Ha Carried   <i>Action Item: CRO appointment (August 2025)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Presented at the committee meeting; the Chief Returning Officer is an employee hired by the Board to carry out elections as outlined in the elections policies.</li> <li>- These are the reports from the 2025 governor and REC elections that occurred.</li> </ul>
<b>2026 Election Memos</b>	<b>Motion: To approve the 2026 REC and Governor elections memos.</b>  Garvie/Tuling Carried	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- These are the dates that will be brought to the CRO to carry out the next year's elections.</li> <li>- Developed based off of historical best practices and incorporates feedback from the last election</li> <li>- We will be increasing the campaign period by 4 days (2 business days and 2 weekend days) to ensure a wider reach to students and increase election engagement and voter turnout.</li> <li>- There was additional information provided on the history of SAMRU elections and some of the changes that have occurred over the last several years, including incorporating the AGM into the elections process.</li> <li>- Additional information provided around the pre-screening process for REC applications.</li> </ul>



Topic	Motion(s)	Discussion Notes
Agenda & Governance Committee Membership	<b>Motion: To remove Governor Famakinwa from the Agenda &amp; Governance Committee.</b> Park/Garvie Carried	
Governor Recruitment Work Group Recommendation	<b>Motion: To go in camera.</b> Ha/Garvie Carried  <b>Motion: To go out of in camera.</b> Ha/Garvie Carried  <b>Motion: To accept the Governor Recruitment Work Group Recommendation.</b> Sampot/Kibonge Carried	
Announcements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Governor Omoku's last meeting 😞</li> <li>- Next meetings: August 18, 2025 (Work Group/Committees) <b>ONLINE</b> and August 25, 2025 (Board) <b>IN PERSON</b> - <a href="#">Board Calendar</a></li> </ul>	

Topic	Motion(s)	Discussion Notes
	- Board Evaluation Session - June 23, 2025, 4:00-7:00 PM	
<b>Motion: To adjourn the meeting.</b> Park/Garvie Carried		