

***AMS Assembly Minutes – Thursday, November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2013***  
***Wallace Hall, JDUC***

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*\*Assembly commenced at 7:05*

**Speaker Robert Thomson** (hereafter referred to as Speaker): Welcome to the “Bring-A-Friend-to-AMS-Assembly” Assembly. We're really excited to see all the new faces! We're just going to start.

**1. Approval of the Agenda for the meeting of November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2013**

**MOTION ONE: That AMS Assembly approve the agenda for the Assembly meeting of November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2013**

Moved by: Commissioner of Internal Affairs Kristen Olver

Seconded by: Vice President of University Affairs Thomas Pritchard

**Vice President of University Affairs Pritchard:** I would like to add before the discussion on innovation a discussion on referendum and the Assembly's role in the referendum.

**Member at Large Lively:** I would like to add a discussion on the topic on Queen's recent announcement that the (goal) is \$5 million.

**Member at Large Erlikhman:** Motion to move my motion up, because I have to leave early. I am motion nine.

**Speaker:** You would like to move motion nine to ahead of...?

**Member at Large Erlikhman:** As high as it can go.

**Speaker:** I can make it new motion number 4.

**Member at Large Erlikhman:** That's good.

**Speaker:** I'd like to ask assembly to approve that motion to the agenda.

Moved by: Thomas Pritchard

Seconded by: Eril Berkok

**Chairman Garcia:** I would like to add a presentation and discussion on the salary grid, preferably earlier on in the assembly.

**Speaker:** How long do you need?

**Chairman Garcia:** Probably around twenty-five minutes. It's a presentation followed by a discussion.



**Speaker:** We'll have to add it to discussion period.

**Garcia:** Okay.

**Speaker:** Wait, I can put you as Guest Speaker B, if you want? And you can get it done there if you really need to.

Moved by: Rico Garcia

Seconded by: Scott Mason

**AMS President Berkok:** Point of order first, would it be better for me to amend my motion now?

**Speaker:** Do it within your motion.

**Commissioner Wright:** I would like to add a motion. It was just sent out in an email. Everybody on Assembly should have gotten it. It's a motion to approve the mission statement of the University District Neighbourhood Improvement Plan.

**Speaker:** Approve the mission statement of the University District Neighbourhood Improvement Plan?

Moved by: Commissioner Wright

Seconded by: Thomas Pritchard

**Speaker:** Any other changes?

**Commissioner Olver:** Motion that we add a motion to elect new members to the Equity Grants Committee. We need to elect three people from the Assembly or members at large.

Moved by: Kristen Olver

Seconded by: Thomas Pritchard

*Motion (1) carries.*

## **2. Approval of the Minutes for the meeting of November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2013**

**MOTION 2: That AMS Assembly approve the minutes for the Assembly meeting of November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2013**

Moved by: Commissioner of Internal Affairs Kristen Olver

Seconded by: Vice President of University Affairs Thomas Pritchard

*Motion (2) carries.*

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



**Speaker:** Time for speaker's business. I want to welcome everyone to AMS Assembly. Welcome to all of your friends. It's really great to see involvement with student government. We welcome everyone within the gallery as well. We want everyone to use the AMSAssembly hashtag. Reminder that the best hashtag of the night gets a free drink on me at one of our student services. Commissioner Olver and I were trying to set up the room to get better acoustics. Sorry that this didn't work out so well. I'm passing out the attendance and the friend attendance. Write their name down, and you will both be entered to win a prize.

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

##### **a. Jill Scott- Vice Provost of Teaching and Learning**

##### **b. Rico Garcia- Chairman on the Board of Directors**

**Lively:** After consulting the AMS Policy Manual, I've noticed that a member of Assembly cannot actually be a guest speaker.

**Speaker:** Okay, then we should move into committee as a whole. May I get a motion for that?

Moved by: -

Seconded by: Representative Wiseman

##### **Chairman Garcia: Salary Grid Review**

I wanted to introduce an update on where the grid is going. As many of you may know, there's the first set of committee. All this has to do is the re-evaluating of salaries for over sixty AMS staff. We want to make sure we're properly compensating the individuals working for us. The outline for this presentation is introducing the goals, background info, historical trends, the process we've undergone, and moving forward. So for today, as I said, it's an update. When I spoke and gave my report in September, some of the things are going to be dealt with at Board, and some things at Assembly. This is one of those things that you can help with. Over the past two decades, we've had many applications for AMS positions, but that number is now decreasing. This is an ongoing concern. We want to make sure we're having a lot of applicants for competition, and an increased quality in those applications. In 2012, there were thirteen positions that were 100% hired versus applications. This means that everyone applying for the job got it. We only had two people apply for another position, which means we had a 50% hired versus application. We analyze why this is the case. One of the things we are looking at is the Ontario wage. It used to be \$6.85, now it's \$10.25, it's almost a jump of fifty percent. This is reflected in our part time jobs, as our wage is based on minimum wage. But this doesn't reflect the full time and executive positions. In 2012, it was a \$24,000 salary for the AMS President. Back in 2004, council was different. Their pay was between 80% and 90% of the executive's salary. Over the years, they've never wanted to increase their own salaries because they feel as if they're taking from the student's money. Susan, an HR expert, in addition to a past service director, past manager, two others, and myself have been examining this. That's a little bit of the



salaries, the trends.

Now onto the AMS specific fee. In 2012, it was \$70.74. That tells you that we have increased the specific fee less than what we've increase salaries. What is the opportunity cost? We have around two thirds of the minimum wage salary, and we ask our salaried members to take a reduced course load so they can accommodate their schedules. Now, with OSAP, our members cannot repay their debt. Now these students have to take an extra year. In the case of a normal student, they can get a job within six months and start paying down that OSAP money. Those are the things the committee has been looking at. We compiled data, I was talking about bonuses. We calculated minimum wage for the hours that they work, then we decided to award points for their (how many employees are under them, training, etc). We attached a dollar value to each of those things. We calculated data from ten to twelve universities. Western, Calgary, Alberta, et cetera; their president's salary, they make so much more. We are by far the lowest. What is also good to know, every university here except McMaster has four vice presidents and one president. Our executives do much more work for less the money. We only have seven permanent staff members, at other universities, there's fifteen, twenty. We have much less resources, and have less people. We're doing an analysis with a projected salary. The projected numbers, based on the data, leaves the president's salary around \$34,000. Don't panic, that won't be the number. Some things will be higher, some will be lower. There is a \$4000 cushion, could be \$30,000, and could be \$38,000. Moving forward, we have two options, I won't be disclosing the actual salary numbers first. We basically have two options, the first being to increase the AMS specific fee at the March AGM. Come to the AGM, have student discussion, see if this is in the best interest of the AMS and our students. The pros in doing that, the job description will be changed. The real salaries will be posted in January, hopefully we'll get more applications and involvement within the AMS. If it doesn't pass, the salaries don't change, the cost of this, the cost of recruitment won't be changed until 2015. Option two, the status quo, the data at the beginning showed the declining of student applications goes unchanged. Question for you, how long can we let this go? We should address this now. Two options, I'd love to hear feedback on this presentation.

