

**AMS Annual General Meeting - Tuesday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2013**  
**Ban Righ Dining Hall**

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

*\*assembly commenced at 9:08 pm*

**AMS President Doug Johnson:** At general meetings, I'm the chair and I can pass those speaking rights. Right now we don't have 300 members or 2% of the student body. Last year's minutes were not distributed because we don't have them and the Commissioner of Internal Affairs will work to get them and approved for next year. (hereafter referred to as **Speaker**)

### **1. Approval of Agenda**

**Motion(1) that AMS Assembly approve the agenda for the Assembly meeting of March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2013.**

Moved by CESA President Philip Lloyd

Seconded by PHEKSA Vice-President Caileigh Simpson

**Speaker:** Any changes to the agenda?

**Member at Large Forrest Donaldson:** I would like to add a discussion topic regarding connecting elected representatives with their constituents.

*Motion carries*

**Speaker:** We removed motion(2) by the way.

*Motion(1) carries. 1 opposed.*

### **2. Approval of Minutes of the meeting of March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

*\*This motion was removed as the minutes from last year's Annual General Meeting have not been found yet.*

### **3. Speaker's Business**

**Speaker:** I'm going to hold the chair all night. Tristan, Mira and I will give our address on Thursday.

#### **4. Guest Speaker**

##### **a. Benj Burgar – Judicial Affairs Office Report, 2012-2013**

**Judicial Affairs Director Benj Burgar:** We are responsible for running the day to day operations of non-academic discipline. I report directly to assembly and not the executive, as it may lead to a conflict of interest. We also address violations of code of conducts by undergraduate students. This year the office handled 77 cases, mostly coming from the Student Constables, Campus Security and residence life. I was relieved when there was an agreement reached between the AMS and the Principal, with NAD's jurisdiction over health and safety. Otherwise I would have nothing to do this year surrounding blue lights and alcohol. We're in the process of creating an online database to catalogue the system. I would like to thank all the volunteers, the office and the committees and their dedication that help run a fair judicial system. If you have any questions about the structure or functioning of the Judicial Affairs Office, come see me.

**MCRC President Tuba Chishti:** I commend you for all the work you've done this year.

##### **b. AMS Executive – State of the Union *\*deferred to March 21<sup>st</sup> assembly***

#### **5. President's Report**

**AMS President Doug Johnson:** I don't have anything to add.

#### **6. Vice President's Report**

**a. Vice-President of Operations Tristan Lee:** I don't have anything to report either other than what's in my report.

**b. *\*Vice-President of University Affairs Mira Dineen absent***

**VP of Ops Lee:** Mira is a published author, and her book was nominated for an award in Toronto. She's at a gala tonight.

**Academic Affairs Commissioner Isabelle Duchaine:** Who's giving out the award?

**Lee:** The speaker of the legislative assembly of Ontario.

#### **7. Board of Director's Report**

**Chairman Rob Gamble:** We just had our Corporate General Meeting a few hours ago. The newly elected student directors, for two year positions are Tuba Chishti and Dylan Trebels. For the one year tem are Rico Garcia and Keenan Randall. All the candidates were great and the responses were thoughtful. I have nothing but great things to say about those in the election.

## **8. Student Senator's Report**

**Chairman Eril Berkok:** I would like to congratulate Isabelle Duchaine as my successor and Meghan Brunner from engineering will be the new vice-chair.

## **9. Rector's Report**

*\*Rector Nick Francis absent*

## **10. Student Trustee's Report**

**Undergraduate Student Trustee Lauren Long:** Nick is at the SGPS(Society of Graduates and Professional Students) AGM. The provost has drafted an enrolment target for the next two school years. And a substantial hike of over 400 students by 2016-2017. It's publically available on his office website, and he's looking for comments before March 27<sup>th</sup> through email.

**President Chishti:** You decided not to run for AMS President like your successors did in the past 3 years. I'm offended as you broke this tradition and I'm wondering if you can explain this.

**Trustee Long:** I'm going to answer this with a haiku poem and an interpretive dance. Life does not work in patterns, neither does the A-M- *\*the trustee waved her arms back and forth*

## **11. Statements by Members**

**PHEKSA President Steven Gillies:** I would like to thank everyone for working with us this year. This is the last assembly meeting for us as we will be in Calgary for the games representing Queen's.

**VP Simpson:** We worked hard to get everyone involved with the AMS this year.

**Hospitality and Safety Services Director Keenan Randall:** I think Caileigh deserves more applause because she won an award at the AMS volunteer gala.

**Speaker Scott Mason:** I would just like to say it's been a fantastic year working with you all. In my capacity as a neutral member of assembly I would like to commend the council on the work they did this year.

