

Annual General Meeting

November 25, 2015

The Hub

SAMRU Panel & Scheduled Speakers:

Matt Schapansky (SAMRU Speaker, Student Governing Board)

Erik Queenan (SAMRU President, Representation Executive Council)

Marcy Fogal (SAMRU Executive Director)

Brian Walters (SAMRU Director of Finance)

Robbie Nelson (SAMRU Governing Board)

Shauna Hunter (SAMRU Chief Returning Officer)

AGM Chair

Murray Cunningham

The CRO, Shauna Hunter, confirmed that quorum had been met with at least 101 members in attendance. The meeting was called to order.

1.0 Reports

1.1 Speaker (Student Governing Board, Speaker Matt Shapansky)

Good afternoon attendees of the Students Association of Mount Royal University Annual General Meeting. My name is Matthew Schapansky, I am the Speaker for SAMRU as of April 1st, 2015, and am proud to be here in this role.

I am here today to share with you some of the highlights of our Board of Governors work throughout the last year, as they have been very busy.

In the Winter 2015 semester, SAMRU's members passed a referendum extending the Scholarship Fee indefinitely and effectively eliminating the requirement to make ongoing contribution to the Scholarship Fund. This change has essentially doubled the amount of money available to be allocated to SAMRU's various scholarship and awards programs. Of these awards, the most notable were the Experiential Learning Fund and the SAMRU Awards, formerly known as the E-Awards, renamed by the Board on September 21th. These awards have now been increased to \$40,000 and \$41,000 respectively. In March, a work group was created by the Board to take on the task of seeking the most suitable replacement for the Speaker of three years, Derek Havens, and on April 1st, after interviewing two candidates, I was appointed. SAMRU's Imagine Canada Accreditation application has been an ongoing process that all members of the Board and SAMRU as a whole have been working very hard to achieve. It has now gone to their board for approval. Key parts of this application include the Board's approval of SAMRU's new and improved Whistleblower and Fundraising policies. The following month, three new

Governors were welcomed to the Board: Ms. Naomi Park, Ms. Coredelia Snowdon, and Mr. Robert Nelson.

1.2 President (Representation Executive Council, President Queenan)

Written report included below – the President, Erik Queenan, gave an overview of the report.

President

The President has continued on his work from last year in supporting mental health initiatives both within SAMRU and MRU. President Queenan is working with VP Cloutier on the Open Educational Resource Committee to promote the use of free online textbooks. There are currently existing online textbooks that are being used in BC and some places in Alberta and the objective of the committee is to raise awareness about these resources in the hopes that they will be used which will turn into savings for students.

Queenan has also been working as the Chair of the Canadian Alliance of Students Associations (CASA) to help further students advocacy priorities on a national level. A large portion of the work so far for CASA has been dedicated to the Get Out the Vote campaign which was a massive project lead at SAMRU by VP Kanayeva. All of this work has been happening in addition to the ongoing work that is expected of the SAMRU President including: the University Board of Governors, sitting on various SAMRU and MRU committees, helping coordinate and attending SAMRU and MRU events, and ongoing advocacy within the University and to the government. For more information please email president@samru.ca

Vice President Academic

Vice-President, Academic, David Cloutier, has been primarily focused on internal University academic affairs. An integral aspect of the VP Academic's work is representing members in Faculty Councils, on General Faculties Council (GFC), and GFC subcommittees. This year, Cloutier is also representing members on the development of the University's Academic Plan, in co-chairing the Task Force on Student Evaluations of Learning (reshaping SEIs), a working group for Open Educational Resources (OERs), and in the University's Campus Master Planning steering process.

A group of member-advisors to the VP Academic (VPAAC) are the primary composition of supporting student representation on committees, and this year, we are excited to announce that VPAAC includes members from all Faculties.

Review of procedures and policies such as the Requirement to Withdrawal from Program, academic scheduling to ensure adequate time for life and learning, also continue to be within the purview of the VP Academic. This year there is an emphasis on advancing the work of success-based policies, including clear guidelines on the extent to which attendance can be used for grading, a fall reading week, and ensuring that mandatory costs end at tuition fees.

