

AMS Assembly
Thursday, March 8th, 2012
The McLaughlin Room, JDUC

-----7:00pm-----

Assembly called to order at 7:09 pm by Patrick Allin (Speaker and Chief Electoral Officer)

Patrick Allin (Speaker and CEO): Hi everyone, I would just like to start by mentioning that I have sent out a survey and sixteen people have responded so far. If you have not done so, I strongly encourage you do contribute to the discussion. There are also a number of motions to be added to the agenda for tonight. *1) Approve the addition of the question of the Push It Hip Hop Festival student fee to be sent subject to individual opt out to the agenda of the Annual General Meeting.*

Mark Preston (Commissioner of Internal Affairs: point of information; technically we are not really allowed to add additional questions related to fees because the guidelines require them to be approved two weeks before the AGM and since it is right now exactly 12 days prior, it would require a two thirds majority exception.

Patrick Allin (Speaker and CEO): so we have that first motion and the next three are pretty much grouped together. *2) Approve the addition of a second policy amendment as seen in appendix Charitable Events. 3) Approve the addition of amendments to Section 2, Part F—the removal of policy manual Section 1 Part K. 4) approve the removal of AMS policy Section 2 Part 1.* Are there any other motions from the Assembly?

Faria Jofri (ASUS Representative): I would like to add the question of *the opt-out fee of \$1.00 for RadFrosh be added to the AGM.*

T.K Pritchard (Commissioner of Social Issues): I would just like to add the *approval of equity grants to the agenda.*

Member Ford: I would like to add the question of *approving the establishment of a 50 cent opt out fee for Queen's Half the Sky on the AGM Agenda.*

Member Gordon: I would like to suggest that *the AMS Assembly approve the addition of the Queen's Undergraduate Gentlemen's Society fee question of a \$0.10 opt-out fee for the AMS Annual General Meeting.*

Doug Johnson (Student Senate Caucus Chair): I would like to add to the agenda that the Assembly ratifies *Jorin Weatherston as the AMS IT officer for 2012-2013*

Patrick Allin (Speaker and CEO): Given the timeframe constraints for the AGM, we will vote on the agenda as it stands and then vote individually upon the additional motions.

Mark Preston (Commissioner of Internal Affairs): point of information; since we are acting against external policies in voting to approve the addition of these fee questions less than 2 weeks before the AGM, before the vote is put forward, I must recommend that you do not support them.

1. Approval of Agenda. [Motion 1] Motion carries

Approval of the addition of procedural motion for the establishment of Queen's Undergraduate Gentlemen's Society opt-out fee to be sent to the AGM [Motion 1.1] Motion Fails.

Approval of the addition of procedural motion for the establishment of the RadFrosh opt-out fee be presented to the AGM [Motion 1.2] Motion Fails.

Lauren Long (Undergraduate Student Student Trustee): are we supposed to be voting on these motions individually since they are under the same circumstance as going against policy, I think they should be voted on together.

Morgan Campbell (AMS Presiden): no one has omnibussed these motions and in addition, separate student groups, though they do belong under the same circumstantial group, proposed these question. Unless we proceed with a procedural motion to omnibus these motions, we will vote on them individually.

Approval of the addition of procedural motion for the establishment of the Queen's Push It Hip Hop Festibal opt-out fee be presented to the AGM [Motion 1.2] Motion Fails.

2. Approval of Minutes from the meeting of February 16th, 2012. [Motion 2] Motion Tabled

Mark Preston: the minutes are not available from the previous assembly as they are not up to the normal standards so I did not feel they were fit to distribute to the Assembly.

3. President's Report

As you may know, the OUSA General Assembly is coming up this weekend and given that I am on my way out, I will not be the most effective member to attend so I'm very excited to have invited Lauren Long to go in my place. One of the things I did was an international tuition briefing and we were able to find that Queen's has one of the highest international tuitions because we are not subject to a fee schedule. There is also a lot of work going towards the Student Health paper, where we find that clinics on University locations do not get the same type of funding largely because they cannot apply for a home clinic destination. This is really interesting and it means that they have to be funded not from a central government funding pool and so, they are not given the same priority. A lot of the students are here all year round and they do use the services available as opposed to making appointments from clinics in their hometowns. So that should be really good and I'm looking forward for some updates following from the weekend. That is just basically the biggest change to our report. Kieran unfortunately, could not be here tonight because he is the one driving the OUSA delegates tomorrow very

early in the morning. Ashley also cannot be here tonight because she has an academic thesis in progress at the moment.

4. Board of Director's Report

Rob Gamble: Him I'm filing in for Mitch tonight who sends his regrets for not being in attendance.

