



## AMS Assembly Minutes

September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2022

Mitchel Hall, Queen's University, Kingston

**Minutes are tentative until approved at Assembly.**

The meeting was convened at 6:07 EST.

**Secretary Golrokhian-Sani:** Alright, let's get started! Welcome everyone to our first Assembly of this academic year! Let's begin 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 September 22nd, 2022.*

All in favour? Excellent, the motion has passed.

Motion carries.

**Motion #2 – Moved by Secretary Golrokhian-Sani, Seconded by AMS President Sikich.**

*Motion for Assembly to approve the minutes of the meeting of April 7th, 2022.*

Motion carries.

### **Speaker's Business**

**Speaker 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.*

I'll now pass it over to President Sikich.

### **President's Report**

**AMS President Sikich:** Hello everyone, I'm very excited to be here. It's nice to see you all in-person and have the chance to give you some updates, so I'll quickly go over what's new at the offices of the AMS. The Student Life Centre has recently reopened in the Queen's Centre and staff training is running in full force. The Secretariat Office is currently working on elections and referendum dates and recruiting a team to facilitate all of that, we'll have more information about that coming soon. The Marketing Office has been working to maintain and update brand images for this year, and this will involve in-person marketing and events which you may have noticed on campus, as well as some really great giveaways. The Communications Office has been working on improving our media relations, which has been a summer-long process. This includes constantly updating our students via the newsletter and collaborating with our other department's staff. Some really important updates include that the Rideau Building is finally getting moved into, so all of the AMS services that were in the Queen's Centre will now be in the Rideau Building, and I think by October 1st it should be all ready for student spaces. Finally, we have released the updated AMS website so if you haven't checked that out I highly recommend it! We're still updating sites for some of our services so watch for that over the next month. Since I wrote my report nothing significant has changed, so please feel free to check my report for more information, and I'll leave it at that.

**Secretary Golrokhian-Sani:** Any questions? No, okay, we'll move onto VP-OPS Hu.

### **Vice President's Report**

**AMS VP-OPS Hu:** Alright, hello everyone! It's great to see everyone again. I'll dive right into my report. The first thing that I want to highlight is that it's Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention month and as you know, this is a big issue that requires all hands on deck to change our narrative around sexual violence behaviour. We want to work on highlighting and creating policies, attitudes, systems and institutions that support students and make them feel safe, protected, and included. There's a resource sheet that was provided through my services report and I'm happy to pass that along. It can be great if you have students, staff or friends who will come to you for support or resources. I'm always happy to talk about this issue if you want to reach out, it's a conversation that I care very deeply about. As far as my operations go, the Bus-It program has successfully launched and so full time students don't have to take any action to opt into the program, and there is no ability to opt-out. If people don't have their stickers yet, they can go to Gordon Hall and pick that up between 10 and 4pm. In the interim, the drivers are accepting last year's stickers for the rest of September out of understanding that some students have been away from campus. Onto the Health and Dental Plan. I want to make everyone aware that even if you have opted out of the plan you are still eligible to use the Dialogue app which provides mental health services, it's an app now, it's no longer a phone number like EmpowerMe. I'll provide a couple of links for some information if you're curious about that, and I want to mention that I'm really excited about our new Services Pamphlet which illustrates 13 services offered by the AMS. Services are open for in-person operations and most services have opened their Fall hiring, which is very exciting. The majority of our services will be closed for Truth and Reconciliation Day on the 30th. The new Student Constable team has been hired, which is amazing, I'm very excited about this team including the new positions of Public Liaison and Recruitment Assistant Manager, they're going to revitalise the service and its role in student life. For more details on services, please feel free to see my report!

**Secretary Golrokhian-Sani:** Any questions? No? Okay, we'll move onto VP-UA Robertson.

**AMS VP-UA Robertson:** Hi everyone, it is so great to see your faces in-person, thank you for being here. My report focuses on two major points. First is the hiring of our new SIC Internal Commissioner. Megan is the former HR Manager and we are so thrilled to have her on the team. As you can see, she's not here tonight, she does not officially step into the role until October 1st, but we'll make sure to block out some time for her at our next meeting. If you haven't seen the Journal report on new things going on in the SIC, I encourage you to go check that out, it gives a really comprehensive overview of what's coming down the pipe. The other point that I wanted to bring up is O Week, and I want to begin with a huge thank you to all of you, your team members, and all of the student volunteers that made this week such a great success. I have had

so much great feedback from students about how thrilled they were to be returning to in-person activities and traditions. I think COVID-19 really showed the importance of these traditions and taught us new ways to make our events more accessible to students and make sure that every student feels like they have a place here when they step onto this campus. In terms of specifics, I also want to say a big shout out to the AMS O Week team and to our Marketing team who worked so hard on this week, who put their heart and soul into the event not just during O-Week but also for months of preparation ahead of time. I really just want to make that public thank you to all the people who worked so hard to make this week memorable and successful, I'm very grateful to all of you, and I know the other committee leaders and team leaders in this room feel the same way. Thank you all of you for your time and I'll wrap it up there, I look forward to talking with all of you and my report has been released if you want to receive more information.

**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:** Thank you everyone, and thank you to Amir for doing such a great job wrangling all of us into this room. I'm sad that we can't be in Wallace, for obvious reasons, the JDUC is torn apart right now and looks like a tornado's been through there. Anyway, I've been involved with the AMS for several years on the governance side of things and now I'm really pleased to return as a member of the Board and continue to serve students in that capacity. If you don't know what the Board of Directors is, it's a body made up of six students who are ratified by AMS stakeholders, voted in by Assembly members and faculty societies. The Board also includes three executive members and four alumni and community members to provide different knowledge from a variety of professional industries. The AMS is a non-profit and we were incorporated in 1967. We now fall under the Corporations Act of Ontario, so everyone on the Board is bound by the principles of Directorship through shared responsibility. The three main facets that the Board is responsible for are, firstly, financial oversight of the AMS, including all of our services and human resources. This means we approve new roles from all levels as well as strategic planning. You all know in your various societies that it takes a whole village to keep us rolling here. Within the Board, there are also six different committees that look a little bit more in depth at issues including personnel, financing, risk, audit, and strategic planning. Now a little more about what we've been up to this summer: we've gone through all of the budgets and talked with all of our service staff in all the AMS offices to hear their recommendations for the coming year. We've received some great feedback, and I want to thank the Commissioners for all the work that they've done over the summer. The third thing that the Board does is we look at different initiatives, for example I'm spearheading the design of our new 5 year plan this year, and I'm planning to call on our senior management staff to talk about that soon, I'll wait until they've been in their roles for about half a year. I really want to hear feedback from everyone about how we can improve our operations in a post-pandemic world. Quickly, I'll draw your attention to our November Assembly and the fact that we have our Annual Corporate Special General Meeting tacked onto that. At that meeting you'll all be invited to vote and to converse

with all our stakeholders, and you'll hear the results of the audit and our annual report. I encourage you all to come and ask questions. That's it for me, but please feel free to ask questions.

**Secretary Golrokhian-Sani:** I see no questions, and I don't believe Undergraduate Trustee Sharma is present tonight but her report is linked in the agenda, so I'll move onto the Senate Caucus Chair.

