

MASU Students' Administrative Council Meeting Minutes

The Students' Administrative Council met on April 3rd, 2023, beginning at 6:06 pm in AVDX 111.

Call to Order: (6:06 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 Warr, seconded by Councillor RAP Minocha-McKenney) that the Monday April 3rd, 2023 Agenda of the Students' Administrative Council be approved.

MOTION CLEARLY PASSES

Approval of the Minutes

- **BE IT RESOLVED** (moved by Councillor Amsdr, seconded by Councillor Jollimore) that the Monday March 13th, 2023 Minutes of the Students' Administrative Council be approved
 - Amendment: Councillor Warr should have an excused absence
 - Amendment: Councillor Krueger: wished to specify that their question to Robert Inglis was concerning whether the BOR followed through on the senate's commitment to divestment.
 - Amendment: Fix the spelling of Councillor Shelly's name.

MOTION CLEARLY PASSES

Reports

A. Councillor Rohin Minocha-McKenney

i. Exec Annual Planning Report

- The Executive Annual Planning Report is a summary of everything that was delivered by the MASU this year. Thank you to council for all of their service this year. Everybody took their role very seriously and it is much appreciated.

Discussion:

- Councillor Krueger: Could we give a round of applause for Councillor RAP Minocha-McKenney for all of his time and effort on council?

B. Councillor Chun

- Nothing to add to their report

C. Councillor Huynh

- Nothing to add to their report

D. Councillor Warr

- Nothing to add to their report

E. Councillor Lesser

- Nothing to add to their report

Discussion:

- Beth Mcneill: Hello everyone, I am here tonight to provide a response to Councillor Lesser's transition report. To put matters simply, I took issue with Councillor Lesser's report, which contained some factual errors to which I took objection in their retelling of the scheduling overlap with the fall elections all-candidates meeting and the MtA Pride Parade, a retelling which had the effect of painting both myself and Councillor Minocha-McKenny in a light which I did not think accurate nor fair. I therefore wanted to set the record straight on the matter to reflect my own personal experiences.

The first point I would like to address is this: Councillor Lesser stated in the report, and I quote: "A communication to leaders within the queer student community stated that it would be 'logistically complicated' to reschedule the all-candidates meeting, which angered those students and resulted in them demanding that the meeting be rescheduled." This is surely in reference to the email I sent to Catalyst leadership after Councillor Lesser brought the scheduling overlap to my attention. If it is not, I would appreciate clarification.

To put matters simply, I never used the phrase "logistically complicated" in my one and only email to the Catalyst leadership, so Councillor Lesser is incorrect in attributing this quote to the private email communication that I sent. Furthermore, I believe that this incorrect paraphrase only served to mischaracterize my intentions. For posterity, I would like to read out the text of my email in full, a copy of which Councillor Lesser does have access to as I sent them a copy-and-paste version on Wednesday, September 14th.

Hi,

As you may or may not know, the MASU Fall Elections period is beginning today with the opening of nomination period. As this year's Chief Returning Officer, I am reaching out to you [as leaders in Catalyst] as it has just come to our attention that our first all-candidates meeting is scheduled for the same time as the Pride Parade this Friday. This was an honest mistake on our part as we set the election schedule several weeks ago, and we do have another all-candidates meeting scheduled for this Sunday at 7 pm for those who are unable to attend the first one.

Nevertheless, we are debating whether to reschedule the Friday meeting, and thought it would be best to reach out to the event's organizers to get their opinions on the matter. Long story short, it would be a little bit difficult for us to re-send out communications and nomination forms and find a new time that works, but if you feel that it is best for us to change the meeting time in order to be respectful and accommodating, please let us know! I would like to add as an aside that if students who wish to run are unable to attend either Friday and Sunday, I will happily arrange a separate time to meet with them as we do not wish to bar any student from running simply because they couldn't make either meeting time.

This is a bit of a time-sensitive issue, so I would really appreciate a response by the end of the day today, but I really do appreciate your kindness and understanding in this matter and value your opinion greatly!

I was curious to know where Councillor Lesser found the quotation 'logistically complicated,' since it was not me who had said this. I then found in my emails from Wednesday, September 14th that it was Councillor Lesser himself who used this exact phrase in an email to me, which I quote exactly, "I agree that it would be logistically complicated" to reschedule, but they nevertheless urged that it would be best to do so.