5. Student Senator's Report

Doug Johnson (Student Senate Caucus Chair): I just want to stress that there are a lot of senate committee openings and there have been very few if any nominations for those positions. We are brought to the attention of that there are May senate meetings yet lot of students are not here in during that month after exam season. For example the GPA system was first established in 2010 and that decision was made during both senate meetings that didn't have student voice because we were not able to attend.

6. Statement by Members

Faria Jofri: I would like to say that during the procedural vote it was suggested that we should vote against it, according to the Commissioner of Internal Affairs. I understand the reason for it but saying directly that we should vote against the procedural vote was a form of debate and like you said, as a procedural vote, there should be no discussion in any way.

Mark Preston (Commissioner of Internal Affairs): it was a point of information made as the Commissioner of Internal Affairs and I believe it was my job to inform the assembly of policy and the effects of our decisions, so I do stand by my comment.

Lauren Long (Undergraduate Student Trustee): the thing I'm working on now is the drafting of a policy that would guide the process of suspending the admissions of any program here at Queen's. This policy will hopefully dictate a more clear-cut process that will be followed in the future. If any

body here would like me to come and speak to you or your assembly, feel free to visit me or drop me an email.

Tyvone Greene (PHEKSA President): so I just wanted to say that we are holding executive elections next week and the week after that so I will be replaced very soon. I just want to take this opportunity to thank every one this year for your voices and for being respectful.

Doug Johnson (Student Senate Caucus Chair): for those of you that didn't read the assembly package, EngSoc president, this is Derrick Dodgson's last AMS assembly. I want to thank Derrick for all his work and as well for his work for the AMS and to Queen's. We certainly look forward to working with you next year.

Duncan Peterson (ASUS VP): just a final reminder that the ASUS formal will be taking place in Ban Righ Hall, please go and buy your tickets if you will be attending.

Morgan Campbell (AMS President): Amanda Judd is standing in the back and she has posters for all of you regarding the AGM. Please make sure you grab one or more of the posters and it's a great chance for all the students to come out and be heard. It will be happening in Ban Righ on March 20th. The AGM happens on the Tuesday of that week and there will still be assembly that Thursday for regular motions and business to keep up.

David Sinkinson (Commissioner of Municipal Affairs): One of my announcements is that we hired the first ever SMART head manager and so that's really cool but the Golden Key as well will be happening really soon. We will be putting out a press release, and the mayor will be coming out to the Common Ground to present the key. It is metal, and gold but not gold-gold, you can come check it out at our office if you like and also please check out the event on the 15th

Kalem Boomhouwer (Nursing Science Society President): We finally have a brand new website designed by our friends from computing students'

association and we will like to thank you for all your hard work and we now have a web site that works!

Dan Szczepanek (Media Services Director): if you haven't heard, the Queen's Media and Journalism conference is taking place this weekend, we have also decided to create something called the yearbook mobile. We heard that students are not getting their yearbooks simply because it's too much of an annoyance to carry them home. So, we have decided to make it as easy as possible by driving around the university district to put it in their mailbox and hand it into people's hand. And all you have to do is tweet it to our email us and we will deliver it on March 24th. There will also be a Facebook event for that.

T.K Pritchard (Commissioner of Social Issues): as I mentioned in my report there is a lot going on. Next week is Pride Week and there is an event happening for that at Revolutions Night Club. Jillian Shields is there playing guitar, should be a great time. I also want to talk a little about equity grants and ask you for your approval. Groups that perhaps didn't pass through the committee and apply, remember that the forms will be out tomorrow and the deadline will likely be next Friday.

Mira Dineen (Commissioner of Academic Affairs): I like to apologize for not submitting a written report. Things coming up are course registration related. I know this may seem a little far off but the committees going over the course timetable are hard at work right now. If you can remember that kind of stuff, please help us learn about your SOLUS experience last year. The strategic learning plan is being drafted right now and I've been speaking with academic reps from graduate committees. And if you have comments on things you wish were different please let me know and that progress is ongoing. I'm really looking forward to hearing from you and about reporting back to you after the OUSA conference.

Member Forrest Donaldson: I just want to point out it seems a little problematic that policy states we have 14 days to submit things to the AGM and the date is 12 days away. It seems like a strange bar for students

because it is for all intents and purposes 2 weeks away even though it's just two days off.

Derrick Dodgson (EngSoc President): I would like to highlight that we are hosting our Golden Words Science Fair this weekend in the Clark Hall Pub so we encourage you to come out. Later on Saturday the 17th we encourage you to also come out for our St. Patty's Day Patio Ritual. We are open noon to 6 and featuring lots of green beer and lots of other delicious things.

