

**Students' Association of Mount Royal College  
Students' Council Meeting  
September 28, 2009  
Students' Council Chambers**

**Present:**

Robert Jones (chair)  
Erin Delamont  
Tegan Smyth  
Meghan Melynk  
Jennifer Langille  
Michael Decker  
Marcy Fogal (ex-officio)

Travis McIntosh  
Tommy Lieu  
Holly Mazur  
Kay Asiedu-Mketiah  
Keeli Elaschuk  
Jermyn Voon  
Megan Borg (scribe)

Eily Sweeney  
Troy McLeod  
Rance Williams  
Fadwa Khourieh  
Anna Piltingsrud  
Sadiq Valliani (part)

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**1.0 Welcome & Introductions**

Travis McIntosh welcomed Students' Council to the first meeting of 2009-10 stating that it is an exciting time. He explained that there is a new format to Council meetings which is designed to make meetings more efficient and promote interaction between Councilors in the hopes to share ideas and communicate effectively.

Students' Council began by introducing themselves and sharing a talent or skill that they possess.

Travis explained that agenda packages will be distributed one week prior to the meeting and noted that if any Councilors would like to bring forward items for discussion during a meeting, that they should submit these items through the Executive Committee.

Travis noted that this is the first Students' Council meeting as Mount Royal University.

*Robert Jones called the meeting to order.*

**2.0 Oaths**

Students' Council recited the Students' Council Oath of Office.

**3.0 Approval of Agenda**

**Motion: To approve the September 28, 2009 Students' Council meeting agenda with the following amendments:**

- **Table 4.1 "Students' Council Meeting Minutes: April 6, 2009"**
- **Table 4.2 "Executive Committee Meeting Minutes"**
- **Table 4.3 "Committee Reports"**
- **Add 4.1 "Paperwork"**

Rance Williams/Meghan Melynk

Carried

Erin suggested that items 4.1, 4.2 and 4.3 be tabled to the next Students' Council meeting to allow for Councilors to have time to read the documents.

**4.0 Approval of Consent Agenda**

**4.1 Paperwork**

Marcy Fogal noted that the following forms have been included in the agenda packages:

- Intellectual Property Agreements
- Marks Release
- Confidentiality Agreements
- Waiver
- Contact Information & Medical Information
- Dietary Needs

Marcy asked that all Councilors read the forms and return them signed to Megan Borg as soon as possible.

Travis noted that any questions regarding the forms can be directed to Marcy.

#### **4.2 Students' Council Meeting Feedback**

Robert explained that a feedback form has been attached to the agenda. He stated that it is to be filled out at the end of each meeting and returned to Megan Borg. He explained that the form gives Councilors an opportunity to give feedback on what can be improved during meetings, any comments they may have regarding that meeting or any general feedback that Councilors would like to provide about how the meeting went.

Travis stated that he believes this form will provide insight to the Executive Committee on how they are doing and what they can do to improve. He also noted that the form itself is open for amendments or changes if any Councilors feel that it can be improved.

Eily Sweeney noted that it is important for Councilors to fill out the form each meeting because all feedback will be helpful.

Travis also noted that all the information from the completed forms will be reviewed and discussed at the following meetings.

#### **5.0 Items Removed From Consent Agenda**

There were no items.

#### **6.0 New Business**

##### **6.1 Announcements of Point People**

Travis explained that Councilors are assigned to a member of the Executive Committee who acts as a point person for the year. He noted that each Councilor's point person will be the contact for any questions, ideas, concerns and feedback, among other things. He explained that each Executive has ½ hour set aside before each board meeting for Councilors to meet to discuss the prepare for the meeting and discuss the agenda, as well as answer any questions that Councilors may have about the agenda. He stated that these meetings are voluntary for Councilors, but are designed to increase confidence and understanding for Councilors.

The points of contacts are as noted:

Robert Jones: Michael Decker, Kay Asiedu-Mketiah, Tegan Smyth  
Erin Delamont: Anna Piltingsrud, Sadiq Valliani, Jennifer Langille, Fadwa Khourieh  
Eily Sweeney: Jermyn Voon, Meghan Melynk, Troy McLeod  
Travis McIntosh: Keeli Elaschuk, Tommy Lieu, Holly Mazur, Rance Williams

Travis stated that Executives will be available to book meeting times with Councilors if they are not about to meet between 4:00 and 4:30 on the day of the meetings. Travis noted that agendas will be given out one week prior to each board meeting in order to give ample time to prepare and read the packages, as well time to meet with point people if necessary.

