

AMS Assembly minutes - Thursday, October 11th, 2012
Wallace Hall in John Deutsch University Centre

**numbers beside motions are direct reference to those presented in the agenda*

**assembly commenced at 7:03 pm*

Speaker Scott Mason (hereafter referred to as **Speaker**): Welcoming and opening remarks.

1. Approval of Agenda

Motion(1) that AMS Assembly approve the agenda for the Assembly meeting of October 11th, 2012.

Moved by Commissioner of Internal Affairs Liam Faught

Seconded by Vice-President of University Affairs Mira Dineen

Speaker: Any changes to the agenda?

CIA Faught: I would like to apologize for the different versions of agenda sent out previously over the past couple of days. But that is just due to the nature of referendum season with fees from many different groups. I waited until the very last minute to send you the final version a few minutes before assembly began. Motion(18) will be omitted because the group in question wasn't able to collect 750 signatures. So we are down to 17 motions in that case.

Motion carries.

2. Approval of Minutes of the meeting of September 27th, 2012

Motion(2) that AMS Assembly approve the minutes for the Assembly meeting of September 27th, 2012.

Moved by CIA Faught

Seconded by VP of UA Dineen

Speaker: Any changes to the minutes?

Student Senate Caucus Chair Eril Berkok: I would like to submit my letter to update the minutes for reference. And I believe I called Rector Francis in my letter 'Francis Rector.'

Motion carries.

3. Speaker's Business

Speaker: I spoke earlier with the members representing CFRC and I decided not to impose a limit on the questions they can the members of council. As long as they are pertinent to the debate given the nature of this problem.

4. Guest Speaker - Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance(OUSA)

Speaker: Members please approach the chair and thank you for coming to speak to our assembly at this time.

**due to the length of the presentation, these are only the significant comments and questions raised during discussion. For full details, please refer to their presentation slides.*

VP of UA Dineen: The representatives have been on campus all day meeting with administration and providing information for students at Queen's to engage with them.

OUSA President Alysha Li: I am a third-year student at Western. I come in peace.

OUSA Executive Director Ryland Kinnon: I got my MBA here at Queen's and that year has been a wonderful experience.

Kinnon: We began in 1992 and joined in a coalition that left the Canadian Federation of Students. The founding members are Brock, Queen's, Waterloo, Laurier and U of T. Currently we present 150000 undergraduates at 9 member associations in 8 universities. Those are the Alma Mater Society at Queen's University, Student's Union at Brock University, Federation of Students at University of Waterloo, Students Union at McMaster University, Association of Part-Time Students at McMaster University, Oshawa Students Association at Trent University, University Students' Council at University of Western, Students' Alliance at University of Windsor and Students' Union at Wilfrid Laurier University.

Li: OUSA's main objective is to act as a lobbying group and voice of the undergraduate students in Ontario. Our team consists of students from all over the province from their respective institutions. When university students want their opinions or ideas heard at a provincial or even federal level, it is sometimes hard because we individually are a small group. But together with other institutions around Ontario, a couple of thousand voicing their concern is different than over a hundred thousand students working jointly together to achieve a goal. We hold a lot of conferences around different campuses and our first general meeting this year will be at the University of Waterloo. We are trying to make ourselves more approachable and engaging to students in different institutions to let them know what we do and what OUSA can do for them.

Speaker: Please raise your placards to ask questions.

Berkok: How are you guys tackling the mental health concern?

Kinnon: We made a submission to the government in May after a conference. They have given us some recommendations that can be made on campus including mental health and OUSA is also currently discussing with the Ministry of Health. One of the things we are trying to push is to insure that providers stick around long enough to see what the students require personally and perhaps emotionally. There is a Mental Health Innovation fund of \$7,000,000 each year over three years that provincial universities can apply to so that they can practice and run mental health programs on campus. So far OUSA engages in active debate of what works and what does not so that the students we represent get an updated explanation.

5. President's Report

President and CEO of AMS Doug Johnson: I want to apologize for the two absences in council today: Ty Greene, Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainability is away at a conference and Tristan Lee, Vice-President of Operations, is quite ill right now. Any questions you have for them can be directed to Mira or me.

**refer to report for full details*

6. Vice President's Report

a. Speaker: Seeing as Vice-President Lee is ill and there is nothing to add by proxy, we will proceed.

