

MASU Students' Administrative Council Meeting Minutes

The Students' Administrative Council met on January 16th, 2023, beginning at 6:05 pm in AVDX 111.

Call to Order: (6:05 pm)

- Chairperson Nowlan called the meeting to order.

Land Acknowledgement

- The land acknowledgement was done by Chairperson Nowlan.

Approval of the Agenda

- **BE IT RESOLVED** (moved by Councillor RAP Minocha-McKenney, seconded by Councillor Chun) that the Monday, January 16th Agenda of the Students' Administrative Council be approved.
 - Amendment: Fix the spelling of Councillor Shelley's name.

MOTION CLEARLY PASSES

Approval of the Minutes

- **BE IT RESOLVED** (moved by Councillor Jollimore, seconded by Councillor Huynh) that the Thursday, December 1st Agenda of the Students' Administrative Council be approved.
 - Amendment: add a note describing the context of Councillor Amsdr's point during the discussion concerning the municipal elections. Namely that there were many obstacles that the MASU had to overcome during the elections that caused it not to run as smoothly as in previous years.
 - Amendment: Correct the date
 - Amendment: Fix the wording of "dropped the fall" to "dropped the ball."

MOTION CLEARLY PASSES

Presentations:

a. Student Refugee Program Referendum Presentation

- The Student Refugee Program is seeking the approval of placing a referendum question on the upcoming elections ballot that would call for students to pay an additional \$16 a year, so that we may support an incoming refugee student.
- The exact wording of the question proposed is "Do you support continuing the Student Refugee Program student levy of \$16 per year that supports refugee students attending Mount Allison University"

BE IT RESOLVED (moved by Councillor Lesser, seconded by Councillor Warr) that the SAC approve the wording of the referendum question as presented in the Student Refugee Program Referendum Presentation.

Discussion:

- Councillor RAP Minocha-McKenney: Will we be increasing the student fees by 1 dollar to make the total 16? Because last year's referendum was to make the fee \$15 but this question calls for \$16.

- Student-at-large Tess Casher: So, this referendum would ask for an additional \$16 to support another student.
- Councillor Krueger: Can you speak to what percent the university contributes to the refugee program?
- Student-at-large Tess Casher: The university provides the program with one year of tuition and one year of meal plan.
- Councillor Krueger : Are the scholars eligible for regular univeriy scholarships?
- Student-at-large Tess Casher: Likely not entrance scholarships; however, as the students are Canadian permanent residence they can access any funding available to domestic Canadian students and employment.
- Councillor Mittal: To follow up on Councillor RAP Minocha-McKenney question: to clarify, are we adding a total of 31 dollars to the student fees?
- Student-at-large Tess Casher: Yes, we would be adding 31 dollars. The Afghan fund was separate, and we are willing to change the phrasing of the question for more clarity, such as by using the terminology “in addition to” or “in total of.”
- Councillor RAP Minocha-McKenney: I like that suggestion of adding the total to the question. While I do support the Student Refugee Program, we need the membership to understand where exactly their money is going. Thus, I move that we amend the question to say at the end “for a total of 31 dollars per year.”

BE IT RESOLVED (moved by Councillor RAP Minocha-McKenney, seconded by Councillor Jollimore) that the Student Refugee Program Referendum question read as follows: “Do you support continuing the Student Refugee Program student levy of \$16 per year that supports refugee students attending Mount Allison University, for a total of 31 dollars per year?”

Discussion:

- Councillor Lesser: I am worried about this wording becoming binding because last years referendum will end before this one; therefore, making it so there will be a year that the total needed will not be \$31. And I am a bit confused - is last years referendum and this ones contributing to the same cause or different causes?
- Student-at-large Tess Casher: They are going to the same program but one is tied to a person while one is tied to the scholars who come in every two years. As well, that later funding would also go towards the promotional and general funds. So, this referendum is more so for the general funds, and less tied exactly to a person.
- Councillor Lesser: Thank you, I understand now. It seems like a fine amendment given that we make it clear what the total fees are and when they end.
- Councillor RAP Minocha-McKenney: What if instead of saying it at the end we just phrase it as “an additional 16 dollars” that way students understand that it is an additional fee levied on top of the student fee.

