

AMS Assembly Meeting – Wednesday, September 13th, 2012

Meeting called to order by Assembly Speaker Scott Mason at 7:05 PM

Motion to approve agenda. Motion carries

Amendments: To add motions #6 and #7. Both are concerned with ratifying Judicial Affairs Deputies.

Motion to adopt minutes from the previous AMS Assembly. Motion carries

Speaker's Business

Scott Mason (AMS Speaker) thanks assembly for prompt arrival at 6:50 pm. He also encourages for this to continue throughout the year so members can socialize beforehand and be done with meetings quicker. The Speaker also asked the Assembly for a moment of a silence for Emma Purdie, ArtSci 15', who passed away a few months ago. The speaker invites guest speaker Daniel Wolfe to give his presentation.

Guest Speaker's Business

Daniel Wolfe gives a presentation on the MTCU paper outlining possible objectives, scenarios, and solutions for Queen's.

The Chair entertains the idea of moving question period to now, so previous comments made by the presenter can be discussed.

Member Long moves the motion to open the agenda. Motion passed.

Member Long moves a motion to move question period to now. The motion is passed.

Member Basillio moves a motion to close the agenda. The motion is passed.

Guest Speaker Discussion

Member Long moves a motion to into a committee of the whole. Motion passed

Member – How could the university restructure education for year round learning?

Wolfe – Points to an Op-ed in the Globe and Mail, also talks of ministerial suggestions.

Member Bastillio – Are three year degrees the same thing, or are they compressed?

Wolfe – They are essentially the same thing. Points out that there are 3 year degrees on the books, but four year degrees are the standard in North America. If degrees become 3 year degrees there would be a credibility question of Ontario degrees. Students are doing second credential programs, one year accelerated masters programs as well. This will compress the four years.

Member Berkok – Does differentiation and increased enrolment make a bachelor's degree less useful?

Wolfe – Differentiation is not necessarily bad, not just for education but the student experience as a whole. There are certainly more students today, but a devaluation is not a fair assessment. There are more people with bachelor degrees today; this is why second credentials are needed.

Provost – Queen's has a better proportion of research dollars per grad student. Queen's also has high levels of student engagement and research intensity, that separates Queen's from the bunch. This is a characteristic of Queen's University.

Member (Chishti) – What sort of tuition framework would Queen's follow, would we recommend our own framework or use another framework?

Provost – Clarifies by asking which tuition framework would be recommended. Just mentions that there would be a consultation process.

AMS VP – Mentions that the government wants to split tuition consultations and reform of secondary education.

Speaker Scott Mason thanks the provost and principal for showing up to AMS assembly and addressing concerns regarding MTCU.

VP University Affairs introduces a new discussion topic regarding MCTU. She looks to give the assembly a background on the issue, and hopes for feedback. She mentions Queen's is interested in expanding credential offerings in regards to Masters programs, college credentials and other credentials under the Queen's brand.) Discussion questions are suggested such as, what types of expanded credential options would be most beneficial to students, and what format of expanded credential options is most appealing. Suggestions include Summer programs, professional masters programs, and skill based college credentials alongside Queen's degrees.

Member Basillio – Any thoughts to offering co-ops and internships for sciences and engineering students? Are we looking into expanded undergrad degrees with co-op compliments?

Member Simpson – Notes that he likes skill based college credentials, makes a note that this would make degrees more competitive.

The suggestion is raised that it could be possible to have intro language courses for upper year students, this would allow for foreign internships. The VP of Student affairs notes this is a good suggestion.

Member Basillio – Asks for a definition on a one year Master's program.

Provost – Distinction is that in a professional program includes original research component. These are also more oriented towards vocational training, it prepares for a specific career. The provost also mentions that many students do not necessarily need full Masters Programs and says that it should be possible for a student to complete a few months of a Master's program, and come back to finish it later. Our notion of productivity would be accelerating the exit point for students, with more learning.

Member at large Prescott – What is the root issue to bring up these expanded credential issues?

Provost – It is important to note that we have done a lot already and the government is encouraging us to do even more. Our goal would be to offer the

opportunity to any undergraduate to complete a second credential without a big amount of extra time. It is an opportunity, not necessity for undergraduates. It is not because we want more revenue; it is to give students what they need.

Discussion Topic Two

VP of Student Affairs – Experiential and Entrepreneurial Learning, these are different from internships and co-op, it focuses on combining what you learn in class and relating it to the real world through building communities of professors and professionals. Discussion questions are suggested such as how can we encourage students to develop practical and entrepreneurial skills as part of their curricular learning and how can students be connected to the local Kingston economy through internships and community service learning?