**refer to report for full details*

b. Vice-President of University Affairs Mira Dineen: AMS Membership Bursary is distributed to assist students in financial aid. This policy is found in AMS Policy Manual 2, section 4, part E. The committee is made up of me, the Academic Affairs Commissioner, Social Issues Commissioner, AMS Information Officer and a member of Student Awards. The cap on the amount given out is \$5000. We received 34 applications; the applications were based on what is outline in policy, what students need to indicate on their application such as expected expenses and income. We distributed 18 fifty-percent bursaries that took place on Thursday, Sept 27th 2012 on the date of assembly. I didn't notify the assembly because I wanted to make sure the recipients themselves received success of their applications. The philosophy touches on how student dollars are spent and I have not personally made a conclusion but I will bring this back to assembly later. I will be meetings with Student Affairs and Awards to bring back proposals at future assembly meetings, either the next one or on November 8th.

**refer to report for full details*

7. Board of Director's Report

Chairman Rob Gamble: My apologies for not submitting a written report. We met twice last week. Sponsorship and Outreach Coordinator position replaced the Business Manager position for CFRC. Student Director resigned as she is in Beijing, China during this semester. Applications opened up last week and the board will look for a replacement. Marketing and Communications Office budgets passed last week.

8. Student Senator's Report

Berkok: There was a Board and Senate joint meaning that occurred. Realization that there was a huge dysfunction at Senate and one of the things we are working on is to bring changes to procedures at meetings to make it more efficient. If anyone wants to get invited to the Student Senate Caucus, there is some confidential information to discuss so please email me and I'll notify you of forthcoming meetings.

**refer to report for full details*

9. Rector's Report

Rector Nick Francis: Thank you President Whittaker for delivering my report last week about the Tricolour Awards. Please email your representatives to me over the next two weeks and I will respond quickly to your questions. Board of Trustees had their first meeting of the academic year. The biggest news to report is the approval of a motion to approve the expenditure of \$400,000 for the planning of two new residence buildings. Currently, the locations are unknown but the buildings will be able to house 550 new beds. We do not know if it will be for new students, upper years or graduates. I apologize because I need to be excused now for helping a student with an urgent matter.

Speaker: Thank you rector, you are excused.

10. Student Trustee's Report

Undergraduate Trustee Lauren Long: Thank you Nick for stealing my full report; I was going to talk about the new residence buildings by the way. Launch of the new initiative campaign fundraising for Queen's is an exciting time for everybody. Last year I sat on SCAD (Senate Committee on Academic Development) and we developed a draft with a procedure for suspension on programs. We received a lot of feedback and they are quite mixed and negative so it will go through review. Another issue that came up is that there is no formal policy at Queen's governing closure of academic programs. This is something Isabelle, Eril, and I will tackle so feel free to get back to me with your opinions.

**refer to report for full details*

11. Statements by Members

Faught: Exciting happenings in relation to governance in AMS. New members of assembly here today and I would like to acknowledge your presence at your first assembly. On going right now are the voting days for the COMPSA first year rep selection. I am working with their Commissioner of Internal Affairs and final decision will be reported tomorrow. Fall referendum period progressing smoothly. All candidates meeting held yesterday who are at their triennial reviews who are establishing a student activity fee. They submitted their 750 signatures required for nominations. Those who are not increasing their fee had to submit a 300-word description and a \$50 deposit. This year the referendum ballot question will appear with a yes/no check box underneath, and causes less controversy than the randomized yes/no. This is so that student voters can make a simple yes/no decision.

Social Issues Commissioner Katie Conway: Community forum next Tuesday from 4:30pm to 6pm in the Red Room.

Speaker: The chair would like to remind the members of CFRC that policy allots 3 minutes per speaker. Within the three of you, that is 9 minutes. However, given the conversation we had earlier, the chair we allot 12-14 minutes if that is all right with you.

Music Programming Manager Neven Lochhead: The recent decision from the Board and the AMS to terminate our Business Manager, Ayanda Mngoma has left an impact on CFRC. It is one of the oldest campus based radio stations and it is here at Queen's. CFRC became an AMS service and a lot of experienced students from the School of Business, graduates and even others have filled the Business Manager position to generate enough advertisement and sponsorship revenue over the past years. Locking the email account of this position puts negotiations with our clients at risk and jeopardizes the agreements we currently have. This potential loss is nowhere to be found in your proposed budget. Currently we have received no ideas on how to allocate the workload from the Business Manager's position on to the rest of our other paid staff and this could only lead to an over exhausted team and diminishing the quality of CFRC.

