

**Students' Association of Mount Royal College  
Students' Council Meeting  
March 15, 2010  
Students' Council Chambers**

**Present:**

Erin Delamont (chair)  
Eily Sweeney  
Troy McLeod (part)  
Meghan Melynk  
Jennifer Langille

Robert Jones  
Tommy Lieu  
Holly Mazur (part)  
Sadiq Valliani  
Anna Piltingsrud

Travis McIntosh  
Jermyn Voon  
Fadwa Hourieh  
Rance Williams

Marcy Fogal (ex-officio)

Megan Borg (scribe)

**Regrets:**

Tegan Smyth  
Kay Asiedu-Nketiah

Michael Decker

Keeli Elaschuk

**Guests:**

Liz Schweizer (SAMRU)  
Heidi Miller-Zer (Centre Point)

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**1.0 Approval of Agenda**

**Motion: To approve the March 15, 2010 Students' Council meeting agenda.**

Jennifer Langille/Jermyn Voon

Carried

**2.0 Approval of Consent Agenda**

**Motion: To approve the consent agenda.**

Sadiq Valliani/Holly Mazur

Carried

**3.0 Items Removed From Consent Agenda**

**4.0 2010-14 Strategic Plan**

Holly Mazur stated that there were 11 Councilors and Executives involved in the 5 sessions, as well as the working groups.

Heidi Miller-Zer gave an explanation of the frame work for the strategic planning, which included an overview of Centre Point's sustainability model. She also gave an overview of the planning process, which began with the outward view (stakeholder input/environmental scan, strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats, mission, vision and values, and critical success factors), strategizing (key strategies, goals and objectives, written report, and communication to stakeholders), and evaluate and implement (evaluate and measure methods, prepare to implement, implement and celebrate successes).

Heidi explained that the proposed elements of the plan were reached through consensus, which includes at least 70% agreement and 100% commitment from all involved. She noted the beliefs underlying consensus: Each person has some part of the truth, no one person has all of the truth, respect for all persons involved, by combining thoughts,

people can often create higher-quality decisions and collaboration rather than compromise.

Heidi noted that the process of the strategic plan development began in October 2009 with an RFP with three responses, and from there Centre Point was selected to facilitate the process. There were 6 one-on-one interviews with MRU admin, various focus groups and almost 400 random intercept surveys with students.

The proposed 2010-14 Strategic Plan was presented:

**Vision:**

Where students discover themselves,  
build relationships,  
and make a difference in the world.

**Mission:**

We are the collective voice of our members.  
We create change through advocacy.  
We inspire growth through engagement.  
We serve students to help them succeed.

**Values and Beliefs:**

**We believe...**

- in a **community** built on individual relationships and shared resources.
- in every individual's potential, and that **learning** goes beyond the classroom.
- that our **integrity** requires accountability, openness, responsible stewardship, and ethical governance.
- that **diversity** makes our community stronger and more vibrant.
- that **fun** is essential to creativity, engagement, and social development.
- that our **autonomy** makes it possible to respond to the needs of our members.

**Essentials:**

**Legitimacy**

The Students' Association of Mount Royal University has the legal authority and responsibility to act as an official, incorporated, representative body for our members. We build credibility through transparent and accountable governance, consistent and effective management, principled advocacy, and successful operations. We have an excellent reputation because we keep our promises.

**Resilience**

The Students' Association of Mount Royal University is financially sustainable, environmentally responsible, and politically astute. Our solid foundation is based on dedicated and passionate staff and volunteers, a reciprocal loyalty between SAMRU and

our workers, the possession and control of our own building, excellent financial health, and a progressive policy framework. We stand the test of time.

### **Relevance**

The Students' Association of Mount Royal University continually seeks to understand and adapt to our members' needs through engagement, outreach, communication, representation, advocacy, peer support, and service provision. We are an integral part of the student experience.

### **Relationships**

The Students' Association of Mount Royal University cultivates healthy, productive, and sustainable relationships internally and externally. We collaborate with campus and community groups to provide the best experiences and opportunities for our members. We are the vibrant hub of the campus community.

### **Learning Organization**

The Students' Association of Mount Royal University pursues the best ways to meet the needs of our members through innovative practices, continual professional development, and systematic evaluation. We are always striving to be better.

### **Strategic Priorities:**

#### **ADVOCACY**

##### ***Continue to pursue holistic advocacy that empowers collective and individual student voices.***

We will endeavour to bring the voices of students, both individually and as a group to all those that need to hear them. This work includes representing students on MRU committees and boards, to members of municipal, provincial and federal governments and to the community at large, but it also involves empowering our members to hear their own voices, to discover themselves. Sometimes we will bring a common purpose from many voices, but we will also work to make sure that no lone voice is lost in the crowd. We will work to ensure that advocacy is not seen as a compartment of the organization or a specific job duty. Instead we will strive to make all of our work an act of advocacy—through all our daily interaction with students, through the credibility we develop with the community and through the demonstration of our belief in the value of learners, we will endeavour to illuminate the worth of our members and their role in the community.