Member Francis (University Rector) – What exactly was the work done by Commissioner Sherman and President Johnson with regards to this topic?

Commissioner Sherman – We have communicated with Queen's, local economic development groups, helped fostered start-ups, made resources available, and collaborated with other universities.

Member Basillio – This assumes just because I do not have space on campus is why I do not have a business. Space is nice, but the generation of ideas is the key. Suggests introducing entrepreneurial courses in first year to spark ideas, instead of assuming entrepreneurs will come to us.

Commissioner Sherman – A survey has been sent out to students, and I have communicated with entrepreneurial clubs on campus. Also suggested taking a look at programs such as intellectual property rights and marketing plans to facilitate student innovation. In terms of funding it is available (BizInc at Western received a 275,000 grant) there is money available. Points out Kingston is interested in providing funds. There are resources to nurture a great idea.

Member Kim – How is the funding getting to Queen's students? Does it come from student tuition?

Commissioner Sherman – Points out BizInc went to the economic development industry, government money would promote econ development and ideas. Kingston economic development would also provide funding.

A member adds there is a subsidy for summer businesses in a Kingston program that provides 3,000\$.

Member at Large Chinniah – Given that there is limited space or a proper allocation system, how can this program be implemented with consideration to how to allocate resources?

Commissioner Sherman – There have been preliminary discussions on space. Notes off campus space can become available.

University Rector Francis – Points out the Ryerson Biz Media Lab. Students would use this area to operate a business, once they succeeded or finish, the space would be left for new students and the old students would act as mentors.

Berkok moves a motion to open the agenda. Vote passed

Motion to proceed with original agenda – Vote passed

Motion to close the agenda – Vote passed.

AMS President Doug Johnson's Report

The president thanks and welcomes everyone for the first assembly of the term. He is happy to announce the AMS has wrapped up a non-academic review process. They managed to defend our system and come up with improvements that will be implemented. The agenda will be out next Thursday or Friday.

AMS Vice President Lee's report

Reminds everyone that the Opt Out Period goes until September 21st, notes there were a few glitches that have been fixed and to notify the AMS if anymore are found.

Chairman of the AMS Board of Directors Rob Gamble's report

We have conducted 3 meetings, a budgeting process, and we have approved capital expenditures. Our special corporate general meeting will be held in November to show a consolidated budget etc.

SSCC chair Berkok's report

Highlights a few nonessential things out of the report. Any concerns related to senate, feel free to contact me.

University Rector Francis's report

There is now an office of the rector website. Nothing else important to add other than the tri color award dinner and advancing alumni relations. The chance will be the TC selection committee might have added responsibility. Notes the office will need more logistical support this year due to a very large dinner.

Undergraduate Trustee Long's report

Introduces assembly to the position. Trustee sits on the senate, which deals with academic affairs. Board of trustees deal with finance.

Statements by members

MCRC President – Make sure to de purple the engineers before they get back into residence after the football game.

Commissioner Greene's Report

Queen's Bike Shop is opening this Wednesday, makes a note of a new one garbage bag per week policy. Please become aware of recycling practices.

Commissioner of Internal Affairs Faught's Report

Thanks everyone for showing up and apologizes for the hasty start, just had to be polite for our guest speakers, and had ground to cover on important issues. CoGro catering is now a regular thing. Describes the job of Commissioner of Internal Affairs. Encourages Assembly to read the packages made for them. We are working to have guest speakers at every meeting.

SIC Report

AMS food center is now opened Saturday, the Peer Support Center is closed until Sunday for training. Opened from 230-11pm

Commissioner Duchaine's Report

Read over my recommendations to GPA committee. Any comments or concerns on GPA review committee get those to me ASAP.

Director Suen's Report

Highlights renovations to P&CC and Tricolour Outlet.

Commissioner Sherman's Report

Asks for a review on policy within the first quarter of the New Year, would like feedback on any specific issues.

The Speaker asks for any other statements made by members.

AMS Assembly proceeds into question period.

Member Basillio – I received an assembly drop box document about goal plans, is this publicly available?

Commissioner Faught – It is for the use of assembly only. It will be approving the goal plans for all six commissions later. They are available for the entire AMS assembly.

Member Basillio – Why are they not publicly available?

Commissioner Faught – They will be presented at Assembly so members at large can see them. The agenda is posted online.

VP of University Affairs – Balancing logistics and how to put documents on website and communications between members, this is why we use drop box.

Member Berkok – Is it reasonable for members at large to see the agenda 48 hours before the meeting.