CFRC Member Kenneth Hall: The CFRC Business Manager position is essential in implementing and developing a budget. The AMS Board has put in place their own budget for CFRC without consulting the station or the staff. They have terminated the full-time position that is responsible for advertising and has only increased this revenue by \$3000. Though we get donations and letters from supporters who listen to the station, it is insufficient to the operations and functions of CFRC itself. By replacing the position with a Sponsorship and Outreach volunteer position on commission, it is an insult and does not justify this termination. The amount of work put into this job throughout the year cannot be matched by a volunteer position who works at only 15 hours a week, receiving a year-end honorarium. This answer and suggested improvement cannot be deemed realistic. CFRC's functioning and teamwork is at its best when everyone strives to do their best and put the paramount quality of material for its listeners. With this alternative, the AMS has not provided us with plans to restructure and divide the tasks of the previous Business Manager's workload nor any form of transition. They also have yet to give any formal documents or instructions into how this will affect CFRC's everyday operations both internally and externally. CFRC is not ignorant regarding its financial situation and we would like to actively engage in a constructive dialogue to mend this deficit.

Radio Club President Megan Chandler: This decision does not only affect the staff and volunteers of CFRC but members of the AMS themselves. The unexpected changes to the structure of employees at CFRC and the resources themselves may have an impact on our volunteer training during the fall semester. These new recruits consist of students all around campus, more than 85, and a large majority of them are AMS members too.

VP of UA Dineen: University of Western's Student's council launched a survey and I want to do something similar too. This will come up in a future assembly to determine the students' viewpoint on advocacy priority of the AMS.

MCRC President Tuba Chisti: There is an overflow of students right now in residence and most floors don't have common rooms. And over 100 students share their common rooms to be used as their own private rooms. The new residences are expected to open in 2015 and the JDUC will go back to being the graduate students' residence. Designs are amazing and you guys should definitely check out the Wally-expansion. MCRC donated \$57000 to charity and now we donate to student groups that help other students as well too. Applications are on our website due two weeks from tomorrow at mcrweb.org. Or just email me for questions.

Municipal Affairs Commissioner Troy Sherman: The reception is in just two weeks in city hall with members of city council and the mayor. Pan Chanco will be catering that event and please let me know of dietary restrictions as there will also be vegetarian options.

Member at Large Alexander Prescott: I would like to congratulate all other members who decided to terminate the Business Manager position in CFRC. It is money taken away from students despite a mandatory fee. Commend the Board for their decision to terminate the position and sends a clear message. Thank you.

Member at Large: I disagree with what was previously said. I think the Board of Directors should have gone even further because this has not eliminated the deficit yet. It is morally reprehensible for CFRC to push the students this way.

Member at Large: I would like to denounce the board as I have received zero communication from AMS for restructuring CFRC.

12. Question Period

ASUS Representative to AMS Daniel Basilio: My question is to Commissioner Faught. This was brought up four weeks ago when we discussed how this room has horrible acoustics. Are there any plans to move to a better room so we can hear each other better?

Faught: I can hear with the microphones and speakers just fine. But if it is the sentiment of the assembly as a whole and that this room won't simply cut it then we should have a debate. If anyone has any accessibility issues as well, please come and see me in my office.

**a straw poll was taken at this point but the results were kind of half-and-half; inconclusive.*

Berkok: My question is directed at President Chisti or President Sheculski. I was wondering if you heard from administration how many new beds they would allocate to overflow as opposed to new students.

Chisti: Queen's has people withdrawing after they submit their residence applications so the numbers are confusing. Queen's does not have a set number of how many incoming first year students arriving in September that is to the exact amount accurately projected.

Member at Large: Are there any plans to bring animals on to campus in the near time future? As well I see AMS does not actively enforce building policy and when will they comply with this?

Academic Affairs Commissioner Isabelle Duchaine: Bringing animals on campus to decrease stress has been run at Harvard, Yale and Western as well. Talking with St John's Ambulance and they have people with training of over 50 hours to ensure animals will be comfortable with people and a large community. The volunteers themselves will be from the Academic Affairs Commission.

CFRC Member Hall: When did the board consider terminating the business manager position at CFRC?

Chairman Gamble: That was a closed session and I cannot divulge the details.

Hall: Were there any alternatives?

Gamble: The Board believes this was the best route for financial sustainability and it was a unanimous decision. There were no alternatives to discuss.

Hall: So there were none debated?

Speaker: I would like to ask Member Hall to please use a tone of voice that is conducive to the discussion.

Hall: When this idea was first thought up, why was it not communicated to staff or advisory board of CFRC?

Gamble: We have complete jurisdiction and we sent a letter during the summer and there was no feedback on proposals.

Speaker: How many more questions do you have?

Hall: About a dozen.

Speaker: May I suggest that you wish to engage a cross-examination of the Chairman, there is a Corporate General Meeting on Nov 8th.

Faught: Point of order: it is AMS policy that you are entitled to one question. If you do wish to engage in more of a debate, the Corporate General Meeting is the right place for that.

Speaker: We will entertain three more questions.

Hall: Why has the Board not provided any transition plan?

Media Services Director Terra Annone: It was not in the interest of the Board to disclose that.

