



AMS Assembly Minutes

December 1st, 2022

Mitchel Hall, Queen's University, Kingston

Minutes are tentative until approved at Assembly.

The meeting was convened at 6:38 EST.

Secretary Golrokhian-Sani: Alright, let's get started! Welcome everyone to our last Assembly before the holidays! The theme tonight is monuments. 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 December 1st, 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 November 3rd, 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.

Secretary Golrokhian-Sani: A few other points of Speaker's Business. When you're speaking, ideally stand because this is a bigger room. Raise your placard if you want to speak. When you raise your placard you are automatically interrupting so if you need to fidget then fidget with something else because if you're moving the placard I'm assuming that you have something to say. And now I'll move on to Executive Reports, beginning with President Sikich who has sent a proxy tonight.

President's Report

President Sikich (proxy): Hi everyone, Eric sends his regrets. He's in Ottawa this week as some of you may be aware, he's lobbying the federal government and will be returning tomorrow. Eric has been very busy this week and was not able to submit a written report so I will just be reading his verbal report:

Hello everyone, it is incredible and almost unbelievable that we are nearly halfway through the academic year. This past semester has been packed with engaging events and continuous work to better the AMS as a whole. I feel like this semester has flown by in the absolute best way possible and I look forward to continuing this work in the winter semester. The Communications Office has finalized the Annual Report which has taken a considerable amount of time. The Office has also been inundated with requests over the past weeks, and have been working to delegate tasks to members of the

AMS appropriately. During this time, the Office will continue to work on the internal and external AMS newsletters alongside other projects that support the team internally through website modifications and more. The Marketing Office recently finished designing the Annual Report in collaboration with our Communications Office. They are also continuing to work on a variety of marketing initiatives, collaborating with the Kingston Times, continuing the AMS Asks You video series, working on a variety of websites, planning special events and collaborating on elections marketing initiatives. The Office of the Secretariat recently ran the Fall Referendum leading to the approval and failure of certain fees. This has been a large project over the past month and it has taken a lot of time. The Judicial Affairs Office is continuing to get cases from the university however, we're hoping to advocate for an increase in cases as well. Over the next few months, this office will get much busier with elections and the marketing associated within right around the corner. The Student Life Center recently has been continuing daily operations to engage our students with the recent SLC grand opening event. It attracted a good amount of students to the building and showed them the new study space. Over the next few days we're hoping to continue seeing engagement rise in this building. The JDUC construction has been delayed and there will be continued noise and drilling for approximately another two weeks. This work is attempting to be done before the exam period in order to not further disrupt students. It is imperative that construction continues to avoid disturbances in the general time in timeline, which could increase product prices. Executive elections will soon be occurring for the AMS. Advertising what elections are and how to run will be coming out in the coming weeks. And really quickly here's the general timeline for elections: January 9 is the elections information session. January 12 is when the nomination period begins. January 26 is the next Assembly for candidate validation. January 29 is when that campaign period starts and February 6 and 7 are voting days. All of this information will be advertised on our social media and through newsletters. We will additionally be running a hiring fair for Human Resources in the winter semester to engage students more with job opportunities. This initiative will hopefully run in collaboration with some of the Faculty Societies. Recently we have also been in discussions with Student Care, our health and dental providers, to bring forward a new program on Student Legal Aid. Over the coming months we will be running an interest survey about the program and are hoping to potentially bring this program forward to students in the winter referendum. More information will be available about this during our next assembly in January. And for your information the AMS will be closing on December 16th, to reopen on January 9th, except for WalkHome and the Peer Support Center services which will close on December 22. Feel free to reach out to Eric with questions, inquiries or comments.

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

Vice President's Report

AMS VP-OPS Hu: Hello Assembly, I hope everyone is keeping well. My portfolio has been working on the Student Activity Fee annual audit in collaboration with Lynn, the AMS General Manager. While we did this audit, we have also documented procedure which to my understanding does not currently exist. Additionally, we have also reviewed the October financial statements with the service head managers which has been very exciting, identifying discrepancies and formulating a plan to pivot where necessary because we're seeing some revenue streams not where we want them to be. I just want to talk briefly about the Student Activities Fee audit. If you didn't know about it, it happens every year and it's headed by the Vice President of Operations. Every year a selection of groups that receive the fee are selected to ensure that they're still upholding their mandate with the fee that they're receiving from students. So it's to ensure the integrity of the group and help them with their financial statements.