Rob Staadlduinen (Computing Students' Association President): we would just like to plug for the fact that the new Nursing Society website was all done by CompSci Services which is available to any groups that need or want a website done, so please feel free to contact css@compsci.queensu.ca

Gracie Goads (Hospitality and Safety Services Director): In response to Derrick, I would just like to add that QP is actually opening early on St. Patty's day at 10:30 pm and if you don't want to leave later for anything that's totally fine.

Mira Dineen (Academic Affairs Commissioner): I also wanted to comment that David Sinkinson and I have talked a lot about SMART and want to publicly congratulate the new extended council hires who are going to be ratified tonight.

Alex Love (Concurrent Education Student's Association President): we are releasing our new dramatic shifts that will include new practicum times and two weeks of lecture time. If you have question any concerns about these changes please feel free to direct them my way.

7. Question Period

Patrick Allin (Speaker and CEO): are there any questions?

Derrick Dodgson (EngSoc President): my question is for Gracie; does QP have a patio?

Gracie Goads (Hospitality and Safety Services Director): my response to that is that but no, we don't have a patio but you also don't have to wear a parka when you come to drink our beer.

8. New Business

a) That the AMS Assembly approve amendments to Policy Manual 2, Part 2, Section 3 as seen in Appendix MAC-tastic. [Motion 4] Motion Carries.

David Sinkinson (Commissioner of Municipal Affairs): so I have the exciting job of going through this policy manual section and this is something I did actually do early in the year with Mark and most of it is the same but I took out stuff that was really specific and I did change the name of SPAT to SPADE—Greg McKeller was extremely excited about the new change. There are a few changes I do want to highlight, specifically I made a few changes to the name of the resources, I added holiday house check and I have added summer house check and I've added the university district golden key so that will add some much needed structure to the election process. Summer house check had issues with the proposal, and that is not part of the policy and it says right at the top that you can get an idea that basically, in my discussion with Lauren at Walk Home and Gracie, that the summer house check will work through Walk Home and the total cost will give us opportunity to check on the properties. If the team will not be needed for the 4 hours, they will be sent home. If you go all the way down to section k, it outlines all the cost for the program. I think it's a valuable service and it's something my successor Troy is excited to take on. I think it's a modest cost and if we had followed the model of Holiday House Check it would have been significantly higher.

Discussion regarding motion:

Gracie Goads (Hospitality and Safety Services Director): just to speak in favour of Dave's proposal, we work together in consultation all year long. We also did a two-week trial run. We think it's a great opportunity for Walk Home as well to get the service engaged with the University District. Also

this is an amazing opportunity to try our rambles and potentially expanding that service. It is an anonymous service, this way we can be visible in the community but we can also go back to being anonymously when someone wants a walk.

David Sinkinson (Commissioner of Municipal Affairs): if you want to sign up your hosue we have an online form we are currently working to with the Volunteers Services Coordinator and that's for next assembly.

b) That the AMS Assembly approve to remove AMS Policy Manual 2, Section 8 as seen in Appendix Communications. [Motion 5] Motion Carries

Amanda Judd (AMS Communications Officer): the reason why this is removed is because it is hilarious outdated and it actually dates back to a decade ago when it was a commission and only mentioned at random and not in detail as commissions are. And there is also a good chuck of stuff in other policy manuals over the years and this has been the only one left and unedited so I'm suggesting that we remove it and the parts that are still relevant will just be left in the job description and other places in the manual as a whole.

David Sinkinson (Commissioner of Municipal Affairs): I'm totally in favour, because apparently I'm supposed to put together a volunteer crew and I had no idea so we should totally get rid of it.

C) That AMS Assembly approve amendments to Policy Manual 1: Section 4, Part B, clause 9.01 D as seen in Appendix Yes/No. [Motion 6] Motion Fails

Member Forrest Donaldson: so the motion that I bring before you is born from the election habits of the most recent election and election before that. Basically the vote options of the ballot boxes are randomized so that in one question of the election ballot, the option will read yes/no and the other question will read no/yes. And we think that this motion is necessary

because the way it is now interferes with the democratic process and we feel that the other fail-safes don't make up for the danger that is presented in tampering with the democratic process. How the motion works is that it would suggest we change the aforementioned giant string of numbers so that each ballot should accompany the words yes/no. I understand this process of randomization is completely new and never brought before assembly. I had the chance to look at the ballots and I look forward to the discussions.