Hall: Is there any reason with the financial incentive of a 40% commission and to perform outreach tasks?

Director Annone: This was passed by the Board to fill this mandate.

Hall: Does this termination comply with CRTC laws or does it violate those we outlined in April?

Gamble: We consulted legal counsel when making this decision and all considerations were discussed at the Board of Directors.

COMPSA Vice-President of University Affairs Sahib Purba: Is there any feed back with the changes to hiring process that has been tabled?

VP of UA Dineen: There are in full compliance with existing policy. I will let Tristan Lee (Vice-President of Operations) know of your question.

13. Business Arising from the Minutes

Motion to omnibus(1) [a]. Motion(3) through [f]. Motion(8).

Moved by ASUS Representative to AMS Daniel Basilio

Seconded by President Sheculski

Speaker: Seeing as this is a procedural motion, you cannot abstain.

Motion carries.

VP of UA Dineen: The budgets are presented to assembly tonight for approval. The AMS Assembly does have final approval for spending. If you have extra questions please bring them forward now as I and other commissioners will answer.

[a]. Motion(3) that AMS Assembly approve the budget of the Municipal Affairs Commission for 2012-2013, as seen on the Assembly Dropbox and at <<http://www.myams.org/about-your-ams/cia-commission-of-internal-affairs/ams-assembly/assembly-documents/additional-assembly-documents.aspx>>.

Moved by Municipal Affairs Commissioner Troy Sherman

Seconded by VP of UA Dineen

[b]. Motion(4) that AMS Assembly approve the budget of the Academic Affairs Commission for 2012-2013, as seen on the Assembly Dropbox and at <<http://www.myams.org/about-your-ams/cia-commission-of-internal-affairs/ams-assembly/assembly-documents/additional-assembly-documents.aspx>>.

Moved by Academic Affairs Commissioner Isabelle Duchaine

Seconded by VP of UA Dineen

[c]. Motion(5) that AMS Assembly approve the budget of the Social Issues Commission for 2012-2013, as seen on the Assembly Dropbox and at <<http://www.myams.org/about-your-ams/cia-commission-of-internal-affairs/ams-assembly/assembly-documents/additional-assembly-documents.aspx>>.

Moved by Social Issues Commissioner Katie Conway

Seconded by VP of UA Dineen

[d]. Motion(6) that AMS Assembly approve the budget of the Campus Activities Commission for 2012-2013, as seen on the Assembly Dropbox and at <<http://www.myams.org/about-your-ams/cia-commission-of-internal-affairs/ams-assembly/assembly-documents/additional-assembly-documents.aspx>>.

Moved by Campus Activities Commissioner Claire Casher

Seconded by VP of UA Dineen

[e]. Motion(7) that AMS Assembly approve the budget of the Commission of Internal Affairs for 2012-2013, as seen on the Assembly Dropbox and at <<http://www.myams.org/about-your-ams/cia-commission-of-internal-affairs/ams-assembly/assembly-documents/additional-assembly-documents.aspx>>.

Moved by CIA Faught

Seconded by VP of UA Dineen

[f]. **Motion(8) that AMS Assembly approve the budget of the Commission of Environment & Sustainability for 2012-2013, as seen on the Assembly Dropbox and at <<http://www.myams.org/about-your-ams/cia-commission-of-internal-affairs/ams-assembly/assembly-documents/additional-assembly-documents.aspx>>.**

Moved by Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainability Ty Greene
Seconded by VP of UA Dineen

Omnibus(1) carries.

14. New Business

[a]. **Motion(9) that AMS Assembly appoint ____ and ____ to the Special Committee on External Alignment for 2012-2013.**

Moved by VP of UA Dineen
Seconded by AAC Duchaine

Dineen: I hope a number of you will put yourselves forward for this important committee. They will be required to conduct annual reviews for any external advocacy group that AMS has membership with such as OUSA. It will look at their goals, financial capability and if their mandate is on the right track with AMS. Kieran Slobodin(Senator) acknowledged last year that the structure was not clear for scheduling meetings. It is a critical committee and the people on it must fully do their jobs.

AMS President Doug Johnson: It is an opportunity to hold OUSA accountable for the work they do and I am excited to work with those who are nominated. We will actively engage the committee in discussion and hope to do outside consultation as well. I want to have a more formal relationship with them and tonight was the first time. It is part of my job to partake in provincial lobbying and external association.

Nominations:

SIC Conway, seconded by ASUS Rep to AMS Basilio nominates **President Chisti (accepts)**
Hospitality & Safety Services Director Keenan Randall, seconded by Berkok nominates **ASUS President John Whittaker (accepts)**

Berkok , seconded by Chisti nominates **Commerce Society External Vice-President David Koke (accepts)**

Basilio, seconded by Randall nominates **Berkok (accepts)**

Berkok: what is the time commitment?