## **12. Question Period**

**Member Donaldson:** In policy manual 1, section 2.16, the speaker must do three promotional campaigns to improve awareness of AMS assembly, with one around this time of the AGM. I

was wondering if the Speaker did do this, and if he did not, why and how he could rectify this error.

**Mason:** In my three years I don't think or I wasn't aware that this existed.

**Commissioner of Internal Affairs Liam Faught:** There has been no such campaign or a week of events to promote the AMS or the AGM. We put the agenda out there on the website and make it available publically. We've seen a lot of grass roots involvement with student government this year. We saw a lot of activity during elections and policy amendments that mobilized the student body. Maybe we should look at it more whether to have just three specific campaigns or just to have a more engaging connection with the rest of student body.

**Donaldson:** Maybe you could think about adding this to the CIA's transition manual so the incoming successor can look at it.

**CIA Faught:** Yeah that's a great idea and I'll look into it.

### **13. Business Arising from the Minutes**

*\*none presented*

### **14. New Business**

*\*none presented*

### **15. Discussion Period**

#### **Connecting elected representatives with their constituents.**

**Donaldson:** There's very little student interaction with assembly until there is a controversial issue, and it's usually angry feedback. I don't see a lot of interaction between the representatives day to day; there's a bit of a disconnect. As for ASUS, I wonder if the representatives really represent those that elected you. So I'm wondering how you can improve that like holding group office hours, attaching an honorarium or incentives for more interaction.

**Mason:** Disconnect is always a consistent issue. As for honoraria for people to drop courses to provide more time with students, I don't think it's realistic though.

**JRHC President Matt Sheculski:** It's true that people only tend to show up in very angry states because it's relevant to them. Last year's AGM, there was a mandatory fee increase for StuCons, and a whole bunch of people showed up. There are less than 50 people here tonight as there are no motions submitted. What would be the purpose in advertising this year if there's nothing to

vote on? Students busy this time of the year with midterms and studying for exams. It's not that students don't care, but because they're more committed with academics and work to pay for their education and their bills. I'm just wondering how much of the general population that's untapped would apply.

**Director Randall:** I think the resolution should come with reporting, like publishing in a corner of the journal of what motions were voted on, and how each society voted. Then those faculty, society, or residences can hold an open caucus meeting and then students can go ask why they voted this way during their office hours.

**Faught:** I agree with the reporting. The institutional design of the AMS is that the students are connected mostly to their faculty or societies. That is a strong connection but not as much with the AMS, but that's not a bad thing because at least there's still a link between the students and the people who work and lobby for them.

**AAC Duchaine:** As a commissioner, I spend most of my day meeting administration and drafting up policy so I don't hang out with a lot of students. People are really interested in the work we're doing but there's a big dichotomy because we aren't surrounded by them all the time. We aren't elected representatives but we should be getting out there talking to people.

**CESA Representative Ruxandra Filip:** CESA did a cupcake walk, and they gave them a cupcake to students for letting them know about their issues or questions with Con Ed.

**Aesculapian Society Representative James Simpson:** With the fraternity discussion, we put a discussion on Facebook and a survey. A lot of our students responded, about 80% engaging in the topic. We're using social media to engage student opinion and to draw them in.

**President Lloyd:** AMS in general can do a lot of work to engage student opinion. Faculties, societies, or residences are on the front lines and getting more of the discussion. In order for that to happen, members of assembly need to get active with their job right on the get go but it takes a while for them to be comfortable, and a while for them to understand. If the people who are going to be on the front lines, they need to be educated better instead of waiting after a few weeks of assembly.

**COMPSA Representative:** COMPSA had a lot of events last year every week. As incoming marketing officer for next year so I'm going to do a 90 second short video to show what happens in assembly.

**Chishti:** Having definitive office hours are a bit problematic because our schedule changes from week to week. Sometimes I have meetings but I can switch with other people who are in the office. Meetings with administration are as important as speaking with a student. But this way, there's always someone for them to talk to. A lot of the things we say or do aren't what they want to hear or want. So we did an event where we gave out cotton candy and talked about

random things like plumbing and how their midterms were. Get people by using free food and it's a good thing we have cafeterias. We did a door to door, sliding in a survey of a quarter page about sustainability. We didn't know if people cared or knew about the information. We got over 200 hits and submissions by promising a gift card for 2 people. Giving out stuff engages people but that is sometimes hard to do.

**Sheculski:** We put a candy bowl in our office because most people just come in if they're in trouble. They come in to get candy and we ask them a few questions. ASUS does a lot of things in front of Stauffer and JDUC at a corner, asking questions and handing out stuff like clothing. T-shirts are like my kind of candy; it's one less day I have to do laundry.

**Rico Garcia:** We gave away free t-shirts during sidewalk sale and sunglasses too. Community Outreach sets up a tent with free hot chocolate but that's more of a de-stressor.