Mark Preston (Commissioner of Internal Affairs): I second this not necessarily because I support it because Forrest didn't have a seconder at the time. I'm impartial either way so vote however you like.

Member Hoodsen: for clarification, a bunch of ideas were floated around and including a big disclaimer on the ballot that the answer of the yes and no is randomized and that isn't possible because you can't change the ballot with the current system that we have, even though you can choose the randomization.

Faria Jofri (ASUS Rep): cant we just have it like, have the answer bigger and in separate, very distinct colours, just so it is more accessible that way?

Mark Preston (Commissioner of Internal Affairs): that is not really one of the options. There are certain things you can stylize but not the colors of yes or no. I think the process of keeping it completely randomized or not randomized is more probable.

Gracie Goads (Hospitality and Safety Services Director): did we not also discuss the potential of putting the disclaimer in the email that is sent out to queen's students?

Mark Preston (Commissioner of Internal Affairs): Absolutely. Patrick and I this time had the honour of designing those and you can totally have the disclaimer that says the order of the ballot answers is completely randomized

Member Forrest Donaldson: if assembly has the opportunity of taking possession of how people vote, we should reevaluate that and consider how to keep the voting process sacred and evident.

Patrick Allin (Speaker and CEO): please keep the topic close to the motion, there are other ideas out there but please keep in mind the motion proposes a very specific action.

Morgan Campbell (AMS President): I like to thank Forrest for bringing this to discussion and it is a great top for election quality. We have also been seeing a reduction in fees in several years past and we have to remember that does not really indicate causation. I think it is really impotent that there are a lot of things that do impact how people vote. One of the things we have been seeing is that the Student Constables who are running the ballot booths are noticing that voters are going all the way yes or no down the ballot. Mostly this is a concern regarding whether people are really doing their due diligence or whether they are saying no to fees overall. And that is the student's choice. This I think, forces people to actually read the questions and its definitely takes out a sampling bias. I encourage us to keep it up and it was one of the advantages of taking the ballot online.

David Sinkinson (Commissioner of Municipal Affairs): I think the randomized ballot is really important and I like that people cannot go down a list and just say yes or no. I think it is more democratic and much more enforcing of voter engagement.

Member Christopher Jordan: I want to bring this back to the issue where originally we talked about how people were not taking the time and actually reading the questions. A lot of people weren't sure how they ended up voting because there was no huge disclaimer. I think what member Forrest brought up is more of an idealist thing that is based on the notion that people who wish to vote no will no longer vote that way with the randomization removed. But I would still support this because people were confused and upset. If you're taking time to be active, we should make it as easy as we can.

Member Jeff McCarthy: I want to speak to my experience with this, I had the same experience with the process and felt that it was misleading and also wasted some of my time. People might see at the end that they've entered the wrong answers so I'm going to click x on the browser and not go through the entire process of fixing the mistakes. I think the motion is getting to something very important.

Tyvone Greene (PHEKSA President): I think we are getting away from the spirit of the motion which is make sure students be able to vote the way they want during elections and so I just want to bring the focus back on that and think students should have the right to vote the way they want.

Faria Jofri (ASUS Rep): I understand that we want to raise voter engagement but I think a lot of my friends complained about it. This actually deters people from voting because they feel it was kind of sneaky, of course we want to be as objective as possible and it is important that this is how people are feeling. Some people just want to say yes, that is just how they want to do it; we should not be deterring them from voting the way they want. I think that's just fairer.

David Sinkinson (Commissioner of Municipal Affairs): I dispute the argument that people don't read and this motion is saying that people don't read and we want them to read. And I think the disclaimer is saying hey look out they're going to switch the answers, and I think that the solution to this, which is to make it simpler, is just only going to reduce voter engagement.

Amanda Judd (AMS Communications Officer): I just wanted to add that Morgan brought up that this is a standard voting practice and it counteracts the tendency to vote one answer all the way through and the randomization process can cancel that sort of behaviour out.

Member Forrest Donaldson: thanks for the righteous discussion; I just want to address a few points. Fundamentally all these measures we talked about, these are safety measures currently work in a way where they all deter the spirit of democracy and in the same breath, forces people to vote a certain way. In your statement (Sinkinson), you said that people should be voting a

certain way and that the randomization process will be forcing people to look at the questions. The problem with the system is suggesting that people have to carefully analyze each question and that is making people stop and looking back and that is a form of voting. All yes's and no's is also a way of voting and that is a point I'm trying to make. I want to make a point of what is currently going on in federal politics. Those who know there is a crisis that has been unfolding where people are called at their homes informing them that their polling booths are moved and it was not the case and it was done to suppress voting. Right now this is a national crisis and has been engulfing our parliament and if we use the same logic around our current system, people should have had time in their day to double check. Our government, just like our federal government, has the responsibility to make the voting procedure as clear and easy as possible and I think our assembly should make sure our answers are as equally clear as the questions.