#### **COMMUNITY**

##### ***Develop and sustain relationships with the campus community to foster an environment of authentic collaboration.***

From our belief in a community built on relationships and shared resources, we will work to build connections among the campus community that enrich the work of all involved. By demonstrating that cooperation, trust and respect lead to authentic relationships we will work to find relevant common purpose with any and all members of the campus community, including the MRU Board, administration, faculty, support staff and other campus groups,. We will work to find mutually beneficial goals and capitalize on opportunities to work with our internal and external campus partners to improve efficiencies and provide value to our members. We will offer our own expertise and services where they are needed to enrich the fabric of the campus community. Finally,

we will also encourage and inspire members of the campus community to collaborate independently with each other, modelled on our successful partnerships.

## **ENGAGEMENT**

### ***Further promote an aware and actively participating membership towards achieving maximum student engagement.***

We believe engagement goes beyond dissemination of our message, requiring a whole environment of interaction with our members. Engagement involves both active participation in the organization and dialogue. We will value and promote active participation by our members. We will work to find new ways to promote our organization to those members who do not actively participate, to have them be aware of the services and opportunities we offer and make informed choices. We will go above and beyond our current levels of involvement and we will value every interaction with our members as an opportunity for engagement. We recognize that not all students will wish to fully engage with the Students' Association, but we will challenge ourselves to reach out to as many members as possible. Our goals are to increase active participation and to create an on-going two-way conversation with our members involving face-to-face interactions, forums, emerging technologies, and spontaneous conversations as well as a comprehensive strategy of traditional communication tools.

## **ENRICHMENT**

### ***Continue to deliver enriching and relevant services, opportunities and events leading to student success.***

We recognize our members are a community of learners and our services are a complement to their traditional education; we offer our members enriching co-curricular opportunities and provide holistic support for their academic pursuits. We will ensure enduring relevance and value in all the Students' Association's offerings – including services, advocacy, lobbying and operations. We work in the best interests of students. We also believe enrichment must include fun and excitement—we will work to continue a comprehensive offering of programs from essential support services to entertaining programmed events. To accomplish this we will research new programs, initiatives and services and refine our existing offerings in a way that continually adds to the value to our members.

## **INNOVATION**

### ***Examine and evaluate our organization to remain innovative and responsive to our members.***

We will continue our commitment to being a learning organization whose actions are informed by effective engagement with our key stakeholders, by honest and critical evaluation of our operations, by seeking our new best practices and by developing innovative initiatives. We will consistently look to improve our existing activities as well as seek new opportunities for our members. We will work to ensure our effectiveness by using qualitative and quantitative tools to collect input from students, from the campus community and from other stakeholders. We will value this input as essential to our growth, even when it may be critical or challenging. We will reflect on the input we receive and work to employ it in the best possible way. Finally, we will be courageous and innovative—willing to take calculated risks on new, untested initiatives and we will examine those new initiatives to evaluate their success.

Jermyn Voon stated that in each place that 2013 is noted, 2014 should replace it.

Eily Sweeney noted that it was her first time involved in a strategic planning process and stated that it was an exciting learning experience and great to see the whole organization

come together as a whole. She stated that she is proud to have been involved in the process and is looking forward to integrating the strategic plan into her work for the next year.

Jermyn commended the hard work of the working groups to develop the plan.

Liz Schweizer explained that the next steps will be breaking down goals and objectives in relation to the priorities, which will be done in the next few weeks as well as at the upcoming planning retreat.

Liz noted that there was a lot of amazing input worked into the plan, including input from almost 400 people.

Travis McIntosh encouraged all Councilors to read the entire document and noted that it is a very comprehensive overview of the organization. He stated that he would also like to see the plan reviewed at both the first Council meeting of the year as well as at the Council retreat in the fall. He expressed his hopes for regular review of the plan at EC to ensure that they are working with staff to see that their priorities are in line with the plan.

**Motion: To approve the 2010-14 SAMRU Strategic Plan.**

Holly Mazur/Travis McIntosh

Carried

Sadiq Valliani congratulated everyone involved, particularly Councilors for all of the time and effort that was put into the development of the plan.

Robert Jones brought forward an idea to display posters of the plan around the offices, such as in the kitchen, on doors, etc.

Holly Mazur stated that it would be good for Council to formally decide to review and track process of the document regularly. Travis suggested that it be done at a most cost-effective way, such as assessments at the board level during meeting discussion times.

Motion: For Students' Council to review and evaluate the 2010-14 strategic plan yearly at the most cost-effective way.