**ComSoc President Nicola Plummer:** One of the things we're discussing for next year is to have assembly boot camp. It will be a two-hour session before the first assembly. I didn't feel comfortable speaking at the first AMS assembly but hopefully the boot camp will facilitate conversation. It's also very useful for the presidents to bring back reports from AMS to their societies.

**Donaldson:** Representatives are not that involved with day to day governance and they just usually debate policy and discuss topics.

**Trebels:** Incentivizing engagement. \$250 free stuff from tricolour outlet and that garnered over 1000 shares. People go crazy over free stuff and a great way to get opinions. But we have to be careful not to dangle a carrot in front of students but some is necessary to get student attention.

**Social Issues Commissioner Katie Conway:** At the election for ASUS representatives, there was a public discussion for them. I was very happy to see Tyler Lively there, as an engaged first-year student. I was however, disappointed to not see those other representatives who were hoping to be elected as they did not show up.

**Hilary Booth:** I had zero knowledge of the AMS prior to dating T.K. So you should date your students is what I'm saying. I knew who I was voting for and who was going to represent me. What I didn't know was what the AMS did specifically and what they offered me. There should be a way that's friendlier in regards to times, accessibility and marketing to the students.

**EngSoc Representative Douglas Haney:** You can bring a horse to water but can't force it to drink. In our societies we have Facebook groups for each year, and every push we give it's the same people showing up, and they are the ones who are interested. It's not necessarily getting attention, but bringing a topic of discussion to them that affects them directly. Student politics is not everyone's cup of tea.

**Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainability:** ASUS reps sit on AMS and ASUS and that's it. Other reps run charitable events in the community and other things and that's how they know more about their delegates. It's really more of an ASUS issue because there's nothing built into their position for them to interact with.

**EngSoc Rep Haney:** My only job is to sit on AMS and council, but I'm part of the year rep that reflects my year of engineering students.

**T.K. Pritchard:** Most students have a closer relationship with faculty, society, or residents than with the AMS. One of the things to improve is how to connect with students and sharing information. We're going to run advocacy training to help our staff and commissioners with their target audience, so maybe you guys would be interested in that too.

**ASUS Representative to the AMS Tyler Lively:** We have a lot of medium for students to come to assembly, watch online, read about it in the Journal or look at live tweets. We go to the students with services and events, but they don't associate it with the AMS. They go to Common Ground and P&CC for the sake of the service itself. We should go to classes in the beginning of the year and talk about what ASUS does. Most people come to know AMS via part-time jobs but I think people need to be educated on how services come together and what they get out of it. If we tell people that can make a difference or what we can do for them, there's a lot of space for more people to get engaged.

**Chairman Berkok:** A lot of what we do now is to inform both the government and corporate side of the AMS. We need to reach out to students and what they want especially on policies and amendments. We're happy to receive diverse initiatives so come talk to me. President's caucus for next year will be more focused to understand how the different bodies function.

**Donaldson:** It's been quite a hectic year so I'm more interested in hearing how you guys approach in getting an active audience and involvement. At the special assembly two Sundays ago, there was a lot of anger expressed around campus, on the Journal and Facebook about the issue. On Sunday, there was a general sense that there was not enough consultation. Most members spoke about administration and how they see this and hiring process but not so much as how students will see the image of AMS. For the fraternity issue, the executive handled that well but I think the AMS should work on that consistent perception.

**President Gillies:** Smaller faculties, they have their own class talks, emails every week and share a lot of lectures. By the end of first year, you know everyone and their face in the faculty. But for ASUS it's harder because it's a larger body. There are flaws and not possible to reach everyone.

**Randall:** I would like to see or an amendment to a proxy policy. It's fairly disappointing to see that so many proxies week after week especially different ones, because I don't know if they are

readily capable of representing me. There should be some mode of clear and consistent dependency.

**Haney:** Pin point a point of diminishing return. Throwing all your time and effort into promoting AMS and student politics, everyone who wants to get involved or tries to, are already involved somewhat. There will still be a percentage of people who won't be interested and can't be swayed. Once we know the point of diminishing return, we can know how much resources we need and time.

**Sheculski:** Some people who want to involved are already actively involved and engaged. But for new students, when I was, I didn't really know how these governments ran. I trusted the candidate after only hearing them speak for five minutes, because I thought they knew more than I did. For some students, voting through the election process and choosing who represents them, is enough.

## **16. Speaker's Last Word**

**Speaker:** I hope everybody's constructive debate carries into Thursday.

### **Motion to adjourn assembly**

Moved by Simpson

Seconded by Clubs Manager Jeff McCarthy

*Motion carries.*

*\*assembly ended at 10:18 pm*