



AMS Assembly Minutes

October 20th, 2022

Jeffrey Hall, Queen's University, Kingston

Minutes are tentative until approved at Assembly.

The meeting was convened at 6:06 EST.

Secretary Golrokhian-Sani: Can everyone hear me good? Everyone at the back of the room? Okay, awesome. My slides are just loading here, you'll notice that we have a space theme tonight.

Hi everyone, welcome to our second Assembly of the year. So we'll start with Motion 1.

Motion #1 – Moved by Secretary Golrokhian-Sani, Seconded by AMS President Sikich.

Motion for Assembly to approve the agenda of the meeting of October 20th, 2022.

Now before we vote on this, I just have some amendments to do for it. So first of all, one amendment is that the Food Bank fee is being changed from renewable to non-renewable, or rather we're actually putting this change out as a motion and we'll have a presentation on this proposed change. So all in favor of this amendment? Okay, awesome amendment passed. So, with that in mind, there is a new agenda with this amendment already passed on the website. So you can go on myAMS.org and go into the Assembly tab and you can look at the new agenda so you have everything up to date. Unfortunately, we were going to have another motion, for a member that was going to be a Speaker candidate, but they're not here tonight so basically, you'll see an extra motion on there that shouldn't actually be there. So like, just don't worry about that. All right, so all in favor of the actual agenda being approved now? Excellent, motion passed.

Motion carries.

Secretary Golrokhian-Sani: We can now move on to Speaker's Business, which again I'll be doing since we still do not have a Speaker, and I'll start with our land acknowledgement:

Speaker's Business

Secretary Golrokhian-Sani: I'll now do our land acknowledgement:

Cataraqui or Kingston, as we understand it today, is abundant in history and modern-day traditions of many First Nations and Metis. In particular, the Alma Mater Society would like to acknowledge that it's Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee territory which Queen's University resides on. These lands surrounding the Great Lakes are immersed in thousands of generations of indigenous history, including language, art, celebrations, and resilience. We recognize that it was within the Crawford purchase of 1783 that these lands were made available for settlements, and the agreements made were upheld by the First Peoples, but not the British crown or later the Canadian government. While we work on these lands as uninvited guests we actively benefit from the oppression of indigenous peoples. Because of our settler positionality, we have an obligation to listen to indigenous voices, and we must act in ways that will condemn past and ongoing violence against indigenous peoples and support positive change.

As a branch of the Society that strives to connect student leaders and facilitate positive change and student advocacy on Turtle Island, we strive to maintain the core values and teachings from indigenous peoples. We are incredibly grateful for the ability to do so. As the Secretariat Office facilitates Assembly, elections and Judicial Affairs, it is our duty to ensure the voices of indigenous and marginalized peoples are amplified, as well as provide resources on how we can facilitate and help in advocacy that is important. We encourage all members of the Office as student leaders, to reflect on privileges that they have been afforded on this land, and use it to ensure campus safety, accessibility, and impact for all students. As settlers on this stolen land of the Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee peoples, we must continue to educate ourselves and strive to decolonize every layer of our governance system and curricula, and to indigenize our learning. The resilience of indigenous peoples and their traditions should be applauded and inspire strength and kindness in us all. The Wampum belt covenant should be used as our compass as we navigate our journey of reconciliation with indigenous people of Canada. The Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee people had a mutual understanding of how to share the land and resources peacefully with one another. By living on this land, we must also abide by these values.

And now some general operations points. So firstly, when everyone's speaking, if they could please stand kind of like how we see in the House of Commons, that'd be really cool. So try to, whenever you're speaking, just like stand up. And also, we had a lot of interruptions last Assembly with people raising their placards, so please just remember, don't fidget with your placards because if it's moving, I'm assuming you're interrupting. So that's okay if you're interrupting, but just try to only raise your placard when you're actually going to speak because I'll just automatically assume it's an interruption. All right, that's it. I'll now pass it over to President Sikich for the President's Report.