**Proxy Chisti:** We're not just upping the executives' salary; we will also be examining the permanent staff members. We base everything off of the executives. We want to pay the people who work for us properly. We recognize that there is a lot to gain from working for the AMS, but a lot of people can't because they can't compensate financially.

**Member at Large Erlikhman:** I really like what you're doing, but I think the larger issue is the current opportunities. I feel that we need to do more target improvement. We need to educate students within different faculties. It's staggering that we are getting more internal candidates for these jobs. We can't have the same recruitment efforts. We can't just sit behind a table with the AMS banner. We need to have a yearlong process of recruitment. We can't just get excited around January, then whoever doesn't win the executive election applies for another exec job. I know people who didn't even bother applying because only one person gets the job, they feel intimidated.

**Chairman Garcia:** I agree we need to improve and do anything possible to attract people. By raising the AMS salary, we are opening up our clientele field. This would attract students that might not be financially available to apply for these sort of jobs.



**Vice President of Operations Plummer:** Our focus on recruitment does need to be improved. We have been working on this with human resources. New strategy, info sessions, et cetera. If you're interested, you can see the value of these sessions. There's also a video recruitment strategy that QTV is working on. Then there's targeting ASUS and other faculty positions. For example, for corporate directors, we seek commerce students because this job will relate to their future. My future internship is paid double what I'm paid now. This is a really valid point that we want to address.

**Member at Large Erlikhman:** I want to stress that I don't want to see the same campaigning. There was a video with all the managers telling people to apply for the AMS. We don't want to create a stigma. I want to see an informed group of people there to speak to people.

**Member at Large Rhee:** Questions about the grid. Pay raise- will they be the same, or will they vary across the executive board? Also, have you considered providing student employees with financial aid? When I took on the position, and I didn't get OSAP, I received less than OSAP. I got paid less when I took on a bigger job. Can we advertise financial aid?

**Proxy Chisti:** For the first part it is minimum wage, plus bonus points depending on the job description and what they do. We believe that all of council should get paid the same. All managers and service workers should get paid the same. It's hard to measure who does more per hour. There's no reason to create imbalances. There will be a difference between the services and positions.

**Chairman Garcia:** For the second question, one of the ideas we're exploring is basically things like food credits, things like five dollars for food credits, then you can go to QP, et cetera. Salaried staff stay on campus all the time, so how can we compensate? Maybe \$800 more in food credit, then they can eat on campus. They might appreciate this more than an increase in their salary.

**Speaker:** We have a lot of people on the speakers list. If your question is something that can be directed in an email, please do so.

**Senator Duchaine:** Thanks for your presentation. Just in terms of recruitment in general, we should reflect this is not only for the AMS, but also in the faculty. We should look at people. How many elections in ComSoc have gone unopposed? I think this is a more systemic issue; this is an issue within post-secondary education, not just the AMS. I know myself, it was difficult to work for the AMS and put off studies. I know a lot of people who can't afford to take a low income job, and take an extra year of schooling. If we want to put off the image that we're rich, white kids from Toronto, we should have jobs that reflect that.

**President Daya:** I want to thank you for this presentation. From what I could hear, it was quite informative. Could you circulate this to assembly?

**Chairman Garcia:** I didn't want people to read this while other things were going on.



**ASUS Representative Chinniah:** How much of an increase are we looking at for the specific fee?

**Chairman Garcia:** I can't tell you right now, as it is pending discussions. This isn't up to me; this is up to a separate committee. As soon as I know, I'll put it forward to you.

**Speaker:** Any of the four people left; can you email your question to Rico?

**Chairman Garcia:** Please send me your thoughts via email at board@ams.queensu.ca.

**Speaker:** May I get a motion to move out of committee as a whole?

## **5. President's Report- Eril Berkok**

**AMS President Berkok:** First off, this is the last assembly for Jessica Searle. She's been with us for a year. She's been such a fierce and passionate advocate for our nurses. If we could give her a warm send off. On behalf of the executive team, we're sad to see you go. I want to highlight one thing. The campus master plan, the document for physical enhancements. There will be an open house on December 6<sup>th</sup>. This is an important meeting because it goes over the physical plant development for the next thirty years. Go out, have a look. I'm working with the planners to consult with the AMS Assembly. If you have questions, submit them to me, and I can have them answered. Also, at the next Assembly, there is an honorary president to be ratified. Not to do Deja vu, but we plan to bring back Robert Crawford as honorary President. He was the first Dean of Student Affairs. He's retiring; it's time to recognize him. I have one more thing to add regarding the Ontario Municipal Board appeal. Unfortunately, we are coming under what we are supposed to be spending. Where do we go next? Yes, we won, but there are still issues. We need to encourage students to vote. Having won this, we can't just be content, we need to go further. It's important to get the ball rolling as soon as possible. We need to show that we care about how our city is run. AMS is working for initiatives. Lastly, we want to determine how we want to create accurate data about where students are. Bring that for discussion. That's my update. I welcome questions later on.

## **6. Vice-President's Reports**

### **a. Operations- Vice President Nicola Plummer**

**Vice President of Operations Plummer:** I've heard some rumours that Tricolour Outlet shut down for a month because we were making too much money. I'd like to clarify we were putting in a new POS system. So, no, that's not a thing. Lastly, to touch on surveys in the marketing office. Jacob has taken it in a different direction; much more research driven. When you go into our student services, you will find the opportunity to create feedback on customer service and opinions. One of these surveys was the Underground survey. We've expressed concerns about how the Underground is doing. We've had feedback from over 600 responses. Lastly, thanks Commissioner Olver for signing my Assembly report Vpopsicle.



## **b. University Affairs- Vice President Thomas Pritchard**

**Vice President of University Affairs Pritchard:** Most of the things that I would add President Berkok has already said. Fill out surveys. Obviously tonight we will be ratifying her, but I would like to welcome in advance Erin Maguire as the ORT Coordinator for this year. She's quite wonderful; we'll talk about her later on before we ratify her.

