



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 24, 2025

4:00PM – 7:00PM

Council Chambers

Present:

Governors (voting):

Ilf Dharshi
Jessica Cuillerier
Reggie San Jose
Malaika Kibonge
Jack McRae (part)
TJ Tuling
Jeff Park
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)

Regrets:

Hope Garvie
Halen Deng
Taia Degenstein
Alexander Khan
Ada Sampot (leave of absence)

The meeting was called to order at 4:17PM

Topic	Motion(s)	
Land Recognition	<p><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></p>	
Approval of Agenda	<p>Motion: To approve the agenda. Cuillerier/San Jose Carried</p>	
Approval of Consent Agenda	<p>Motion: To approve the consent agenda. Kibonge/McRae Carried</p>	
Governance PD Session	<p><i>Governance Coach Cochrane provided a presentation on board and governor expectations.</i></p> <p>Action: Governance Coach Cochrane will work with Speaker Nelles and Governance Manager Borg to communicate the conversation on this topic to the absent governors.</p>	
SAMRU Fees	<p>Motion: To maintain the SAMRU General & Operating fee for 2026/27 at \$99.18 per semester for full-time students and \$47.42 per semester for part-time students.</p>	<p>ED Walters presented the 2026-27 SAMRU fees, noting that the proposal maintains the general and operating fee at the same level as the previous year, despite the rising costs of goods and services in general. He explained that there is a proposed 4.5% or \$8.66 increase for the health and dental fee, as the</p>

Topic	Motion(s)	
	<p>Park/Kibonge Carried</p> <p>Motion: To maintain the SAMRU Capital Campaign fee for 2026/27 at \$40.00 per semester for full-time students and \$24.00 per semester for part-time students.</p> <p>Dharshi/Cuillerier Carried</p> <p>Motion: To maintain the SAMRU Scholarship fee for 2026/27 at \$3.00 per semester for both full-time and part-time students.</p> <p>Park/McRae Carried</p> <p>Motion: To set the SAMRU Health and Dental fee for 2026/27 at \$201.16 per semester for full-time students.</p> <p>Tuling/McRae Carried</p>	<p>premiums have increased. It was stated that the reserve fund earnings will be accessed in order to fund any differentials between the fee and the premium.</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - General and operating fees cover costs associated with providing services (staffing, programming, etc). - Capital campaign fee pays for the mortgage on the building, earnings on this pay for things like equipment. - The scholarship fee funds bursaries, SAMRU awards, experiential learning fund, etc - There is a reserve fund where any residuals go, and this funds many things. - The Reflector fee is set by the Reflector Society themselves, and SAMRU collects the fee from MRU on their behalf. - The health and dental fee is difficult to predict, and we've tried to find a reliable model in determining predictable fees, but it has been impossible. We've looked at the average increase over the last 8 years and tried to determine the increase based on that. Maintaining the reserve fund has really helped us in order to be able to cover shortfalls when the increase is unexpectedly high. - There was a discussion around future potential increases to the G&O fee if SAMRU continues to grow. It was clarified that the biggest area of potential growth is staffing as we increase our business services area. As

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	<p>Motion: That in accordance with the decision of the Reflector Publication Society of Calgary board, the Reflector fees remain at \$7.25 for full-time students and to \$3.63 for part-time students.</p> <p>McRae/Tuling Carried</p>	<p>inflation rises, G&O has the possibility of increasing, although the reserve fund earnings can help to offset this as it continues to grow.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There was a discussion around comparing fees to other similar student associations. ED Walters explained that we have the information but there are a lot of variables; he can bring the information to the next committee meeting for information (Action: ED Walters will bring info to January committee meeting) - There was a discussion around the largest events that contributed to the increase of the health and dental premiums; mental health and ADHD medication has seen the largest increase in claims. - There was information provided on how our broker negotiates the best deals for our insurance plan. Our plan is catered to the student demographic. - There was a discussion around opt-out rates, which is currently at about 20%. <p><i>Governor Ha joined the meeting at 5:38PM, Governor McRae left the meeting at 5:40, Governor Famakinwa joined the meeting at 5:50PM</i></p>
<p><i>There was a 10 minute recess, the meeting resumed at 5:50PM</i></p>		
<p>SAMRU Revised Election Timelines</p>	<p>Motion: To approve the revised 2026 governor and REC elections timelines.</p>	<p>ED Walters brought the revised election timelines to the board, noting that some dates have been adjusted to accommodate a scheduling conflict with the CRO. There is still sufficient time to accomplish everything successfully, and</p>

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	Park/Dharshi Carried	<p>communications and department resources will be allocated as needed to accommodate the timeline changes.</p> <p>Next year we anticipate that we will have an additional week for the communications and marketing department to prepare prior to the voting period.</p>
Annual General Meeting Revised Date	Motion: To hold the 2026 Annual General Meeting on March 18, 2026 instead of March 25, 2026. Ha/Tuling Carried	<p>It was noted that the AGM date will be changed as a result of the changes to the elections timelines. Having the elections and AGM coincide drives additional traffic to the AGM and helps us easily achieve quorum.</p> <p>Action: Governance Manager Borg will bring the governor terms overview to the next A&G meeting.</p>
Announcements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Next meetings: January 12, 2026 (Work Group/Committees) and January 19, 2026 (Board) - Board Team Building, December 1, 2025, 4:00-7:00 - SAMRU Charitable Casino, December 15 & 16, 2025 - Student Connect (optional) - January 15, 2025, 2:00-4:30 	

The meeting was adjourned at 6:01PM