Let's go on to the service updates. All services are still open for in-person operations in Rideau and the Queen's Center. All services are closing on December 16 except for Peer Support and WalkHome which closed on the 22nd. Common Ground in the Queen's center is running smoothly with holiday hours in place. CoGro's financial statements are very much worth celebrating; our Head Manager and her staff have reduced the number of staff needed per hour and reduced the amount of material waste. So that means we've seen a 30% decrease in projected expenses in our actuals and a 60% increase in revenues, which is awesome and very well done. The Peer Support Center has been having in-person operations at Mitchell Hall in partnership with the Student Wellness Services. It's been closed lately just due to volunteer availability, so currently, we're only operating out of the Rideau building, and online operations are still available. And we are in conversation with Student Wellness Services to promote the AMS health and dental plan, including Console which is the single sign on program that helps you with your health.

We've been working very closely with the Campus Affairs Commission and the general manager of Student Constables to ensure that student events are being serviced. As you've seen in the email, we are preparing for our Constables service closure starting on December 5 to January 9 2023. The reason for this closure is simply an internal review and update of current procedures so that Constables can better serve students. At this time the Constables have received no notice of events that cannot endure this postponement. But if you do have an event that you know is going to happen within the closure period, please contact us and we'll look to help you out and make sure that we can assist you as much as we can because we understand how much time and energy goes into planning an event. Constables is also undergoing a rebrand which was passed by the Board of Directors last week. The rebrand is because the Constables has been suffering a lack of engagement with their hiring and needs a revitalization. The service it offers is imperative to healthy student life and it's a significant risk for the student body that the Constable services aren't being recognized and this job opportunity isn't being recognized. Our goal with the rebranding is to re-engage the student body with the Constables in a very positive way. One thing that we've done at the QC is handing out snacks and talking to students. The rebrand is in line with the Ontario Private Security and Investigative Services Act 2005.

Regarding the uniforms, I've also attached a link to the regulations if you're curious. So we'll see Constables in a brand new look in January.

Studio Q is running in-person operations in Rideau. The team is really enjoying their new cameras and their new gear. P&CC is in-person in the Queen's Center and the new wide format revenue line is receiving lots of love and as a result we've been having some poster sales in the Queen's Center on Fridays? It's been a very successful revenue driver for P&CC. PEACH Market is also in-person and the management team continues to work closely with hospitality to ensure that the market meets the needs of the students seeking food security on campus. The last day of PEACH is December 2, so that's tomorrow, and it will reopen in January. We're releasing a survey this winter to collect feedback to make sure we're properly addressing the needs of students. WalkHome and WestHome are both operating in-person and they're running a fundraiser this winter in collaboration with the Tricolour Outlet; the revenue will be split between the Food Bank and a local non-profit group to be determined by the head manager of WalkHome. One final note is that we're still looking to fill the position of Project Manager for the P&CC - StudioQ merger. I want to mention this again in case you all have someone in mind for the position. It will be 25 hours per week, reporting to the VP-OPS, and we'll be working closely because we want to make this merger happen by Fall 2025. Thank you so much and let me know if you have questions.

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

AMS VP-UA Robertson: Hi everyone, it is great to see you, thank you for being here. We've had a couple of really interesting weeks. I'll start off with the Orientation Summit. It was very productive, thank you all of you for taking the time to be there. We'll be releasing the report from that in the next few weeks. Right now we're just having some final conversations and wrapping things. I think we made some great progress and that the advocacy we can do from these discussions is going to be really impactful.

We have our new External SIC commissioner, Drayden, here with us tonight. We're really proud to have him and his fresh ideas on the team. His main project is Queer Prom right now. I recently took a trip to Toronto for OUSA lobbying week, a week dedicated to lobbying at the provincial level, talking with MPPs about what issues matter to us and how the province can support university students. We talked about affordability, sector sustainability, rural and northern students, gender and sexual violence. We talked about tuition and affordability of living, and the importance of restoring OSAP to pre-2019 levels. Concerning sector sustainability, we talked about tuition freezes. Lots of people on campus have been recently discussing the impact of tuition freezes on international students. The provincial government needs to give more money to all universities so that they can afford to lower tuition rather than just jacking up cost on international students to balance it out. We talked about the importance of making transportation and health care accessible for rural students. We talked about strategies for combatting gender and sexual violence, in particular the need for more consent education for

primary and secondary students. If we teach this concept at an earlier age then we won't be trying to fix people once they get to university.