Holly Mazur/Fadwa Khourieh

Carried

Meghan Melnyk asked how the new plan will be communicated. March Fogal replied that the communications department will distribute the plan, including doing in-house printing of the document and circulating it to key departments, as well as posting the plan on the website for students to access. She also noted that in the past, the mission statement has been printed on the backside of the business cards. She stated that Robert's idea to hang posters can be done using our in-house printers.

**5.0 Dinner**

**6.0 2010-11 Budget**

Erin Delamont explained that this meeting will be used to present and discuss the proposed budget and to recommend any changes to the budget. Erin stated that the budget will be approved at the March 29<sup>th</sup> meeting in order to give staff and management time to incorporate proposed changes, as well as additional time for Council to review the document and ask any outstanding questions.

Marcy Fogal explained that the budget process begins in January where EC is given the opportunity to bring forward suggestions, goals and new initiatives they would like to see incorporated into the budget. She noted that this year the Executive chose to bring the budget to Council for discussion on new initiatives. She explained that input is also gathered from staff with frontline authority, with a collection of approximately 20 areas. She stated that once all of the input is obtained, the finance manager puts everything into a budget draft, which herself and senior management go through and look to ensure that revenue calculations and expenses are captured accurately. She stated that the bottom line must be positive, but during the first time that they reviewed the draft, it was about - \$500,000 because of the capital replacement fund contribution. She noted that the details around this are captured in the briefing note, but explained that they had anticipated that this issue was coming because of the new building. She stated that EC has capped the contribution this year to \$350,000 and she has recommended that the policies be changed so that they will be able to reasonably accomplish the CFR.

Marcy explained that other ways they have looked at saving this year have included looking at alternative ways to accomplish some of the goals, such as taking money from the capital budget for programming equipment. She noted that they have also canceled the addition of two new full-time staff members and have instead added a third part-time staff resource. She noted that no new initiatives will be coming through this year, but ongoing initiatives will continue to be funded. Marcy stated that she believes that the budget is responsible, meeting many goals and is in the direction towards reaching the strategic priorities.

Meghan Melnyk thanked Marcy for preparing the briefing and noted that it make the budget draft easier to follow.

Meghan asked if the possibility of fundraising has been addressed. March replied that for a long time, the University discouraged the SA from fundraising. She explained that with the new LOA, some fundraising allowances have been incorporated but the Risk Mitigation Policies do not allot the SA to do fundraising, therefore, they have been at a stalemate with the University around this. Marcy noted that some fundraising that they have done is the casinos, as well as received the \$5000 grant for the strategic plan and a \$15,000 Alberta culture grant this year. She stated that other attempts have included apply for capital grants and feed the student grants, but those were both denied. Marcy stated that fundraising will be a priority for the coming year.

Meghan Melnyk asked for an explanation around why we will not be funding the parking pass share program and the textbook loan program. Marcy replied that the parking pass share program is controlled entirely by the University. She also explained that it is most logical to have the text book loan program operated by the library. She noted that SAMRU gives away text books through the Peer Support Centre.

Sadiq Valliani asked how the capital replacement fund was developed and why it would have negative ramifications on this budget if the contribution amount was not changed. Marcy replied that the policy was created around the value of depreciation for all of our assets and the sense was to cap it low enough to be attainable, but high enough to recognize a significant change in depreciation. She stated that the significant change has been due to the new building. She noted that the Executive Committee has passed a motion to cap this year's contribution to this fund of no less than \$350,000, which will be more easily attained. She noted that if it were to remain at the current contribution, it would have negative implications around resources.

Troy McLeod noted that the DFS internship for a videographer is a great idea and asked why the DFS position has been limited to videography. Marcy replied that it was an Executive goal to tap into new marketing techniques, such as video. She explained that

the idea is to use videos on Youtube, the LCD screens and on our website and noted that the addition of video will compliment our existing communications.

Troy asked if there have been any thoughts around partnering with the University on composting and recycling. Marcy replied that the SA is absolutely looking at their options and the need for these services has been expressed as a priority.

Erin Delamont asked how much money has been budgeted for meals at Council meetings. Marcy replied that meals cost approximately \$10 per person per meeting and the total amount budgeted is \$2000.

Erin asked what the rationale is for launching the new logo this year instead of waiting. Marcy replied that the name was changed this year from SAMRC to SAMRU, as well as created a new strategic plan, so it is the best opportunity to do it now. She noted that they want to develop it over the summer and in-house, but also want to have the flexibility to hire an outside consultant with expertise.

Troy asked what the Zimride program is. Eily Sweeney replied that Zimride has been an initiative that she has been working on this year that is a website for carpool networking, but there has been some reluctance from the University to move forward. She noted that this is something that would highly benefit students and the idea is to put money towards it to encourage the University to move forward.