D) That AMS Assembly ratifies Taylor Mann as the Communications Officer for 2012-2013, Leah Macnamaura as Marketing Officer for 2012-2013, Laura Skellet as Human Resources Officer for 2012-2013, Derrick Dodgson as Student Centre Officer for 2012-2013, and Jorin Weatherston as IT Officer for 2012-2013 [Motion 7-11] Motion Carries

Nathan Utioh motion to omnibus motion 7-11. Motion Carries

Mira Dineen (Commissioner of Academic Affairs): we are very excited to have our officers hired today and to ratify them. We are very pleased to have them and definitely very proud of the hiring process and very proud to have them answer your questions tonight.

Leah Macnamara: I'm really excited to be here tonight. I'm from Banff, Alberta. This is my first assembly so I'm really excited to be the new marketing officer. I think it will be challenging but I'm really excited to take on the challenge.

Taylor Mann: I've been involved in the AMS both on the corporate and the government side and that is the reason I've applied so I'm really excited to transition into this exciting role.

Derrick Dodgson: As incoming Student Center Officer I'm passionate about the student life center here at Queen's and definitely really looking forward to working with a lot of people transitioning out at the moment. I'm also really excited to make our ILC even better.

Jorin Weatherston: I'm going to be the IT Officer so and I'm looking forward to help everyone with his or her computers and I'm looking forward to that kind of role.

Mira Dineen (Commissioner of Academic Affairs): I'm interested in knowing one challenge from each of your portfolios that you are interested in tackling in the new year.

Taylor Mann: I think one of the bigger challenges is better interweaving of digital and traditional media and making Queen's opportunities available. It's a little time consuming and I'm going to selfishly try to decrease that.

Leah Macnamara: For my office, the work load in the human resources office, there is currently a review going on and I think being able to explore those ideas regarding how to make the office more efficient is an important one to tackle.

Laura Skellet: to always be thinking outside the box and being responsive to the things going on around campus to be taking those things in to consideration with regards to my portfolio.

Derrick Dodgson: the most efficient use of space with our four buildings is important to me. Some of them aren't being used the most efficiently and are not being used to full potential and I want to get the appearance of the Student Life Buildings improved and get students to realize they are all student managed and there to serve them.

Jorin Weatherston: I think one of the biggest changelings for me is making sure your technology is intuitive and flows easily and I know there is a varying degree of familiarity and comfort level in this room with regards to technology, so that will be my challenge.

Gracie Goads (Hospitality and Safety Services Director): Explain how you will carry out your portfolios to address the needs of both AMS government and corporate side, and how can you relate this through the use of a metaphor.

Derrick Dodgson: in discussion with a lot of people, I think all the culture of student government need a space for it to take place and all the commissions and committees also operate out of these buildings and I really want to help provide the resources so they can continue to help students.

Leah Macnamara: I think I see my position as more of a resource for both government and students and I see my role in marketing caucus and providing any sort of guidance I can such as teaching them Photoshop, and same goes with commissions and if they are ever are in need of help, I look forward to being that resource for the new exec as well. I think in terms of orientation week and voting times, it's important to push volunteer and job opportunities that can enhance their student experience.

Taylor Mann: my job is like a lighthouse, and I have to illuminate things. My job is to illuminate what the AMS is currently doing and to illuminate the exec on how to handle crises and how it can benefit its members and represent students.

Jorin Weatherston: I see myself basically interfacing with all of you guys and make sure all your services have an online presence and that ties in with both student and corporate services through information technology.

Derrick Dodgson: I consider myself the Hagrid, the keeper of keys and grounds in this university.

Amanda Judd (AMS Marketing Officer): Please choose a student life center building that represents you and explain why and please try to pick a unique building so only the fifth person should repeat a building.

Leah Macnamara: Im going to say the JDUC because out of all of the buildings, I've spent the most amount of time there and I'm working as Marketing Manager at the P&CC and with that and the other AMS business and offices, it defines my Queen's experience and it's always a joy for me to walk into.

Laura Skellet: mine is the Queen's Centre because I'm always bustling with activity and as well there's new changes and those new ideas represent me as well

Jorin Weatherston: I want to say McGillibray-Brown because it's recently acquired by the AMS and am sure I will be used and destroyed by it in the coming year.

