



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 8, 2026

4:30PM – 7:30PM

Council Chambers



Attendance:

Governors (voting):

Chris Brown
Halen Deng
Fabiha Hassan
Kenzy Jali
Patricia Maglalang
Sara Muskaj
Jack McRae
Hope Garvie
TJ Tuling (part)
Jeff Park (part)

SAMRU Support (non-voting):

Charlie Nelles, Board Speaker
Brian Walters, Executive Director
Noel Ormita, REC President, part
Pat Cochrane, Governance Coach
Megan Borg, Governance Manager, scribe

Guests:

Erika Ortiz
Scotia Investment Managers

Regrets:

Jasmyn Krywolt
Jessica Cuillerier
Sheena Sahota

The meeting was called to order at 4:32PM

Topic	Motion(s)	Discussion Summary
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>	
Introductions		
Approval of Agenda	Motion: To approve the agenda. McRae/Brown Carried	
Approval of Consent Agenda	Motion: To approve the consent agenda. Hassan/Muskaj Carried	
Scotia Investments Presentation		Sonia Van Cauwenberghe provided a presentation to the Board on SAMRU's investments. <i>Governor Tuling, REC President Ormita, and Governor Park joined the meeting.</i>

Topic	Motion(s)	Discussion Summary
		Discussion: - How and when the investment managers decide to buy and sell investments; SAMRU has investment policies around the asset mix. - Companies Scotia invests in on SAMRU's behalf. - Risks involved with investing <i>The Scotia Investments representatives left the meeting.</i>
Speaker Hiring Work Group	Motion: To go in camera. Garvie/Hassan Carried Motion: To go out of in camera. McRae/Brown Carried Motion: To offer Erika Ortiz a two-year contract for the Board Speaker position. Brown/Muskaj Carried	<i>Erika Ortiz left the meeting</i>

Topic	Motion(s)	Discussion Summary
		<i>Erika Ortiz returned to the meeting</i>
Governance PD Session		Governance Coach Cochrane provided a presentation to the Board on additional skills that they can use as members of the board.
Break		
2026-27 SAMRU Budget	Motion: To approve the 2026-27 SAMRU budget. Park/Hassan Carried	Executive Director Walters brought the budget brief to the work group meeting last week to provide an overview of how it is developed. At the Board meeting, he presented the draft budget numbers to the Board, which includes the following: - Overview of the organization's expected revenue; such as membership fees, external revenue, revenue from SAMRU businesses (West Gate Social, Perks, and Blends), etc. It was noted that we expect an enrollment increase based on information we have received from MRU. - Overview of the organization's expected expenses; the highest expense being salaries and benefits. Capital expenses (West Gate Blends), food court staffing increases for the reusable dish and cutlery program, and marketing and communications expenses are some other areas included in the expenses. - One major goal included in the strategic plan is increasing foot traffic in Wyckham House; ways to achieve this has been reflected in the budget. - Overview of segregated funds; the spending in this area follows the segregated funds policy and is reviewed by our auditors annually. - Overview of the health and dental fees and how the board determines the fee that students pay. There was an explanation on the health and dental reserve fund. The

Topic	Motion(s)	Discussion Summary
		reserve fund produces a very healthy investment income, which helps to keep the cost low for students. - Overview of the scholarship fee was originally approved by students through a referendum. When it hit the \$2M goal, SAMRU went back to the membership through another referendum to ask if they wanted to continue paying the \$3 fee to continue supporting the scholarship fees (there was overwhelming support to continue collecting the fee). The fee pays for things like SAMRU awards and bursaries (emergency funds, student refugee program). - Overview of the capital campaign fund; expansion of Wyckham House and the mortgage payments (we are half way through paying the mortgage), repairs and maintenance of the building, expansion and internal development costs (Perks, Blends). - Overview of the reserve fund; crisis reserve fund (this contains one year's operating costs) and supplementary reserve fund (to address budgetary deficits should they arise). - Program support fund Overview. Two years ago, the Board transferred \$2M to an internal endowment where the earnings would support food and financial security programs for students. - Overview of the capital reserve fund; Wyckham House major building repairs. This is capped at \$1M, the earnings from the investment income is transferred to the reserve fund. - Casino funds overview; we will utilize about \$20,000. Uses are very specific; outside uses need to be approved by AGLC through an application process. - Deanna Cardinal Memorial Fund overview; this is a component of the scholarship fund. - Club Development Fund overview. Discussion on how club bank accounts work, and the funds available to clubs to access through SAMRU.