Troy asked if there is a possibility of changing the E-awards policy to allow all Councilors to apply for the awards if there is a third party selection committee. He noted that a lot of Councilors are involved on campus outside of Council and it would be great to encourage them to be more involved. Eily replied that Councilors now have their own separate award and have a really good chance of winning it because there are only 14 potential applicants. She also noted that the University has tons of awards that Councilors are eligible to apply to. Jennifer Langille noted that the Council award was created this year because it was felt by a lot of people that Councilors had an unfair advantage over other students and they also wanted to encourage more people to get involved in applying for the awards. Eily noted that Student Councilors are also the highly paid volunteers on campus. Erin noted that over 90 people applied for E-awards this year. Troy suggested that it be announced to Students' Council candidates that they are only eligible for one of the awards up front.

Eily asked if the new part-time staff member will be tasked with operating the information booth. Marcy replied that the staff member will be involved with the volunteer coordination and recruitment for the information booth.

Meghan Melnyk asked if the new part-time staff member will affect the work of the CEC. Marcy replied that the new position will be an extension of the current Safewalk Coordinator and the work that this position will do will compliment the current position. She explained that the position is not being created to take over the work of CEC because CEC's work is very worthwhile and effective. Marcy noted that a lot of this year's successes can be credited to the CEC. Erin Delamont noted that CEC is also good publicity for Council and the SA and it increases SC's legitimacy. Marcy stated that one issue can be crossover and position of role confusion, but noted that because all of CEC's work is project based (Ex. Exam relief), it is clear what the roles are. Marcy also noted that the new part-time position will involve recruiting, training, coordinating and scheduling volunteers.

Holly asked where the saved money from CASA has gone. Marcy replied that the money saved was spread out and noted that the savings from that have been used to save some areas from cut backs.

Eily asked how the elimination of the club development fund will affect clubs. Marcy replied that there is some money available for clubs, which is the same amount that has been budgeted this year, despite there being an increase in the number of clubs this year. Marcy stated that there have been some complaints from clubs, and it would be nice to be able to offer more money, but it is just not possible this year. Eily asked if this money is entirely used each year. Marcy replied that the club development fund is mostly used each year.

Jermyn Voon expressed concern regarding cutting the Think publication and is worried that information will be cut-off from students. Marcy replied that she doesn't believe this will be the outcome and noted that only 70% of the publication is picked up, which isn't enough to sustain it. She noted that they are exploring other communications methods as alternatives, such as posting important news on the web. Sadiq asked if they could publish a leaflet into The Reflector. Marcy replied that The Reflector would be more expensive than Think and noted that the SA already has a spot in The Reflector each month in lieu of rent. Erin asked if the elections supplement will still be printed. Marcy replied that it will be.

Troy McLeod asked why it is projected that MRU will have up to a 10% enrollment decrease in the next few years. Marcy replied that the reason is that the University received two years of funding for the degree programs which are four years; therefore, they need to find a way to make two year's worth of funding last for four years. She explained that in order to accomplish this, they need to cut enrollment and have decided that they want to focus on quality, not quantity. Marcy stated that we budget on information that we know now and noted that the future may turn out differently.

Eily noted that one item under lobbying initiatives is additional E-awards scholarships, bursaries or MDF. She explained that an idea was suggested around giving one time scholarships each year until that money is gone.

Meghan Melnyk stated that she is more in favor of bursaries and putting money towards DFS. Marcy replied that the awards money is part of the segregated funds which are required to be used for specific purposes because that money was pledged by students for that use.

Meghan noted that one of the past referendum questions was around the excess money in the health and dental fund and asked if this money has been used. Marcy replied that that money was a one time withdrawal and has been used. She stated that the reserve fund has been built up again and suggested that they can take the question to referendum again to ask students to apply it elsewhere.

Jennifer Langille asked if they can find ways to save money on the E-awards ceremony in order to put more money towards actual awards. Marcy replied that the ceremony event is something that a lot of people love. She stated that she is glad that the fancy dinner has been eliminated because it allows them to access more people to attend.

**Motion: To put \$14,000 into additional awards for 2010-11.**

Eily Sweeney/Travis McIntosh

Defeated  
In Favor: 4  
Opposed: 10

Marcy noted that according to the policy, they can spend 50% of the scholarship fees each year on scholarships, bursaries and MDF, plus \$14,000 of fund-raised money.

Travis McIntosh stated that he is in favor of increasing the amount because the student unemployment is high right now. Meghan Melnyk agreed and noted that a lot of the students who are doing DFS over the summer will be making little or no money.

Jermyn Voon stated that he would like to have time to see what types of scholarships and bursaries can be offered to students.

Meghan Melnyk stated that there are so many applications this year and would be in favor of splitting the amount so more people can be awarded this and next year. She also suggested that they could give awards in the fall if students are really struggling. She stated that increasing the amount a little each year will encourage more students to apply because they will believe that their chances of receiving an award are higher.