## **7. Board of Director's Report- Chairman Rico Garcia**

**Chairman (Max) Garcia:** Nothing to report. I look forward to reading questions via email.

## **8. Student Senator's Report- Senator Isabelle Duchaine**

**Senator Duchaine:** I don't have much to elaborate. I want to introduce my buddy, Colin. I've known him for a year and a half. We meet once a week on Friday between 1:30PM and 3:00PM. He has donated his Friday afternoons to enhancing ArtSci opportunities. I invited Colin because he's awesome and cool. I want to point out that we might be pointed out as AMS insiders, but he doesn't have any relation to the AMS, but he still works so hard to enhance student culture and experience. There are always students working in different capacities. If you have any questions about my report, find me.

## **9. Rector's Report- Rector Nicholas Francis**

**Rector Francis:** (*Absent*)

**Chairman Garcia:** Nick sent me a message. He wants to say that Tricolour nominations will be happening January 10<sup>th</sup>. Make sure you submit and nominate a lot of people for the Tricolour award.

## **10. Student Trustees Report- Undergraduate Trustee Andrew Aulhouse**

**Undergraduate Trustee Aulhouse:** Not a lot to add to my report. My buddy called in sick before Assembly. I would have pulled a similar thing to the Garcia family. Today, Queen's announced that they will make payments to the city totalling \$300,000; \$100,000 each year to cover Homecoming costs. I've emailed Woolf about where the money is coming from. The money for this year is coming from the contingency fund and will be budgeted into the next two years. There is a Board of Trustee session on December 6<sup>th</sup>. If you have any questions email trustees@queensu.ca a week to ten days in advance. We will be meeting in Richardson Hall. The election is coming up for AMS Exec and Rector. I'd like to say I'm a decent person to talk to, but email me for questions.

**Senator Duchaine:** Quickly, don't email trustees@queensu.ca, you will end up get in contact with a secretary who will say, "Isabelle, this isn't Andrew."



## **11. Statements by Members**

**Commissioner Savage:** I mentioned this earlier, but Capture the Faculty is happening Saturday. I just want to speak a little bit about it and invite you. It's a giant game of capture the flag divided by faculty. Winning faculty gets to donate money to a charity of their choice. We're still looking for participants. You can sign up the day of. I encourage all of you to come out. Interested? Come out Saturday between Nixon and Kingston Hall; registration will be there. Ten dollars to play; gets you food, shirt, et cetera. Capture the faculty was started by a commerce student ten years ago, but they have the greatest lack of interest and participation. Just to reiterate, Saturday, 11am.

**Comsoc President Lopez:** As a ComSoc representative, I think I'm entitled to a response. I went last year, and I can admit that there were only three people from commerce that came out. But I don't think that's our problem. You should be doing more direct marketing to us.

**Commissioner Olver:** For the “bring a friend” raffle, please go to Mitchell, our Assembly page here tonight. We're not going to enter it for you; you have to enter yourself into the draw.

**Member at Large Kasraee:** Before we came here, we went to CFRC to see their operations and their space. We should check out QTV next. I don't know why, but I think it would be kind of cool.

**President Searle:** In my role as NSS president, I am the “thank you rep” for nursing. This is a great week to tell our alumni thank you. Come pick up a bag tag to show your thanks to alumni. I know buildings like the ILC and Goodes Hall wouldn't be here without alumni. Additionally, this is also Hannah's last assembly as well. I look forward for my predecessor coming in.

**Member at Large Erlikhman:** I want to call out Representative Wiseman on rejecting my request to be his buddy. Also, I've refereed capture the faculty; it's fun. You should really go out this weekend.

**President Mason:** Tomorrow at noon is the fiftieth anniversary of the death of JFK. Tomorrow at noon, think about it.

**Commissioner Williams, M:** The final date for Equity Grants applications is December 15<sup>th</sup>.

## **12. Question Period**

**Vice-President Tahiri:** Chairman Garcia, is there absolutely and unequivocally no way to divert the operating fund into the government side of things, seeing as the government side needs help?

**Chairman Garcia:** Yes and no. Corporate side money could come from our operating fund. The operating fund we showed is just a fund, not cash.

**Vice President of Operations Plummer:** The operating fund isn't a bank account. It's over a



million dollars, but it has retained earnings. It's not money in a bank; it's a financial snapshot of how we have done over the past forty years. The answer is no. For the salaries, you could jig around there a little bit. For commissions, it's more difficult because it's strained by the constitution and assembly.

**President Berkok:** You also talked about the appeal statement. I think when the election begins, I don't know if we should be endorsing a certain candidate. So at the time, endorsement that we opted for was a report card on the candidates. I think we're open to discussion, probably to take place next year. Discussion regarding the Underground; we have we considered doing a house night with house music.

**Vice President of Operations Plummer:** As you might remember, Wednesday night was house music. We stopped doing it because no one wants house music. Top 40 is the standard right now. We have been playing top 40 all year on Wednesdays. Right now, I think Wednesdays are the problem.

**Member at Large Pang:** I have three questions. Commissioner Wright, you spoke about "housing.com", what's the improvement on that? VP Pritchard and Commissioner Williams, you are the student community members on OUSA, have you raised any issue about the tradition of \_\_\_\_\_? And what's happening with the NEWTS weekend? Who's in charge of that?

**Commissioner Wright:** So this is something that started in Europe. It creates a housing department for their exchange programs.

**Vice President of University Affairs Pritchard:** To your second question, we have a specific policy on international students. OUSA operated, twice a year, we release two policy papers, in the spring, we do three more, and you can find the current policy on the OUSA website. Neither Allison nor I are the authors on that paper. At the committee level, the delegates and we can give feedback. In all of our policies, we have to consider a variety of students; students with dependents, et cetera. We try to write our policies to include everyone. Last question, I'm not sure what you're talking about, but that would fall under Commissioner Savage.

**Member at Large Rhee:** Financial aid is an area that I am passionate about. Are there any AMS scholarships or grants that they give to people of certain aid?

**Vice President of University Affairs Pritchard:** So the main one other than funding that we give to groups is an AMS membership bursary. A few years ago it was approved that we would provide \$5000 to ten students (\$500) annually. For the mandatory fees we pay for that, there are problems. We're trying to figure it out right now. The Academic Affairs Commissioner, a member of student awards, and I have been talking. I'm talking to the university about using their refined awards process. Maybe they can do the process for us. It was allocated for us by Assembly. That's all the money we really have right now for awards.

**ASUS Representative Chinniah:** Question to go the Executives, either Berkok or Pritchard. During the previous election, in your campaign, you advocated that you would be expanding wifi into the district areas. I recently received my bill from Bell. It's not pretty. So I want a straight



yes or no, have you shoved this idea, or not?