President's Report

AMS President Sikich: Hello, members of Assembly. I hope you had a restful reading week. The second time just right now I read it in my head, I read it as “stressful”. So I think that kind of signifies how we might all feel right now, because of midterms and other things happening, but I'll hop right into updates. The Student Life Center has officially moved into the Rideau building which is now open and housing some of our services and clubs spaces, which are now available for clubs to book as well. We will be modifying our bookings so that clubs can book one space for free every week for one hour, and then also book a space in the Queen's Center for one hour a week for free as well. In the Office of the Secretariat, it has been busy after our first Assembly working on getting fee referendum packages ready, which have been discussed and will be approved relatively soon, like next Assembly, and sent out for voting purposes.

In our Marketing office we've continued collaboration with services and commissions on marketing campaigns while continuing to post on social media sites. We continue to also collaborate with community partners. Large upcoming campaigns will be surrounding Homecoming and safe partying. In the Communications office, we've been working on finalizing our annual report which is all the information from our previous year while working on the external AMS newsletter alongside a new internal AMS newsletter for employees. One important update I want to touch on was Homecoming this year. So I'm going to describe a little bit of what the AMS is doing for Homecoming in terms of promoting safe partying. A few of these initiatives involve collaborating with the Campus Observation Room (COR), we will be doing a collaborative video and releasing that to show students what resources they have during different large events. We've also posted about the University District Safety Initiative and videos called Save our Paws, which is a campaign to prevent students from using glass during these events. Additionally, something I want to touch on is there will be security services, which we have heard from the university, at the Queen's Center this year, but we have had conversations with them and they have mentioned that they will not be checking bags or asking individuals to dump out liquids from their water bottles unless there is a sign of physical impairment or need for help. So that is what we've been told and that is what we're going to try and uphold throughout the entire time. If there's students who are going in to refill their water bottles to go to the gym, they should not be stopped at all. And those are my primary updates on that. If there are any questions, feel free to reach out to me or ask them now.

COMPSA President Rai: Are there any measures to hold the security accountable in the event that something bad happens?

AMS President Sikich: I'm not sure what accountability they have to the university. But that's something that I guess the AMS can look into in terms of I mean, campus security is run by a department of the University, so there is some accountability to some extent. That's something we can definitely look into in terms of what those actions might be, but I'm not sure what that looks like at the moment.

PHEKSA President Chen: Are there similar measures being applied for this weekend with FOCO and Fall Preview happening?

AMS President Sikich: Yeah, this will be happening both weekends. The security will be at Mitchell and also the Queen's Center, at the entrances. In terms of Fall Preview, I've heard no communication from the University. And I've asked a few individuals about what might be happening to divert traffic, and I've heard nothing at the moment. But I'm going to follow up on this as well tomorrow with the administration.

Secretary Golrokhian-Sani: All right, and we can move on to VP-OPS Hu.

Vice President's Report

VP-OPS Hu: Hi, everyone, I hope everyone's doing well, um, not in my update but something that I've been working on; I've been working closely with Amir's office and Laura to get fees up and running. All of our services are open for in-person use, in Rideau and the Queen's Centre. All of our services are open for Homecoming, where applicable. Some great news from Common Ground, the new ticket system implemented in early fall has been very successful in reducing the wait times and wasted items, so that's pretty exciting. They've also added in some new lights, which have added to a nice cozy feel, and their Fall menu has launched so make sure you check that out. The Peer Support Center is operating in-person and have been happening at Mitchell Hall as well through a partnership with Student Wellness Services and in the Rideau Building, so we're getting two different locations and online services are still available. With the Student Constables, again, the management team is hired and we're working to rebuild our brand. Studio Q as in-person operations and the PCC will remain in the Queen's Centre for the rest of the school year. I don't know if anyone saw the article in the Journal, but we're moving forward with hiring a project manager for the Studio Q and PCC merger, which will be completed in two years by the time we return all operations to the JDUC.

The AMS Food Bank is operating in-person in the Queen's Centre and we've got a nice large space, we've been seeing all of our food move off our shelves, and all operations are moving very smoothly. We've been working very closely with Hospitality Services to ensure that the PEACH market is also meeting the needs of students and teachers. It's been featured in several local news networks in the past month, which is very, very exciting. And I'm very happy to announce that Hospitality has also donated \$1,000 to PEACH and the Food Bank, which we're very thankful for.