*Previous motion retracted by Councillor RAP Minocha-McKenney.

*Councillor RAP Minocha-McKenney moves to amend the question to include the phrase “an additional” prior to the monetary amount included in the question.

BE IT RESOLVED (moved by Councillor RAP Minocha-McKenney, seconded by Councillor Lesser) that the Student Refugee Program Referendum question read as follows: "Do you support continuing the Student Refugee Program student levy of an additional \$16 per year that supports refugee students attending Mount Allison University?"

Discussion:

- Councillor Mittal: I was wondering what exactly is included in paying for their “living expenses.” For example, does this include food and utilities?

- Student-at-large Tess Casher: Yes it does include food and utilities as well as start up costs such as a laptop and winter clothes.

Vote on the amendment:

MOTION CLEARLY PASSES

Vote on the initial motion with the proposed amendment:

MOTION CLEARLY PASSES

Discussion:

- Councillor RAP Minocha-McKenney: Thank you to everybody who has been working on this and good luck.
- Student-at-large Tess Casher: Thank you so much and I will extend your thanks to the entire team.

Reports

a. Councillor Shelley - First Year Representative Report

- **Orientation survey results**
- **First Year Cacus Report**

Nothing to add to report

Discussion:

- Councillor RAP Minocha-McKenney: Thank you for the report, I appreciate it. My question is if you could elaborate on what "Nimbus = <3" means?
- Councillor Shelley: People enjoyed the Nimbus platform as well as guidebook and want it to be implemented greater in the future.
- Councillor Krueger: Thank you for the report, it is awesome - especially the work done on First-Year Caucus. My question concerns the orientation survey - I was hoping to see the questions asked, because all I can see are the results, and I do not have the context of the questions to understand them.
- Councillor Shelley: They should be in the survey as a link, but I can send them to you via an email if you would like.
- Councillor Krueger: An email works well for me.

Business Arising from the Minutes (no business)

- Councillor Huynh: Plans to give an update on the External Affairs Committee's work concerning the Municipal election situation from the last meeting in the next meeting of the SAC.

New Business

a. Canadian Studies Society club constitution

- This society seeks to "create a network for Canadian Studies students and inform all students about courses, events, and opportunities relevant to Canadian Studies."

BE IT RESOLVED (moved by Councillor Warr, seconded by Councillor RAP Minocha-McKenney) that the SAC approve the Canadian Studies Society as a MASU club.

MOTION CLEARLY PASSES

b. The Path club constitution

- This club seeks to “promote the Path Maple League at Mount Allison University for prospective entrepreneurs on campus.”

BE IT RESOLVED (moved by Councillor RAP Minocha-McKenney, seconded by Councillor Jollimore) that the SAC approve The Path as a MASU club.

Discussion:

- Councillor Lesser: This constitution only has one signing officer but according to the Governing Procedures, every club needs to have two signing officers. So, we cannot approve of this club at this time.
- Chairperson Nowlan: Perhaps we shall table this until the next meeting, then come back to it; thus, giving them time to fix their constitution.
- Councillor Lesser: I agree, however I would like them to know that we do like their club, we just cannot accept it in this current form.
- Councillor Warr: I can tell them in an email.
- Councillor Mittal: Would it be better to shoot it down rather than table it?
- Chairperson Nowlan: If we were to shoot it down, there would be a time period in which they cannot re-propose their constitution to the SAC.
- Councillor RAP Minocha-McKenney: I would like to double check that the person proposing this constitution is a student, because the email is missing a middle initial, which is confusing me.
- Councillor Jollimore: There are some student emails that do not include a middle initial, it all depends on if you included your middle name when applying to Mount Allison.
- Councillor Lesser: I would like to make a motion to postpone this constitution until the next meeting of the SAC, thus giving them time to fix their constitution.

