



### **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**

**November 3, 2025**

4:00PM – 7:00PM

Council Chambers

**Present:**

**Governors (voting):**

Jessica Cuillerier  
Reggie San Jose  
Ilf Dharshi  
Jeff Park  
Jack McRae  
Halen Deng  
Taia Degenstein  
Hope Garvie  
Malaika Kibonge  
Alexander Khan (part)  
TJ Tuling (part)  
Gordy Ha (part)  
Abiola Famakinwa (part)

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

Charlie Nelles (Board Speaker)  
Pat Cochrane (Governance Coach)  
Tala Abu Hayyaneh (REC President)  
Brian Walters (Executive Director)  
Megan Borg (Governance Manager, scribe)

**Guests:**

Angela Loo (PWC) - part  
Ming Yang (SAMRU Finance Manager) - part

**Regrets:**

Ada Sampot (leave of absence)

*The meeting was called to order at 4:02PM*

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	<b>Motion: To approve the agenda.</b> Cuillerier/McRae Carried	
Approval of Consent Agenda	<b>Motion: To approve the consent agenda.</b> Dharshi/Degenstein Carried	<i>Governor Kibonge and Governor Garvie joined the meeting at 4:03PM</i>
Governance PD Session	Governance Coach Cochrane provided a presentation on conflicts of interest and how it relates to the Student Governing Board.  <i>Governor Khan joined the meeting at 4:08PM, Governor Tuling joined the meeting at 4:12PM</i>	
SGB Representation and Advocacy Priorities	<b>Motion: To accept the 2025-26 SGB Representation and Advocacy Priorities for information.</b> San Jose/McRae	REC President Abu Hayyaneh provided an overview of the SGB representation and advocacy priorities.

Topic	Motion(s)	Discussion Notes	
	<p>Carried</p> <p><b>Motion: To approve the 2025-26 SGB Representation and Advocacy Priorities.</b></p> <p>Cuillerier/McRae</p> <p>Carried</p> <p>Opposed: 1</p>	<p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Discussion around Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Accessibility. It was noted that there are no changes to this advocacy priority.</li> </ul> <p><i>Governor Ha joined the meeting at 4:56PM</i></p>	
Policy Revisions	<p><b>Motion: To approve the Code of Ethics, Governor Personnel Policy, and REC Supplementary Policy.</b></p> <p>Degenstein/Dharshi</p> <p>Carried</p>	<p>ED Walters provided an overview of all of the changes, noting that these were brought to committees last week based on the principles previously approved by the committees in August.</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Discipline and appeals process, clarification of 5 days</li> <li>- Once approved, these will be applied from the day of revision (approval)</li> <li>- REC confidentiality area; does this apply to in-camera sessions with the Student Governing Board? The intention of this was around REC participation in MRU committees. Additional clarity around the SGB could be included in REC training during their transition.</li> </ul>	
Break (5:15PM)			15 minutes

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SAMRU Charitable Casino		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SAMRU has an opportunity to participate in fundraising through AGLC charitable casinos every 18 months.</li> <li>- SAMRU receives up to \$80,000 for the organization, which is used for initiatives like our food bank and cultural inclusion centre staff.</li> <li>- Governors are required to participate as outlined in the Bylaws</li> <li>- Governors are encouraged to bring a friend to hang out with during the event; food and transportation are provided.</li> </ul>
SAMRU 2024-25 Audit		<p><i>Angela Loo and Ming Yang joined the meeting.</i></p> <p>ED Walters provided some insights into SAMRU's financial processes and provided some highlights of revenues and expenses in the 2024 financial statements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 2% enrolment increase last year, which is reflected in the membership fees</li> <li>- Salaries and wages increase related to changes to the salary scale that were previously approved by the Student Governing Board.</li> <li>- Increases in business revenue related to higher sales; the cost of goods and direct expenses increased as a result of higher sales.</li> </ul> <p>Other areas to note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Investment performance was good for the year; SAMRU has a good balance between allowing the fund to grow and using portions of it to provide things like awards, bursaries, etc.</li> <li>- Health and dental fees are set before the premiums are known, as the premiums are based on usage; which explains the variance.</li> </ul> <p>PWC presented the audit report to the board, noting the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No exceptions to report related to management override risk.</li> <li>- No exceptions to report related to risk of fraud in revenue recognition.</li> </ul>

Topic	Motion(s)	Discussion Notes
	<p><b>Motion: To go in-camera.</b> Cuillerier/Garvie Carried</p> <p><b>Motion: To go out of in-camera.</b> Garvie/McRae Carried</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No internal controls deficiencies to note.</li> </ul> <p>PWC confirmed that the Board is unaware of any instances of fraud, suspected fraud, or illegal acts.</p> <p>PWC confirmed with the Board that there were no subsequent events that would affect the financial statements to disclose to the auditors.</p> <p>There was a discussion around recommendations to financial practices; this was explained that PWC will offer suggestions where they see they would be beneficial; there were some recommendations made to the financial statements during the audit process. The auditors informed the Board that SAMRU management continues to be easy to work with.</p> <p><i>ED Walters and Ming Yang left the meeting for the in-camera session.</i></p>

Topic	Motion(s)	Discussion Notes
	<b>Motion: To accept the 2025 audited financial statements and to refer them to the membership for approval at the 2026 SAMRU Annual General Meeting.</b> Degenstein/Dharshi Carried	<i>ED Walters returned to the meeting.</i>  <i>Angela Loo left the meeting.</i>
Kiosk Development	<b>Motion: To approve the use of up to \$195,000 from SAMRU's internally restricted Capital Campaign Fund earnings to finance the renovation and development of a new SAMRU owned and operated food court kiosk.</b> Cuillerier/Ha Carried	ED Walters provided a presentation on the proposed kiosk development for the old Good Earth space.  Discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Concern brought up previously re: staffing issues related to personal leaves; this may have an effect on the project timeline.</li> <li>- Question re: recipes and mirroring existing similar businesses.</li> <li>- Funding clarification re: capital campaign fund (internal earnings).</li> <li>- Discussion re: risk related to product and shelf-life. It was noted that the highest risk is pricing fluctuations on produce, as it is unpredictable.</li> <li>- Discussion re: space options for the business.</li> <li>- More equipment is required for this kiosk than the coffee kiosk, and it is required to be commercial grade, which is reflected in the estimated cost of the project.</li> <li>- There was a discussion around developing SAMRU-operated businesses that are modeled around providing extraordinary value to students.</li> </ul>

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		Board members are able to discuss the new kiosk with the public moving forward.
CAUS Membership Update		<p>REC President Abu Hayyaneh provided an update on SAMRU’s membership with the Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS). After evaluating the benefits to SAMRU students in CAUS membership over the last few years, SAMRU has decided that they will be leaving the organization. Provincial advocacy will be done directly with the government in order to focus on MRU-specific advocacy.</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- The value and benefits of being in CAUS were discussed</li><li>- There was a conversation around the CAUS membership and SAMRU having been the only remaining Calgary school in the organization.</li></ul>
Announcements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Next meetings: November 17, 2025 (Work Group/Committees) <b>ONLINE</b> and November 24, 2025 (Board) <b>IN PERSON</b></li><li>- Board Team Building, December 1, 2025, 4:00-7:00, on-site</li><li>- SAMRU Charitable Casino, December 15 &amp; 16, 2025, off-site</li></ul>	
Adjournment		
The meeting was adjourned at 6:52PM		