In response to my email, the Catalyst leadership clearly stated that they wanted the meeting time changed. Councillor Lesser said in their report: "The other MASU officials involved [meaning myself and Councillor Minocha-McKenny] still refused to reschedule or communicate with them beyond what already occurred." To be honest, I don't really know what this is referring to. Councillor Lesser informed me after the response came back from Catalyst that I was not to be the one to communicate with them anymore as Councillor Lesser would be handling this from here on out. Councillor Lesser wrote, and I quote: "We need to establish an open line of communication with Catalyst within the next few hours to ensure this is rescheduled appropriately and avoid a potential PR crisis ...I am about to go into a 3hr lab, but immediately after I am going to reach out to Catalyst's leadership to establish that line of communication and ensure this is handled properly." I offered to meet with Councillor Lesser and Councillor Minocha-McKenny in-person that afternoon to discuss the matter; I was informed by Councillor Minocha-McKenny that I was not needed and Councillor Lesser did not reach out to invite me to partake in this process. This is where my part in the affair ended.

Finally, when the meeting was rescheduled, Councillor Lesser cites in their transition report a quotation made after this decision was taken, stating as follows: "we [presumably meaning Councillor M-M and myself] don't think this was the right thing to do." I did not say this, so I would appreciate it if Councillor Lesser could provide clarification on where they sourced this quotation. Furthermore, since I wasn't invited to the meeting where this final decision was made, I do not appreciate this presumption of my own personal feelings. But just to be clear, in no way did I think it was the "wrong decision."

At the end of the day, the all-candidates meeting was rescheduled to not overlap with the Pride Parade. Yes, there was some internal debate on the matter considering the logistics of whether or not to do so, including some logistical concerns on my part, logistical concerns that were also expressed by Councillor Lesser. Perhaps our back-and-forth on the matter was not as unequivocal as Councillor Lesser would have liked. Maybe it is uncouth of me to be quoting internal private communications in this way. However, as Councillor Lesser felt the need to make this internal matter public knowledge in their transition report to be emailed to all students, I would like to set the record straight when improperly cited, misconstrued, and incorrect information is being circulated that is portraying myself and my colleagues on the MASU in an unfair manner.

I wish Councillor Lesser all the best in their future endeavours.

Thank you.

- Councillor Lesser: The phrasing "logistically complicated" was from a screenshot from a catalyst group chat. As well, I was in communication with Catalyst and thought that it would be best to use my personal relationships with these individuals to avoid a PR crisis - which was a real threat.
- Beth Mcneill: Who said that it would be "logistically complicated"? Because it was not me.
- Councillor Lesser: I will review the screenshot.
- Councillor RAP Minocha-McKenny: This statement was a big surprise to me. I believe that the big takeaway is that there is an issue with culture - which is an issue that I take very seriously and want to talk to council about. I don't want people to feel intimidated or as though they cannot speak. We act in the best interest of the students and so earlier today I

contacted the MASU's ombudspeople. I want to know if this is a greater issue in the MASU and so I asked them to create an anonymous form to go to council that will ask about their experience with the MASU's culture. I have received confirmation that this form will happen and the ombudspeople will make a report out of the findings. As well, I wanted to thank Beth for coming in today and speaking. We should be able to talk about our disagreements and when things are not right.

- Councillor Lesser: I am glad that the survey is going out, the information will be very useful. That being said, this should not surprise anyone who has been close with me and worked with me. I have brought this up many times. I have consistently felt this and have had separate discussions with the executive, and so I am bringing it to the SAC because it is a documentation of what I think the state of the MASU is at this time. I have specifically chosen not to name the people so that future people will associate it with the year and the position rather than the people. This allows us to go forward in reforming the MASU. I read all of the previous transition reports and saw that there was an issue with culture that was not being brought up. This is a scart thing to do. It is not a personal attack of anybody but is a criticism of the system we are in.
- Councillor RAP Minocha-McKenny: Building off of that statement, if the letter contains information that isn't accurate, then should it stay in the report? I will pose that thought without making a motion.
- Councillor Chun: I think that in 15-20 years it would be difficult to find out who the CRO and the president were during our year, but in the next 2-3 years it would be easy to associate the person with the position and so in the long term I think your point stands that it is not about the people but the culture, but in the short term I don't think the mention of the position needs to be included in the report.
- Councillor Lesser: It would be censorship to remove the entire page, so in order to go through with the agenda, I motion that we censor the entire second paragraph.
- Councillor Huynh: I think that if there is a question of the validity of this letter then I will be the first to second it. I find this to be an unnecessary dispute over a personal document that should not be in the formal documents of the MASU.
- Councillor Amsdr: I agree with what was just said - I also do not think that it is warranted.
- Councillor Mittal: In response to Councillor Lesser saying that it wasn't their intention to call out specific people I would like to note that quotes within their report claim to know the CRO's and the president's intentions.
- Councillor Lesser: Thank you everybody, I recognize that not everything has been properly fact-checked but I worry about saying that none of this report stands - because I could bring up more examples - but I won't.