### **Student Senator's Report**

**Student Senate Caucus Chair Matiss:** I don't have too much of a report tonight but I will share the exciting news that our first in-person session is coming up and we have subcommittees starting up, two of which will be chaired by students. I'm looking forward to our first session and to bringing you more information after that.

**Secretary Golrokhian-Sani:** With no questions, I'll pass it over to Rector Crawford-Lem.

### **Rector's Report**

**Rector Crawford-Lem:** Thank you, I want to echo everything President Roberston said; I'm really excited to see everyone around the table in person tonight, and say thank you for a really well-done orientation. I was lucky enough to be at some of the events and it was really energetic and that was great. It's a real proper "welcome back" to in-person life at Queen's. I want to discuss a few things on the University governance side. As was just mentioned, Senate is coming up as well as Board of Trustees is next weekend. Trustee Sharma and I will be there, and hopefully a newly-elected Graduate Trustee too, so that will round out the three student positions. A quick update on our taskforce on street parties. We were hoping that all of the working groups would have recommendations presented by now, unfortunately, that doesn't seem to be the case. The policing and enforcement group is as imagined, providing a few bumps along the road, but that's alright. The report will be published for public consultation once it's all finalised, so I would encourage everyone to take a look at it and if you see any issues, make your voice heard because that's what we're all here for. That's really it for me. I will also encourage everyone to remember that I am a resource for students. I haven't seen a lot of students come to my office so far, but I just want to reiterate that if there's anything that students are coming to you about that you feel you don't have the resources to properly point them in the right direction, you can direct them to me. Thank you, any questions?

## **Statements by Students**

**Secretary Golrokhian-Sani:** Now we can move on to the next slide, with Statements by Students, and I'll pass the floor to QSAA President Samara Lijiam.

**QSAA President Lijiam:** Hello everyone, thank you for having me. I'm here to share a few things about the Queen's Student Alumni Association and I'll start with a bit about who we are. So we work with the University to help facilitate student and alumni connections and set Gaels up for success after their time at Queen's. One of the things that we have coming up at the Office of Advancement is our GOLD initiative, or "Gaels of the Last Decade". This is a series of events to connect young alumni and students, so we have actually two members of Assembly from last year that are involved in this and they're just talking about issues like managing money, keeping your network past Queen's and how to manage life in the 21st century workforce. And then I also want to make you aware of the University Alumni Association annual alumni grants. So these are grants of up to \$2,000 that are available to all Queen's groups and/or faculty societies. They're really prioritized based off of the strength of Alumni-Student Connections and any group's financial needs. So if you have committees that are interested in applying for that, please let me know. I'm happy to help with the application process, I've applied for that myself before and I was also asked to share the Pathy Fellowship. You may have seen this and gotten an email from your faculty, but these are 12 month long fellowships where you can get up to \$40,000 on any community-oriented initiative that is just aimed to benefit the community. I would say to people who have experience in community organizing, which all of you as people involved with your government have, I encourage you to apply. If you're interested in this, or if you know anybody that you think would be a good candidate, I'm going to be following up with an email, and this is also all going to be included in our QSAA Instagram bio, but feel free to reach out and I'm happy to connect with anybody that's interested in this program. That's everything for me, if you have questions then feel free to reach out. Thank you.

## **Business Arising from the Minutes**

**Motion #2 – Moved by Secretary Golrokhian-Sani , Seconded by AMS President Sikich.**

*Motion that Assembly approve the Agenda for the May 26th , 2022 President's Caucus.*

*Motion carries.*

**Motion #3 – Moved by Secretary Golrokhian-Sani , Seconded by AMS President Sikich.**

*Motion that Assembly approve the Agenda for the June 23rd , 2022 President’s Caucus.*

*Motion carries.*

**Motion #4 – Moved by Secretary Golrokhian-Sani , Seconded by AMS President Sikich.**

*Motion that Assembly approve the Agenda for the July 21st , 2022 President’s Caucus.*

*Motion carries.*

**Motion #5 – Moved by Secretary Golrokhian-Sani , Seconded by AMS President Sikich.**

*Motion that Assembly approve the Agenda for the August 18th , 2022 President’s Caucus.*

*Motion carries.*

**Motion #6 – Moved by Secretary Golrokhian-Sani , Seconded by AMS President Sikich.**

*Motion that Assembly approve of updates to Assembly Policy as seen in Appendix Morpho.*

**AMS President Sikich:** I'll speak on this motion. So basically, over the last year we really have gone through policy and looked to make sure that every policy we have, there's a good reason for it. So we've done some looking around and there are a few specific changes that are all up on the slides. For example, every faculty is supposed to have one seat on Assembly for every 500 students that they represent, so we've done some adjusting to get the distribution of seats equitable. There were a few possible ways to do this but this is what we came up with. We looked into the possibility of just adding seats to Assembly but it didn't make sense to have this room overflowing with people, so the one rep per four hundred students keeps representation proportionate. And I'm happy to answer questions about any of the policy changes on screen.

**Nursing Society President Sau:** I guess just a question. Like I just want to make sure I understand this correctly. In Nursing, we currently have two representatives, but I would guesstimate our faculty population at 600, so would that mean that we aren't entitled to two reps anymore, that Dylan couldn't come in the future?

**AMS President Sikich:** So the policy said “if a Faculty Society moves in a different Percentage of AMS Members designation, they are permitted to add an additional representative with 2/3 majority vote by Assembly. The seat allocations for Assembly were changed to match the

requirement set out under A.1.2.b: AMS Assembly strives to have 1 Assembly member per 500 students.”. You’ll see now that in Appendix Morpho we’ve provided a table which tells Faculty Societies how many representatives they are entitled to based on the percentage of students they represent, and to answer your question, nothing is changing as of today with the seats, that’ll be next year, because I didn’t think it would be fair to ask people to make sudden changes in September when elections have already happened or gotten underway. And you’ll notice that the representatives allocated per percentage, especially for the lower ranges, haven’t really changed. So Dylan is fine to be here now, but next year if your student numbers are in the same range than yes, you’re right that you would have just one rep. All we’ve done here is apply policy, we aren’t actually cutting anyone’s representation.

Motion carries.

### **New Business**

**Motion 7 – Moved by Secretary Golrokhian-Sani , Seconded by AMS President Sikich.**

*Motion that Assembly approve the changes to reimbursements for Triennial Review.*

**Secretary Golrokhian-Sani:** Alright so I’ll just give some more explanation on this. Basically, we’ve realized at Internal Affairs that nobody really uses this budget money because it’s for Triennial Review, which means they’ve already been accepted as a club and approved to receive fees. This is just another three years and you’re just trying to make sure you pass again. And people don’t really advertise this very much so there’s not really much costs associated, so it doesn’t make sense to budget \$50 for everyone. Currently, there is a lot of money for them just in case, but the policy just doesn’t make sense as is anymore so that’s why we’ve proposed this change.

Motion carries.

**Motion 8 – Moved by Secretary Golrokhian-Sani , Seconded by AMS President Sikich.**

*Motion that Assembly approve the Standing Committee Allocations as seen in appendix (Peacock).*

**Secretary Golrokhian-Sani:** So you might be noticing a theme here with our appendix names, you might think it’s birds but it’s actually types of butterflies. So anyway, let’s pick up back where we were with the Standing Committee Allegations and for that I’ll pass it to VP Robertson.