WalkHome has in-person operations at the Queen's Center as well as we just recently launched WestHome. That's going to be on West Campus to service our students who live over there, and their in-person operations launched last night. Tricolor is operating in Rideau and they've just gotten their Homecoming shipment so if you're looking for some spirit gear you know where to go. The Journal is also set up in the Queen's Center and things are running smoothly there, the paper's being released on time. Questions?

Secretary Golrokhian-Sani: Thank you and we can move on to the VP-UA report.

VP-UA Robertson: Hi everybody. Coming back from Reading Week we've been getting ready for Homecoming, which is a big theme for all of us here tonight in terms of getting prepared. As President Sikich talked about, there's a couple different things we're doing for Homecoming. Under my portfolio, they've been hard at work talking about a new event that we sort of did last year, but I'll just explain it more. So the AMS is going to have some food and drink vendors on campus at the intersection of Aberdeen and Earl, on the northern side of the ARC. So we'll have deserts, food and drinks, the COR and First Aid will be there all in service of making sure that students have a place right inside the general party area of the University district where they can get some drinks and something to eat. We're also doing our fall cleanups after homecoming, both this weekend and next weekend. In terms of getting yourselves or your groups involved, we'd really appreciate that. The details are TBD, we'll send them to you, but we're really hoping to get a lot of people involved so we can make sure that we keep the university district clean after everybody's had their fun. So we will reach back out with more details on that later.

One thing that we have talked pretty frequently about with all of you since last Assembly is our Orientation Summit, I know that we got lots of questions about that and I want to make sure we give you guys those details. This will be sent in an email to all of the stakeholders here later on, but for now, just so that you're sort of aware, the Summit will be hosted most likely on November 9 around 5pm. So that way, everybody is on campus, but you haven't really left yet, and hopefully it's after classes for all of you so that we can get the maximum turnout. We're looking at a number of different locations, probably a classroom setting like this. Like we talked about last Saturday, it's really going to be an Assembly-style Summit, making sure that everybody has a chance to speak. It won't be as formal as a regular Assembly, but we will have some rules to make sure that everybody has the chance to speak. In terms of the topics we've been looking at, we've had our interviews with all the Faculty Societies, and if you're still looking to talk to us about Orientation, please send us messages. In terms of some of the topics that we're thinking about, and please let us know if you have other topics, we're talking about things like transparency, accountability and accessibility regarding our internal operations. That's something that a lot of people brought up at the last Assembly. And then in terms of external facing we're thinking about diversity, because we're also looking for that united front for how students view Orientation as a whole.

We also want to talk about things like timelines, when Orientation is being held, the dreaded Orientation Week split that we all have mixed feelings about, and communication, so how the university communicates to students about Orientation. I'm really hoping that we can all come together to create a real student-led mandate that explains what students feel are the goals of Orientation. Because let's be honest, this was our first Orientation Week back in person after a little while, this is our chance to really set the tone for the next few years. So I'm really looking forward to the summit. If you have any questions after this, please let me know.

Nursing Society President Sau: Just a clarification, who will be at the Summit?

VP-UA Robertson: In terms of who's attending, we're specifically focusing on yourselves, Faculty Society heads, and ORT existing and past. We're hoping to involve the ORT Director and a couple other people, that guestlist will come out later in an email. I'm really excited for this event, and to give everybody that platform that you guys were asking for last time, and really having a dedicated space to discuss these issues. I'm sure you probably have questions about the event so let me know right now or later, send me an email. And that's pretty much it for my report. Thanks, everybody.

Secretary Golrokhian-Sani: Does anyone have any questions? Alright, then we'll move onto the Chair of the Board's Report, Chairperson Devenny please go ahead.

