

**Minutes of the 2nd
Students' Association of Red Deer College
2018-2019 Council Meeting
July 12, 2018**

Present:

Chaise Combs; President
Adam Shendaruk; VP Operations
Liz Sweiger; Executive Director
Tiffany Tunke; Councillor, Voting
Aurora Davis; Councillor, Voting
Kendra Gagne; Councillor, Voting

Esther Oliva-Dzib; VP Academic
Brittany Lessard; VP Community & Wellness
Jessica Walker; Secretary
Justine Ecker; Councillor, Voting
Jordan Forget; Councillor, Voting

Absent Without Notice:

Ian Miller; Councillor, Voting

Absent With Notice:

Anne Marie Watson; Chairperson
Erik Mohns; Councillor, Voting

Robin Chiles; Board of Governors

Other Attendance Notes:

J. Forget left the meeting at 6:16pm

J. Ecker left the meeting at 6:16pm

2.0 Call to Order

E. Sweiger called the meeting to order at 3:00pm.

2.1 Approval of Agenda

18-19-08-C

E. Oliva-Dzib, A. Davis

Motion: Approve the agenda as presented with the following changes:

2.4.1 – Council Member Removal

CARRIED.

2.2 Guest Speaker – Amy Komarniski

A.Komarniski; Mental Health Strategist, hosted a focus group with Council to collect feedback on the current Mental Health services Red Deer College is offering to determine where they fall short and where the College excels. Following are 5 questions that were asked and the feedback provided:

Inclusiveness at Red Deer College

Most Councillors felt that Red Deer College was very inclusive and that they have never felt excluded based on any mental health illnesses, gender, sexual orientation or age. Red Deer College is supportive to individuals who learn differently and is willing to make the necessary accommodation. Council feels that with the small class sizes that it makes developing a relationship and accessing their instructors easy. In saying all that, one Councillor had a friend who did not feel welcome at Red Deer College. This student ultimately chose to move away from Red Deer.

Experiences with Barriers at Red Deer College

Recommendation to have Communita scheduled more frequently and at different times during the week, as many students found it difficult to attend due to class schedules. Many students have barriers with breaking the stigma within themselves. Instructors should be required to review resources with the class at the beginning of each term. Many students find that appointments are not readily available and will often be booked a week or 2 after reaching out to the Career & Counselling department. Many students have had bad experiences with the department, so they do not return and share their negative experiences with other students. Students do not feel supported while they're accessing Counselling services at Red Deer College. Concern with the location of the Career & Counselling department, it is located at a very high traffic locations and that may prevent students from asking for help.

When you notice someone struggling, what do you do?

Council feels that if they saw someone struggling that they would sit and talk with the student and offer to listen. If self-harming was a concern, they would contact either Career & Counselling or Security.

What's currently working well at Red Deer College?

Council believes that Communita is a great program and should continue.

What's currently not working well at Red Deer College?

Council would like to see practicum opportunities within Career & Counselling. As well, RDC needs to bring more awareness on the location of Naloxone kits on campus and how to access the kits after hours. Suggestions to offer support groups in the evenings, a buddy system for new students and host more seminars on mental health. Council would like to see frequent student surveys to collect feedback on experiences at the Career & Counselling department.

Break at 4:40, returning at 4:45

2.3 Approval of Meeting Minutes

2.3.1 18-19-09-C

A.Davis, K. Gagne

Motion: Approval of Winter Council Minutes #1 as presented.

CARRIED.

2.3.2 18-19-10-C

A.Davis, E. Oliva-Dzib

Motion: Approval of the 2018-2019 Executive Minutes #6 as presented.

CARRIED.

2.4 New Business

2.4.1 Council Member Removal

As per Bylaw, Executive Council is recommending that Council remove I. Miller due to missing 2 consecutive meetings – without notice. A. Shendaruk has attempted to contact this individual many times but did not receive any responses. Council discussed the options at length.

18-19-11-C

A. Shendaruk, J. Ecker

Motion: Remove Ian Miller as a voting member on the 2018-2019 Students' Association Council.

CARRIED.

Opposed: T. Tunke

2.5 Discussion

2.5.1 Train Station Update

E. Sweiger provided an update on the redevelopment of the current Train Station. Construction was supposed to start in the Fall, and with opening scheduled for January 2019. Construction has now been pushed back until April 2019. The space requires lots of infrastructure work to ensure the space is up to code, which cannot be completed while classes are in session.

2.5.2 Annual Budget

E. Sweiger reviewed the Annual Operating and Building Fund Annual Budget with Council. The floor was open for comments and discussion during the review.

*Note: Adjustments were made to the CAT Fund (reduced to \$4000.00) and the Special Projects (increased to \$6000.00)

2.6 Reports

2.7 Information Items

2.8 Adjournment

E. Sweiger adjourned the meeting at 6:16pm.

Chaise Combs, President

Elizabeth Sweiger, Executive Director

Jessica Walker, Secretary