Marcy explained that scholarships are given off of the interest of the \$3 per student per semester and once the fund reaches \$1M, they will not be collecting that \$3 anymore. She stated that if rates were higher, they would be able to sustain this, but at the current rates they cannot. She noted that the fund is expected to reach \$1M in about 2-3 years.

Robert asked if the principle has been dipped into to increase scholarships. Marcy replied that the only areas used for scholarships have been fundraising and interest on contributions.

Eily stated that she believes spreading the money out between this year and next would allow them to respond to students needs because of the unemployment rates. She stated that she also like the idea of providing some money this year in response to the high amount of applications received for E-awards.

**Motion: To call to question.**

Sadiq Valliani/Jennifer Langille

Carried  
Opposed: 1

**Motion: To remove the \$2000 Students' Council expenses budget and use it to increase the capital replacement fund from \$355,000 to \$357,000.**

Erin Delamont/Robert Jones

Carried  
In Favor: 4  
Opposed:2  
Abstentions: 8  
Ana Piltingsrud  
Meghan Melnyk  
Rance Williams  
Jennifer Langille  
Fadwa Khourieh  
Sadiq Valliani  
Robert Jones  
Eily Sweeney

Erin explained that it is nice to have dinners at Council meetings, but it is an unnecessary expense in the current economic times. She noted that the University has eliminated all of their meeting budget expenses and have also eliminated retreats and travel expenses, so it only seems fair that the SA board follows this example. She stated that although meals are not a huge expense, it would be more beneficial and responsible to put the money towards maintaining our new building.

Meghan Melnyk stated that her understanding was that previous year's meetings went quite late and that was the reasoning for providing meals this year. She stated that she

believes the good thing about providing meals is that it is more time efficient where if they had to provide their own, a longer break would be required. She suggested that light snacks could be provided instead.

Jermyn Voon argued that not providing meals may have negative implications because of lost productivity if people are hungry.

Robert stated that his point of view is that providing meals does not add \$2000 worth of value.

Troy McLeod argued that he believes meals do provide value, as well as a good benefit and a nice touch.

Travis noted that any Councilors or Executives returning or planning to return to office next year should abstain from the decision because it is a conflict of interest.

Erin Delamont stated that it has been great to have food provided this year, but it is expensive. She stated that previously Council has been able to manage bringing their own food. She also noted that this year there have been a lot of negative comments and complaints about meals in the feedback forms. Erin also suggested that they could consider this as a temporary cut-back and consider using the Liberty Lounge kitchen when it is installed in the future because the food will be at cost to the Students' Association and will therefore be cheaper.

**Amended Motion: to include that the removal of the Students' Council meeting expenses budget is in effect for one year and will be re-evaluated next year.**

Sadiq Valliani/Holly Mazur

Carried  
Opposed: 2  
Eily Sweeney  
Troy McLeod

Jennifer Langille stated that last year when the meetings were expected to run late, Council was provided with pizza.

Marcy explained that the meals come out of hospitality and meeting expenses and noted that this year they were over budget in this area. She also noted that this year they have budgeted in 15 lunches with key MRU contacts, such as administration and faculty deans.

Erin commended Council for their decision to remove this expense and noted that it is great that Council is following the University's footsteps in being accountable.

**Motion: To reduce the Students' Council special projects fund from \$3000 to \$1000.**

Meghan Melnyk/Robert Jones

Carried  
In Favor: 7  
Opposed: 6  
Abstentions: 1  
Jermyn Voon

Meghan Melnyk stated that Council has previously not used a large portion of this money and noted that if things come up, they can apply through the contingency fund. She suggested that the additional money be put towards the contingency fund or the capital replacement fund.

Marcy stated that the contingency fund is normally used for any unanticipated expenses, such as this year being used for the phone expense and last year being used for the appeal expenses.

**Amended Motion: To reduce the Students' Council special projects fund from \$3000 to \$1500.**

Jermyn Voon/Eily Sweeney

Defeated  
In Favor: 7  
Opposed: 7

Holly Mazur noted that this year's only expense from this fund was approximately \$120 for the season of caring contribution. She stated that she believes this fund is appropriate at \$1000.

Jennifer Langille noted that future Councils can increase the amount if they see the need.

Sadiq Valliani asked if the fund can be increased during the current year. Marcy replied that it is unwise to adjust a budget during the year unless there is a problem that needs to be addressed or if there is something to be celebrated. She explained that the problem is around changing goals part-way through and then staff being unsure of their performance expectations.

Erin Delamont stated that she sees the purpose of allowing Council to have flexibility in this budget because it gives Council freedom and stated that this budget has actually only been in place for a few years, therefore it hasn't really had a chance to be used fully. She stated that it is ok to have the budget and not use it and would like to see it stay at \$3000. Eily Sweeney supported this argument and noted that this is the first year with CEC and hopes that this committee will be bringing forward more Council initiatives and it would be good for them to have this resource and supportive network available.