Taylor Mann: not sure what the Journal House actually is and I'm constantly redefining things so I'm just going to just redefine it right now. It's a building where people can come and get information and a source of knowledge and innovation.

Derrick Dodgson: I'm most like the Queen's Centre because I'm new and I just look so good.

Patrick Allin (Speaker and CEO): that will conclude debate, so I'll ask the candidates to leave the room and we will take a vote.

Mira Dineen (Commissioner of Academic Affairs): I'm very proud of the team that we are able to put together and excited to see the things they are able to do.

E) That the AMS approve the addition of a second policy amendment as seen in appendix Charitable Events [Motion 12] Motion Carries

Mark Preston (Commissioner of Internal Affairs): the next series of motions are regarding the incoming council and we have looked at the committees of the internal structure of the commissions and we thought about how we best provide student service and volunteer experience within the commissions. And as for each of these motions, the first motion is to amend the policy surrounding Charity Ball and it is the committee within the Campus Activities Commission and I have information that I will pass around and they are also in the DropBox. I'm available to answer questions about the motion at hand. Basically though, we want a committee that can have a full year mandate so students can redirect focus to the charity and not just the ball, it's currently called charitable events in the motion and this committee will run a series of events to fund the charity.

Morgan Campbell (AMS President): thanks for printing off copies of the motion; the policy changes are also included in the Dropbox. The motion is appendix charitable events and it should have the current policy for charity ball and the revised policy as well.

Stephen Pariser (Commissioner of Campus Activities): I would like to briefly touch on these motions. If you remember when I presented the budget, we talked about the revenue generated by the Campus Affairs Commission. As a result, Mira and I started thinking about these problems and it's very interesting to see an incoming commissioner to be so engaged with the problem.

Morgan Campbell (AMS President): I haven't had a chance to read them so would you mind reading it out? Or just summarize what the fundamental difference is?

Clare Casher (Incoming Commissioner of Campus Activities): I can talk through the changes and stop me at any point. There is a change in the name of the committee from Charity Ball to Charitable Events and that will reflect the change in the focus of what the group does, which will be organizing more events on campus and that's what we're currently unable to do because of the rigid structure. We still have two co-chairs and the mechanics will be the same but they will have a live auction in the first term

and the ball itself in the second semester but it will extend the groups' work throughout the whole year.

Mira Dineen (Commissioner of Academic Affairs): In speaking with Clare, she is the Deputy Commissioner currently overseeing this committee and when charity ball finished in November they didn't have an opportunity to continue with something they were excited about and are excited to see new events for students to attend and offer more experiences for the volunteers.

f) That the AMS approve the amendments to Policy Section 2 part F (Arts on Campus) [Motion 13] Motion Carries.

Mira Dineen: similarly, this is based on the same philosophy that was just passed. This involves changes to the Exposure committee, which is the committee that Clare currently oversees and she will be able to speak more about that. Exposed is the event currently running in the winter term and it's an arts festival and it's a huge opportunity for the AMS to promote arts on campus and it's again a change to enhance the Queen's community all year round and the volunteers will work year round to try new ideas.

Clare Casher (Incoming Commissioner of Campus Affairs): I can expand really briefly that in this motion we are including the incorporation of some thing that Best Darn Singer on Campus is currently doing, and our next motion will cover changes to that. We are taking two events currently running to give the committee more to do throughout the year to give everyone a better experience as volunteers. If this is passed then the next motion will make sense to you, which is to remove Best Darn Singer on Campus from the policy manual.

G) That the AMS removes policy section 1 part k as seen in appendix Best Darn Singer on Campus [Motion 14] Motion Carries.

Mira Dineen (Commissioner of Academic Affairs): Having just passed the previous motion, it will make a great deal of sense to remove the committee that has been absorbed by the previously voted upon committee.

h) That the AMS assembly approves the remove of Section 7 part 1 (International Castle and Exchange Committee) [Motion 15] Motion Carries

Mira Dineen (Commissioner of Academic Affairs): the motion before you now is to remove the International Castle and Exchange Committee from the Academic Affairs Commission and it's not to say that the needs of those student are are not important. The current committee is to act as an advocate for student experiences and services for students on exchange to address their academic concerns. Different education contexts and education system do require that the student make a lot of academic adjustments and changes. Castle students on the other hand, often come form North American education background and they go to castle for a year and come to Queen's and sometimes have trouble integrating into a larger campus and integrating socially since they missed out on the first year experience. International students come from a different background. Grouping these people together make no sense and we think to make these mandates work to still address these three groups of students with academic concerns, we need to reconsider the committee and its goals. We were told repeatedly that hey have concerns but they are so different. And their main concerns are not necessarily academic. A social group will help them integrate into the Queen's community much better. The needs of these students can best be addressed in committee format and does not fit in with the mandate of the commission. So that's why I'm proposing to remove this committee.