Johnson: Roughly 5 hours a month and we have to submit a report at the end of the winter semester. Depends how we want to structure it on outside consultation.

Member at Large Prescott: Is there a report from last year's committee?

Dineen: The work was not complete last year and a part of it was my responsibility. We are filling the two seats tonight and then three more seats for students at large. My understanding is that this would exclude those who have senior leadership positions in the AMS as they will not be eligible. Academic Affairs Commissioner is to advertise the process.

Speaker: Would all nominees please approach the chair so the assembly can ask questions.

Prescott: How can we be sure that any of you can actually do what the committee does given that it has not functioned properly before?

Koke: There was lack of student acknowledgement and feedback. I will work to improve that.

Berkok: I sat on it two years ago and there was lack of commitment from certain members. Thus I have an emotional imperative to get it to work.

Whittaker: I will network with students to connect with them, to maintain current membership with OUSA and with other external alignments. Get the money's worth and what opportunities we are missing currently. Connect with student body to see priority.

Chisti: I was an observer, an intern to the Vice-President of University Affairs so I have a lot of emotional attachment. I care about how things move forward and the time commitment needed. It's our responsibility to hold everyone else accountable. I can bring that with me to the committee as well.

Johnson: In your opinion, what is the importance of external alignment with regards to education in our province?

Chisti: There are so many faculties and societies with the pressure to keep up with administration within the university itself. It's not possible for everyone at every year unless sacrificing relationships within the body as well.

Whittaker: More effective lobbying power. Bigger voices trump smaller voices.

Berkok: Doing it through the channels with currently existing constituents. OUSA is the most effective in talking to the ears of politicians and since we are uncertain which party will be in power for government, we need the representation.

Koke: We don't have the resources ourselves and OUSA has a full-time staff that goes on from year to year. Access to continuity and their knowledge is something we can benefit from.

Duchaine: There are AMS reports in the past when the issue of alignment came up in 2004 and 2006 and these can be looked at for reference and information.

Sheculski: This committee requires a lot of skills and coordination. Please walk with your eyes closed to the centre of the room.

Speaker: No we won't be doing that.

Faught: Everybody will get two votes on this and so please only vote twice. We hope the honour system will prevail. **a vote took place at this point*

AMS Members for the Special Committee on External Alignment for 2012-2013:

ASUS President John Whittaker

Commerce Society External Vice-President David Koke

Speaker: Any closing remarks?

Duchaine: I am excited to be working with both of you.

Abstentions: Whittaker and Koke

Motion carries.

[b]. Motion(10) that AMS Assembly appoint 4 members of the Assembly, each of whom represent a different faculty or residence society, to the Assembly Nominating Committee.

Moved by CIA Faught

Seconded by VP of UA Dineen

Faught: Last assembly, we passed a policy to create a nominating committee to ensure equity among societies so they can all be represented. I highly encourage everyone to nominate you or anyone else. Familiarize with other committees over the next few years to see criteria and mandate. Many of you will like to see your own residence, society or faculty represented.

Nominations:

ASUS Vice-President Thomas Jacobs, seconded by Basilio nominates **ASUS Rep to AMS**

Alexander Rotman (accepts)

Chisti, seconded by Berkok nominates Basilio (declines)

Koke, seconded by Berkok nominates **Commerce Society President Nicola Plummer (accepts)**

Sheculski, seconded by Berkok nominates **Chisti (accepts)**

Duchaine, seconded by Nursing Society President Kalem Boomhouwer nominates **President**

Philip Lloyd (accepts)

Berkok, seconded by Chisti nominates **EngSoc President Taylor Wheeler (accepts)**

Basilio, seconded by Berkok nominates **COMPSA President Elizabeth Lappin (accepts)**

Chisti, seconded by Berkok nominates Boomhouwer (declines)

Berkok, seconded by Chisti nominates Aesculapian Society President Ben Frid (declines)

Boomhouwer: My term is done in December.

Faught: Then we would have to hold another nomination election process to appoint a replacement.

Speaker: Are there any questions for the nominees?

Member at Large: I have some fear about this committee. How would you prevent or hiring of your friends into governments and committees.

Wheeler: Use the same metrics to make my decision, either public or private. I would make up some thoughtful questions that get thoughtful answers.

Plummer: Made it through four years without hiring my friends in the society. Some of these people may not be your friends anyways and it is important to keep a clear picture in mind.

Chisti: I exchanged four pages of emails with Commissioner Faught about these policies. I originally did not believe it would work but we met up and discussed it. I share the same concerns with you and make sure the committee doesn't become nepotistic.