We're seeing positive impacts from our advocacy. MPPs often offer to speak on issues we raise on the floor of the legislature. There have been a lot of conversations in the past few years about how we best fit into OUSA and UCREW. I really see the value in our participation in these groups. We often think that governments don't care about us, but what I saw and heard at Queen's Park was promising. We have an obligation as student leaders to take those opportunities to make our voices heard when we can. On a final note, I'm looking forward to working with my new first year intern. Our focus right now is on planning a new shorter "O Weekend" for exchange students arriving in the winter semester. That's all from me, thank you everyone.

Secretary Golrokhian-Sani: I just need to make an amendment to the agenda quickly, to create a new Motion 3, to ratify our new SIC Commissioners.

Board of Director's Report

Chairperson Devenny: I'm going to keep this very short because you've all heard me talk a lot tonight at the CGM. So I'd like to just say a quick welcome to our new Assembly members from NSS and the two new SIC Commissioners. I also just want to spotlight the hiring coming up for the Board and say that if any of you are interested in becoming a Board member please come talk with me and I'll be happy to provide more information. Also, we'll have many professional development opportunities for our senior leadership team coming in the new year, and I'll be emailing all of you with information about those. Thanks!

Student Undergraduate Trustee Report

Trustee Sharma sends regrets.

Student Senator's Report

Student Senate Caucus Chair Matiss sends regrets.

Rector's Report

Rector Crawford-Lem: Hi everyone. We have a Board of Trustees meeting next weekend, and I've requested to sit on their Investment Committee. There were some student concerns about the

lack of transparency there, so I signed on to provide a student perspective. If you ever have students with questions about that committee I'm happy to connect. Onto a quick housing update, I know I've talked about this a lot but as you all know this is a passion project for me. We're continuing to promote the Student Housing Survey and we're going to keep the survey open into the new year because we're hoping that as students return back from holidays they will have their eyes more open to the conditions that their landlords make them live in. From the data we have so far, it looks like international students pay the most rent, so we're looking for ways to support international students. Also, 89% of tenants indicated they had requested repairs from landlords, which tells us that students tend to live in houses that need significant work done to be comfortable. There's this assumption that Queen's students have resources to pay these exorbitant rents, but 35% of respondents told us that they were not receiving support from family or financial aid and were paying their rent entirely by themselves.

A few other points: Convocation was great, and it was nice to be back in Grant Hall this year. The AMS, SGPS, and QSAA were invited to the University Council a few weekends ago, where we spoke to our goals, challenges, and how council can help us. A Rector Advisory Committee was struck for the first time this year in several years, which I'm thrilled about because I want to see more support for this office. On the note of advocacy, I'm going to Queen's Park in a few weeks with representatives from the nursing society and Queen's medical school. We'll be talking about students' concerns and positioning Queen's as a university for impact. Nominations for the Tricolour Awards are due Dec 5th, but we're anticipating extending them to the end of exams just to make sure we give everyone an adequate amount of time to complete their applications. I hope to see many of your names on the nominator or nominee lines. And now I'm happy to take questions.

COMPSA President Rai: Do the rent statistics you shared account for the disparity between the student ghetto and private buildings further from campus?

Rector Crawford-Lem: The survey is still open so these statistics are preliminary numbers, but it looks like students living closer are paying about \$90 more. We'll have more demographic data when the survey closes. But of course the survey is open to every Queen's student regardless of what part of Kingston they're living in.

VP-OPS Hu: How many students have responded?

Rector Crawford-Lem: Roughly 700 right now, and we are aiming for 1,000.

Statements by Students

Secretary Golrokhian-Sani: Now we can move on to the next slide, with Statements by Students, and I'll open up the floor.

Former NSS Pres Sau: Hi everyone. In the last month, discussions at NSS have focused on AST orientation. We're looking at how to transfer these students into grad school, and also looking to move away from working with ORT. I'm excited to be headed to Queen's Park, as Rector Crawford-Lem just mentioned. But the main reason that I am here today is to introduce our new NSS President, Anita, and I'll let her take the floor now and introduce herself.