Member Basillio – Seeing as goal plans were not available to the AMS in general, do you think it is reasonable to present these tonight when they were 40 pages long and only had 48 hours notice.

VP of University Affairs – We apologize but we abided by AMS policy.

No new business arising from the minutes

New Business

The Speaker points out that only relevant information should be brought up during appropriate times. Encourages members to be concise and can only speak once if the speakers list is too long or if Assembly has a lot of business to attend to.

Motion #3

The chair omnibuses motions 3-7. Vote Passed

Debate on Omnibus 1, AKA motions 3,4,5,

Vote on Omnibus 1 (to ratify 5 judicial appointments of Chris Casher, Appolonia Karetou, Kristen Olver, Christie McLean, and Erig Yu). Vote Passed

Motion #6

Member Dodgeson – Gave a background on motion #6, if the motion passes we will be electing two SLC councils.

AMS VP Lee – Some additions, it would be good to have the same members on the two separate bodies due to the fact they are intertwined.

Vote on Motion #6. Vote Passed

Vote on Motion #7. Vote Passed

Vote on Motion #8. Vote Passed

Motion #9, moved by President Johnson, Seconded by VP Lee

AMS assembly appoint two members to the SLC council for 2012-2013

Johnson – We need two members at large to sit on the working group and SLC council, time commitment is a quarterly meeting, working group meets once a month.

VP Lee – Gives the significance of sitting on bodies, some background, points out this is the highest governing body of the SLC.

The Floor is open for nominations

Member Berkok nominates member at large Prescott, who accepts the nomination.

Rector Francis nominates member at large Bones, who accepts the nomination.

Director Randall nominates ASUS VP Jacobs, who accepts the nomination.

The three nominees are : ASUS VP Jacobs and Members at Large Bones and Prescott.

The nomination process is similar to the ratification process; the members are asked questions by the assembly.

Motion for a secret ballot to vote for nominees. Vote passed.

Motion to recess for five minutes. Vote Passed at 9:10pm

Motion to end recess. Vote Passed.

A motion to recess for another five minutes was discussed, but objections were made due to the fact it was unfair to make the candidates wait another 5 minutes. It is decided that a member will count the votes while Assembly continues on with its business.

Point of Order from Member Basillio – Motion to defer all goals reading to next AMS meeting. The claim is that members at large did not have enough time to respond due to the short amount of time they had to read it.

The chair calls for a straw poll because this motion would significantly change the agenda.

Member Berkok points out in a Point of Information that last year the Assembly voted to move the goal plans to the next meeting.

Member Basillio explains that they should be moved until next meeting because the goal plans are too long and too little time was given for everyone to see them.

Vp of University Affairs – This is completely up to assembly, most goal plans were distributed to assembly members. We will respect the decision of assembly.

The Straw Poll shows there is little interest in moving the goal plans until next meeting, Assembly continues on with regular business.

Motion 10 – AMS assembly approve the removal of ‘but actually’, to remove the financial awareness committee.

Member Duchaine – The committee has struggled to find a mandate, and we cannot devote time to a committee that has no direction and it would be wrong to hire chairs for a committee that frustrates and disappoints.

The Speaker interjects to give the results of the nominees for SLC appointments. Member at Large Prescott and ASUS VP Jacobs are appointed to the committee.

Vote on Motion 9. Vote passed.

Debate is now open on motion 10.

No more debate

Vote on motion 10. Vote passed.

Motion #11

Skellet – There was a comprehensive review of HR policy done last year, and what was efficient for the AMS. We will start with firing policy and hiring and appointment policy. The amendments are listed.

2.09 – Previously people in volunteer positions could not have a service staff position. This is changed so people can volunteer and be a part of a service.

5.01 – People who are on exchange will not be here first semester, people will not be penalized for going on exchange but it is to have a balance, they can be considered for hiring in the fall term and work in the winter term.

7 – In this policy is a lottery system. For service applications if there were more than 250 applicants, services could either go for a pre-screening process or a lottery. In the current system having people write a good application with good answers is not a good way to gauge people for a job that does not require these skills, it disadvantages students with bad writing skills. The issue of time was also mentioned, there are not enough managers to handle the volume of applications. Some managers had to drop courses to manage the applicant load.

8.04 – This had to deal with changes in Front Desk Staff policy.

10.02 – Reworded to make more logical

17 – This has to deal with international students. This would allow for international students to bypass pre-screening process due to their work visas. In other words, they gain an automatic interview with any position they want.

Many members point out that this would disadvantage Canadian first years because since there is a massive applicant pool and only so many interviews are granted, a better Canadian applicant may be left out because international students gain automatic interviews.