## **6.2 Students' Council and Executive Written Reports Explanation**

Robert explained that Students' Council will be expected to write and submit a report outlining what they have been doing since the last board meeting. He stated that they can outline meetings attended, projects, any committee work, as well as any volunteering opportunities achieved or upcoming. He stated that these reports will be handed in prior to board meetings in order to be included in the agenda packages to be approved with the consent agenda.

Keeli Elaschuk asked what format Councilors should use when writing their reports. Robert replied that the reports can be as in depth or as minimal as desired, but should include an overview of what that individual has accomplished as a board member. Robert encouraged Councilors to provide a thorough report and explained that it is important as Councilors to provide background information to future Councils.

Travis noted that written reports teach time management skills, both during meetings, as well as through getting reports in for the agenda on time. Travis encouraged Councilors to submit their reports early in order for them to appear in the agenda package. Robert noted that reports can be submitted to either Megan Borg or Executives and also noted that any questions regarding written reports can be directly to any Executive.

## **6.3 Retreat Information**

Robert noted that a document outlining the retreat logistics has been included within the agenda package. He stated that the retreat will be held October 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> at Rafter Six Ranch. He stated that some of the retreat sessions will be about board governance, roles and responsibilities, legal and ethical responsibilities, as well as a session on Roberts' Rules.

Robert stated that he believes the retreat will be awesome and will be a great bonding and getting to know one another experience.

Robert noted that the bus will depart at exactly 9:00AM on October 2<sup>nd</sup>. He also noted that all materials for the retreat sessions will be provided, but encouraged board members to dress warm and bring allergy medications. He noted that meals will be buffet style and stated that alcohol will be permitted, but each Councilor is responsible for bringing their own. Robert encouraged Councilors that wish to drink to be responsible.

Keeli Elaschuk noted that she has a class on Friday morning and asked if an excusal letter will be provided. Robert replied that a letter will be provided by the Students' Association to those Councilors who request one.

Robert noted that there will be a hot tub at Rafter Six and anyone who wishes to use it should bring a bathing suit. Travis noted that it is nice to relax after the sessions. Robert also noted that horse-back riding is available at each individual's expense. Megan Borg stated that horse-back riding is \$42 per person for ½ hour.

Sadiq Valliani asked if internet is available. Robert confirmed that wireless internet is available at the ranch.

Eily Sweeney stated that evening activities will be held and noted that she will be bringing her instrument and anyone else is welcome to bring their instruments as well. Eily also noted that they will be bringing board games.

Travis explained that each Councilor has been assigned an email address for communication with Executives, other Councilors, students, faculty and staff. He noted that email will be the primary form of communication to Councilors. He explained that it is important for Councilors to check their email regularly for email motions, special meetings, event representation requests, volunteer opportunities, digital agenda packages, among other communications. Travis noted that SA email can also be set up to be forwarded to another email address if needed. Travis also noted that Councilors are welcome to contact Executives through email if they have any questions or concerns that they would like addressed.

## **7.0 Dinner**

*Students' Council took a ½ hour recess for dinner.*

## **8.0 Generative Governance Topic Discussion & Presentations**

*Who are we? Why are we here? How are we different?*

Robert explained that over the summer the Executive Committee had decided that they would like to conduct a discussion topic at each Students' Council meeting in order to get Council to interact with one another and have a philosophical conversation on various topics.

Robert explained that this meeting's topic will discuss what Students' Council is, why MRU is special and why MRU is different.

Robert gave an explanation on the discussion topic:

*Who are we?* Robert discussed the history of the Students' Association and Wyckham House. He gave an overview of the recent expansion to Council Chambers, the expanded food court and the service centers. He explained that the strategic plan is a 5 year plan in its final year. He stated that this year a new plan will be created. Robert gave an overview of the strategic plan's mission and vision, beliefs and values.

*Why are we here?* Robert noted that Council provides governance and policy decisions, while staff handles operations of the Students' Association. He noted that Council is the official voice and primary advocate for students. Robert gave a brief overview of some of the lobbying successes of Council and noted that SAMRU focuses on important issues to students.