BE IT RESOLVED (moved by Councillor Lesser, seconded by Councillor Lirette) that the SAC postpone discussion on The Path until the next meeting of the SAC.

MOTION CLEARLY PASSES

c. Pre-Medical Society club constitution.

- This club seeks to assist students interested in applying to medical school.

BE IT RESOLVED (moved by Councillor Warr, seconded by Councillor Jollimore) that the SAC approve the Pre-Medical Society as a MASU club.

Discussion:

- Councillor Mittal: I was under the impression that the word “society” was used only for subjects offered at Mount Allison.
- Councillor Warr: Not technically, considering there is a Garnet and Gold Society.

MOTION CLEARLY PASSES

Open Forum:

- Councillor Lesser: I wanted to take the time to tell everybody that the Budget Development Group has started meeting. That being said, this year they want to focus on priorities brought forward by the group, so I need to know student priorities by Friday.
- Councillor Amsdr: Mount Allison does not have more than one accessible building. The university focuses on historic buildings over student needs. New Brunswick does not have an accessibility act and so there are students who have not been able to come to Mount Allison because it is not accessible.
- Councillor Mittal: I would like to talk about financial aid for international students. On admission there are only entrance scholarships, an international award and the massive Bell scholarships that are usually only given to local students.
- Councillor Lesser: A point of clarification: I am trying as hard as I can in these meetings to convince everybody that students are more than wallets - especially international students. So, I am happy to discuss this further with you.
- Councillor Mittal: It would be nice if they could make one of the major ones focused on international students. As a rule, international students do not have the prior knowledge on what is expected from them in order to be eligible for these greater scholarships.
- Councillor Amsdr: As well, our entrance scholarships do not take any form of intersexuality into consideration, they are only grades and extracurriculars.
- Councillor Krueger: On that note, we have the strictest levels of renewal scholarships, which is for no good reason despite things getting more expensive.
- Councillor Chun: Due to the effects of hybrid learning and online learning, they are expecting students to lose their scholarship so I think financial aid is a big one. First year students come to Allison dependent on that money.
- Councillor Warr: Is there a difference between the GPA requirements for the entrance scholarship and the Bell scholarship? I would like to ask admin why that is, if that is possible.
- Councillor Lesser: We are only working with the operating budget, not the endowment. Thus, we do not deal with the endowment spending. But I do know that there is an appetite within the university to look at that. So, can we look at other things besides financial aid?
- Councillor Mittal: I would like it if they looked at the fitness center. Especially in making sure that it is fully and properly equipt by adding x amount of money to it per year.
- Councillor RAP Minocha-McKenney: Briefly, the fitness center is currently something that we are working on and foresee positive changes.
- Councillor Amsdr: For accessibility, Mount Allison makes you pay for extra things like notetakers or tutors. They cover it for first year students, but not afterwards because they assume you will get it from the Canadian Student Grant. But that is not necessarily true.
- Councillor Lesser: This will move quickly and I will have more news soon. So keep your eyes out and give me as much input as possible on this.

Reminders:

- Councillor Warr: The MASU entertainment team is having a carnival week. Please encourage people to go to the events! They are free.
- Councillor Mittal: The Mario Kart sign up link is in the instagram bio.
- Councillor RR Minocha-McKenney: Cancun Campbell tickets are on sale this week.
- Councillor RAP Minocha-McKenney: Cancun Campbell is on Friday and and headphone disco is on Saturday, so you can go to both.
- Councillor Lesser: Speeches are this Sunday at 7pm in Gracies. Please go so you can ask good questions!
- Councillor RAP Minocha-McKenney: Executive and student representative positions are all open and the applications are due in an hour.

In-Camera:

BE IT RESOLVED (moved by Councillor Keelher, seconded by Councillor Warr) that the SAC move in-camera.

BE IT RESOLVED (moved by Councillor Mittal, seconded by Councillor Krueger) that the SAC move out of in-camera.

MOTION CLEARLY PASSES

Adjournment:

- The Chairperson adjourned the meeting upon the completion of the agenda at 7:09pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Paige Meisner

Secretary (Deputy Chairperson)