Meghan Melnyk noted that \$1000 is a significant amount of money to work with and believes that Council will be more particular with where their money is going if it is limited. She also noted that the contingency fund is available as she mentioned earlier. She argued that it is a good practice to be lean with the budget and realize that it could be more effective elsewhere.

Holly Mazur asked what happens if the money is not used. Marcy replied that any residuals are rolled into the reserve fund and the fund is currently at \$1.7M. She noted that the reserve fund could potentially cover about 3 years worth of utilities or cover almost one year of voluntary membership fees, for example.

Jermyn Voon expressed concern that Council would not be able to get out for events if they don't have available funds. Marcy noted that there are 8 Council initiatives that have already been budgeted for, including the Executive BBQ and exam relief. She noted that the budget that Council is discussing is the fund available for emerging needs.

Fadwa Khourieh supported leaving the fund at \$3000 because even if they don't use it, it will go to residuals and it is nice to have money available if needed.

Travis McIntosh stated that historically only a small amount of the fund has ever been used and suggested that instead of new initiatives, Council get behind some of the existing SA initiatives.

Sadiq Valliani stated that he is concerned with limiting future Councils and stated that he hopes future Council will have more opportunity to access the fund through CEC initiatives.

Jennifer Langille asked why the fund was barely accessed this year. Eily Sweeney replied that the money for exam relief and SC recognition has already been budgeted for in other areas.

The motion was called to question.

**Motion: To reduce the Executive projects “other” budget line from \$8000 to \$4000 and put the additional money into the capital replacement fund.**

Robert Jones/Travis McIntosh

Defeated  
In Favor: 6  
Opposed: 8

Robert Jones stated that his rationale behind reducing this line is the same as the rationale behind reducing Council’s budget. He stated that historically this budget has been around \$4000 and specific initiatives, such as the Zimride and Co-curricular Record have been budgeted for elsewhere. He stated that he believes that the Executives can be creative with \$4000 and he would like to see more strategic management of funds and have the additional money given to an area that needs it.

Eily Sweeney expressed concern because if Council has a project that they want to bring forward to the Executives, there will be limited money available to support Councilors.

Erin Delamont stated that she believes the budget should stay at \$8000 in order to give the future EC flexibility. She stated that although they can use the contingency fund, it should be reserved for emergencies. She also noted that the Executive special projects money that is spent will directly benefit and impact students.

Meghan Melnyk asked what kinds of projects were done this year. Marcy replied that some projects this year have included the residence grocery bus, movie in the park, drum circle and catwalk event.

Jermyn Voon agreed that the fund should stay at \$8000 because Council has already limited their budget. Fadwa Khourieh agreed.

Travis McIntosh encouraged Councilors to meeting with EC if they want to know specific details on there this budget has been spent this year. He suggested that they could temporarily reduce the amount or consult with the next EC to see what kinds of initiatives or projects they had in mind for the budget.

Tommy Lieu asked what the co-curricular record budget will go towards. Erin replied that it will go towards the purchase of the software.

Erin Delamont stated that she sees Travis point of consulting with the incoming EC, but argued that incoming Executives don’t always know their projects or expenses for the next year and it isn’t fair to take that flexibility away from the future Executives.

Robert Jones stated that he doesn’t believe that the budget is always spent strategically and explained that by reducing the budget than the projects will be more thoroughly thought out and the money better spent. He also stated that it will be good to debate where to spend the money in EC to evaluate where it will be the most beneficial. He

stated that it is a tight year with budgets anyway and we should be looking at how to use our current resources and get the most out of them.

Jermyn Voon stated that his concern is that the incoming Executives won't have the flexibility to fund projects if they things come up during their term.

The motion was called to question. Call to question was defeated with 7 in favor and 7 opposed.

Meghan Melnyk stated that she understands the point of reducing the budget and spending it wisely and noted that each incoming Executive has had one of their projects worked into the budget elsewhere. She stated that she believes this motion is in line with the precedent already set by Council and as well as good governance.

Rance Williams stated that he is in favor of reducing the budget because when you look at the historical data, there appear to be huge fluctuations within the last 3 years with this budget. Troy McLeod argued that \$8000 seems to be in line with the historical data and he is in against cutting the budget by half.

Holly Mazur stated that she agrees that the budget should be reduced because some of the University staff fears the loss of jobs and cuts to the degree programs; therefore, we should be hand-in-hand with the University and follow the example they are showing with cutting back our spending too.

Eily Sweeney asked if the savings could go towards another DFS. Marcy replied that DFS are about \$10,000.

The motion was called to question again. Call to question was defeated with 4 in favor and 10 opposed.