*How are we different?* Robert stated that SAMRU is strongly determined and highly regarded by peers. He noted that SAMRU is truly autonomous as we own our own building. He noted that SAMRU is the only Students' Association in Canada with charitable status. He noted that SAMRU is a non-profit organization that strives to make students lives easier while looking out for the environment.

Robert explained that there will be break out sessions with each Executive and their point people where they will discuss this topic, as well as discuss where they want to go this year with Students' Council through asking who we think we are, where do we see ourselves going and what does the Students' Association mean to you.

*Students' Council met with their groups and came back to present their discussions.*

Robert Jones stated that his group looked at the advantage of MRU being a smaller campus and having a high level of strength to personally connect with students, as well as SAMRU having more swag with the institution because of its small size.

Robert explained that his group also discussed and identified communication problems that resulted in low Students' Association nominations during elections, low event turnout and voter turnout. He noted that they discussed increasing communications and awareness of the Students' Association to encourage students to come forward, as well as increase opportunities for student participation.

Robert explained that his group also discussed transportation issues on campus and how they can increase communications to students in order to increase awareness regarding this issue. He stated that they discussed increasing participation of students outside of the classroom and increasing interaction with students through face to face encounters and more speaker series to get students involved.

Fadwa Khourieh explained that her group discussed how the SA makes students lives easier through identifying blind spots to see where they are not serving students. She explained that her group discussed how the Students' Association is the voice that serves students and discusses student issues. She stated that her group wants to promote the image of the University to the public in order to show that students are focused. Fadwa stated that her group discussed how they would like to see students be more involved in research with professors. She explained that they discussed holding student rallies so that all representatives can have the opportunity to speak. She noted that her group discussed how the SA can reach out to students and communicate to them.

Eily Sweeney explained that her group discussed what they care about. She explained that her group discussed making connections with students by finding out what they care about and providing initiatives to pull students towards the Students' Association. She noted that an idea that they discussed was having student internships within the Students' Association. Eily stated that her group discussed student projects that are done in the classroom going towards helping the school. She stated that her group discussed working with the pride of University status by promoting it and providing services to students that are complimentary of the services provided by the University. She stated that her group discussed student outreach and engagement.

Travis McIntosh explained that his group discussed the potential for more students to get involved with the Students' Association because they will be staying on campus for a longer period of time. He noted that his group discussed student pride and engagement. He explained that his group discussed affordable housing being addressed at Students' Council level. He noted that they discussed increasing community and friendships with students through more affordable housing and also discussed the inter-institution feasibility study that was conducted last year.

Travis explained that his group also discussed defining Students' Council roles and how Students' Council can communicate and advocate on behalf of students on issues that they are passionate about.

Meghan Melynk asked who is responsible for the Liberty Lounge. Robert explained that SAMRU staff manage and operate the Liberty Lounge and stated that the Liberty Lounge is part of the Students' Association building. He stated that the Liberty Lounge is included in the License of Occupation Agreement with the University. Marcy Fogal noted that the License of Occupation Agreement between the Students' Association and the University explicitly states that the Liberty Lounge will not be expanded unless granted by the

University. Marcy noted that the last time that they put in a request for expansion of the Liberty Lounge, it was denied by the University. Marcy also noted that the Liberty Lounge is currently included within the functional programming of renovations for Wyckham House and any Councilors are welcome to attend the sessions as students to give input and feedback on the plans. Marcy stated that they hope to have face lift renovations done to the Liberty Lounge next summer, which may also include new furnishings.

Sadiq Valliani asked if the temperature in Council Chambers can be increased for the next meeting. Robert took note of this. Keeli Elaschuk recommended that individuals bring sweaters in order to look out for the environment. Travis explained that Council Chambers is a large area and he will be working to research energy alternatives in order to regulate the temperature in the room.

Robert Jones noted that swag for Councilors is coming soon.

Erin Delamont noted that the next Council meeting will be held on October 5<sup>th</sup> and asked that Councilors hold on to their agenda packages from this meeting because they will be referring to documents that were included in this package. She noted that the agenda for October 5<sup>th</sup> will be available either Tuesday or Wednesday in the Councilor mailboxes that are located in the Governance Work Room.

Keeli Elaschuk asked if Councilors are able to use the work room if they need space to work. Travis replied that the room can be used if it is free, or can also be booked. He noted that there is a library of resources available for Councilors in that room as well.

Robert thanked Students' Council for the great meeting and discussion session and stated that he is looking forward to the upcoming year.

## **9.0 Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned.