
SAMRU Endorses Expert Panel's Roadmap to Strengthen Post-Secondary Education in Alberta

Calgary, AB – October 10, 2025 – The Students' Association of Mount Royal University (SAMRU) Representation Executive Council (REC) welcomes the Expert Panel's Final Report on Post-Secondary Institution Funding and Alberta's Competitiveness, calling it a critical step toward a more stable, affordable, and student-centred post-secondary system.

"Students have been clear: we need a post-secondary education model that grows with us," said Tala Abu Hayyaneh, President of SAMRU REC. "Alberta's old model hasn't kept pace with enrolment growth, inflation, or the realities of today's economy. This report is an important step toward addressing those gaps – but what matters now is how the government acts on it."

The report's eleven recommendations outline structural reforms that, if implemented in tandem, could improve the quality, accessibility, and predictability of post-secondary education for Alberta students. Key recommendations include a new funding framework, a new tuition framework including increased investment in student financial aid, dedicated infrastructure and research funding, and faster program approvals to meet industry demand.

"Dedicated funding for campus maintenance and IT upgrades will protect our students and our system from being left behind. We must maintain our competitive edge if our graduates and our institutions are going to compete on the world stage," said Anita Surujbally, Vice President Student Affairs of SAMRU REC.

The proposed funding and tuition model would align institutional funding with enrollment growth and program costs, helping institutions keep class sizes manageable, maintain critical student services and expand capacity as Alberta's student population grows.

"Stable funding and predictable tuition aren't luxuries – they're the foundation of a fair and accessible post-secondary system, and we appreciate this direction," Surujbally emphasized.

The report's recommendations reflect many long-standing student advocacy priorities. From stable base funding to improved affordability and program innovation, students have been calling for these changes – now they need to be backed by government action.

The recommendations in this report outline how our post-secondary system can be the basis of success for all Albertans, not just the students attending. The panel had the confidence to dream of how great our system could be without being tethered to what we have done in the past.

Abu Hayyaneh remarked, "We hope our government chooses to approach these recommendations with the innovative and entrepreneurial spirit that runs through Alberta. Let us act together to see this dream become a reality. To see all Albertans' dreams become reality."

SAMRU urges the Government of Alberta to act swiftly to adopt and fund the panel's recommendations, ensuring students are meaningfully engaged in shaping the next phase of Alberta's post-secondary education.