Tommy Lieu stated that he is in favor of keeping the budget at \$8000 because it allows EC the opportunity to get in to the community and contribute to new and ongoing projects on campus.

The motion was called to question.

Holly Mazur asked about the need for a hair salon in Wyckham House. Marcy replied that this is a service that does well on a lot of other campuses and explained that SAMRU did market research on this and it is a service that students asked for. She noted that the only available space is the old Peer Support Centre in the basement and explained that this service fits the space most appropriately because of the way that the space is laid out.

Troy McLeod asked why the business cards budget is \$10,000. Marcy replied that new business cards will be required with the re-do of the SAMRU logo and mission statement.

Troy McLeod asked if there is flexibility in the budget to add another DFS intern position. Marcy replied that there is no money available at the moment. She suggested that they could use the SC special projects budget, but it would only fund about 1/5 of the position. She also noted that last year SAMRU hired a Researcher and some of the intent behind that was to provide support to the Executive Committee. Meghan Melnyk asked why the DFS position has a \$10,000 budget. Marcy replied that this will fund a full time DFS position throughout the year and includes benefits.

Troy McLeod asked what the savings for the ThInk publication are. Marcy replied that it is \$14,000 and she has already spread those savings to other areas of the budget.

Erin Delamont stated that Council will be approving the budget at the next meeting and in the meantime any questions can be directly to Marcy.

**Motion: To add 7.5 “2009-10 Budget” to the agenda.**

Troy McLeod/Robert Jones

Carried

## **7.0 New Business**

### **7.1 January 2010 Operating Reports**

**Motion: To accept the January 2010 operating reports.**

Fadwa Khourieh/Holly Mazur

Carried

Sadiq Valliani asked for more information regarding the feed the students program. Marcy replied that it is the free breakfast program offered at the Peer Support Centre and noted that it feeds approximately 120 students per day.

### **7.2 2010 Election CRO Report**

Robert Jones explained that the CRO report doesn't normally come to Council, but EC wanted to share this as information. He noted a few highlights of the report, including the success of the cookie give-away and that a number of ballots were blank and it is estimated that they were blank because some students only voted to get the cookies.

Ana Piltingsrud noted that EC discussed the ballot counting process. Eily Sweeney explained that EC will be giving a recommendation to next year's CRO to speed up the ballot counting process.

**Motion: To accept the 2010 CRO report for information.**

Robert Jones/Fadwa Khourieh

Carried

### **7.3 2010-11 Board of Governors Representative**

**Motion: To accept Robert Jones as the 2010-11 MRU Board of Governors representative.**

Travis McIntosh/Sadiq Valliani

Carried

### **7.4 Exit Interviews**

Erin Delamont explained that at the end of each year, Councilors are asked to give feedback on how the year went. She noted that it is about a 15-20 minute evaluation that must be done in order to receive honoraria. She stated that Megan Borg will be conducting the interviews and will be contacting Councilors sometime in April to set up meetings.

Marcy Fogal noted that this year Councilors will be able to do phone interviews if they are not able to meet in person. She also explained that the information given is used and is valuable in building into process refinements.

## 7.5 2009-10 Budget

Troy McLeod suggested that this year's scholarship fund be increased. Marcy replied that there is \$14,000 available to spend according to the policies, as long as it is used for scholarships, bursaries of MDF.

Tommy Lieu stated that at last year's E-awards, 2 silver awards were given and suggested that we do the same this year with the extra money available.

Erin stated that she is hesitant to this idea because it doubles the amount of scholarships and they have not advertised this. She also stated that she would like to be able to evaluate what amounts would be most appropriate for this year if SC chooses to increase the amount.

Sadiq Valliani stated that he believes it is troublesome to change this year's awards because it will set a precedent.

Rance Williams stated that it would be a different story if they were discussing cutting the scholarships instead of increasing them. He stated that he does not believe that giving back to students will be frowned upon.

Travis stated that as long as the change is communicated, he believes there is nothing wrong with it. He noted that they will not be creating new awards, but will be increasing the existing awards.

Sadiq stated that if applications were still open, he would be in favor of using the money this year.

**Motion: To allocate \$3000 from the available \$14,000 scholarship fund for the 2009-10 E-awards Committee to use at their discretion for additional awards.**

Tommy Lieu/Eily Sweeney

Carried

Tommy Lieu explained that \$3000 is not a huge impact to the budget, but would be very valuable to a few students.

Jennifer Langille stated that the ceremony is only a month away and she doesn't believe that more awards should be created because students won't have sufficient time to apply for them. Tommy clarified that there would not be new awards created, but existing awards would be increased.

Troy McLeod stated that he is in favor of increasing the amount because it will benefit students who are struggling and this is in line with SAMRU's mission.