**VP-UA Robertson:** So basically these nominations are just part of a yearly process to establish the membership of various committees to deal with questions and projects that we have coming up. So currently we have three committees that we need to approve people for, you can see the list of nominees in the attached appendix. And to my knowledge I think there might need to be an amendment to the Nominating Committee just because I think we have some overlap in members. But yes, the proposed committees are, for the Nominating Committee: Ryan Chen, Emma Farrell, Haleigh Schreyer, Danielle Rivard, and Tara Rezvan. For the Equity Granting Committee: Yara Hussein, Haleigh Schreyer, and Ali Bekheet. For the Sustainability Action Fund Committee: Zachary Galvani, Danielle Rivard, Ryan Chen, and Tara Rezvan.

Motion carries.

**Motion 9 – Moved by Secretary Golrokhian-Sani , Seconded by AMS President Sikich.**

*Motion that Assembly send the ratification of Health Sciences Society to Referendum.*

**Secretary Golrokhian-Sani:** Alright, so I'll give some background. So basically, there is a certain process for ratifying a society, establishing it as permanent, and that is by referendum. Back in the day we'd usually do this at like a Corporate General Meeting, we didn't have a general Assembly. But basically, what we're doing here is we're just solidifying the position of the society and making sure they had been officially ratified in the first place, then when they go to referendum this time, it's basically retroactive for the last few years when they have been operating as a society. So any questions on this? All right, then let's vote.

Motion carries.

**Motion 10 – Moved by Secretary Golrokhian-Sani , Seconded by AMS President Sikich.**

*Motion that Assembly send the ratification of Dan School Undergraduate Society to Referendum.*

**Secretary Golrokhian-Sani:** Alright, so the Dan School wants a seat at the Assembly table! So the general rule that we'll be applying in this process is that the motioning society will present their case and they'll have a maximum of ten minutes to do so. Any AMS Member who has a point to present or a question will have five minutes. Any response to a member's question from the Dan School has two minutes. So basically for AMS Members, your maximum is five minutes and if you want to talk for longer someone else can cede their time to you.

So just a reminder for Members, you have three different points that you can use: points of information, order, and privilege. So a point of order is to clarify how something works, or if you need to share critical information. A point of information is if you have a question about

what's going on or need something explained to you. And a point of privilege is when you're going to address someone directly or their position directly, or the person or position is misrepresenting something you're saying. So for example, if someone says something in response or about me and just completely changes the content or takes it out of context, I can use my point of privilege and explain that what they're said is not correct. Okay so I'm going to ask everyone to try to keep to five minutes and I'm not going to cut anyone off unless you're going way over time on a point that's not relevant. And with that I'm going to pass it over to the Dan School's representative, Noelle Sinkic.

**DSUS President Sinkic:** Alright, hello everyone, I am the current president of the Dan School Undergraduate Society and before I begin I just want to say that this has been a long time coming. I'm a little nervous so please bear with me, I have written something out. DSUS used to be a subset of the Arts and Science Undergraduate Society, but having operated on our own for two years, we dropped that connection and...oh, sorry, can people not hear me? Alright, let me get the microphone. Was everybody able to hear what I said at the beginning, or should I start over? Okay, great, I'll just keep going then.

Alright so a little over two years ago DSUS separated to become its own Faculty Society. The process was overseen by two AMS Presidents, two ASUS President, and two ASUS Academic Commissioners, all of which saw no problem with the proposition that DSUS would operate as a Faculty Society. As one of the main schools, the school of all the arts programs, in the university, DSUS deserves to have its students represented to the highest legislative body of students at Queen's University. We have a \$5 million endowment from some generous philanthropists to support students studying at our recognized state of the art facility. Isabel Bader Center deserves to be recognized as a body of students who are important and valued to the university.

Our society, DSUS, represents more than 600 students. These students have taken comfort and pride in having representation on the AMS Assembly for two years and to vote not to ratify us now would not only be a disservice to DSUS and to Assembly, but also to all the students who proudly study at the Dan School. On the AMS Assembly, DSUS is the only Faculty Society that is solely dedicated to representing students in the Arts in comparison to the five Faculty Societies dedicated to representing Science disciplines. To see the permanent loss of DSUS on the AMS Assembly will be to the detriment of diversity of student representation.

In our two, almost three, years operating as a Faculty Society, even though we hadn't been ratified yet, we were able to multiply our liquid assets by over 600%. Having the support of our students through a Society Fee would set us up for further financial success and capability to support our students. We also implemented tutoring programs and recruitment campaigns in collaboration with dance school, we've run successful orientations, facilitated wellness programs, and much more. All of these initiatives possible through DSUS maintaining financial autonomy and organizational independence that we would not have as part of ASUS. We're asking you not to take that away from our students.

**Secretary Golrokhian-Sani:** Alright, we have a question or statement from AMS President Sikich?

**AMS President Sikich:** Thank you. This is great. That was great. I just have some points as well that I did want to bring up just in terms of your application process. And I know that we've had a lot of conversations as well, because it's our process in terms of DSUS coming back to the Assembly as a Society. But a few points I just wanted to highlight and draw everybody's attention before we begin with this voting process is primarily to do with the membership size. So I know that we've had some conversations over our time together this summer about the membership size of DSUS and I asked that you provide us with some information.

Unfortunately, after reviewing that information, what we discovered is that DSUS does not in fact, have enough students even if we're counting certain groups to have representation on an Assembly and so, moving forward with that, we don't know necessarily... I mean, that's maybe the reasoning behind why DSUS shouldn't be brought into the Assembly. So I can really bring home this point a little bit more if I tell you that we've counted majors and degree designations and we've found that DSUS actually only has between 200 and 400 students, depending on who we count, and there are many groups on campus that represent that number of students that don't have representation in the AMS. As well, students have representation through the Arts and Science Undergraduate Society. I guess that would be my primary point as to why we would choose not to ratify DSUS or why in our opinion DSUS would not qualify to be ratified as a society. We're also, let me just say, using the Constitution as the most up to date Assembly policy. So that's really what we're basing this off of. I think the percentage is 1.99% in terms of the membership rate, which is one to five hundred. And as this is the most current policy, we will use that policy to settle the matter of DSUS. We are looking at still changing the Constitution in the coming year but as you all know, that requires a few readings, so we won't be doing that as of right now. So with that said, that's I guess all I had, so let's move forward.

**Secretary Golrokhian-Sani:** Okay, we are going to have a conversation right after this but first I will let the Dan School representative respond.

**DSUS President Sinkic:** Okay so in the numbers that I sent you, the Dan School recognizes itself to have just under 600 students, 592 was the number I sent you I believe, which would constitute one seat on the AMS assembly. So I'm confused where this 400 number is coming from. Also, going into my reports, I see that the Nursing Students' Society's numbers are also quite low, I believe their number was 600 give or take which is almost exactly what we are. So I'm wondering where you're getting this 400 number because I can say with confidence that the Dan School has 600 students.