**President Berkok:** No. What we were planning to do is, ITS is continuing to look into it. We want cellular and wireless on campus. We will continue to push for it though it will continue to take time.

**ASUS Representative Chinniah:** May I get a timeline, like will I be here? Will I have gray hair? Will I be an older version of Eril Berkok?

**President Berkok:** The particular vendor that we wanted to work with has been delayed. I can assure you that this is something that we're passionate about and will do. It takes a lot of time for this, I hope you don't have gray hair by the time this is done.

**ComSoc Representative Lopez:** I'm just wondering if you're aware that the Liberal party actually won, not the NDP.

**Commissioner Savage:** For some context, in my Assembly report, I can correct this now; I incorrectly noted that the improper party won at Queen's Model Parliament.

**Member at Large Pang:** Following on the tuition for students, I'm wondering if Commissioner Williams, is aware of the limit of tuition? I actually have emails from QSAA, there was a delay for hiring the head gecko, she told me that two weeks ago. That was my question, I just specified it. Is it still happening, if not, why?

**Commissioner Williams:** For domestic students, you pay your tuition, and then you get a grant.

**Member at Large Pang:** Regarding tuition, it's deregulated, there's an increase and it's terrifying especially for commerce students.

**Proxy Lively:** Regarding the discussion topic: I'm reading on the QueensU website that in the last examination the Queen's pension plan had a deficit. There was roughly \$35 million over a period of ten years. The impact that this will have on educational spending is going to be enormous, and they don't have anywhere to pull it from. Has an Executive been looking at this?

**Vice President of Operations Plummer:** I've talked to the manager, but it is something that we need to address. It's not the only pension plan that's facing problems. Over the past couple of years, this has been happening across all universities. Commissioner Williams might have something to add.

**Commissioner Williams:** What we would like to see is an employer pension plan.

**Speaker:** Can the deputy take the chair?

*Deputy Speaker (VPSD Mark Godin) takes the chair.*



**13. Business arising from the Minutes**

**MOTION 3: That AMS Assembly approve the second reading of amendments to the AMS Constitution, as seen in Appendix A: Harry Potter.**

Moved by: Commissioner of Internal Affairs Kristen Olver

Seconded by: Vice President of University Affairs Thomas Pritchard

**Commissioner Olver:** As said, this is the second reading. All it is doing is clarifying Athletics and Recreation and where funds go from clubs that are defunct.

*Motion (3) carries.*

**14. New Business**

**MOTION 4: That AMS Assembly extends heartfelt gratitude to the Sydenham District Association, Kevin Wiener (Law 2014), the Queen's Faculty Association and all of the witnesses and participants who acted in support of the Alma Mater Society's appeal to the Ontario Municipal Board for effective representation of post-secondary students in the City of Kingston.**

Moved by: Eril Berkok

Seconded by: Thomas Pritchard

**President Berkok:** I just want to amend the motion to also add onto that list the Queen's Faculty Association. I already talked about how we won our case. This was a team effort with many people involved. I want to make sure we're recognizing these people. Thanks to the Assembly and Council of last year. This was an extraordinary undertaking from everyone. It's extremely heartwarming. As a university, we have thousands of people involved in orientation, clubs, and assemblies, all of that. But if you take it upon yourself to fight City Hall in a court of law for this incredible issue and create a hell of a show, you deserve massive recognition. I want to extend a special thank you to Kevin Wiener. Hopefully when we pass this, if we pass this, we want to show that we care about and appreciate all of the work that others have done.

Abstentions: 1

*Motion (4) carries.*

**MOTION 5: That AMS Assembly ratify Erin Maguire as Orientation Roundtable Coordinator for 2013-2014.**

Moved by: Gareth Savage

Seconded by: Kristen Olver

**Commissioner Savage:** I want to quickly speak about Erin. Hopefully, upon her ratification into Assembly, you'll see just how incredible she is! As you saw from the Assembly at City Hall several weeks ago, orientation is something we're all talking about and thinking about. She has



clearly showed her passion. Even more so, she has demonstrated continued commitment and enthusiasm, showing us the importance of advocating on behalf of our students. Orientation for next year is in safe hands with her. I'm happy to share an office with someone again; I'm getting lonely in there. She's a champion for orientation week.

**Deputy Speaker:** I understand that Erin is here. Perhaps she could answer three questions.

**Member at Large Young:** First of all, congrats. Now for my question, why is Frosh Week a valuable resource for incoming students?

**Member at Large Maguire:** For incoming students, it introduces students into the Kingston and Queen's community. As student leaders, we can work together to make a safe and inclusive space where students feel they can succeed. The transition from high school to university is huge. Emotional and academic expectations are raised. Orientation week prepares the students. You specified incoming students, but I want to speak to the value this brings to the student leaders. It does provide an amazing experience. I've been involved with frosh week every year. I see how these students grow into great leaders.

**Member at Large Sherman:** I'm going to ask you the same question that I asked the orientation chairs. Please state one recommendation from the Jackson report you agree with, and one you don't agree with, and why?

**Senator Duchaine:** Point of information, I included a copy of the Jackson report in my report, but I've been informed that we couldn't actually access the document. I apologize to those who thought they could learn about the Jackson report through my report.

**Vice President of Operations Plummer:** Point of information, I recall from Erin's interview that she did talk about faculty leaders in relation to the Jackson report.

**Member at Large Maguire:** I believe that students are capable of doing the hiring internally without representation from the faculty. In the last few years alone, we've been able to solve problems on our own without administration. It's valuable to work with them, but remain an individual entity during orientation week to emphasize that we are student run.

**Commissioner Savage:** In closing, she would be a great addition to our team. She's going to do a fantastic job, so please ratify her.

*Motion (5) carries.*

**MOTION 6:** That AMS Assembly appoint \_\_\_\_\_ to Nominating Committee for the winter 2014 term.

Moved by: Kristen Olver

Seconded by: Nicola Plummer

**Commissioner Olver:** Representative Jones is going on exchange next semester and so we need



someone to take his position. I can answer any questions on what this position entails.

**EngSoc Representative Blair:** Could you please provide insight into what this position entails.

**Commissioner Olver:** Positions on standing and ad hoc Assembly committees each have specific roles. The committee handles any applications coming through for these positions. We meet every other week. We go through applications, discuss and vote on who would be best suited to each committee.