**Motion: To amend the increased amount from \$3000 to \$4000.**

Eily Sweeney/Travis McIntosh

Carried

Opposed:

Erin Delamont

Eily Sweeney explained that most awards given are between \$1000 and \$1500 individually.

Rance Williams stated that he is in favor of increasing the amount even more.

Sadiq Valliani asked how many applications were received last year for E-awards. Marcy Fogal replied that they received 4 ½ times as many applications this year than previous years.

Erin Delamont stated that it would be nice to have extra money to work with this year, but noted that not all applicants will be receiving an amount.

**Motion: To go in camera.**

Travis McIntosh/Robert Jones

Carried

**Motion: To remain in camera.**

Travis McIntosh/Sadiq Valliani

Defeated

The motion was called to question.

**Motion: To amend the increased amount from \$4000 to \$14,000.**

Sadiq Valliani/Troy McLeod

Defeated

In favor: 6

Opposed: 7

Sadiq Valliani stated that by using the maximum amount it will allow them the opportunity to awards more students and will be in response to the 450% increase in applications this year. Sadiq noted that bringing the amount to \$14,000 increases the total amount this year to double.

Meghan Melnyk stated that 91 applicants is a huge increase, but it is still not a lot when you look at the campus population. She stated that she would rather see the money go towards a special centennial scholarship and doesn't want to see the \$14,000 exhausted in one sitting.

Eily Sweeney discouraged Council from putting all of the \$14,000 towards awards this year and suggested that the additional money be put towards the centennial next year, or put towards University awards. Jermyn Voon agreed that the money shouldn't be spent all at once.

The motion was called to question.

## **8.0 Announcements**

Sadiq Valliani announced that Marcy Fogal celebrated her birthday on March 13<sup>th</sup>. Council embarrassed Marcy by singing to her.

Holly Mazur announced that ECPPPC will be bringing forward their recommendations for the policy, along with a report to the next SC meeting. She noted that the documents will be emailed in advance of the meeting and emphasized the importance of being prepared in advance of the meeting by reading the proposed changes. She stated that there has been a ton of work that has gone into the policies and noted that the ECPPPC will be meeting with the Executives as well to obtain their feedback on the recommendations.

Meghan Melnyk noted that the Councilor & Commissioners Roles Committee met and elected her as Chair and Ana Piltingsrud as Vice-chair. She stated that the committee has divided work and will be updating on their process at one of the future SC meetings.

Jermyn Voon announced that the CEC has planned a Council recognition event on April 12<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-8:30 after the short Council meeting. He stated that they will be going bowling and pizza will be provided.

Robert Jones stated that he and Travis attended the CASA lobby conference last week. He stated that altogether it was a good week with some major motions coming forward, as well as a 17 hour plenary. He stated that CASA has voted to go back to a board structure, the strategic plan was not approved and the budget was approved. He noted that Arati Sharma, the National Director has handed in her resignation for March 31, 2010.

Travis McIntosh noted that some high-lights from the 2010-11 federal budget include: \$14M to health research in PSE, fellowships being a taxable benefit and educational research not being a taxable benefit, \$342M towards the youth strategy employment, \$20M towards low-income individuals, aboriginal education increase of \$30M for Kindergarten – Grade 12 and \$1B towards a green energy program over the next 5 years and \$1B towards green infrastructure development.

Eily Sweeney announced that the E-awards ceremony will be held on April 17<sup>th</sup> and Councilors will be receiving invitations shortly. She encouraged all Councilors to be involved and asked for them to RSVP to the invite.

Eily also announced that the CEC will be holding a focus group for the Art Gallery with students on March 25<sup>th</sup> from 10:30AM – noon.

Erin Delamont asked Travis for an update on the U-pass price. Travis replied that the Calgary Student Caucus is still negotiating for the universal bus pass with SAIT, U of C, ACAD, Bow Valley and MRU, but noted that the price will be \$105/semester next year.

Meghan Melnyk stated that she attended the transportation open house last week and noted that the price of parking will remain the same for next year. She also noted that the new parkade is expected to open January 2011.

Sadiq Valliani stated that he is sitting on the teaching awards committee and will give an update to Council once their decision is made.

Troy McLeod stated that he was approached by a student concerned with selling medicinal aboriginal herbs on campus. Eily suggested that Troy discuss this issue with her after the meeting in order to get all of the information and background and then bring it back to Council at a later date for discussion.

Eily Sweeney reminded Council of the live underwear auction event tomorrow and noted that some Councilors will be modeling, as well as her being MC along with Brian Fleming. She stated that the event should be fun and noted that the fundraised money will go to helping women in need and the YWCA.

## **9.0 Action Items**

## **10.0 Board Meeting Feedback**

## **11.0 Adjournment**

**Motion: To adjourn the meeting.**  
Robert Jones/Jermyn Voon

Carried