**AMS President Sikich:** Yeah, okay, so a little bit more context. So based on the sheet that was provided from DSUS, there were many students who were counted as DSUS students who were just medials, and we simply can't count those students as DSUS students because if that were the case, any students who have to take a drama course or anything like that will be a DSUS student and that will be misrepresenting students. The reason we made this decision or why we've come to the consensus of 400 is because after looking at the information that DSUS has provided us

really earlier this summer, I think they were about 550 students which would qualify you for a seat, you're absolutely correct. But within those 550 or so, some of the students there were some who are taking medials and we don't count those as students as DSUS necessarily because then maybe any individuals who are taking a course under DSUS would be considered a DSUS student. So that number actually is closer to 350-400. If there's an updated list, I'm not sure, but that's the information that we received.

**DSUS President Sinkic:** Okay, so I'm looking at the document that I sent you right now and the specified medials are music and drama honours and that's 582 students. So that would be over 400 students. I can't speak to last year because I wasn't President then. And yes, ratifying DSUS might mean more representation for Arts on the Assembly, but I would encourage you all to think of why AMS policy would not recognize my school's understanding of the students they represent. And if you say that DSUS can't be a Faculty Society because ASUS already exists and we technically have representation through them, think about the precedent that sets for every other PSC. Because of this precedent, they can never become a Faculty Society, because a broader Faculty Society that includes their discipline already exists.

**ASUS President Hussein:** Thank you again for sharing that concern. We recognize that for instance, as ASUS, we have representation for both Arts and Science and fees to support our advocacy for both and there has to be a balance, all these voices need to be heard. And we share the concern with other Faculties about what could happen if we ratify DSUS here and then the other 29 PSCs all try to follow DSUS' lead, and this could get messy and create a lot of overlap in representation, for example like Life Sciences and Biochemistry they could argue that they're their own school as well and also ask for representation. This would cause some mayhem in my opinion, especially as it could create an over-amplification of over-representation of students where they are already kind of getting their reputation on the AMS. And so that's my biggest concern in this application process, the fact that this could open the door for so many other departments whose counsels want to do similar things. So now I just wanted to also open the floor to other Faculty Societies to share their thoughts and similar concerns in that sense.

**DSUS President Sinkic:** Okay, I understand your point but I think the key word here is "ratify" because DSUS students have already been represented on the AMS Assembly for two years and so maybe we're the exception to the rule.

**COMPSA President Rai:** Sorry, just a couple of questions or points of information rather. So if DSUS students are paying their mandatory fees to the AMS, then would it be correct to say that they're paying their fees without receiving representation? Oh wait, no, I guess they're receiving their representation through ASUS.

**ASUS VP Wijesundara:** Just kind of a I guess a point of information comment sorry. President Sinkic, you mentioned that DSUS is self sufficient as a result of liquid assets that you hold and I was wondering what the sources of those assets are. My understanding at its inception, DSUS was funded or received funding from ASUS which in fact does come from the student fees that

we collect. So I just wanted to clarify there were additional sources of funding that were included in those liquid assets.

**DSUS President Sinkic:** Yes, so I'm not sure what the number is annually but the way that we're able to make more money is because we are a school focused on performing arts and we have a lot of sort of super initiatives going on - theater shows, musicals, and lots of music performances - that are fairly successful and bring in a lot of funds from sponsors, the community, and the student body. So when we departed from ASUS as a PSC we had just under \$2,000 in assets and in the last two years we've been able to substantially increase that.

**ASUS VP Wijesundara:** Okay so I'm just kind of wondering what you would see as what would be different if you moved forward with this ratification in terms of the financial support and advertising and promotion that you would receive if you were ratified, as opposed to what you would have traditionally received as a DSC through ASUS from our existing infrastructures.

**DSUS President Sinkic:** So the difference is financial autonomy, meaning being able to buy things for ourselves, keep control of our finances and not having to pay dues to ASUS. The \$700 we get from ASUS as a PSC compared to what we could get as our own Faculty Society through student fees, being independent is just going to get DSUS further ahead.

**ENGSOCC President Rivard:** Okay so first, from looking at the ASUS Constitution, looking at section three for the membership fees and going through ASUS' financial documents and going through the website looking at financial policy, firstly my understanding is that DSUS could operate under ASUS and still retain some financial autonomy. And I'm wondering what infrastructure DSUS has in place for things like financial accountability and transparency, because if we ratify DSUS you'll be releasing documents, personal financial accountability, financial policy, corporate operating policies, etc.

**DSUS President Sinkic:** So in the two years that we've been ratified as a Faculty Society there's never been a need for putting out a report because our finances have been simple. Last year, we embarked on that kind of journey to get a student fee and ultimately that depends on whether we're ratified, but yes, in the case that we do receive the student fee there will absolutely be regular financial reports. There is policy in the making, but nothing's been finalized just in past six months because for the past six months DSUS has not existed as anything officially recognized under the eyes of the AMS or university. So it's not been a priority, but it will be it should we be ratified.

**ENGSOCC President Rivard:** So I guess the question I have is, if through ratification DSUS is more looking for financial autonomy, more so than they've had under ASUS, but if we're correct in what we're saying today and you won't necessarily have representation on Assembly, what's preventing you from maybe looking at trying to ratify as a club, and getting a fee from all AMS Members instead of just getting a fee from all just these members?

**DSUS President Sinkic:** So charging an extra fee is not necessarily courteous to our students. Also, being a club and serving that select group of students in the context of the entire university is also not very courteous and on principle that status wouldn't be so different from being a DSC. Regardless of what our status is we are a Student Council and we want to advocate for our students and the way to do that is a direct access to either ASUS or in this Assembly. As a club we wouldn't be interacting with the greater university and we'd have less legitimacy trying to advocate as an extracurricular.

**ASUS President Hussein:** Is there something is there a reason why you feel like you don't have the ability to speak directly to the ASUS executive team? Because if that's the case, and we will rectify that to make sure that you have access to your student executives.

**DSUS President Sinkic:** Yeah, I mean, I can't really speak because I've only been a President for the past six months and our relationship with your society, it's been complicated due to this issue. I know quite a few students who feel like they might be subordinate units in ASUS. But broader than that, I think no DSC/Faculty Society has ever been a club and it is kind of its own little world. I've been in the Drama and Music Clubs and participating for four years and each new club is treated the same way within the university community, they don't have the same voice.

**ASUS President Hussein:** I just wanted to kind of also add to that point that right now DSUS is still a DSC under ASUS, and ASUS acknowledges that, again, like, the relationship that we have with our current Student Councils is ultimately like one of the most critical relationships that we do have. And what's great about this system is that it can provide access, it's essentially like a support and an advocacy tool for DSCs and as well to support them with strategic and budget planning. And with that being said, we do really want to focus on the ASUS culture that we have. And I'm speaking on behalf of our year and I know this doesn't so much carry out in policy but maybe in like transitions and that kind of thing we can kind of find a way to bring DSUS back into ASUS. There is a world where we can kind of work through that policy and working on that relationship and see how it can be sustainable once again within ASUS and see where that support was lacking historically. Because I think just the sustainability of like, even once you're out of this role as President, and you're gone, it could be five years down the line, I would not wish to see like the Dance School of Music you represent reduced to a club on campus, because your representation would be lacking in a room like this.