Rotman: It is rather an opportunity to correct that because we can reach out to broader members; one of the benefits is soliciting many different kinds of applications. A wider range of applicants to fill the vacancies and not just rubber stamping who gets in.

Lloyd: We have all faced challenges and problems, interviewing friends and each of us can do it with experience with different hiring procedures. Thinking of a bigger picture here.

Lappin: Personal relationships should be ignored and we should think of the goal we are reaching.

Director Randall: How do you think the AMS can better solicit members at large?

Lappin: Using different social communications to advertise so all students at Queen's.

Lloyd: Using the heads of each faculty because sometimes students at large focus on their own faculty where they are comfortable so we try to get more involvement.

Rotman: Maintaining relationships with representatives and to make sure that these positions are advertised broadly.

Chisti: After hiring period it goes on the journal and the website but it should be pushed more like into our monthly emails or in residence areas.

Plummer: Presidents meet every other week through caucus so we have opportunity to discuss and speak with each other. Communication of this sort is important.

Wheeler: The structure of student government is underutilized. They should take it up the chain of command with issues they have. To solicit applicants for any committee, we can get the assembly to get to the societies then in turn to get to the smaller meetings to reach more people.

Member at Large Prescott: It boggles my mind why this committee would be created in the first place. How would a group that is so opaque and shallow, with so much power, and the ability to nominate their friends prove beneficial to this assembly?

Wheeler: Sorry could you repeat that?

Speaker: I believe the question that member Prescott asked was: Why a committee so shallow and opaque is of any value to this legislative body?

Wheeler: I do not think it is opaque in any way because the same people can still apply and everything can be ratified through assembly anyways. I would treat it as it was assembly procedure, conduction serious and thoughtful questions to interviewees to find the best applicant to the position.

Plummer: Trust in your elective officials.

Chisti: I speak from experience when I say most of the questions for nominees in the past consisted of ‘what two animals they would combine to form a super animal.’ This committee encourages all those who are interested and it prevents the same people over and over again. It gives chances for people to participate and to represent all the societies.

Rotman: We could argue right now that the current system right now is a rubber stamp. This committee can break free from advertising to your own faculty. It makes it more accessible to more students and I would passionately work towards that.

Lloyd: Just trust in your officials. I have been very involved with the Concurrent Education Student’s Association but not as much with the AMS and I would prevent this opaque shell. We are accountable to this assembly anyways and it is important to remember that.

Lappin: It is my second year on AMS and I still feel like I’m not contributing as much or what I want. It promotes accessibility to students to apply instead of coming to this body right here.

Member at Large: Stephen King wrote in 1982 that “the trust of the innocent is the liar’s most useful tool.” How can we verify that your actions can resolve conflict of interests?

Lappin: This committee is a bigger picture than our friends.

Lloyd: I can spend hours on end to make sure the process is done effectively. Important to be open and honest as a committee. We would be willing to bring it up and we have experience with confrontation and conflict.

Rotman: We largely rush it in assembly so we can get out early. This committee can examine candidates more carefully. If I was in a conflict of interest and I would remove myself from voting on that particular spot.

Chisti: Best thing to do is not remove yourself and to make your relation known first. You’re on the committee for a reason and removing yourself does not work and I’ll just speak last like when I did during a hiring process of my twin brother.

Plummer: Open dialogue with committee so they are the checks and balances that you need. Trust in them to voice up.

Wheeler: EngSoc is drafting a policy for conflict of interest. I would just follow that policy from AMS and I would be interested in creating one, if not specifically for this committee but AMS in general.

Boomhouwer: Name one residence, faculty, or society that is not your own and the best ways to advertise to them within one or two words.

Wheeler: Get on phone with Nicola for Commerce Society.

Plummer: ASUS on twitter as they are very active.

Chisti: Graduate Residence Council. Contact all their representatives.

Rotman: GRC as well. Advertising in the cafeteria as vocal point and students on west have to go for food during the evenings.

Lloyd: PHEKSA because their events are similar to ours and tailor the equivalent advertising processes.

Lappin: Nursing. Just get in contact with reps of that faculty and how to cater to a smaller faculty. Use all social media networks.

Whittaker: Are CESA and COMPSA their own or sub-members of Arts and Science?

Faught: They are faculty societies but AMS policy says they are separate entities.

Speaker: The Commissioner of Internal Affairs will collect the ballots after you have written four names down.

ASUS Representative to AMS Erin Paulsen: can you repeat the nominees' names?

Speaker: They are Chisti, Lappin, Lloyd, Plummer, Rotman, and Wheeler.

**members of assembly were writing down their candidate choices so they proceeded with the agenda*

Motion to proceed to the next item on the agenda.