BE IT RESOLVED (moved by Councillor Lesser, seconded by Councillor Krueger) that the second paragraph of Councillor Lesser's report be censored.

- Councillor RAP Minocha-McKenny: Thank you council for speaking up - there is always room for us to grow. I might recommend to council that they vote no on this, then I will make a motion to strike down the entire report because if an entire section is not accurate, then I do not think that it should be included. It is not the role of the MASU to pick and choose the sections that we think are appropriate. But rather it is the role of the MASU to say whether a report is accurate or not.
- Councillor Lesser: I would consider that flat out censoring me - so I would ask council to look at the third and fourth paragraphs to see if there is anything that they believe is factually incorrect on a measurable scale. So I still stand in support of my motion.
- Councillor Warr: All current students at MTA have this email in their inboxes. This is problematic because it may include inaccurate information.
- Councillor Lesser: Does anybody know how many people actually open those emails? Probably not all 2300 students have read this. Would it make you happy if I were to issue a correction?

- Councillor Warr: There is clearly a disengagement with the MASU but I do not think that this is a fair question to ask right now. Was it your intention to gain engagement with this report?
- Councillor Krueger: I also don't think that should be a factor. Also I seconded the motion because councillors have the right to speak both favourably and unfavourably about the MASU.
- Beth Mcneill: I think that the point about people not reading it is incorrect - it called me out and that felt very personal.
- Councillor Lesser: The MASU can issue a correction and that would be something I support.
- Councillor Amsdr: I also think it is in Councillor Lesser's right to talk about their experience even if it was negative but we need to focus on the section with the incorrect information.
- Councillor Lesser: I want to go back to the inbox issue - I would be happy to rewrite the letter, but we could also make edits to the second paragraph.
- Chairperson Nowlan: if we made edits, would it have to go to the next council?
- Councillor RAP Minocha-McKenny: No because the reports are not voted on. But we will need to resend the report to the students.
- Councillor Blakney: My opinion is that we should completely strike down the report or add an addendum.
- Councillor Krueger: I will support striking the second paragraph but I do not support adding an addendum. We should not have to look back over it.
- Councillor RAP Minocha-McKenny: I recommend that we bring in our governance consultant to ask his opinion on this matter.

Councillor Lesser calls this vote to question, seconded by Councillor Jollimore.

- Councillor Lesser retracts the call to question.

Councillor RAP Minocha-McKenny calls a recess, seconded by Councillor Krueger

MOTION CLEARLY PASSES

- Councillor Lesser: During the recess I spoke to a few people in the room and realised that my tone did not come through in my report. I went back and fact checked my information and realised that it was incorrect. I messed up. So, I am committing to council that anything that can be done to rectify this should be done. My objection to removing my feelings is solely from the principle of censorship.
- Councillor Hiebert: Is the solution to have Councillor Lesser make a public apology?

BE IT RESOLVED (moved by Councillor RAP Minocha-McKenny, seconded by Councillor Huynh) that Mitch Archibald enter this meeting to provide advice on this matter.

MOTION CLEARLY PASSES

- Mitch: I have seen the report but I have not been a part of any of the discussion so far - so, I am wondering what the goal is? What is the outcome that we are looking for? Are we aiming to make a statement?
- Councillor Amsdr: I think the goal at the beginning was to correct any incorrect information contained in the letter.
- Mitch: Is that for the student body? Because everybody in this room seems to know now. I've not had a situation where a report has been censored in such a way. Councillors have the ability to submit reports to council. I think you can reject a report as insufficient and have it recompleted. I don't know if it would serve you folks to censor it rather than to make a statement - I would wager the statement has been made to the person you're already made it to. If it's for principle's sake then okay, I can see that. I think the question is what you want out of it. I'm not sure there is a solution to get the satisfaction you are looking for.