**Speaker:** It has to be a voting member of assembly.

*Representative Shaw:  
Nominated by Member at Large Young  
Seconded by President Marshall  
Declined*

*Representative Blair  
Nominated by Representative Wiseman  
Seconded by President Fleck  
Accepted*

*Representative Wiseman  
Nominated by Representative Chinniah  
Seconded by \_\_\_\_  
Declined*

*Representative Chinniah  
Nominated by Member at Large Pang  
Seconded by Representative Wiseman  
Accepted*

**Deputy Speaker:** I will entertain three questions for the nominees.

**Proxy Lively:** I can't say I was listening any more than anyone else, but I can imagine that you are both very qualified individuals for this position. When have you ever had to judge someone's character, and what did you do?

**EngSoc Representative Blair:** In the past in high school, I was chair of several committees. We often had to choose members of subsequent committees. I have the experience of judging people by their character; however, I like to apply more empirical methods of judging people.

**ASUS Representative Chinniah:** I have four words for you. I DON'T JUDGE PEOPLE.

**Senator Duchaine:** Could you each speak to the benefits and limitations of the Nominating Committee?



**ASUS Representative Chinniah:** The fact that we could get a detailed discussion within a closed environment is beneficial. Before that, we used to have people at the front of Assembly within a close time period.

**EngSoc Representative Blair:** The timing aspect is certainly a good. Also, I believe in the smaller context of the committee, it opens up the amount of people to be considered. A limitation is that we judge the applicants.

**Vice President of University Affairs Plummer:** Can you comment on the previous accusations of the form?

**EngSoc Representative Blair:** I can't testify to that because I wasn't even aware of the committee's existence prior to this Assembly. We should look to expand the transparency of the committee.

**ASUS Representative Chinniah:** There is a charge levelled by certain individuals that the Nominating Committee is biased. The decision is made by a small group of people, so it doesn't go through scrutiny from all Assembly. We have levelled a choice to adhere to complete transparency.

*EngSoc Representative Blair: 22*

*ASUS Representative Chinniah: 13*

**Deputy Speaker:** Motion to appoint Representative Blair to Nominating Committee for the winter 2014 term.

*Motion (6) carries.*

**MOTION 7: That AMS Assembly approve the amendments to Policy Manual 2 Section 6: Part E as seen in Appendix B: Pre\$ident's Caucus.**

Moved by: Eril Berkok

Seconded by: Nicholas Francis

**President Berkok:** Very small updates to the policy. Previously the policy spoke of JRHC and MCRC, not Residence Society. There is a star besides the Rector. In the event that those members are not AMS members, the chair gets to decide if they should be meeting.

*Motion (7) carries.*

**MOTION 8: That AMS Assembly approve the amendments to Policy Manual 1 Section 3 Parts A and B as seen in Appendix C: Go Vote on January 28<sup>th</sup>/ 29<sup>th</sup>.**

Moved by: Kristen Olver

Seconded by: Thomas Pritchard

**Commissioner Olver:** There are concerns regarding the Fall referendum. For AMS Executive,



we put a lot of effort into having students come out for these positions. We campaign to promote the election to increase voter turn-out. The CRO establishes a set of rules in addition to policy. Additionally, candidates that don't submit expense forms will not get reimbursed, and they could lose their bond. Many people did this over the last referendum. The changes in the policy are reflective of this.

**Vice President of University Affairs Pritchard:** Originally, the discussion topic was taken away, but I'm going to keep it. It's about the Assembly's role within the referendum, which is under this section of policy. That conversation will dominate on its own, so it's better to change these. In discussion we will come out with a motion at the end of this to further change the policy.

**Proxy Lively:** I don't have any problems with the motion specifically. In policy 3.05, the CRO and DRO shall conduct a marketing campaign to increase voter turnout. Assembly also has to take more substantive actions to promote the campaign. This isn't telling us how to go about this. We have to make sure that the elections team is doing their job and telling the student population that their vote really does count. Eleven percent of students deciding what the other 89 percent have to pay for; voter turnout is abysmal.

**President Berkok:** I appreciate your comments. We're taking lessons on what we learned from our previous video, and we're going to apply some of those lessons to make sure everyone is aware.

**ASUS Representative Chinniah:** Question to the CIA or DROs in regards to policy. With respect to the Fall referendum period, there were certain rules that were prescribed by the CRO's office. Hypothetically, if I were an ASUS President trying to go for the AMS, and I had banners from some faraway place, I still have to list them as market price. What's the extent of the extra policy or extra rules and regulations surrounding campaign and referendum?

**Commissioner Olver:** It's in policy for the CEO to assign costs to materials. What would normally fall under the rules published by the CRO would be opening and closing times. The applicable sanctions that can apply may vary. That can change from year to year.

**Vice President of University Affairs Pritchard:** I think what Olver is getting at is the job of the CEO is to ensure the elections are running smoothly. They make sure the candidates have the same access and the same resources. The new amendment says they have to publish by the first day the nominations open. Any rules that aren't supposed to be in here we take out, and address this issue a little bit, and those rules should be made public.

**Commissioner Olver:** This is under election policy 7.02, policy manual 1, page 38.

**ASUS Representative Chinniah:** Follow up, regarding the date, the 6<sup>th</sup> or the 7<sup>th</sup> of January, VP Pritchard, can you clarify if this date can move forward. Theoretically if I was running, I would want to start making preparations over the holidays.

**Vice President of University Affairs Pritchard:** It seems like that would be possible. I think it



was the day before, the all candidates' meeting. So, we could change it if you were more comfortable.

**Commissioner Olver:** The reason we want the all candidates meeting on the first day of nomination period is so we can include it in the nomination package and get the information out as soon as possible.

**Member at Large Parker:** I think we should clarify that the lower voter turnout for the referendum can be attributed to several blunders. All this information was published and released through the AMS website, so none of this info is new, and the turnout was still sixteen something percent. We also need to be aware that the problems that have happened, for example, email problems, have been resolved. Also, the ASUS election is happening at the same time. I'm in talks with their CRO and DRO. We are running elections at the same time, so there won't be an issue of multiple emails sent out at the same time. There were three emails at the same time, but it's too time consuming. There's the whole logistical issue. We are in talks extensively with QTV with ideas to increase turnout.