Board of Director's Report

Chairperson Devenny: Not too much to report from the Board of Directors. I've been working lots with our lovely executive. And a big shout out to Luca, who is in Con-Ed so some of you might know him. He's been working really diligently on a lot of personnel things such as the pay grid, ready for hiring in the winter, and creating a transition manual for next year to help the new team. Luca and I are also planning on hosting a professional development session for our senior leaders. It's something that we think will be tremendously beneficial because a lot of our people don't have the time to reflect on how they're growing as leaders through the year and take a look at their skills and how they'll be prepared to move out to the working world. We've also been working on improving our risk matrix for this year for our operations. So as you know, many of our services carry a lot of risk. You know, we're not working with anything nuclear, but we do have machinery and we've got to make sure we're covered for all that. All of our stakeholders will be invited to our Corporate Special General Meeting, where we will have our third party auditor there to discuss in depth their audit into AMS, and Tina will be there as well to talk a little bit more about our budget the past year, and you'll be able to take a look at our annual report from 2021. That's all for me. Oh, and we're also working on the PCC-StudioQ merger so I'm glad that we now are going to have a project manager who will help us take that on. Other than that, I have to apologize, I have to leave early today for a midterm, but if you want to reach me with any questions, I'm happy to talk further.

Secretary Golrokhian-Sani: Thank you Chairperson Devenny.

Undergraduate Trustee Report

Trustee Sharma sends regrets.

Student Senator's Report

Student Senate Caucus Chair Matiss sends regrets.

Rector's Report

Rector Crawford-Lem sends regrets.

Statements by Students

Secretary Golrokhian-Sani: Now we can move on to Statements by Students. We have one presentation already lined up, but if anyone else also would like to speak they can, but first thing we have is the Equity Grant presentation.

ORT Equity Director Haddad: My name is Layla and I use she/her pronouns. I was our ORT Equity Director; technically, I'm still being employed by the AMS, but new ORT applications close tomorrow so the next Equity Director is the one that's probably going to be explaining the grant at the next Assembly. This equity grant is essentially an opportunity for different Faculty Societies to apply for supplemental funds for equity-related events during Orientation Week. Being a part of Orientation for the past three years, I've realized that not much priority goes to equity-related events, more priority goes to fun events, and like academics and stuff like that. And I think, if anyone else has actually worked Orientation, they'll realize that equity is really at the forefront of every single Orientation event, and should be considered at every single Orientation event. That being said, I wanted to allow student leaders to have an opportunity to reach for the stars with the events that they produce. When I was part of ASUS as an Orientation Chair, two years ago now, there was some pushback on having Indigenous dancers come in because it "cost too much". But those funds were allocated towards a different committee for something that might not have been as important. So seeing that as an ORT Coordinator, I wanted to bring that into my role as Equity Director. What's really, really amazing about this equity grant is that the whole process for implementing it has been designed to be very equitable. We're going to be looking at all the Faculty Orientation budgets, what events they want to have, why it's an equity-related event. And we're going to try to do it in the most economical way possible. The reason that we're looking at the budgets is to see which Faculties have sponsors, which have money from their Faculties, which are fundraising on their own, and see which

groups need the most. I know that some of the smaller Faculties, like COMPSA, or Health Sciences, have both reached out to me in my capacity as Equity Director, and have been searching for those additional funds. That's why we came up with this grant, I really hope that you all decide to pass it next Assembly. And hopefully the budget can expand for this grant over the years. And I just want to say thank you to Callum for letting me speak tonight and for all his support making this grant possible.

Business Arising From the Minutes

Motion #2 – Moved by Secretary Golrokhian-Sani, Seconded by AMS President Sikich.
– *Approval of the ORT Budget as seen in linked appendix (NGC 6995: The Bat Nebula)*

Secretary Golrokhian-Sani: Seeing no questions, and no one else raising their hand to make a statement, I'll move onto the next slide with Motion 2.

Secretary Golrokhian-Sani: President Sikich or VP Robertson, would either of you like to speak to this?

VP-UA Robertson: I think we've discussed this pretty extensively so that's okay.

COMPSA President Rai: Sorry, point of order before we vote. I just want to confirm that we'll still have the opportunity to debate about line by line items after this budget is approved here. The reason I'm asking is because we still haven't actually had that Orientation Summit and in that summit we might find some line by line items we want to shift around.

VP-UA Robertson: Could we motion to move this to the next Assembly? I think it would be pertinent to have that discussion first. Or sorry, the next next Assembly because our November Assembly is also before the summit. So motion to move this motion to the December Assembly.