- Councillor Hiebert: I think it is a matter of fixing what was incorrect and also a matter of reputation. I think it is important that false information be removed, however, if we send an email with it stricken through with no context then people will go looking for the original. So, maybe an apology is the best action.
- Councillor Krueger: I don't want to draw more attention to it in the general student body, but it does misquote people and so perhaps it is more about the records and clearing up misinformation.
- Mitch: I think that if you're looking just to be factual then is the human who wrote it willing to correct their mistake?
- Councillor Lesser: Yes. I did misquote and thus am willing to strike the incorrect information. I think we are now trying to decide what collective action needs to be taken. I motioned to strike just paragraph two.
- Mitch: I understand now everything that has been said. Can we send the report back and let that member of council rewrite their letter? Perhaps it would be the best use of your time to send the report back and resubmit it with any changes they chose to make rather than try to negotiate the specific clauses now.
- Chairperson Nowlan: If they were to resubmit their report, would we have to send it to the student body?
- Mitch: That depends on the bylaws of the MASU. Perhaps there should be future conversation about not distributing these documents prior to their approval by council.
- Chairperson Nowlan: it is a part of our bylaws to send out the agenda 24 hours in advance.

Councillor Lesser retracts their initial motion

BE IT RESOLVED (moved by Councillor Mittal, seconded by Councillor Warr) that Councillor Lesser's report be sent back to them to correct their mistakes then be resubmitted. This report is to be included in the records but not sent out to students.

MOTION CLEARLY PASSES

F. Councillor Mittal

- Nothing to add to their report

G. Councillor Jollimore

- Nothing to add to their report

H. Councillor Keleher

- Nothing to add to their report

I. Councillor Nelson

- Nothing to add to their report

J. Councillor Park

- Nothing to add to their report

K. Councillor Krueger

- Nothing to add to their report

L. Councillor Black

- Nothing to add to their report

M. Councillor Lirette

- Nothing to add to their report

N. Councillor Shelley

- Nothing to add to their report

Discussion:

- Councillor Krueger: You did a great job with the first year caucus! Please encourage the next first year representative to keep the initiative going!

O. Councillor Rajan Minocha McKenney

- Nothing to add to their report

P. Councillor Blakney

- Nothing to add to their report

Q. Councillor Cousins

- Nothing to add to their report

R. Councillor Hiebert

- Nothing to add to their report

S. Councillor Amsdr

i. Defining Accessibility Portfolio

- This portfolio was presented last week and appeared to be received well.
- This portfolio revolves around the questions "what is one take away you want people to know about your accessibility needs?" and "what is important for your success as a student at Mount Allison University?"
- There appears to be a desire for more hybrid options for learning for days that it is more difficult to physically get to class.
- Councillor Amsdr recognizes that this portfolio is only a starting point and will need to be consistently worked upon because accessibility is constantly changing.

Discussion:

- Councillor RAP Minocha-McKenny: Thank you for doing this work. It is amazing and I think it should set an amazing starting point for next year to work with. This is amazing advocacy.
- Councillor Warr: I was going to say the same thing, it is very important work.
- Councillor Mittal: A very well written document - if you're open to it, I would love to include this in the last advocacy report, with your name on it, for this year.
- Councillor Krueger: Amazing work - I wonder if anybody in the university admin saw a draft of this?
- Councillor Amsdr: There were university administrators and faculty at the presentation last week.

Business arising from the Minutes (No Business)

New Business

Strategic Planning Committee (w/ motion)

- Councillor RAP Minocha-McKenny: This is something that we have been working on all year. The strategic plan gives us a direction for the next three years and is based on information gathered by surveys that were given to students as well as consultation from council.

BE IT RESOLVED (moved by Councillor RAP Minocha-McKenny, seconded by Councillor Warr) that the SAC approve the 2023-2026 Strategic plan for the MASU.

MOTION CLEARLY PASSES

MASU Budget 2023-2024 (w/ motion)

- Councillor Lesser verbally stated what was written on the report while highlighting that many of the costs have increased due to inflation.

BE IT RESOLVED (moved by Councillor Lesser, seconded by Councillor Hiebert) that the 2023-2024 MASU budget we approved.