*Motion (8) carries.*

***Recess called. Assembly leaves at 9:37PM.***

***Assembly called to order at 9:47PM.***

**MOTION 9: That AMS Assembly reconsider Motion 5 from the AMS Assembly meeting of September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2013, as seen in Appendix D: Woo Referenda!**

Moved by: Member at Large Leo Erlichman

Seconded by: Kristen Olver

**Member at Large Erlichman:** So today I'm bringing forward a motion to change elections. I propose that we move the Rector election to a different point so they can better focus on their campaign. I find this a favourable motion. The Rector Election team is made of members of both AMS and SGPS societies. There is precedent for this election to occur outside of conjunction with AMS elections before we had eballoting. Students will have to remember dozen of campaigns and roles that affect ASUS, AMS, and the university. Their politics are different from ours. We need to make sure that we can't swamp students with elections. We have over a dozen candidates. It is money well worth investing that our third officer is a great officer. In first year, I picked the candidate whose last name was most intriguing. We're overwhelmed with the elections. Elections involving Rectors always have higher election turnouts. We don't want to take a step backwards. When we had Rector on it's on 33% came out to vote, and that's huge. Accurate coverage needs to be given.

**Senator Duchaine:** First point of information, Nick is an observer at Senate, not a voting member. He is welcome to attend senate meetings. Just a couple more points, I think it's a nice idea, but I don't think it's feasible. Voter fatigue could set in. Contrary to what you said, with



Trustee and Rector Candidates voting buzz happens, though there will be a huge amount of stress on the Elections team to run another election. I will point out that Leo Jackson's election was the lowest election turnout. If the Rector decides to complete their term of three years, to decide I want to be here, a rector in the wings would be an awkward situation. I'm not voting in favour of this.

**President Daya:** I really appreciate what non-AMS Assembly members bring forward. In addition to voter fatigue, the other thing is that it's recurring that somehow, for some reason, student leaders assume their constituents are stupid. They assume that they aren't invested in the school. They're all in the same place. By assuming that we're helping the students by pushing it back and garnering more interest, you're wrong. If you're interested in elections, you'll be interested. You'll do the research. I don't think students are actually stupid enough to vote for a party because its name is a funny acronym or something. I'll be voting against this because my constituents are smart.

**Member at Large Erlikhman:** That's against parliamentary procedure, because that's assuming that I'm stupid. To say that your constituents are smart, but I'm not included in your constituents, and is an insult to me.

*Motion to ask Daya to retract her statements  
Seconded by Representative Pandya*

*For: 3  
Motion fails.*

**Proxy Lively:** I believe that that's actually meant to be a Speaker's ruling.

**Deputy Speaker:** Thank you, but in doing so, I can defer my power to Assembly, which I did.

**President Berkok:** A few things to note. Volunteers for the Elections Team are only expected to work for the fall and winter referendum period. Furthermore, this hasn't been budgeted for, and this could be a significant expenditure. The 2008 election turnout was 68% for both AMS and Rector Elections, and the AMS executive election had 41% turnout. That's a significant drop between the two elections. I have concerns with having an election after reading week. That's during a period when there's still midterms and essays going on. I would be concerned for the successors and lack of training.

**Proxy Chisti:** I just wanted to speak to the financial implications of this. We already run a high cost election. To hold another election would cost money that we don't necessarily have. I don't think that money should be the restraint here, but there are other factors. Voter fatigue still exists and the issue with our volunteers being stressed and overworked also comes into play.

**Member at Large Erlikhman:** Costs are, as Olver mentioned, would be around \$3600. You've known about this for years. We're putting more candidates on a ballot than federal, provincial, and municipal elections. You think the students are just going to shift their attention? All of the campaign issues and contentious issues, that's not going to be out-shadowed. The minimum



amount is \$12000. Someone in commerce wins, we can't split it, and we're expecting twenty candidates, eleven pages of reading. The amount of information you expect students to remember in one election is unreasonable. This is the third highest respected university in Canada, and we should be making the best decision for our students. If we don't elect the best person because of the amount of candidates on one ballot, or because they were too overwhelmed, there's a problem.

**Commissioner Olver:** Point of information, we're just reconsidering the motion, not actually going into debate on the secondary motion.

**Vice President of University Affairs Pritchard:** Point of information, we're in a motion of reconsideration. Because this motion was passed to set the dates for this year's upcoming elections, we need to move into a two thirds vote to change dates that we have set as an Assembly. I think we have to vote now. We need a two thirds vote to reconsider and continue this debate.

**Proxy Lively:** Point of order, just wondering, what were the dates?

**Commissioner Olver:** It's in the agenda, page 49.

**Deputy Speaker:** Moving backwards. Thanks for clarifying the rules. Policy states two for, two against, must state their position at the beginning of their speaker. I would ask if there are any members to speak in favour of reconsidering the motion, as we have heard from those against.

**Vice President Aharon:** I want to say that there are a lot of opinions, I think it would be fair just to at least reconsider it. I think we should reconsider just to speak our opinions.

**Representative Jones:** Point of information, will Rector Francis be here soon? Has he spoken on it? It would be great to hear from him.

**Commissioner Olver:** If we reconsider the motion, he can speak.

**Deputy Speaker:** Now moving on to a vote to reconsider the motion.

*Motion (9) fails.*

**MOTION 10: That AMS Assembly approve the amendments to Policy Manual 1, Section 6, Part F as seen in Appendix E: Awards.**

Moved by: Thomas Pritchard

Seconded by: Eril Berkok

**Vice President of University Affairs Pritchard:** This is the removal of a sentence from our policy on awards. This is referring to a section in policy manual 1. This award is granted in conjunction with the reasons I'm asking, all of our awards need to be updated. This award hasn't been handed out since 2006. The money associated with this was from a donor family. Now the



money just goes to the university, and they gave it to us to deal with, which caused tension between the university and the family. If you approve this, it would go to the student award and scholarship committee. It would be awarded to an AMS member that has shown leadership during that year. I wanted to be clear that the award would go to an AMS member, because that's what it historically has been. If it gets removed, I'll update the policy at that time as well.

*Motion (10) carries.*

**MOTION 11: That AMS Assembly approve the mission statement of the University District Neighbourhood Improvement Plan: The University District is a clean and attractive neighbourhood where social integration, respect, community pride and a sense of belonging are fostered by residents.**

**Commissioner Wright:** I apologize for the lateness that this was sent out. Basically, we realize that we're making reports, and it's taking on our ideas for bettering the University District. There will be a mission statement, a description, etc. What I have already is a mission statement. It was sent out in an email.

*Motion (11) carries.*

**MOTION 12:** Appoint three members, as there were no applications, to the Equity Granting Committee.

Moved by: Kristen Olver

Seconded by: Thomas Pritchard

**Commissioner Williams, M:** This committee needs people to go over applications that we receive. We need Assembly members or members at large. We meet once per semester to go over equity grants applications. We need three members.