And I guess just an example of that I'll think back to last year, so ASUS kind of represents four clusters of students and we had the President of one of those, of the Fine Arts DSC, come to us to raise some issues happening in their program that they wanted addressed on a higher level. And so they shared those concerns with us and we were able to, on a Faculty level, able to support her directly and I would imagine it would be a bit similar as well with DSUS in terms of accessing resources and raising issues if you came back to ASUS. Again, I just want to really emphasize that if DSUS would be interested, that's the kind of representation of everyone that we would like to see at ASUS. I can recognize why you that historically the relationship between ASUS and DSUS wasn't very balanced and I would like to hear and understand your concerns on this matter and work with you to implement a policy that is strong

enough and a relationship that is strong enough to take us into future years because again, representation I think is super valuable.

**DSUS President Sinkic:** Yeah, I mean, I appreciate the sentiment of what you're saying but the outcome is still that DSUS would revert to a DSC to strengthen that relationship, and ultimately, the reason why I'm here is not because we want DSUS to return as a DSC under different terms. It's because two years ago an entire AMS Assembly decided that we deserved to be able to operate as a Faculty Society and it was just on a technicality that we weren't officially ratified. And our intent here isn't just to ratify for the sake of ratifying but to do so to create greater representation for the Arts on Assembly, beyond the, what is it, five seats, that ASUS allocates to Arts reps right now? If not DSUS, there is no one here just for the Arts, and I think that speaks to the diversity of thought on Assembly.

**Rector Crawford-Lem:** Sorry, just a point of information, to better clarify. It seems that we're speaking in terms of DSUS will not get ratified through a referendum, but isn't the ratification up to students to decide through the referendum? Isn't what we're debating here whether AMS will put the question to a referendum? I just want to make sure that I'm clear. Because technically, the AMS doesn't have to approve a referendum, anyone can bring anything to referendum if they have 5% of student signatures, right?

**PHEKSA President Chen:** So just a quick point of information. I think regardless of whether we move forward tonight with the ratification or not I feel like some of this information might be important for the AMS. So you kind of mentioned a little bit about how you know, being ratified comes with more financial autonomy. Every time you tack on an extra student for those fees, that's more fees for DSUS, so the way I see it is that if you were to increase the DSUS fee, I would want to see what kind of services additional fees should provide your students.

**Commerce Society President Rivard:** Quick point information, how many members of ASUS are currently voting members? And what positions are those individuals holding?

**ASUS President Hussein:** So with the new policy, conditional on the new policy, we're planning some more hiring. It's a bit different, but between five to seven representatives at the moment. And technically, while we do try to keep our representation like the 1 to 500 ratio, technically ASUS would have 20 people representing us in this room as we represent the 61% of the undergraduate student body. However, at the moment, by the next Assembly we should have a total of seven representatives, in addition to the three of us, the executives you see here.

**PHEKSA President Chen:** Point of information, I'm just wondering how those numbers work in terms of other societies as well because here I'm representing all kinesiology students, but kinesiology students are also represented by ASUS. So with this new policy will ASUS take those seats? Because I think from like registered programming point of view, if it's a Bachelor of Science education or a Bachelor of Arts education, I think a Bachelor of Kinesiology is something distinct, something done separately. So our seats are not included in ASUS' numbers, right?

**ASUS President Hussein:** That's right.

**Commerce Society President Rezvan:** Thank you, I just opened that up just to hear your thoughts and I appreciate everything that you're all bringing forward. But from my perspective, it seems like ASUS has a lot of representation around this table. And I'm wondering, President Sinkic, what your thoughts would be on the potential opportunity to build a stronger relationship with ASUS, getting some representation from your major and specifically for the Dan School that way. Basically just would there be an opportunity to potentially, instead of ratifying as an individual Faculty Society, you know, thinking about how we can ensure representation that captures the members of the Dan School of Drama and Music.

ASUS President Hussein: So again I can't speak to decisions of ASUS leadership in the past, but I will be calling the shots now. And I just wanted to also kind of bring up a conversation on like, what Arts and Science is in general and how we look a bit more unique from other universities in the sense that we do have other parts of science being under the same community and the unity that comes with being able to combine an arts major and a science minor. And so, although I completely understand that with the Dan School, you have your own Look, you're located in a different kind of location on campus and there is a kind of a more of a different route that a lot of drama and music students do undertake, I just wanted to frame the conversation again in the sense of that like, with having our representatives being hired and who will be joining us in the coming Assembly, they don't have like specifically be artists or be in science or anything of that nature because again, we're all part of that Arts and Science community and we really value that despite the differences in our disciplines we are able to unite in our sense of our share degree. And so this isn't like a question it's just like more of a comment, just so that this is taken under consideration. However, that sometimes means that of our representatives that are sitting on this Assembly, we may have more Science representation versus Arts representation, or vice versa. We do want to ensure there's always a diversity of thought and diversity practices as well. And so I'm just wanting to put that out there if you do consider that relationship with ASUS in the coming future. And hopefully, there's something that either our leadership can do to help this or something that we can pass on. So sorry, I'm gonna follow up and correct me, I'm sort of failing to see here, why it is that the Dan School students feel like they're underrepresented by ASUS? Do you think you could elaborate on that?

**DSUS President Sinkic:** All I can say is an AMS assembly had every intention of ratifying DSUS as its own Faculty Society.

**AMS President Sikich:** Okay, but you're the current president who's trying to continue this, and also with a different Assembly right now.

**DSUS President Sinkic:** Right, so I'm just trying to kind of like, collect information here. We're revisiting this process again. And the fact that we were allowed to operate as a Faculty Society for all this time and this question is being brought up again on a technicality is a big point. As well, the numbers I have indicate the Dan School of Drama & Music is large enough to hold one seat on the AMS Assembly, which wouldn't in itself constitute an amplified voice compared to



other DSCs and again, I've never been a DSC president. I don't really know how well or poorly ASUS represent us.

**AMS VP-UA Robertson:** Bit of personal privilege rather than a question. So I used to work with ASUS and I asked the former leadership who oversaw ASUS at the Assembly last year and I have a little bit of a personal background on the actual split of the Dan School from ASUS. And I will just say like, during that time frame, we really felt the loss of ASUS at the time really felt the loss of the Dan School, simply in terms of not having that representation of the Arts. So I don't want to speak for ASUS now that there's new leadership but I assume that ASUS still feels that loss. And I'm sure it would be much, much more fulfilled or much more holistic if more DSCs were present on the ASUS Assembly. And so just some elements of personal history there because I think it's pertinent to understand that when we talk about this, I think that's where this conversation has sort of come to, or is this specifically about the Dan School leaving ASUS?

**ASUS VP Farrell:** You know, this isn't just about the Assembly. This is also about the individual Faculty Societies each sitting at this table. So I think that as a Drama and Music DSC you have access through ASUS and in terms of what that means for further diversity of representation

I just want to make a point of information on something you said earlier. In terms of having enough people, if you do have enough people, a lot of DSCs are over 500 people in the Arts and Science department, so the argument could be made that they should have representation as well. So in terms of numbers, that's still, like I said, it's a very odd precedent in terms of other groups and it could lead to really disproportionate student representation.

**DSUS President Sinkic:** Yeah, I think you're right, but what I'm here to argue is that I think maybe that indicates problems in AMS policy. Again, past presidents and Assemblies accepted DSUS as a Faculty Society and it was only on a technicality that we weren't ratified.

**AMS President Sikich:** Sorry, just quickly, I just want to point out in the confusion, I guess, I believe this is not really a technicality. And please correct me if I'm wrong, but this is more of a question. I believe it was DSUS that brought up the fact that both the Health Science Society and DSUS were not ratified correctly. So it's not a technicality. It was not done correctly.