MOTION CLEARLY PASSES

Mount Allison Japanese Cultural Society (w/ motion)

- A new society that seeks to share Japanese culture with anybody interested in joining.

BE IT RESOLVED (moved by Councillor Warr, seconded by Councillor Hiebert) that the Mount Allison Japanese Cultural Society be accepted as a MASU club/society.

Discussion:

- Councillor Lesser: There is a new constitution form, where did they get this old one?
- Councillor Warr: I believe they did it in the office with the general manager

MOTION CLEARLY PASSES

By-Law Amendment (w/ motion)

- Councillor Lesser gave a short presentation summarising the amendments being made to the executive positions, as is written in the report included in the agenda.

BE IT RESOLVED (moved by Councillor Lesser, seconded by Councillor Warr) that the amendments to the By-Laws as submitted in the report in the agenda be approved.

MOTION CLEARLY PASSES

Open Forum

- Councillor Nelson: Councillor Park and I are working on a survey to release to students to gain insights on the research experiences here on campus. Please spread the word and fill out the survey if you are applicable.
- Councillor Mittal: Tomorrow we're having four external items being publicised so if you send it to me I'll do my best to get it out.

- Councillor Clark-Black: Thank you to Councillor RAP Minocha-McKenny for all of his hard work on the strategic planning committee.

Reminders (No Reminders)

In Camera

BE IT RESOLVED (moved by Councillor Lesser, seconded by Councillor RAP Minocha-McKenny) that the SAC move in-camera.

MOTION CLEARLY PASSES

BE IT RESOLVED (moved by Councillor RAP Minocha-McKenny, seconded by Councillor Jollimore) that the incoming executive be invited to stay for the duration of in-camera.

MOTION CLEARLY PASSES

BE IT RESOLVED (moved by Councillor RAP Minocha-McKenny, seconded by Councillor Lesser) that Talla Corkum be invited to stay for the duration of in-camera.

MOTION CLEARLY PASSES

BE IT RESOLVED (moved by Councillor Krueger, seconded by Councillor Jollimore) that the following motions be voted on in a block motion.

MOTION CLEARLY PASSES

BE IT RESOLVED that Jed Sears be approved as the Deputy Returning Officer for the 2023-2024 academic year.

BE IT RESOLVED that Nghi Dong La be approved as the Allisonian Editor for the 2023-2024 academic year.

BE IT RESOLVED that Reid Delaney be approved as the Assistant Entertainment Director for the 2023-2024 academic year.

BE IT RESOLVED that Holly Wry be approved as the Campus Life Coordinator for the 2023-2024 academic year.

BE IT RESOLVED that Duc Tri Dang be approved as the Deputy Chair of Council for the 2023-2024 academic year.

BE IT RESOLVED that Lestyn Lobo be approved as the International Student Coordinator for the 2023-2024 academic year.

BE IT RESOLVED that Maggie Campbell be approved as the Policy, Research and Archiving Officer for the 2023-2024 academic year.

BE IT RESOLVED that Brooke Fredricks be approved as the Media Relations Coordinator for the 2023-2024 academic year.

BE IT RESOLVED (moved by Councillor Hiebert, seconded by Councillor Lesser) that the Policy, Research and Archiving Officer be removed from the block motion.

MOTION CLEARLY PASSES

Block motion: **MOTION CLEARLY PASSES**

BE IT RESOLVED (moved by Councillor Warr, seconded by Councillor Mittal) that Maggie Campbell be approved as the Policy, Research and Archiving Officer for the 2023-2024 academic year.

MOTION CLEARLY PASSES

BE IT RESOLVED (moved by Councillor Hiebert, seconded by Councillor RR Minocha-McKenny) that Ege Sezgin be approved as the Health Service Coordinator for the 2023-2024 academic year.

MOTION CLEARLY PASSES

BE IT RESOLVED (moved by Councillor Lesser, seconded by Councillor RR Minocha-McKenny) that Ainsley Skelly be approved as the Sustainability coordinator for the 2023-2024 academic year.

MOTION CLEARLY PASSES

BE IT RESOLVED (moved by Councillor Warr, seconded by Councillor RAP Minocha-McKenny) that the SAC move out of in-camera.

MOTION CLEARLY PASSES

Adjournment

- The Chairperson adjourned the meeting upon the completion of the agenda at **8:31pm**.

Respectfully Submitted,

Paige Meisner

Secretary (Deputy Chairperson)