*Member at Large Young*

*Moved by President Marshall*

*Seconded by Representative Zuccaro*

*Accepted*

*Member at Large Pang*

*Moved by Representative Chinniah*

*Seconded by President Mason*

*Accepted*

**Commissioner Wright:** I think the best process if your people would be interested is to again open up the Nominating Committee to accept applications, go to those people, and the Nominating Committee would go over it again.

**Vice President Tahiri:** I just spoke with my Equity Commissioner and he said he's down.



**Speaker:** By the sounds of it, we will go back, reopen applications. It seems also we have no more Assemblies remaining this term, so Nominating Committee would have the ability to make whichever decisions they want.

**Vice President of Operations Plummer:** Straw poll would be good to see if their faculties would have that interest. Option 1: Nomination committee goes back to applications. Option 2: We continue with our own nomination.

*Motion (12) is withdrawn. Nominating Committee re-opens applications.*

## **15. Discussion Period**

### **A. International Representative to the AMS**

**Member at Large Pang:** I am studying computer science. I'm in my third year at Queen's, and I'm from Taiwan. There is no other representation of international students at Assembly. We need at least one person to allocate our concerns.

**Proxy Lively:** Thanks for coming forward with this, I think this is important. The reason we have representation from different faculties is for equal and broad representation. If a member at large who is a student wants to learn as much as he can about our student government and is still having difficulty with these things and the positions open to international students, we're failing at something here. They have concerns, but aren't sure where to bring them. We're building that connection. I don't think that we can effectively represent people who we aren't. I don't know of anyone else on this Assembly who is an international student. I don't think it's fair for us to represent those with fundamentally different concerns. There is a need for international student representation. We should go about this cautiously about how we implement it into Assembly. Do we work with the faculties on this? Do we bring forward our own opinions?

**Rector Francis:** I'm going to say two things, one of them I wish I could have said earlier, it's not in relation to this discussion at all. I want to acknowledge President Searle. I've been able to observe, and others, your entire term as President. I want to commend and thank you for your leadership. I have not seen others give as much as you have. One more round of applause. Also, the international student representation is important. I did a little bit of discussion with ASUS. They have two international representatives. Lively and Pang touched on this. I do agree with both of them strongly that international students have unique needs and perspectives, which have not been met at this Assembly. We should really consider having international representation on Assembly. I think it's worth looking into. As he mentioned, with the increase in international students on campus, we've been talking about the different enrolment groups. With the vision and overall mission of the university, we should really take on the issue of having international students voice their concerns here. We want to improve, and we can't do that without everyone's opinion.

**Member at Large Young:** This brings forth a lot of important discussions to be had. This idea is ambitious, but we should form an international student society, an actual student government.



There would be unique challenges with this, depending on when they come to Queen's. We should talk about the feasibility of this.

**ComSoc Representative Lopez:** In consideration for the person who brought forth this motion, English is not his first language, perhaps we can speak more coherently and slowly.

**Senator Duchaine:** I apologize, my remarks might be a bit long. Firstly, I'm going to start with a confession. When I was Academic Affairs Commissioner in 2012/ 2013, I got rid of the international castle and exchange committee within the AMS. I will note that the decision was made by myself and the AAC before me. Their needs are very different because their lifestyles are different. The way the committee is structured is different. Previous years of increasing engagement within the AMS and international groups, a lot of the issues that Pang has brought forth can go into the social or academic affairs committee. In regards to having the position, I agree issues facing them are different. But they aren't the issues facing Queen's University. A lot of the issues brought forth are to do with the Ontario government, not Queen's. I'm concerned about the precedent. If we had an international student representative, should we not have a low income student representative, an aboriginal representative, a woman's representative, a queer representative, et cetera. I think it's a fundamental question of representation, or should we be more proactive to take their considerations when we make our decisions. International students come from all faculties. I think the issues and needs might be different from ComSci versus medicine versus law. We should change our policy on international students. I would not support having a representative. I encourage you to read reports to the ASUS Assembly.

**ASUS Representative Chinniah:** Surprisingly, I disagree with everyone. I agree with Lively, Francis, and Pang that international students experience different treatment at Queen's, there's no dispute on that. They aren't welcomed into the larger Queen's community. I don't think that problem can be alleviated with a representative. The AMS Assembly is for problems that face the larger student body, and Queen's students. We should listen to what their concerns are, but I don't think they have a place on AMS Assembly.

**Proxy Kasraee:** A few points, in the fact that we have to be careful when approaching the idea. Perhaps the Queen's International Centre should have its own system. Yes, that may be hard to set up. I did some research into this. The AMS used to have an international rep, I think two or three years ago, and then the rep position lost interest in it. I like that the interest is being reignited. We have to know that someone else is going to fill that position. I want to quickly address what Duchaine was saying earlier. I understand that if we have representation for international students, why not for others, but it's not the same thing. What represents different faculties is that students represent a unique student experience. That is essentially for what international students have in common. They're coming from a different country; they have different issues that need to be addressed. Perhaps we can make it easier for them. How we can make this easier for them? Caution has to be taken. These talks have been had in the past.

**Student Trustee Aulthouse:** I don't know how much I have to add. In the 1990's, there was an international student association. This is a relevant conversation to be having. Internationalization is increasing the number of students at Queen's. We need to be providing more experience to those students. The future of Queen's will be recruiting from demographics



not ventured.

**Vice President Tahiri:** I was originally gung ho for this, but after talking to student reps, I have concerns I want to speak to the elected reps about. For me, student government is what the students want. For ASUS, there was something similar happening earlier with the formation of a new committee. I voted in favour of it because if that's what the students want, that's what they should get. I'm a visible minority, but we shouldn't have a visible minority representative. But I think that international students are different. Pang is one of the most informed international students, and he didn't even know about the insurance policy. For an elected representative, you decide what happens. We are a progressive school. More money and effort into an initiative like this. I am in favour of this. Elected reps, you decide, this is your student government. They can manage a portfolio. Those are the considerations that should be playing in your head.

*Discussion point closed.*

## **B. Referendum**

**President Berkok:** Motion to extend assembly.  
*Secoded by Representative Savides.*

**Vice President of University Affairs Pritchard:** Olver may be dying, she's probably not, I'll give her a minute. I want to talk about the Assembly's role in the referendum. Currently, the fees are looked at by the CIA and myself, and VP OPS, that they submitted their budgets and such. Then it's brought to assembly to vote on each questions. In most years, those fees are just omnibussed. In other years, those fees are discussed one by one. There is no clear rule on Assembly's role in this. Should we turn down a fee, why or why not? We want to bring forth a motion to clarify how Assembly will deal with those fees. Our first option would be to remove Assembly entirely. If Assembly's role is to just look at eligibility, then you're just acting as a rubber stamp for something that has already been approved. We could just remove Assembly from the process. At this point, we're just coming to you saying "yes, they did this, yes", and you say "yes, we believe you". The second option is to increase your role. Make Assembly a body that does vet the fees. Students have an expectation that someone looks at these fees before they go to a student body wide vote. Honestly, I think that's where we are. I would like to see a motion in the future of either removing Assembly or making Assembly that body.