NSS President: Hello everyone, I'm Anita, I'm a second year, this is my first day in office. I'm still adjusting to my new role and learning on the go, and I'm excited to meet you all. I can't wait to get started on my team's goals for the year and on connecting with students of all years in my faculty society to continue to advocate for their needs.

Business Arising from the Minutes

Motion #3 – Moved by Secretary Golrokhian-Sani, Seconded by AMS VP-UA Robertson.

Motion that Assembly ratify the new Internal and External SIC Commissioners.

Secretary Golrokhian-Sani: Alright so the floor is now open to questions.

ASUS President Hussein: Welcome Drayden. What are your big objectives in the next few months, your main goals for this role?

SIC External Commissioner: I'm currently working with Queers for Peers on Queer Prom. I've also been talking with the former SIC Commissioner Lijiam to get a better understanding of the role I've just stepped into. I'm working with the VP-UA to get ready for awards season, and I've also reached out to Hillel Queen's to plan events for Holocaust Remembrance Day in light of the rise of antisemitism, because we want to show that the AMS condemns antisemitism and stands in solidarity for all of our students.

Motion carries.

Motion #4 – Moved by Secretary Golrokhian-Sani, Seconded by AMS VP-UA Robertson.

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

VP-UA Robertson: Alright everyone, we've gone back and forth and we've had our orientation summit so I think it's finally time to vote on this. Technically speaking, the ORT budget was supposed to be passed in the summer so what we're doing right now is passing a budget for next year's orientation. A lot of people in here expressed wanting more transparency for next year's group. We've already talked at length at the summit, so I'm happy to take questions if there are any and otherwise lets vote.

ASUS President Hussein: Regarding Line 15 of the budget, I just thought that AMS divested from Coke, so what's that line about?

VP-OPS Hu: So the reason you see the Coke grant in this year's funding is because this is the final year of our 10 year contract, and this term Emily and I are sitting on the committee overseeing the selection of the new cold beverage contract. So we don't know if this line will appear in future budgets, because it's a unique perk of our contract with Coke, that we get this grant. So we'll have to see in future years what our vendor offers.

ASUS VP Farrell: I see there's a distinction between salary and wages in Lines 31 and 32, is the salary increase just because ORT is now paid?

VP-UA Robertson: In terms of those two lines, it reflects new positions and the minimum wage increase and some changes about which positions are considered "waged" vs "salaried". And yes, ORT remuneration changes have impacted this too.

CESA President Galvani: I'm just going to circle back to that - even if I add the salary and wages and the other wages line, there is a discrepancy.

VP-UA Robertson: Yeah, sorry. I should clarify that this budget is still the one that you guys have seen all along. The next year's budget is the one that you've been looking at all year long. So it is technically like I'm saying it's 2023. In terms of the those two lines, that reflects the positions. And also we did have some issues with what was going into salaries and ultimately

wages. So there might be some discrepancies there in terms of what was placed but in total the payment is the same. Whether we put the money in salaries or wages, technically it's all wages because it's all the labor, all work in all positions. But we didn't have the chance to put that in properly when we did the initial budget process, but it's the same amount of money. So it's technically like it's a different budget but the lines are the same.

COMSA President Rezvan: What made Event Revenue increase from \$88,000 actual for 2022 to a \$260,000 budget for 2023 this year?

VP-UA Robertson: It's the online vs in person ticket revenues. This year orientation was in person so tickets were more expensive than hybrid events in previous years. 2022 refers to the previous year's revenue.

CESA President Galvani: So, just to clarify, budget 2023 is the orientation that just happened? So when can we expect the actual 2023 budget?

VP-OPS Hu: Accounting is wrapping up a lot of processes, so I would guess by early next month.

VP-UA Robertson: We just finished contracts for the old ORT team so final invoices are still being processed.

ENGSOB President Rivard: So budget 2023 was referring to this past orientation? So what are we approving right now?

VP-UA Robertson: We are approving the budget for this past orientation because it should have been voted on in the summer and wasn't. So this vote is really a formality.

Rector Crawford-Lem: Wait, does that mean the budget wasn't approved before the funds were spent?

VP-UA Robertson: Yes, that's correct.

COMPSA President Rai: Do we know how much was actually spent on Orientation this year?

VP-UA Robertson: Invoices are still being processed and many of the invoices are in the \$10,000 range so I don't want to comment just yet, but from what I've seen we're on track for the budget.