Moved by Chair

Seconded by MAC Sherman

Motion carries.

Motion to omnibus(2) [c]. Motion(11) through [i]. Motion(17).

Moved by ASUS Rep to AMS Basilio

Seconded by President Chisti

Speaker: This is a procedural motion so you cannot abstain.

Motion carries.

Faught: These are the groups seeking to establish a fee and the elections team has verified they collected 750 signatures. Some groups intended to but fell short so now later withdrawn. It is the practice of assembly to approve of questions on referendum ballot for those who have collected enough signatures. Those groups who do not want to increase fees just need to submit a 300 word description on what they do.

[c]. Motion(11) that AMS Assembly approve the addition of the following question to the 2012 Fall Referendum ballot: “Do you agree to the establishment of the Queen’s Space Engineering Team fee of \$0.50 (subject to individual opt-out) for the next three years?” as seen in Appendix A: Ain’t Nuthin’ But A Fee Thang.

Moved by CIA Faught

Seconded by Vice-President of Operations Tristan Lee

[d]. Motion(12) that AMS Assembly approve the addition of the following question to the 2012 Fall Referendum ballot: “Do you agree to the establishment of the Queen’s InvisAbilities fee of \$0.10 (subject to individual opt-out) for the next three years?” as seen in Appendix A: Ain’t Nuthin’ But A Fee Thang.

Moved by CIA Faught

Seconded by VP of Operations Lee

[e]. Motion(13) that AMS Assembly approve the addition of the following question to the 2012 Fall Referendum ballot: “Do you agree to the establishment of the Queen’s Quidditch Club fee of \$0.25 (subject to individual opt-out) for the next three years?” as seen in Appendix A: Ain’t Nuthin’ But A Fee Thang.

Moved by CIA Faught

Seconded by VP of Operations Lee

[f]. Motion(14) that AMS Assembly approve the addition of the following question to the 2012 Fall Referendum ballot: “Do you agree to the establishment of the Global China Connections fee of \$0.35 (subject to individual opt-out) for the next three years?” as seen in Appendix A: Ain’t Nuthin’ But A Fee Thang.

Moved by CIA Faught

Seconded by VP of Operations Lee

[g]. Motion(15) that AMS Assembly approve the addition of the following question to the 2012 Fall Referendum ballot: “Do you agree to the continuation of the Queen’s Legal Aid fee of \$5.00 (AMS Mandatory fee) for the next three years?” as seen in Appendix A: Ain’t Nuthin’ But A Fee Thang.

Moved by CIA Faught

Seconded by VP of Operations Lee

[h]. Motion(16) that AMS Assembly approve the addition of the following question to the 2012 Fall Referendum ballot: “Do you agree to the continuation of the Union Gallery fee of \$3.71 (AMS Mandatory fee) for the next three years?” as seen in Appendix A: Ain’t Nuthin’ But A Fee Thang.

Moved by CIA Faught

Seconded by VP of Operations Lee

[i]. Motion(17) that AMS assembly approve the addition of fee questions for groups with opt-out fees facing triennial review to the 2012 Fall referendum ballot, as seen in Appendix A: Ain’t Nuthin’ But A Fee Thang (Questions 5 to 12).

Moved by CIA Faught

Seconded by VP of Operations Lee

Omnibus(2) carries.

Motion for a 5 minute recess.

Moved by Berkok

Seconded by SIC Conway

Motion carries.

**recess at 9:31pm*

**at this time the ballots to for Motion(10) were collected and tallied*

**assembly resumed at 9:38pm*

Speaker: ORDER! We are going to announce the results to Motion(10). Please do not clap as it was not unanimous.

[b]. Motion(10) that AMS Assembly appoint 4 members of the Assembly, each of whom represent a different faculty or residence society, to the Assembly Nominating Committee.

Moved by CIA Faught

Seconded by VP of UA Dineen

4 members of AMS Assembly sitting on the Assembly Nominating Committee:

ASUS Representative to AMS Alexander Rotman

Commerce Society President Nicola Plummer

Concurrent Education Student's Association President Philip Lloyd

EngSoc President Taylor Wheeler

Speaker: Commissioner Faught, do you have any closing words?

Faught: Thank you for all those who stepped up. These people will function effectively and do a great job in this position. Assembly itself is intimidating because for a student who has never been on AMS, it is difficult for them to answer questions on the spot. They just want to contribute and participate. The nominating committee has the responsibility to keep tally to see which residences, societies, faculties have or lack members to certain committees. That was a fantastic question from President Boomhouwer but members certainly have knowledge to reach other societies, bringing expertise to their students and constituents. The right time, location and message would serve best. It's a great way to break from the AMS or ArtSci bubble. The Human Resources Officer sits as an ex-officio non-voting member and we can trust them to deal with conflict of interest and confrontation as it is their job. I am confident in the people who have been selected and it will be a testament to a new era of inter-society relations.