In all, your VP Academic is excited to be working for you to create a more equitable, fair, higher quality, and affordable experience at Mount Royal University.

For more information please email vpacademic@samru.ca

Vice President External

VP Kanayeva has recently completed running the largest student voter mobilization campaign in MRU's history for the recent federal election. Working with the other executives, SAMRU volunteers, and employees, Kanayeva helped get more than 3000 MRU students to pledge to vote in the election. This was a major undertaking and consumed the majority of her time until October 19th. This campaign was done through the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) and there were over 20 other campuses that ran the same campaign.

VP Kanayeva also serves as the Chair of the Federal Policy Committee for CASA where she helps direct the policy development and review for CASA. She is currently working on a Sexual Assault policy for post-secondary institutions across Canada. She has also been communicating with MRU to determine what its policy is regarding sexual assault. The continuing advocacy work on a provincial level continues for VP Kanayeva working with the Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS) as it transitions its efforts to advocating to a new provincial government. She has also been the number one media spokesperson for SAMRU this term so far.

For more information please email vpexternal@samru.ca

Vice President Student Life

Vice President Student Life, Zoe Slusar, has been primarily focused on student well-being. This includes initiatives to increase engagement, attendance of events, volunteer opportunities and general inclusion in terms of student involvement on campus. Mental Health is another central area of the VPSL's job.

The largest responsibility of this role is to help students connect with programs, services and events (outside of the classroom) to benefit their student experience. VP Student Life brings enthusiasm to encourage students to participate while increasing their awareness and excitement about the Students' Association.

You VP Student Life is responsible for supporting Clubs, putting on events in Wyckham House and in the larger University, increasing Mental Health awareness while connecting students to resources and overall to cultivate a positive on-campus culture through the Student Life Committee, SWAG giveaways and interactive activities on Main Street.

The Student Life Committee supports the role of VP Student Life in program brainstorming, event/speaker promotion and helping with the implementation of activities and events.

VP Student Life sits on several Committees at the University, Internal Communications Committee, Safe Space Committee, Multiple Events Committees (U-Fest, NSO), Student Awards Committees. The role works closely with the Office of Student Success and Wellness Services.

Your VP Student Life is excited to be increasing awareness of SAMRU spaces/programs, supporting student led initiatives and engaging students in events to enhance their Mount Royal University experience.

For more information please email vpstudentlife@samru.ca

Question: (Emily Shibley) – clarification on what happened to the Pride Centre last year and the processes that the executives are involved in last year. Answer: Executives role involves on campus and external lobbying outside of the SAMRU – the internal focus is done by the staff and operational side of the SAMRU. The board is involved with the operations of SAMRU. Related to the Pride Centre, SAMRU did extensive research regarding what would happen with all of the centres, including direct feedback. The feedback received was that the space was important to students – SAMRU ensured that what students wanted was fulfilled.

1.3 Executive Director (SAMRU Administration & Management, Marcy Fogal)

- AGM is an excellent accountability mechanism to our membership
- Annual report is a summary of SAMRU's accomplishments over the last year.
- The most important achievement of the year was SAMRU's Imagine Canada accreditation. First SA in Canada to accomplish – hope other SAs will follow. Ensuring MRU students and members have a say in their own organization. Established compliance with 73 standards of excellence (for example, strategic plan, managing organizational risks, finance handling, etc). Accreditation benefits establishes credibility in sector that is not well understood (MRU, public, media, etc). Also helps with fundraising – the Imagine Canada trust mark is something donors look for. Focus time and energy on our core purpose - we can focus on growth and serving our members with programs and services such as club spaces, nap room, etc.

The CRO, Shauna Hunter, and meeting chair, Murray Cunningham, confirmed that quorum had been reached – the official meeting began.

2.0 Approval of Agenda

Motion: To approve the November 25, 2015 Annual General Meeting agenda.

Jared Gillard/Paul Joran

Carried

3.0 Approval of Minutes

Motion: To approve the November 13, 2014 Annual General Meeting minutes.