Rector Crawford-Lem: Alright I have a policy question: Is it possible to pass a budget that has already been spent? I'm just worried about the precedent that that sets.

Speaker Golrokhian-Sani: I see your point. Based on the policy we have it's not really setting a precedent because we're not approving it for spending, it's more a vote of confidence.

PHEKSA President Chen: Who will formulate the new 2023 budget?

VP-UA Robertson: I will work with the new ORT team to do this because now I have the knowledge from going through it this year and I will ask for Assembly input.

COMSA President Rezvan: What happens if we don't approve the budget today? Money can't be brought back, it's been spent?

VP-OPS President Hu: I don't have an answer on that but I want to circle back to an earlier question about precedent. The ORT budget is usually approved at the September Assembly, this year is an anomaly because we've been pushing it off. Laura is saying if we don't approve it tonight it will take away funding from this year. And although i wasn't at the summit, I don't want people to think that work was for nothing, because it informs what we do for the budget next year

ASUS VP Aloka Wijesundara: At ASUS this is the time of year that we would be closing our budget rather than opening it, so maybe that's something the AMS should consider for the future.

Chairperson Devenny: If we do not pass this today, we have about \$500,000 in student ORT expenses that we'll have to compensate so we'll have to roll back next year's ORT budget

ASUS President Hussein: So are we approving the closure of the budget?

VP-OPS Hu: That would be more appropriate given that this is the budget not the actual.

Chairperson Devenny: I'll just provide some context here. The Orientation budget works a bit differently than commission budgets, with Orientation we approve it later so that people have time to comment and give feedback to inform the next year.

COMPSA President Rai: I think this conversation is revealing a deeper problem in the protocols of Assembly. We may need to go ahead and approve these expenses now so it doesn't negatively impact next year, but we need to come to a better policy on how we approve the orientation budget.

VP-UA Robertson: I agree. I like how ASUS opens and closes their budgets. I think we need to talk about this with the Board of Directors. We could do the closing in January in future years because that's when we receive our actuals from Orientation.

COMPSA President Rai: On Rector Lem's point about not wanting to set precedent, is there a way we can amend the language of this motion to avoid that?

Speaker Golrokhian-Sani: We could amend this to set forth a commitment to have the 2023 budget closing within the next semester.

Rector Crawford-Lem: When can Assembly expect the next ORT budget?

Speaker Golrokhian-Sani: At the CGSM in April.

ENGSOE President Rivard: Has the new ORT been hired, and if so when does that salary start?

Commissioner Onuah: Yes, they've been hired, they start December 5th.

ENGSOC President Rivard: So once again they're getting a salary before we approve it?

VP-OPS Hu: That's a great question. That is an example of something that happens year after year. The budget for the AMS includes salary of executives and senior management partway through their term. You need people to be working before they can create the budget.

PHEKSA President Chen: So come April when we review the budget, that line will not be up for debate?

VP-UA Robertson: Yes because we pay all ams employees at the same rate, minimum wage.

AMS President Sikich (proxy): VP Hu, would you say that this is similar to senior managers who are hired and begin transition in April and get paid but their goal plans and budgets are not approved until July?

VP-OPS Hu: Yes, thank you for clarifying, that was the point that I was trying to make earlier.

PHEKSA President Chen: I'd like to propose an amendment to the wording of the motion, and change it to "motion to approve the 2023 ORT budget with the contingency that this year's AMS Assembly will be involved in the approval of next year's ORT budget.

COMPSA President Rai: I second.

Amendment passes.

ENGSOC President Rivard: What's the honorarium in Line 34? Who is getting it? Are ORT getting it on top of salaries?

Robertson: Motion to remove that line because it's no longer applicable, all ORT members are now salaried.

PHEKSA President Chen: I won't amend the motion just because it makes more sense to leave that for the new budget and just not include that honorarium line because it won't show up in our actuals anyway because it's not being spent, so it's not an issue.

COMPSA President Rai: Who is the budget put together by?

VP-UA Robertson: Myself and the Commissioner of Campus Affairs.

ASUS President Hussein: Motion to vote on the motion with President Chen's amendment.

Motion carries.

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

Motion that Assembly approve elect a new Speaker for the 2022-2023 year.

Secretary Golrokhian-Sani: Can all Speaker candidates please stand, and Assembly will ask three questions, the same questions for each.