Amanda Judd (AMS Communications Officer): I want to speak really in favour of this motion. I was involved accidentally in the creation of this committee when I came back from the castle in second year over concerns about castle students and their integration. I agree that what these students face unique challenges at Queen's but they are not enough alike to be grouped together and expect that committee to be successful. And programs such as NEWTS program which I've heard address social integration and is a potential solution and that other group could address this and I agree the vast majority of concerns of these students don't fit under mandate of AAC

Isabelle Duchaine: Also as a former castle student, I feel that NEWT do have a lot of the qualifications to address the concerns of castle and exchange students and it's important to recognize that it is important they can access the information from one centralized source and its not appropriate to keep breaking that up into a bunch of different committees.

Mira Dineen (Commissioner of Academic Affairs): I want to say that we are definitely not dropping the issue and its concerns. We met with different groups on campus that do help with these different groups of students and we heard that the academic resources that exist on campus already are frankly much better equipped than the committee is at addressing these students' needs. For instance, the ILC, libraries, exchange tutoring etc. because they are more appropriate, I would like to add that over the summer, I'll be working with Isabelle and Clare casher to look at the resources the AMS has to best address the needs of these students. Having a committee format hasn't worked and it hasn't worked for a few years now so we will be spending the summer making sure the incoming commissioners are connected to the right people to meet the interest of students.

i) That the AMS approve the equity grants as established by the equity grants committee. [Motion 16] Motion Carries

T.K Pritchard (Commissioner of Social Issues): So the Equity Grants committee met this past weekend we have received 6 applications and approved 3. The ones we didn't approve simply didn't have enough budget information or did not meet the criteria. We are reopening the applications until next Friday and those groups will be allowed to reapply with more information and a different type of proposal. The group voted unanimously and there are not any concerns.

9. Discussion

Member Alex Webber: I would like to introduce the possibility of removing the referendum requirement in order to establish fees and the full write up of this is in the package, and I'll do my best to summarize. The group needs

to pass 50% referendum to be put on the vote. I think this is unfair and I want to get the AMS opinion if individuals are willing to stand behind this motion and go to university to get this changed. It is dictated by senate university policy that you require referendums. In terms of the results of referendums, I understand the democracy behind allowing students to voice their concerns and opinions but the results of winter 2011-2012, the results speak negatively towards encouraging the diversity of student groups on campus. I have attached a data table to the agenda; charities such as Queen's Red Cross and AMS food center have passed very well with 71 plus votes. But groups that appeal to the minority of the population failed. For instance I'm talking about the Indian students dance team, ultraviolet magazine, and several other groups that represent minority groups. It can be argued that there are several other reasons but I think it's subtracting minority cultural groups and that runs contrary to the AMS mandate to support socially minority groups and I think there is solution to this. Other Universities currently use a program where clubs apply grants from the university directly and the Commission of Internal Affairs should be responsible for ensuring each group submits the correct information to apply for funding. Discrimination against groups is pretty clear-cut in these results from the last referendum and I would love to get your opinion on the matter.

James Simpson: I see your point and there probably is some difficulty for minority groups to get funding. I'm just looking at the tale and I'm unsure about the break down. You have publications on the right side that go toward the minority and some on the left that do go towards the majority. I've worked with Queen's Medical Review and they seem to be roughly the same. The Schizophrenia Society of Ontario and other examples that don't have an association to a minority so I have made a table of my own and I think a statistical analysis do show that amount of funding appears to be same on both sides. There are other reasons as well. The fees associated with minority groups are typically and statistically higher. So rather than there being a systemic discrimination it's probably associated with the NOPRIG campaign. Our system isn't perfect but I don't see how giving unilateral decision to someone is going to improve things. So the CIA, from what I understand is hired by someone who is elected, rather than having

the students vote, you're having students vote by the 3rd degree and its' adding layers that get in the way of transparency.

Alex Rotman (ASUS Rep to the AMS): the opt-out system has a lot of flaws but I don't agree with the assessment here. This is the only way we keep fees accountable. We have then a even more flawed system and have no way for students to represent themselves. It worries me that anyone can register an opt-out fee and if it does, I feel there is a problem that student clubs do no necessarily have an automatic right to student government funding. We are worsening the problems within the system with this method. If we are to talk about clubs getting on the opt-out system, maybe we should talk about an opt-in system instead of just an opt-out system and maybe spend sometime bringing that up and talking about that and address some of the problems seen here.