**DSUS President Sinkic:** Right, so we're trying to rectify that. I guess what I mean when I say "technicality", like, that's the reason that this is being brought into question, right? It was an error in process, which I consider is synonymous with "technicality".

**CESA President Galvani:** Okay, so in terms of representation the fact that ASUS has so many representatives can work to their as well as the Dan School's benefit. And given that ASUS invests a lot of money in supporting large individual student groups, you have an opportunity to move your structure back under that body and have conversations about how that 61% that ASUS has can be utilized so that it translates to the AMS in a way that benefits those larger

departments. I don't know if it's possible, but maybe like dividing ASUS representation to Assembly based on their affiliation with Arts or Science or into even smaller divisions, because I feel like this provides everything that you would be able to achieve for DSUS under existing structures. I think it would be to your benefit to work with ASUS especially as the president has kind of offered to expand your independence. And that's how, like, with Con-Ed being within Arts and Science, but we kind of exist independently with the backing of the Faculty of Education. So the representation there, to me, is more distinct than a department within the Faculty of Arts and Sciences.

**DSUS President Sinkic:** At this point, DSUS no longer wishes to be ratified as a Faculty Society.

*Motion withdrawn.*

**Motion 11 – Moved by Secretary Golrokhian-Sani , Seconded by AMS President Sikich.**

*Motion that Assembly ratify Emma Farrell to the Sustainability Action Fund Committee.*

*Motion carries.*

**Motion 12 – Moved by Secretary Golrokhian-Sani , Seconded by AMS President Sikich.**

*Motion that Assembly ratify Amir-Ali Golrokhian-Sani as the Secretariat.*

**Secretary Golrokhian-Sani:** Since this vote is about me, I'll pass this over to AMS President Sikich and I'll leave the room.

*Motion carries.*

**Motion 13 – Moved by Secretary Golrokhian-Sani , Seconded by AMS President Sikich.**

*Motion that AMS Assembly ratify Nathaniel Feldman as the Chief Electoral Officer.*

*Motion carries.*

**Motion 14 - Moved by Secretary Golrokhian-Sani, Seconded by AMS President Sikich.**

*Motion that AMS Assembly ratify Thomas Crawford as the Judicial Affairs Manager.*

Motion carries.

**Motion 15 - Moved by Secretary Golrokhian-Sani, Seconded by AMS President Sikich.**

*Motion that AMS Assembly ratify Kate Burke Pellizzari as the Judicial Committee Chair.*

Motion carries.

**Motion 16 - Moved by Secretary Golrokhian-Sani, Seconded by AMS President Sikich.**

*Motion that AMS Assembly ratify Willem Rosenberg, Razan Ahmed, Aastha Vaidhya, Gillian Armstrong, Veronique Lafrance, and Lucy Garabedian to the Judicial Committee.*

Motion carries.

**Motion 17 - Moved by Secretary Golrokhian-Sani, Seconded by AMS President Sikich.**

*Motion that AMS Assembly ratify Alex DesLauriers and Sylvie Garabedian as Judicial Affairs Deputies.*

Motion carries.

**Motion 18 - Moved by Secretary Golrokhian-Sani, Seconded by AMS President Sikich.**

*Motion that AMS Assembly ratify Olivia Portelli as the Judicial Clerk.*

Motion carries.

**Motion 19 - Moved by Secretary Golrokhian-Sani, Seconded by AMS President Sikich.**

*Motion that AMS Assembly ratify Caroline Abouchar, Calder Bryson, and Sylvia Kathirkamanathan as Elections Deputies.*

Motion carries.

**Motion 20 - Moved by Secretary Golrokhian-Sani, Seconded by AMS President Sikich.**

*Motion that AMS Assembly approve the Campus Affairs Commission Goal Plan and Budget as seen in linked appendix (CAC, Adonis Blue)..*

Motion carries.

**Motion 21 - Moved by Secretary Golrokhian-Sani, Seconded by AMS President Sikich.**

*Motion that AMS Assembly approve the External Affairs Commission Goal Plan and Budget as seen in linked appendix (CEA, Duke of Burgundy).*

Motion carries.

**Motion 22 - Moved by Secretary Golrokhian-Sani, Seconded by AMS President Sikich.**

*Motion that AMS Assembly approve the Social Issues Commission Budget as seen in linked appendix (Scotch Argus).*

**VP-UA Robertson:** I'll speak on Chloe's behalf because she's not present tonight. So we're not motioning to approve her goal plan just yet because Chloe hasn't officially started in the role and we want to get her input, so tonight I'd just like to put her budget to a vote.

**ASUS President Hussein:** Quick question: with the new division of SIC, does the budget/goal plan reflect that?

**VP-UA Robertson:** Yes, and the budget we're showing you has Chloe's input.

**CESA President Galvani:** The Commissioner role is likely to be split given the new structure, does this budget encompass both salaries?

**VP-UA Robertson:** Yes it does.

**QSAA President Lijiam:** Does this budget also include the Indigenous Advisor position that was created last year?

**VP-UA Roberston:** I believe so, we did plan for that, but I will confirm.

Motion carries.

**Motion 23 - Moved by Secretary Golrokhian-Sani, Seconded by AMS President Sikich.**

*Motion that AMS Assembly approve the Environmental Sustainability Commission Goal Plan and Budget as seen in linked appendix (CES, Red Admiral).*

Motion carries.

**Motion 24 - Moved by Secretary Golrokhian-Sani, Seconded by AMS President Sikich.**

*Motion that AMS Assembly approve the Clubs Commission Goal Plan and Budget as seen in linked appendix (Clubs, Painted Lady).*

**VP-UA Robertson:** So the budget is pretty standard, and follows the goals which are clearly laid out in the goal plan, but I'm happy to take questions.

Motion carries.

**Motion 25 - Moved by Secretary Golrokhian-Sani, Seconded by AMS President Sikich.**

*Motion that AMS Assembly approve the Internal Affairs Goal Plan and Budget as seen in linked appendix (SIA, Monarch)."*

**Secretary Golrokhian-Sani:** I'll cede the right to call a vote on this to President Sikich because this is my budget.

Motion carries.

**Motion 26 - Moved by Secretary Golrokhian-Sani, Seconded by AMS President Sikich.**

*Motion that AMS Assembly approve the OUSA Budget as seen in linked appendix (Holly Blue).*

**CESA President Galvani:** Right now, the budget just allocates everything to miscellaneous, will that be updated over the year?

**AMS VP-UA Robertson:** So I'll really quickly note that right now this says \$24,000 as the budget but that's subject to change a little bit once we have a better idea of the travel

commitments and the expenses from that, so that number might come down. We'll have a better idea about halfway through the term about that.

**ASUS President Hussein:** Is there a more detailed operating budget, in case people outside this room are concerned by lack of detail in this one?

**VP-UA Robertson:** That's a really great point and we are looking at ways to make this more accessible because we know that students outside this room might not have a lot of understanding of budgeting. Thank you for raising that.