Candidate Tiffany Wu: Hello everyone, my name is Tiffany, I am a 4th year student in Global Development. In addition to being involved in a number of clubs, I've been working for the AMS for the last three years.

Secretary Golrokhian-Sani: The floor is open to questions.

ASUS President Hussein: Who is your favourite voice actor or actress?

Tiffany Wu: I think Mandy Moore because she voiced Rapunzel.

Rector Crawford-Lem: Ben or Lenny?

Tiffany Wu: Lenny.

Campus Affairs Commissioner Onuah: What is your favorite Orientation cheer?

Tiffany Wu: The NEWTS cheer, I used to be the head of NEWTS Orientation.

Secretary Golrokhian-Sani: Okay, I'll ask the candidate to leave the room then we can vote.

Motion carries, Tiffany Wu appointed as Speaker.

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

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

VP-UA Robertson: Most of this agenda is related to cleaning up Awards policy, making it more reader-accessible and increasing transparency. It applies to all AMS-specific awards.

Secretary Golrokhian-Sani: We are looking at doing a deeper restructuring soon, but this is a template for what we plan to do for future awards.

ASUS President Hussein: For grants, are there any AMS members on those committees?

VP-UA Robertson: I don't believe so, but if people want input, we can amend that.

COMSA President Rezvan: The policy says that equity grants are for events and initiatives, would a bursary grant fall under that too?

VP-UA Robertson: I would have to think about that, I'm not sure if I'm the one to make the decision on that.

Secretary Golrokhian-Sani: in the current interpretation of the wording i don't think there would be anything to prevent this.

ASUS President Hussein: What is the amount?

VP-UA Robertson: That depends on Student Activity Fee revenue and the SIC budget, we don't have the numbers on this yet.

Motion carries.

New Business

Motion #7 – Moved by Secretary Golrokhian-Sani, Seconded by AMS VP-UA Robertson.

Motion that Assembly approve the changes to Procedures Policy as seen in appendix place (Statue of Liberty (Procedures for December Assembly)).

Motion carries.

Discussion Period

a. The Constitution

Secretary Golrokhian-Sani: Now I'm going to talk about the Constitution. We've been working on updates for the past few months and this has been a huge project for the Secretariat. As we continue with this I just want to open the floor to feedback on the Constitution. And the Policy Review Committee members are meeting in about a week. They will ask for more feedback. Okay, seeing no one, I will say that we're updating all the things that have changed in the last three years, changing representation numbers, also planning to add new things based on policy changes. If positions are not cemented in policies, they have no legal protection. So the constitution is going to become much longer because it's currently missing a lot of stuff. Any questions?

b. When should Assemblies be?

Secretary Golrokhian-Sani: Right, then we can move on to “when should Assemblies be?”. So historically, Assemblies have been the third Thursday of every month, which you realize is not the case this year. That is because I was notified that we were covering a lot of holidays with these third Thursdays, so I shifted things around a lot. Now the issue with this was demonstrated by how close together our November and October Assemblies ended up. So I'm gonna open up a discussion, do we, in the future, want to just stick to the third Thursday or do we want to try and schedule around holidays?

VP-OPS Hu: Would we lose an assembly to accommodate the holiday?

Secretary Golrokhian-Sani: No, we would meet on a different day. But it's so hard to dodge every holiday.

VP-OPS Hu: Is there a possibility on those holiday Thursdays to make the Assembly a Wednesday?

Secretary Golrokhian-Sani: There is, but this will create messy scheduling and inconsistency, and could get in the way of peoples' night classes. Thursday seems to be the night with the fewest night classes running. Just to clarify, this would be any holiday where the university is open.

ASUS President Hussein: I appreciate that you mentioned we can acknowledge those holidays and still be here and do our jobs. If people need to miss an Assembly to observe a holiday then that's fine. And maybe if there's ever a conflict with a major holiday we shift the date.

Secretary Golrokhian-Sani: So the goal for future Secretariats is to try and maintain the third Thursday and keep it predictable.

c. Executive Elections!