Abstention: Rotman

Motion carries.

15. Discussion Period

**due to the length of the presentation, these are only the significant comments and questions raised during discussion. For full details, please refer to the slides.*

VP of UA Dineen: Representatives from OUSA mentioned one of their advocacy priorities is tuition fees and the changes to our post-secondary educational system. New tuition framework and regulations from the government to mandate how much tuition can increase every year. I'm interested in creating a student survey to understand how the community and public think on a certain topic. Brock University's tuition is creeping past the 50% mark and Queen's is around 47% which is far from the 30%. Freeze might be the way to go but I want to hear suggestions and feedback from you guys. I'm very interested in a student survey to access student concerns and what the AMS should be prioritizing.

Aesculapian Society Representative to the AMS James Simpson: If the student receives a government grant, does it count for the 47%?

Dineen: The 47% includes tuition fees and operating costs.

President Boomhouwer: What is meant by 'the ability to pay?' How does the AMS engage with that to the government?

Commissioner Duchaine: There are huge discrepancies between the different faculties and their students in respect to their tuition. They can't afford this much debt.

Senator Berkok: What about enrolment growth? There is a pressure on all universities to expand their enrolment and how do institutions make up for all these students who suddenly cost more.

Dineen: Government funding is based on growth and Queen's promised a steady and gradual growth and not a sharp jump. Now it gives more opportunities for post secondary education.

Trustee Long: Queen's has stayed constant with financial aid in terms of dollar amounts but tuition and fees are steadily rising. Consistency and predictability should be the main concern as a student in first year should expect that price to be steady throughout their years at the institution.

Duchaine: International students require more of that aid and the government does us for hosting more exchange students on campus.

Berkok: Has the AMS consulted with different faculties regarding the 5% max increase?

Dineen: ArtSci hasn't seen that much increase but we will be holding greater meetings to look at this issue.

Dineen: OUSA policy advocates for a 1/3rd and 2/3rd split but the AMS is fairly close to this goal as well. If tuition increase must occur it should be tied with inflation or it should be frozen, with the government making up to the tuition loss to the university, fully or partially. We are looking something that is more detailed but generally those are the two options presented that are available.

President Lloyd: Engineering, Commerce and Medical students have a sharper increase in tuition but why doesn't Arts and Science?

Duchaine: Professional programs can increase up to 9% but they average to 5%.

Whittaker: What conditions are made for international students? Is there a framework regarding their threshold of tuition increment?

Duchaine: I believe that it is AMS policy that international students cannot be used as cash cows for the university. Queen's does not do that and there hasn't been a large increase because we have a strong focus of international relations and development. It doesn't make sense to charge them so much more money for the same program.

Dineen: Tuition freeze is timely and I would like to see your comfort level on that but I do recognize we need a broader discussion. We will come back to this at future meetings.

Long: What are some pros and cons of tuition freezing?

Dineen: Currently the government does not have enough money to fund a tuition freeze.

Duchaine: One major concern is the impact on financial stability of the universities themselves. We should ask if tuition increase was proportionate to the quality of education and everything else in the institution. This should be the framework for universities to assess themselves on.

Dineen: I am constantly thinking if I should ask for what is realistic or what students want even if it is surreal. I waited until OUSA left so I can hear from you guys tonight.

Long: Is it feasible to ask for a tuition freeze?

Duchaine: The Ontario government is in a tight spot right now financially. It is a pivotal time on student debt if we just look at Quebec.

Dineen: We have heard that there's no money and we should stop asking. So I struggle to see what students want or what is realistic.

Chisti: What about the concerns if we do get fully funded? Does it undermine the status of Queen's?

Dineen: Other institutions have asked for it as well and we are not the only one. There is a strong push to this.

Clubs Manager Jeffrey McCarthy: Has the university published its budget anywhere for us to reference?

Long: Operating budget is online. Just Google 'Queen's University Budget Report 2012-2013.'

Lloyd: If the government doesn't have enough so then individual universities would have to cover what the government can't?

Duchaine: Yes this is a major issue because they don't know who this responsibility lies to. Are you all comfortable with Mira and I lobbying for a tuition freeze?

**a straw poll was taken with 9 yes and 21 no*

16. Speaker's Last Words

Speaker: Thank you all for a fantastic assembly and for showing up all time.

Motion to adjourn assembly.

Moved by PHEKSA Vice-President Caileigh Simpson

Seconded by Boomhouwer

Opposed by Basilio and Berkok

Motion carries.

**assembly ended at 10:23pm*