*Motion carries.*

**Motion 27 - Moved by Secretary Golrokhian-Sani, Seconded by AMS President Sikich.**

*Motion that AMS Assembly approve the ORT Budget as seen in linked appendix (Comma).*

**VP-UA Robertson:** So the ORT budget is a big change from previous years because we are now paying our ORT Team. We're looking at establishing a fee to help cover this expense. On a separate notes, funding is higher this year than it has been the past two years because we're returning to in-person orientation.

**COMPSA President Rai:** I've seen on the agenda that we'll be discussing orientation. I know there are some grievances there, so I'd like to propose we postpone this vote until we have had that discussion.

## **Discussion Period**

### **A) Orientation 2022 Debrief**

**ASUS President Hussein:** We have this debrief because we really want to hear everyone's perspective on the strengths and drawbacks of orientation. I like Callum's idea of having an Orientation Summit to have a wider discussion about orientation and what the future of it looks like, especially as we're in the process of hiring future Orientation Team members. We need to come out with objectives and solutions to issues that we're facing across the university, we need actionable goals. I'm excited to see what the summit will bring.

**NSS President Sau:** I'll use this as an opportunity to ask for advice with my orientation team, who were phenomenal by the way. The split schedule of Orientation conflicted with nursing schedules and accommodations that my ORT team was supposed to have to allow them to fully participate were retracted 4 days before, which put them in a really difficult position academically.

**Campus Affaris Commissioner Onuah:** We weren't happy about the split either, it caused a lot of problems for my team, so I apologize but we don't really have a say in those dates.

VP-UA Robertson: We need to make this a main topic of the summit and decide how we want to move forward on this then advocate to admin together.

**Campus Affaris Commissioner Onuah:** Yes, to echo that, we want to make sure we are aware of problems so that we can plan around that next year.

**NSS President Sau:** So we have clinical days on Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday where nursing students have to go in and prep patients. Our ORT team had accommodations to delay one of those days, but then our Associate Dean retracted the accommodations and our students had to go in and work an 8-12 hour shift after working Orientation.

**Campus Affaris Commissioner Onuah:** Split dates for O Week happened so that we could maintain full week of fall term break, there are only a certain number of non-academic days allocated per term.

ENGSOE President Rivard: What is the big issue with just starting on the Friday of Labour Day Weekend for O Week?

COMPSA President Rai: There was discussion of this last year, the university wouldn't allow it because people have work up until the last day of summer. The university didn't want to force people to choose between working a full summer or attending Orientation. Maybe if we come up with new arguments, we can change their mind on that this year. Can I voice some light grievances concerning the Orientation trainings, or should I save that for the summit? Also, I notice there is a line for training in the O Week budget. Is this for all faculty leaders, or just training for ORT?

**VP-UA Robertson:** I believe it's ORT training, but I would have to ask the ORT Coordinator and email you.

**COMPSA President Rai:** One point that I'd like to make about the trainings is the big issue with accessibility. The slides used were pretty much impossible to read, the audio quality made it difficult to hear what presenters were saying, closed captions were laughably incorrect. The main grievance that I have is that this issue was brought up to members of ORT, and they seemed to make it worse the next day. The de-leadering process was also incredibly unethical. They were told "leaders can work with ORT to make accommodations". Trainings occurred from 8am - 4pm. Volunteers are volunteering time, not being compensated, in fact they often have to pay to be involved, and we're asking them to put in a full day of volunteer labour and give up 2 days of paid work (time they could be working at job) to be there. ORT had said accommodations could

be made for people who could not attend trainings for work reasons, but on July 20th, COMPSA's team was told that accommodations could not be made. So students who were able and willing to volunteer their time had the opportunity to be involved revoked at the very last minute. What I find especially inequitable is that at those trainings, many of the presentations were just people reading off slides. Why was there no option for Orientation leaders to attend this asynchronously to accommodate extenuating circumstances? Because of this, many Orientation teams were painfully shorthanded, especially in smaller faculties. I view this as completely unacceptable.

**ASUS President Hussein:** These were concerns that ASUS experienced too, and we appreciate how helpful Nikki and Callum were, it takes such great leadership to organize a whole week of events like this especially when it hasn't run the past two years. Rather than putting blame on why certain things aren't accessible I think the best next step is to look of proactive next steps at the summit.

**COMPSA President Rai:** This is not meant to be a personal attack, it's a comment on the institution and barriers to access here, and I feel like its important to have this discussion now because we will be voting on the O Week budget at this Assembly, and so any issues that could impact that should be voiced now. I want people to reflect on this before we approve the budget.

**ASUS President Hussein:** Is there a possibility of holding the vote on the ORT budget until next Assembly when the summit has been held?

**VP-UA Robertson:** So the AMS General Operating Budget breaks down into Operations and Affairs, then into Commissions from there, then into specific projects. So we can really only debate line items in the ORT budget because we've already approved the overall commission budget that ORT falls under with a certain amount designated and approved for ORT. So we can move items within the budget, but not change the dollar amount. But we can move the vote to next assembly if people want.

**ENGSOB President Rivard:** My issue is that I know O-Week is crazy and things fall through the cracks, but this O-Week it was very hard to keep ORT accountable when they dropped the ball and my teams on the ground took the blowback. This is especially unfortunate because ORT is a paid position and our teams are volunteers.

**COMPSA President Rai:** Moving slightly off topic in terms of when we might vote on the budget, I think even if the total allocated money to ORT is set, there is still a lot of benefit in delaying this until after the summit so that there is room left for discussion before we set anything in stone.

**ASUS President Hussein:** I will echo the points made by President Rivard and President Rai, and say that with ORT this summer we really struggled to find transparency in policy, and considering the thousands of students and tens of thousands of dollars that go into ORT, there needs to be transparency and accountability.

**VP-UA Robertson:** Thank you for bringing these things up, you are holding us accountable right now, and I know Nikki and I are looking at ways to address these problems and do better.



The return to in-person was stressful for everyone because it was a big shift, and not having a full staff of leaders that experienced their own O-Week creates gaps and miscommunications that add up to big problems. I think we'll have more in depth discussion at summit. The accessibility, the trainings, the accountability of ORT, we want to incorporate all of that because we want your agenda to be our agenda for the summit. An email will be coming soon with details about the summit, we're just still finalizing plans for it now and we're busy with ORT hiring.

**COMPSA President Rai:** I'd like to move to postpone ORT hiring until after the summit.

**Campus Affairs Commissioner Onuah:** Why would we hold the new leader of ORT accountable for problems last year?

**COMPSA President Rai:** I think that discussions that can happen at the summit can inform hiring decisions.

**Board Chairperson Devenny:** Assembly has to approve all ORT members, so you will get the chance to vet them.

**COMPSA President Rai:** And I'm glad that process is in place, I'm just suggesting that we have a chance to have a really good deliberation at the summit before we start making decisions about ORT next year. Points that will come up in this discussion will impact how we judge potential hires for ORT.

**ASUS President Hussein:** I just want to reframe the objective of the summit. The goal is to have it in stages where all the Faculty Societies meet together, then integrate the AMS governance team, then integrate ORT. This leaves room for conversation about fundamental issues and future goals for orientation. Last year's ORT team voiced feeling stressed that they did not have enough time to prepare last year because they weren't hired until winter, so that might not be the best approach this year.

**PHEKSA President Chen:** A few thoughts to share coming from my Orientation heads. I would agree that although a lot of Orientation heads would feel their grievances were dismissed, but my recollection of that President's Caucus meeting was that they weren't given a chance to voice grievances hardly at all. I think it would be valuable for incoming ORT to be part of this summit and hear this discussion.