Secretary Golrokhian-Sani: The Food Bank is entirely student-run through funding from Student Activity Fees, which is currently at \$2 for the AMS and \$1.34 for SGS. We serve between 120 and 180 unique users each week during normal operations. Moving out of the height of the pandemic, the Food Bank has seen a rise in use. In winter 2021, Queen's University released results of the Student Experience Survey, and we read through it trying to understand our student population better. Just to give you some stats, 5,469 students responded to the survey. 25% of the respondents stated that they struggled to afford food and that their food would run out before they had money to buy more. 60% said that the food that they bought did not last it and they didn't have the money to buy more. And the percentage of students who reported that they didn't have enough money to buy more food and ran out increased from 16% to 23% when you looked at just the population who identified as having a disability. First generation students also record high rates of food insecurity. And those stats are just to illustrate the fact that food insecurity is prevalent on our campus and to have supports like the AMS Food Bank AMS on campus is very important to student health. Our students need to have their basic vital needs met. And also if any of you take health classes, you understand that in order to be good at higher education at Queen's University you need to have those primal needs met first. So basically, I'm looking to increase the fee to \$4 for both the SGS and the AMS, I would say it's a pretty conservative fee. But what it does is it funds our 12 week summer program and our 28 week school year program.

Currently the summer program is budgeted for \$725 per week, and that's perfect. There's always enough food for patrons but there's not waste. So we're keeping that the same. Our school year program is 28 weeks, 14 weeks in the fall semester and 14 weeks in the winter semester. And currently it's budgeted for \$835 but we actually spend closer to \$1,100. The reason that we go over budget is because if we only spend \$800 the food is gone much too quickly, and patrons come in to empty food bags. We have two grocery days and by the end of the second, there's only non perishables left so there's not enough food for the patrons that are coming in. We're looking for a proposed increase up to \$1,050 per week with this \$4 fee. So that brings us up to a total budget food line for the Food Bank of \$44,000 over the entire year. When you do all the math, and I'm budgeting that the expenses will stay the same even though I obviously don't have the CPI for next year, so I can't calculate inflation figures. We estimate that there's 20,000 Student Activity Fee paying members from the AMS and SGS. Increasing the fee will allow us to purchase enough food and will help reduce our deficit. I just wanted to run you through my calculations before I put it up for voting next semester.

Rector Crawford-Lem: I'm just wondering if you've had discussions with the university about helping supplement this funding, about any financial support that they are able to provide?

VP-OPS Hu: Yeah, that's a great question. So we have spoken to the DSA about the food bank, and their donations and contributions come in more in more informal ways, like non-perishables collected through their staff. You know, sometimes we get \$50 with a non perishables, and you do that calculation by comparing what the actual item was to what the value was at the grocery store. But there hasn't been any financial movement and I think it's a great opportunity to explore because the lack of funding poses a risk to food access on campus. I think it's a good option to explore especially because I have a very strong management team at the Food Bank this year and it's not every year that you're able to count on that management to do extra projects because everyone's got different skillsets from year to year.

ASUS President Hussein: How is the Secretariat planning on increasing engagement in elections?

President Sikich (proxy): Unfortunately the timeline is very tight so there's no time for class talks, but we're doing videos and social media outreach, and we've extended the candidate nomination period from three days to six. We have testimonials from executives of previous years speaking to their experiences in their roles and how these roles set them up for success in their careers. We are filming a video with the AMS executive on Monday so look out for that. A lot of these posts are going out over the winter break when people have the time to think about elections. There will be giveaways on the actual election days, when students vote they'll be entered into draws to win these prizes.

ASUS President Hussein: I think it would be good to make the executive positions open to engineering and commerce, it would be good to have this inter-faculty cooperation.

President Sikich (proxy): That's a great point, and we have been making an effort in the last year to engage these students. We've especially seen a big increase in the involvement of commerce students over the past few years, and this is a focus of the talent acquisition manager.

COMSA President Rezvan: I think it's interesting that you're sharing this because I know within commerce we've really been pushing people to branch out beyond the commerce bubble and get involved in other leadership opportunities.

Secretary Golrokhian-Sani: Please, all Faculty Societies, message me ideas about how to engage your students.

COMSA President Rezvan: In commerce, it's really easy for us to facilitate class talks so maybe we can facilitate some for this election.

Secretary Golrokhian-Sani: Great, we can talk further about that soon. And now I'll call for a motion to adjourn.

Adjournment

Moved by ASUS President Hussein, Seconded by COMSA President Rezvan.

Motion carries.

Assembly is adjourned at 8:47 EST.