Daniel Rodriguez/Ryan Edie

Carried

4.0 Presentation of Audited Financial Statements

Brian Walters (SAMRU Director of Finance) gave the following overview on the fiscal year of 2014-15 financial statements:

- Outside independent auditor is hired to review SAMRU's financial statements in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting practices for not-for-profit standards.
- PricewaterhouseCoopers is independent from SAMRU
- Financial statements prepared – full statements are included in the agenda.
- PWC conducted audit in October 2015 – and issued the unqualified audited opinion of the financial position of SAMRU
- Opinion that overall financial position of SAMRU was mostly predictable despite trend of MRU's enrolment decreases. SAMRU was still able to deliver quality services. SAMRU closely monitored expenses and budget throughout the fiscal year.
- Revenue declines related to business operations that were offset by direct expenses.
- SAMRU continues to pay down debt and contribute to scholarship fund, as well as building capital fund.
- Investments continue to grow and be managed by Scotia Asset Management to ensure diversified investments.
- Financial position as of June 30, 2015 is healthy and well protected.

Question: Change in revenue is almost 10%, explanation? Answer: related to SAMRU owned and operated Wycked Deli. The business was leased to an independent operator. The directly related expenses offset the revenue loss. The bottom line basis was a profit. Because the MRU cafeteria shut down for the 2014 academic year, SAMRU benefited from that closure. Our catering also increased because of MRU's closure of the food services. The fees revenue was decreased related to fees and student health and dental plan – with fewer students we are bringing in less revenue. Because of less students, our expenses are also lower.

Motion: To accept the 2014-15 Audited Financial Statements as presented.

Priya Kaila/Daniel Rodriguez
Carried

5.0 Appointment of Auditors

Motion: Be it resolved by ordinary resolution of the Annual General Meeting of the Students' Association of Mount Royal University that the firm of Price Waterhouse Coopers be approved as auditors for the Students' Association of Mount Royal University for the fiscal year of 2015-16.

Shifrah Gadamsetti/Priya Kaila
Carried

6.0 SAMRU Bylaws

Robbie Nelson (SAMRU Student Governing Board) gave the following bylaws overview:

- Active member definitions broadened to include zero credit students in order to allow these students to receive SAMRU health and dental benefits and remain governors.
- Governor elections and re-elections clarified
- Legal counsel approval by the board will include parameters – ensuring this resource is not abused.
- Alternate governors allowance – will allow the board to continue its work if there are unexpected vacancies throughout the year.
- President's voting rights on the board were restored. There is also an allowance of a proxy vote if the President is unable to attend the meetings.
- Board minutes will be posted on the website within a timeframe to ensure transparency.
- Governors terms clarified in order to align with the governor elections processes
- Governor resignation clarification and the process of how the vacancy would be filled.
- Speaker role clarification.
- CRO appointment moved up earlier due to the new governor elections timeline
- The board's committee membership expanded if governors would like to sit on both committees
- Executive employment conditions removed from the bylaws as they will be written in to policy – they are personnel related and do not belong in the bylaws. Non-negotiable aspects of the bylaws were left in.
- Addition of resignation notice for executives
- Process for the board to follow if an executive resignation is received.

Question: (Taylyr Lively) – why does CRA not allow executive to have a vote on the board? Answer: CRA does not allow charitable organization to pay officers for governance work. Other options were explored, but removing the votes was the best option. If we were not in compliance with CRA, we could lose our charitable status, which also means losing all of our assets including the building.

Question: (Red Davis) why do alternate governors not have a vote? Answer: Governors have votes, alternate governors would not have a vote. Alternate governors will be appointed by the board and would attend all of the meetings and be involved in the other events of the board.

Motion: Be it resolved by special resolution of the Annual General Meeting of the Students' Association of Mount Royal University, that the Bylaws be rescinded in their entirety and that the revised Bylaws be adopted in their stead.

Shifrah Gadamsetti/Andrew Yule

Carried

7.0 Announcement of 2015 Governor Election Candidates (CRO Shauna Hunter)

Shauna Hunter announced the 2015 governor candidates. Voting will begin after the AGM.

8.0 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned

9.0 Prize Winner Announcements