

LEGITIMIZING STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

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MY BACKGROUND

- 4th year Political Science student at MacEwan University
- Current Past-President (and co-Founder) of MacEwan University Ukrainian Students Club
- Former MacEwan University Ambassador
- Students' Councilor: Students' Association of MacEwan University
- External Relations Director: SUSK: Ukrainian Canadian Students' Union
- Speaker's Office at Legislative Assembly of Alberta

MACEWAN UKRAINIAN STUDENTS CLUB

- How did this club begin?
 - Small group of motivated students
- Challenges of a new club on campus at a small university
 - Struggling to gain members
 - Lack of funding
- How did we begin to gain legitimacy?
 - Assistance from SUSK
 - Being officially recognized at SAMU
 - Connecting with motivated students in other leadership programs
 - Working closer with URDC

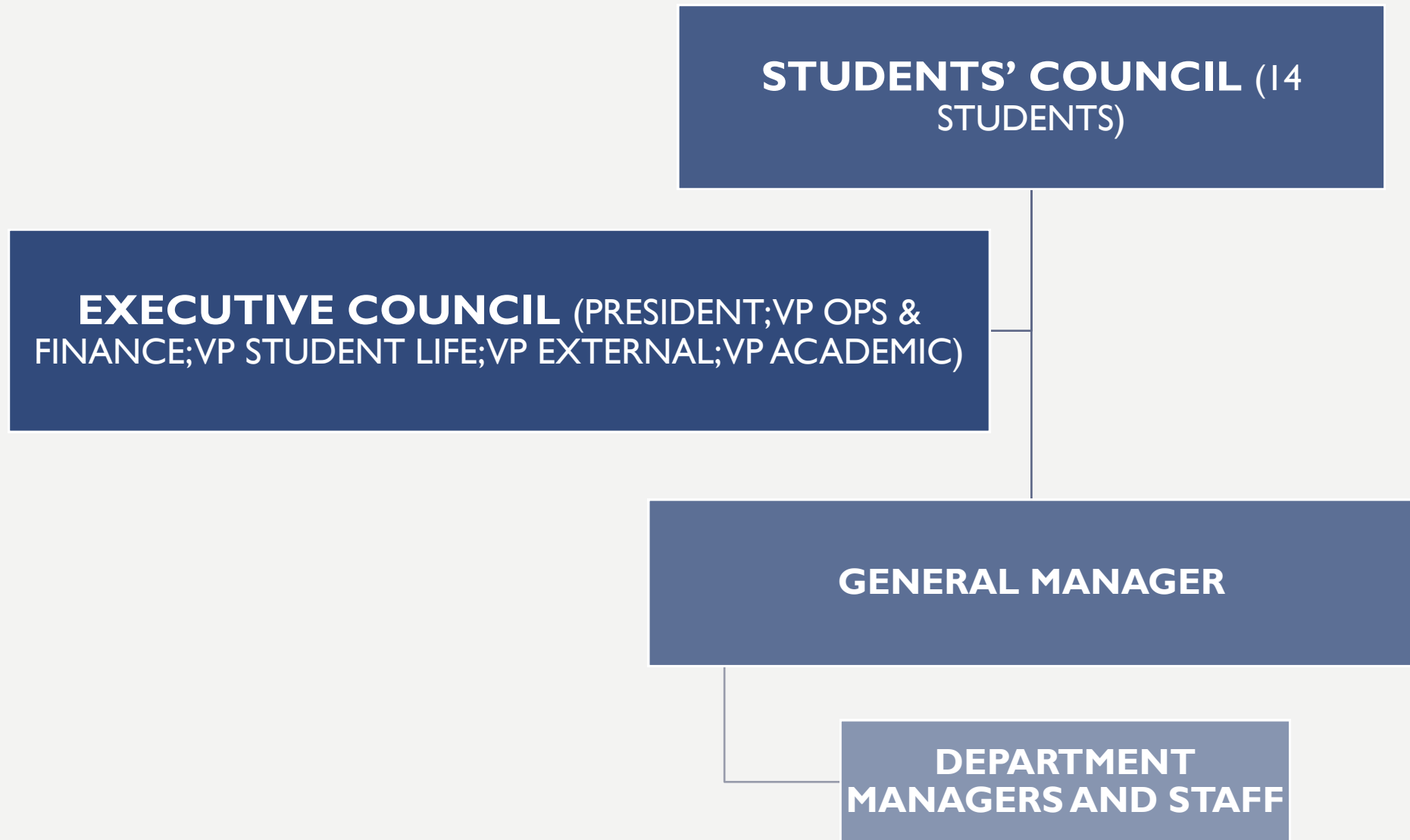


SUSK: UKRAINIAN CANADIAN STUDENTS' UNION

- Why is it so important to have a cohesive body that facilitates communication for Ukrainian student organizations across Canada?
 - Having a support system
 - Learning from each other – shared best practices
 - Feeling connected
 - Financial support (and advice on seeking it)
- My role as External Relations Director:
 - Communicating with external organizations and students outside of Canada
 - Helping facilitate cross-national communication



SAMU STRUCTURE



HOW DOES STUDENTS' COUNCIL RUN?

- Comprised of 14 non-faculty specific students
- Elections run in October (some councillors may be appointed over the summer term)
- Monthly meetings
 - Receive reports from executives
 - Robert's Rules of Order – run by a Chair
 - Written questions and question period
- Main role of Students' Council is to keep the Executive Committee and SAMU accountable
 - \$13 per credit is collected from students

SAMU'S LEGITIMACY AND EXTERNAL RESOURCES/ADVOCACY

- Members of:
 - Edmonton Student Alliance (ESA)
 - Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS)
 - Canadian Alliance of Student Association (CASA)
- Being at the front lines of student advocacy
- Some issues that SAMU addresses:
 - Increasing grants
 - Student Temporary Employment Program (STEP)
 - Of course tuition!



STUDENT GOVERNMENT IN UKRAINE: WHAT IS IT MISSING?

- Some of the concerns I heard from NaUKMA students:
 - Lack of funding
 - Difficulty in attracting new members
 - Efforts not being recognized once they move on from university
- Current SUSK partnership project: Liudmyla Svystunova, PhD Student from the University of Bath, UK
 - Suggests there is a lack of national cohesiveness
 - Her solution: building more cross-national partnerships