VP Lee mentions that this policy would only be good if there were very little international applicants.

The discussion on the lottery revolved around how to best maximize efficiency and give people who deserve the job an interview. A member against the lottery

pointed out it is simple luck, and that qualified candidates would not have a chance for an interview simply because of luck. They also point out that the writing portion shows dedication on the part of the student, even though the skills are not a necessity for a service such as Walkhome. Suggestions such as group interviews were mentioned, Vice President Lee mentions some of this is already done.

Vice President Lee points out that every year services go well above 250 applications, for example Tri Color hires 25 staff, and gets around 400 applications. He also mentions that written answers are to screen out people who pass in applications for the sake of passing them in and the written answers are never referred back to in an interview, the hiring is based totally on interviews.

Director Randall voices his support for these changes, points out that written applications are not appropriate and this is the most equitable way to hire people, explains the typical interview format is about 10 minutes long. Member Skellet points out that most services do not have group interviews, although Walkhome does.

There becomes some issue on the wording of an amendment; Member Wheeler suggests a change because if the spirit is to have an application processed in two weeks, they should mandate that, and not something else. This amendment is accepted as friendly, so is automatically added into the motion without an additional vote.

ASUS President Whitaker voices the opinion that the lottery disadvantages people due to the sheer luck of getting through a lottery. Again, Vice President Lee points out people have to write answers for a job that does not require that skill and they can be disadvantaged. Member Basillio raises a point that managers could be paid extra to process more applications. Director Randall points out that in reality not every applicant can be interviewed.

Members also mention that why is a lottery better than setting a maximum number of applications that will be accepted. Vice President Lee mentions that if a time limit is set there is not proper advertising, people will lose out. Member

Suen points out that there would be a logistical issue because people would line up at the AMS office at 12 pm when the applications are due at 4pm. Members point out Commerce and Engineering students have heavy class loads and should not be subjected to a 'first come first serve' application basis. Members also point out that this means only the dedicated students would be the ones getting in applications the quickest. Both sides of the table realize that no way is perfect, but the method that least disadvantages students should be chosen.

Member long moves a motion to amend motion 11

This amendment would strike sections 7.02 and 7.03 and would rewrite 7.01. This would reduce number of applicants to a 3:1 ration, or 250 after the hiring period is closed.

Vote on amendment to motion 11. Vote passed.

Vote on motion 11. Vote passed.

Motion 12 – Adding more amendments to HR manual

This motion mainly deals with house-keeping. It would change code so that no employee could take a leave of absence to participate in an election, and also would also keep performance records for 2 years for legal purposes.

Vote on motion 12. Vote passed.

Motion 13 – Improvements to volunteer manual

There are just new additions to section 3.03

Vote on motion 13. Vote Passed.

Motion 14 – AMS amendments to sustainability action fund.

Commissioner Greene – This fund is run by an AMS opt out fee of \$2, we generate around \$20,000 a year. This committee funds projects that support sustainable living. We would like to change policy to allow the SAF to give out two yearly

grants, one in October another in February. This means funds will be distributed and the SAF will not be turning over funds year after year.

Vote on motion 14. Vote Passed

Motion 15 – To approve goal plans of Municipal Affairs Office

Commissioner Sherman pointed out three priorities for his office, SMART, Excelling in credentials, and student innovation. Mentions the partnerships created in the past year and demonstrates there is a lot of support for student innovation. Talks about how the university 'ghetto' should be referred to as the university district. SMART has been very active in maintenance in this area.

Vote on Motion 15. Vote passed.

Motion 16 – To approve the goal plans of the Academic Affairs committee

Duchaine talks about 3 main goals for the AAC, expansion, research policy, and registration policy. She also talks about education, advocacy, and facilitation. She would like to expand the AGC by increasing training, making a database of cases, update guide to appeals, and strategic promotional campaigns. With regards to researching Undergraduate TA policy, Queen's currently has nothing on it.

Vote on motion 16 – Vote passed.

Motion 17- Approve the goal plans for the Social Issues Commission

The commissioner points out three main goals for the SIC in the coming year, namely to engage in anti-oppression activism, educate the broader Queen's community, and to strengthen the SIC.

Member at Large Chinniah – There are a number of groups that resort to harassment of those who disagree, what would you have to say about that?

Speaker – The assembly is unaware of these actions, can you give an example?

Member at Large Chinniah – OPIRG and their occupation of the grey house.

Commissioner Conway – The SIC works with groups whose mandates intersect.

Vice President of University Affairs – Many groups have different approaches to their goals.