Topic	Motion(s)	Discussion Summary
		Discussion: - Operating reports track progress on the overall budget on a monthly basis.
2026-27 Board Schedule	Motion: To approve the 2026-27 Board schedule. Garvie/Jali Carried	Brought to A&G last week for review and is now being presented to the board for approval. Dates for the 2026-27 board; committee meetings, board meetings, additional PD sessions, board team building activities, and other board commitments for the year. They meet all the requirements within the Bylaws and do not conflict with any stat holidays.
Governor Appointment Work Group	Motion: To go in camera. Park/Maglalang Carried Motion: To go out of in camera. McRae/Hassan Carried Motion: To appoint Ali Mir and Bilal Asif as Governors effective August 10, 2026 until the 2027 Annual General Meeting.	

Topic	Motion(s)	Discussion Summary
	Jali/Muskaj Carried	
2026 REC Election CRO Report and 2026 Governor Election CRO Report	Motion: To go in camera. Muskaj/Maglalang Carried Motion: To go out of in camera. Tuling/Garvie Carried Motion: To receive the 2026 REC Election CRO report for information. Hassan/Muskaj Carried Motion: To receive the 2026 Governor Election CRO report for information. Hassan/Maglalang Carried	
2027 Election Timelines	Motion: To approve the 2027 election timelines.	- This is the Board's direction to the CRO on when the elections will occur. Alignment to the AGM needs to occur in conjunction with the elections. - Prepared based on best practices over the last several years.

Topic	Motion(s)	Discussion Summary
	Brown/McRae Carried	- REC elections include a 6-week application period, candidate pre-screening and interview period, board review period and candidate selection, nomination period, CRO review period, preparation period, campaign period, and voting period. Governor elections timelines include the nomination period, CRO review period, preparation period, campaign period, and voting period. Governor nominations and REC application periods do not overlap so that we can do very focused marketing to increase student's awareness of the different positions. - Timeline consultation with the CRO has occurred.
2027 CRO Appointment	Motion: To hire Shauna Hunter as Chief Returning Officer from September 1, 2026 to August 31, 2027. Muskaj/Deng Carried	- Role is outlined in the Bylaws, including the qualifications. - Shauna Hunter has been SAMRU's Chief Returning Officer for 17 years; she has extensive experience and knowledge of SAMRU elections.
2027 Annual General Meeting Date	Motion: To hold the SAMRU Annual General Meeting on March 24, 2027. Park/Garvie Carried	- Included in the elections memo - The Board approves the date of the AGM each year. Bylaw requirement for the meeting to occur by March 31st annually.
Speaker Review Work Group	Motion: To appoint Governor McRae as Speaker for this agenda item.	<i>Speaker Nelles and Erika Ortiz left the meeting.</i>

Topic	Motion(s)	Discussion Summary
	Maglalang/Jali Carried Motion: To go in camera. Tuling/Muskaj Carried Motion: To go out of in camera. Brown/Hassan Carried Motion: To bring the Speaker Review Work Group recommendations and ED Walter's feedback to the August Accountability Committee for further discussion. Hassan/Jali Carried Motion: That the Board provide a fully satisfactory performance review to Speaker	<i>Governor Park left the meeting at 8:00PM</i>

Topic	Motion(s)	Discussion Summary
	Nelles. Muskaj/Tuling Carried	Action: To add Speaker Review Work Group recommendations and ED Walter's feedback on the recommendations to the August Accountability Committee, with suggested edits to the Speaker job description and Governor Personnel Policy. <i>Speaker Nelles and Erika Ortiz returned to the meeting.</i> <i>The chair role was passed back to Speaker Nelles.</i>
Executive Director Review Work Group	Motion: To go in camera. Brown/Muskaj Carried Motion: To go out of in camera. Jali/Hassan Carried	<i>ED Walters left the meeting at 8:02PM</i>

Topic	Motion(s)	Discussion Summary
	Motion: To accept the ED performance review work group’s recommendation to give a superior performance review to Executive Director Brian Walters. Hassan/Jali Carried	<i>ED Walters returned to the meeting at 8:06PM</i>
Announcements	- Next meetings: August 24, 2026 (Work Group/Committees) ONLINE and August 31, 2026 (Board) IN PERSON - Board Calendar - Board Professional Development: June 15, 2026, 4:30PM, Council Chambers	
<i>The meeting was adjourned at 8:07PM</i>		