Secretary Golrokhian-Sani: Sure, and I see President Chen raising his placard to second. All in favor? Okay, Motion 2 deferred to December Assembly. And Motion 3 is struck because our Speaker candidate did not show up tonight. Onto Motion 4.

New Business

Motion #4 – Moved by Secretary Golrokhian-Sani, Seconded by AMS VP-UA Robertson.
Striking of an ad-hoc Policy Review Committee as seen in appendix (Messier 81)

Secretary Golrokhian-Sani: Just as a side note, please appreciate the lovely picture of the Messier Galaxy on the screen. So basically we recently got all kinds of additional roles under the Internal Affairs branch of the AMS, and basically what they do is policy work and we're trying

to use the extra hours afforded to us by them to reestablish an idea that's been around for a while: to have a Policy Review Committee formed of AMS members. They'll get to contribute their opinions on what policies we're changing and improving before we bring them up to Assembly to be read. This way we don't have to read things multiple times at Assemblies, we can just use Assembly as a feedback mechanism. This will be headed by our Market Research Analyst. Basically, for this motion we need to have people who want to be a part of this Committee signal that they want to be a part of it. There's no limit on the size as long as you don't all come from one Faculty Society. Anyone interested in being part of this committee?

Hands raised: PHEKSA President Chen, COMPSA President Rai, ASUS VP Wijesundara, CESA President Galvani,

Secretary Golrokhian-Sani: Awesome, all in favor of ratifying this committee? Motion passed. Sarah should be in touch soon with details and the Constitution. Onto Motion 5.

Motion #5 – Moved by Secretary Golrokhian-Sani, Seconded by AMS VP-OPS Hu.
Foodbank fee change to non-reviewable

VP-OPS Hu: The AMS Food Bank is an essential service, it makes a huge impact for students that use it. Students of all years use it, including international students and students with dependents. Making the fee non-renewable reduces the risk of losing this critical service on campus. So to speak on behalf of Sierra who is the Head Manager for the AMS Food Bank, I'm going to read her prepared statement: My name is Sierra and I'm the Head Manager of the Food Bank for the 2021-22 school year. The reason we feel this change should occur is because that saves us time when it's time to go for review.

As seen on screen, the Food Bank directly reports to Tina, the Vice President of Operations, and there is extensive involvement in the service from the AMS Executive. This keeps the service accountable. Myself and Tina have weekly meetings, as well as reports to update the Corporate Caucus and the Senior Management Caucus. These meetings allow all members of the AMS executive and senior management team to stay informed with the happenings of the Food Bank. Next, the AMS Food Bank is definitely an essential service to students on campus. Our overarching goal is to tackle food insecurity in the student body. We make a huge impact with students that do use it. We have undergraduate, masters, and post-doc students who use this service. Many of them are international students or they may be supporting dependents such as a family while they complete their education here at Queen's. They often share their gratitude towards the service and we have first-hand knowledge of how much it helps them.

Since the pandemic, the inflation at grocery stores has been drastic, prices are going up making it very difficult for students to afford groceries. The Food Bank provides students with a reliable source of healthy food and helps them be productive in their academics here at Queen's University. Making the fee non-renewable reduces the risk of losing funding for the Food Bank, a critical resource for many of our students. That concludes my presentation.

Secretary Golrokhian-Sani: Awesome, so just adding a little bit of policy background to this, this change is something that Assembly has the power to do with a two-thirds majority vote and the student body can also do this with a simple majority vote. That's just in case you're curious, because you know generally for fee changes we have a referendum. This specific type of change we can do this way. Any questions? Ok, all in favor? Passed, wonderful. All right.

Discussion Period

Secretary Golrokhian-Sani: We can now move on to the Discussion Period. Anyone have anything they would like to bring up for discussion? All right, well, no discussion then. We're going pretty fast tonight. I'll call on someone to make a motion for adjournment.

Adjournment

Moved by PHEKSA President Chen, Seconded by AMS President Sikich.

Motion carries.

Assembly is adjourned at 6:47 EST.