**COMPSA President Rai:** So you're suggesting we start this process, then do ORT hiring, then include ORT in summit so they can be part of the solution? I think that's a great idea.

**PHEKSA President Chen:** How can we go about collecting those concerns so they can inform ORT hiring?

**VP-UA Robertson:** The incoming ORT team was always going to be at the summit. But the timeline for hiring that you're suggesting either forces us to push back ORT hiring or push back the date of the summit. We could have feedback sent to the Commissioner of Campus Affairs so that can happen before hiring and summit. Any pushing back of entire process will impact

budgeting and impact ORT ability to settle in and prep for the year. And if we push back hiring, we have to pay the current team longer to stay around for delayed hiring.

**ENGSOC President Rivard:** I think that's reasonable. If there is some guarantee that the accountability thing is going to be on the agenda, I think we can leave the budget intact.

**PHEKSA President Chen:** How might the summit have to be pushed if ORT was going to be there anyways?

**VP-UA Robertson:** It would only be pushed if we push the hiring.

**COMPSA President Rai:** If your timeline is hiring ORT around October 15<sup>th</sup> I think that's ample time to schedule a meeting of the faculties to give feedback before then. Then once all the faculties are on the same page about how we want to move forward, we can go ahead with hiring, even if we have to push hiring back to the 20th.

**CESA President Galvani:** The ORT Hiring Coordinator is involved in hiring the Directors, yes? So what I'm hearing is that people are hoping to ensure the hiring panel is going in with an understanding of the values that we want the new ORT to have. And from what I've seen in the past, the hiring of Directors normally takes several weeks beyond the hiring of the Coordinator, so there's no way we'd get that done and have the summit on the 22nd, but as long as Coordinator is held accountable to translate info from summit to the team I don't think that's a problem.

**Commissioner of Campus Affairs Onuah:** Yes, we have been noting issues as they've been raised and we are making sure we'll hire someone who we can trust with that responsibility, who feels strongly about accountability.

**VP-UA Robertson:** So, are we asking that everyone gathers for a mini-Assembly before hiring?

**PHEKSA President Chen:** I think we can collect those grievances individually in our faculties and bring it forward to the AMS governance team and the ORT Hiring Coordinator.

**COMPSA President Rai:** I hate to disagree, but I think bringing in the Presidents that were involved in Orientation and all the Orientation Chairs *is* necessary. The whole reason for this discussion is to go into depth and make sure we get all the faculties on the same page.

**CESA President Galvani:** I agree with President Chen, especially when it comes to the pre-hiring conversation. I'm sure the team at the AMS has been hearing these grievances all summer and they make up half the ORT hiring panel, so they can move forward with this knowledge. And the main goal here is to make next year's Orientation better, so it's a better use of time to focus on planning a summit to educate the new ORT than rehashing last year.

**COMPSA President Rai:** I don't disagree that the emphasis needs to be on moving forward, but the concern I have is that our faculty has had a lot of issues and I think it's important that these are discussed more in depth before we hire a new team because it will directly influence the hiring process.

**CESA President Galvani:** I agree with you. My point is that I trust the AMS hiring panel enough to trust that they are listening to what we're saying and that they will act on that and change their opinion about the values and traits that they're looking for in the new team.

**Secretary Golrokhian-Sani:** We could just put this to a vote now? It seems we're revisiting the same points and that people know where they stand.

**VP-UA Robertson:** I just don't want anyone feeling like they're being silenced and left unheard. I don't want to end a discussion if people have more to say.

**AMS President Sikich:** This might help settle things for President Rai. Based on my experience with ORT, if we have this pseudo-Assembly and push hiring back, I'm worried that that cuts ORT's operating time down and this can lead to things falling through cracks. So to me, this is a good reason to keep the hiring timeline.

**ASUS President Hussein:** Correct me if I'm wrong but just as a projected timeline, we'd have a pseudo-Assembly next week, ORT hiring around the 15<sup>th</sup>, then the summit can happen between 16-19, with the next Assembly as scheduled on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, and ratification of the new ORT at that Assembly. I would love to hear feedback on that timeline.

**VP-UA Robertson:** I'll just interject quickly that we can't commit to having someone in the role by the 15<sup>th</sup>. By the 15<sup>th</sup>, applications will close, then we have to block out Reading Week, then we'll be doing interviews. I just want to make sure we're setting everyone up for realistic expectations here.

**COMPSA President Rai:** I'd just like to clarify my position. I'm not advocating for a pseudo-Assembly necessarily, my main point is that we need to ensure there is a way for Presidents and O-Week Chairs to give their feedback and ensure it is taken into consideration. Whether that's through a pseudo-Assembly or some other feedback portal doesn't matter, there just needs to be a mechanism for this.

**VP-OPS Hu:** There are lots of great points being made here, I just want to delegate some responsibility. VP Robertson, who should leaders reach out to to speak further?

**VP-UA Robertson:** Can we do a Microsoft Form for feedback?

**ENGSOc President Rivard:** For certain societies with more issues to voice, can we set something up individually with you?

**VP-UA Robertson:** Absolutely we'd be open to that. Can we aim for the week of October 10<sup>th</sup> to have all the feedback in? That would be two weeks in which we can offer you the opportunity to schedule a meeting.

**Secretary Golrokhian-Sani:** Can we vote on this just to settle it? It seems we've found a consensus. We'll need a new motion, we can't just make it a friendly amendment to 27 because we're deferring 27 until the next Assembly.

**VP-UA Robertson:** Sure, I can do that.

**Motion 28 - Moved by VP-UA Robertson, Seconded by COMPSA President Rai.**

*Motion that AMS Assembly approve the creation of a Microsoft Form to be sent to Presidents with the option to schedule a meeting on the topic of ORT hiring and Orientation feedback.*

**COMPSA President Rai:** Can we have meetings with multiple Faculty Society Presidents together if we have similar grievances? Like, can we collectively schedule a meeting with you?

**VP-UA Robertson:** Sure, that's more efficient for us actually.

Motion carries.

**Motion 29 - Moved by ASUS President Hussein, Seconded by COMPSA President Rai.**

*Motion that AMS Assembly approve the creation of a Microsoft Form to be sent to Presidents with the option to schedule a meeting on the topic of ORT hiring and Orientation feedback.*

**VP-OPS Hu:** Point of information, could someone outline the potential consequences of deferring the budget vote to the next Assembly?

**VP-UA Robertson:** The only risk is if at the future Assembly, Assembly tries to change anything in the budget, that could lead to adverse impacts on people who are already in those roles who have already signed contracts to work at a given rate. We just need to make sure we're paying our people.

**ASUS President Hussein:** From now until October 20th, does that mean that changes can be made to the budget based on our feedback?

**VP-UA Robertson:** Yes.

**Secretary Golrokhian-Sani:** Great, let's vote.

Motion carries.

Motion 27 deferred until October Assembly.

**Secretary Golrokhian-Sani:** Fantastic! Now it's getting late, can I get a motion for adjournment?

**Adjournment**

**Moved by Chairperson Devenny, Seconded by PHEKSA President Chen.**

Motion carries.

Assembly is adjourned at 9:17 EST.