Commissioner of Internal Affairs Faught – If I had the paperwork on my desk I would follow up on these claims, the AMS Assembly can't take any action as of right now.

Vote on motion 17. Vote passed.

Motion 18 – To approve the goal plans of the Campus Activities Commission

Commissioner Casher gives the mission statement of the CAC, and proceeds on to name the 3 main goals for the CAC in the coming year. Better resources, and resources provision is the main goal. This would be achieved by funding, new events, webpage, and a planner for example. She also points out two more goals, to think big and have a well-rounded organization.

Member Basillio – What are the exact changes to SOART?

Casher – I do not have specifics right now, but we are open to suggestions.

Vote on motion 18. Vote passed.

Motion to extend assembly by 30 minutes. Vote passed.

Motion 19 – To approve the goal plans of the Commission of Internal Affairs

Commissioner Faught outlines 8 main goals for the CIA to achieve this year. To keep non-academic discipline within the AMS, revitalize the clubs portfolio, to create a more captivating assembly, streamline policy manuals, to preserve free and fair elections, to keep a friendly assembly environment before, during, and after assembly, expand the role of the judicial committee, and to improve the CIA communications strategy.

Vote on motion 19. Vote passed.

Motion 20 – To approve the goal plans of the commission of environmental sustainability (CES)

Commissioner Greene outlines the purpose of the CES, to create a culture of environmental sustainability as well as an environmental consciousness within Queen's. The 3 main goals of the CES for this year are to promote healthy and sustainable living programs via workshops and the new Bike Shop. Secondly, the CES wants to ensure student input is taken into account in the CAP, and to support it. Lastly the CES would like to be more engaged in sustainability efforts. Commissioner Greene highlights new projects such as a Bike Share program the CES is working on. Commissioner Greene makes a note that the CAP should be finalized by October, but that is always subject to change. The commissioner also notes that there will be an adopt a bottle refilling station campaign to raise awareness of the bottle ban. Some concern is raised by members about the lack of water fountains in residence, but it is quickly pointed out that there are sinks in residence.

Vote on motion 20. Vote passed.

General Discussion Period

Speaker – This is an informal discussion period, no need to introduce yourself.

Principal's Commission on Mental Health

Conway and Dineen explain what Mental Health is and give it in the context of Queen's. They point out the 2 main recommendations, a Fall Reading Week and QSuccess.

With regards to a Fall Reading Week members point out that this would reduce the work time in the summer for students because the time for Fall Reading Week either comes out of Orientation week or school would start earlier. Many members point out a Fall Reading Week would actually increase stress due to being at school earlier, less time to work internships, and less time to make money. Members also point out current programs such as orientation week already show and strengthen support networks, and by reducing orientation week these support networks can't be as clearly shown to students.

Duchaine points out that there would also be an academic amnesty week, which means there would be no tests or assignments.

Motion to extend assembly for another 30minutes. Vote Passed.

Members quickly point out the work that would not be on academic amnesty week would be moved to other times, making other weeks more stressful on students. Members ask if there is empirical evidence for a Fall Reading Week on either side of the argument.

Commissioner Conway asks for a Straw poll with regards to a Reading Week. It is clear the assembly opposes this.

Next, the presenters introduce the idea of a QSuccess course or resource. This would equip students with the necessary skills to succeed in university, academically and socially. This would be an optional program, and can count as credits towards a program of study. This could be a 100 level class that introduces expectations of university and is mainly ArtSci driven. QSuccess would cover how to manage time, assignments, sleep schedules, study habits etc.

Member Rotman points out how this course would be graded and that there are already resources available for the issues QSuccess would remedy. Also makes a note that this new program could stress the already existing ones. Member Coke also points out that in theory this is a great idea, but practically people would skip due to ambiguous marking scheme. Member Randall points out that that the priority is to connects students to available resources and people outside of a class setting, he makes a comment that he'd rather more dons than this course. Member Basillio points out that Orientation already aims to do what QSuccess would, except in a better format. Members point out some faculty orientations already have academic days.

Member Berkok points out that there are already stressed resources on campus and this new program would only stress them even more.

Next Topic – Creation of Assembly Nominating Committee

CIA Faught shows the need for an ANC. He points out that a few hours ago there was a long tedious nominating process for SLC positions and the proposed ANC can do this outside of Assembly time to be more efficient. This helps both the candidates and assembly members because it saves times and more focus can be placed on the candidates in a separate committee. This ensures the proper candidates are nominated.

Speakers Business

Speaker Scott Mason commends commissioners on their goal plans, thanks everyone for their prompt arrival and likes that good ideas came out of the assembly debates.

Meeting adjourned at 12:31pm.