Liam Erlichmann: I do believe that the most important part about opt out problem is that it keeps people accountable. If we remove it, students have to constantly review the process every three years. With the NOPRIG campaign, students found that the money wasn't managed properly and voted accordingly. Without it, there will be more lobbying and campaigning but when you have an opt-outable fee, when it comes to the minority groups, there are so many opportunities such as club grants, CIA club grants, and there are many ways to raise funds. If you want something to do with SIC or sustainability, they can go to the commissions and that's another revenue in of itself, including different campaigns on campus. If students feel you shouldn't have that fee, then holding students accountable is the most important thing and that's better than having one individual make that decision.

Morgan Campbell (AMS President): I want to thank member Webber for binging this forward, and it's an issue pertaining to our voting patterns. I want to raise the idea that having groups submit budgets, I think that is a great idea. We do have something VP operations can audit any group receiving fees so doing a full audit process is a huge process. We can do a forward-looking budget process, which is a fantastic idea and it can be something we can look towards in the future. I also think that it's great to

look into what other schools are doing. There are restrictions in terms what we can do. 1994 ancillary fees say the fees have to be passed by student vote, not necessarily by referendum. Western does have an assembly to deal with that and that can be a mitigating factor to get your fees reassessed. However, I would echo member Erlichmann in saying we do have over 30 000 club grants ever year and multiple grants for targeted programming. I do think we do a good job, when you look at the referendum, it can be a bit skewed because it's not looking at funding sources across the board. However, it's very interesting to look at the report that member Webber put together.

Jeff McCarthy: I really want to echo something Morgan has said, the idea that there is a whole bunch of opportunities to get funding is important. I like the idea of submitting a budget and a proposal and I'm very glad it was brought up. I want to be the best resource I can be and so thank you for bringing that up.

Gracie Goads (Hospitality and Safety Services Director): if you guys want to, there's always the option of going to the the Annual General Meeting. For instance, our Constable fee needed to go to the AGM because it needs an in-depth understanding and we were told right off the bat that we would not be able to do so due to negative PR towards the service and there are two ways and the referendum is just one way.

Dan Szczepanek (Media Services Director): Understanding the history of media outlets, I do respect that my successor will help to find alternatives of funding for alternative media outlets. This is a huge initiative for next year and having a wide range of publications on campus is very vital but at the same time protecting the democratic process is more important. I definitely think the referendum is really important because students should have a say in how their money is being spent. Some clubs can use marketing and communications to help them get the attention they require to have a more successful referendum in the future to show people why they need this money. And sometimes it's not only about them being minority or discrimination, its just a matter of students not really understanding what these clubs are or what they actually do.

Alex Rotman (ASUS Rep to the AMS): I want to touch up on two points, I think what's wrong with what I read in the discussion proposal is this, there is a lot of things wrong with the opt-out system. But within the opt-out structure, clubs have it really good. The onus to opt out is on the students. The students should know when they need to opt out and how to opt out. If you get on the ballot, you have it made, but in terms of other schools, for instance at McGill, there's not necessarily trilateral review and the out-actable clubs are essentially ingrained, you cannot get rid of the fee or do anything like that. For McGill students, this is a hot topic and a source of discontentment on their campus. Regarding submitting budgets it's not necessarily an alternative, it should be done anyway to the CIA but to the students at large in general and I don't see that as a legitimate argument. I think a tri-lineal review is very important because it avoids students imposing their views on the entire student body. The change over of the students in the intoning year should get a say in which clubs get on the SOLUS sheet.

Liam Erlichmann: you do have the AGM and the clubs office to help get their names out there and they are a great resource. To say that you are on the ballot, it doesn't mean you're going to ultimately get the funding. If you want people to know what you're running for, you should campaign really hard. I know with Queen's Constables, we were already prepared to let everyone know about the issues. We have educated people and just to say an opt-out fee is not there, doesn't mean you won't have any resources. You shouldn't really have any issue when you try to raise those funds, run a few events and find outside sponsors to sponsor you and when you try again, maybe students support your agendas.

Patrick Allin (Speaker and CEO): this concludes the discussion. It is also my last full assembly, the corporate general meeting and the AGM is 12 days from now. Please pick up posters from Amanda and promote this among your constituents and also if anyone is interested in replacing me, please come speak to me or email me at ceo@ams.queenus.ca.

Mark Preston (Commissioner of Internal Affairs): The next assembly meeting is technically the last one of the year and with that in mind please get those motions to me as soon as possible to see if an April 5th meeting is necessary

Assembly adjourned at 9:24 pm