**President Mason:** The VP had a great reflection of these fees.

**EngSoc Representative Blair:** I would like to agree with those opinions.

**Proxy Lively:** I'm hoping option number two. I remember last year, being on Assembly, there were three or four groups that got funding, and they were sketchy. We should be stopping this at Assembly before it happens. When people do get money, it's sketchy. It's better to err on the side of "yeah you don't get the money". I don't want to force another 88 percent of the student body to pay a fee if we can stop it here. When Rick Mercer ranted about Mayor Ford the other night, he said that people will vote for a gerbil that can save them a buck.



**Vice President of University Affairs Pritchard:** Really quick, if you are supporting the second option, it would help if you could add in or talk about what we should be able to do. Something more specific than, “We should be able to vote on merit”. Assembly can vet fees for these reasons.

**Vice President Tahiri:** VP Plummer, what would be the organizational and logistical problems with the second option? If any? And which one would you consider?

**Vice President of Operations Plummer:** The answer to your first question. Option one, we get together before Assembly, when groups are picking up their packages, we assess their eligibility, I look at signatures, et cetera. I just assess eligibility. What option one is saying is that validation will continue, but we will remove Assembly from it. The second option is going through each of the things that we do to ensure that the referendum is going well, and that the groups are adhering to our policies. My suggestion was outlining three or four questions that I can answer for every group. It will be much more work than what I did.

**Vice President Tahiri:** After you asked the question, would it require your approval or stamp, or would that come out?

**Vice President of Operations Plummer:** In my own opinion, Assembly decides on this. Things like fees can't go to X, Y, and Z, fees can't go to a charity, they can't be shelved, et cetera. You guys would assist in making the guidelines for this. I would caution against tying the hands of future Assemblies.

**President Mason:** Three suggestions. First is that there's a lot of value having the VP of Operations examine this and provide us and the students with this sort of information. But I think you should really extend to us for assistance. Second suggestion, more of a question, but should the AMS Assembly have the ability to overturn a fee? Third, I would suggest we invite groups to do a presentation at Assembly.

**Vice President of University Affairs Pritchard:** So, now we need to do something. I appreciate your input. I would really like to motion to add to the agenda. If someone wanted to do that within the debate, it would be nice to clarify what you want to see in the policy. Generally kind of this, this, and this. We would like to see chairs and clubs must come out to Assembly.

**Vice President Tahiri:** This is what I would propose, we go into second option, but we attach two or three questions. Most of the discussion will centre on what those things are. I think we should hold off on this. Use this more for consultation, so we can address what questions we aren't having answered. The VP Operations can go forward, and evaluate what we hope to garner. Additionally, consideration of what these student fees should be spent on. In the spite of what we want these fees to be. I think it would be better to come back on another date. What student fees should and shouldn't be put in.

**Commissioner Olver:** We need a larger response. As this is the last Assembly of the term the next Assembly is when we're vetting all those fees. If you want to change Assembly's role within



this, we would have to do it now. If not, we would be establishing those rules the day of or for future elections. It would be conflicting. I understand it's difficult to make policy on the floor.

**Vice President of University Affairs Pritchard:** Point of information, yes, that's a problem. It is difficult to make policy on the fly. We can't be influenced by the groups in that Assembly. We could warn the groups when they pick up their packages like, "this might be changing". We could arrange for them to come in and ask questions.

**Vice President Tahiri:** Point of information, clarification, as I understand it, the AMS already has the authority to what they want here. Are they allowed to ask to withhold the money, if the policy is already there? Do you or do you not have the authority to impose something like that?

**Vice President of University Affairs Pritchard:** If I understood correctly what you are asking, we couldn't, but the Elections Team could decide if this is something that should be done during the nomination period.

**President Fleck:** I would like to take the time to look at the options for this policy. The way Assembly stands, if we're looking just at merit, there are specific qualifications that we're looking at. Whether we call it President's caucus or not, we want to make sure all areas are accounted for. I would assume that assembly would be generally in favour of that as well.

**President Mason:** I would like to echo the concerns of Fleck, but if you think it's necessary to put together to policy tonight, I would motion to open the agenda. I think it is okay to do something tonight, but I don't think it would have the same quality as something written up. I will defer to your judgement.

**Vice President of University Affairs Pritchard:** I also take Fleck's comments to heart; perhaps President's caucus would be a good place to take this. That would give it preliminary guidelines to tell the groups about what is coming forward.

*Discussion point closed.*

*Deputy Speaker steps down to participate in discussion, President Mason is invited to the Speaker's Chair.*

### **C. Innovation PCR's for Assembly – Open Session**

*\*PCR refers to Priorities, Concerns, Recommendations.*

**Commissioner Williams, A:** This was brought up in the President's caucus and the academic caucus, and there has been debate on this. Questions or concerns can come to me. The next thing is the policy process. This provides a comprehensive view on what we want to see with innovation; a direction with evolution. Thing that I would say, recommendations in themselves are from the university. I think we should have this discussion in January. What will happen is that the principle concerns and doctrines will be put in. This is a document that will stand for many years. Going off of that, and relevant to the proceedings, a relevant piece the university has flagged innovation as a concern going forward. We're renegotiating with that document. This will



be signed by the province, by the university. This would give us the mandate. That's one piece that the document would be addressing. I'm going to say that we have four pillars, campus, academic involvement, access, and support. Because the systems are not aligned with the metric for success, you're going beyond your classroom hours and a part time job to afford start up. You may notice that there are several areas highlighted in yellow. This is specific Assembly direction. I got mixed feedback. If you could turn your attention to recommendation fourteen, you'll see a new and competitive scholarship. This would provide financial aid. This should deal with the start-up itself. I'm asking Assembly to make the point itself. One thing I will say, currently, the campaign is looking to find a place on campus, however, if Assembly thinks another location would be more beneficial, please let me know. I would like to open the floor.

**Vice President Tahiri:** Quick question with recommendation twenty two. After you explained it, I see why it's there. When I talk to students, their favourite courses are when the prof gets to try their own thing.

**Commissioner Williams, A:** A lot of courses are taught by world class researchers, and their knowledge in a field is what kind of gets them the ability and chance to try their own thing. It's actually founded by a one million dollar contribution. It provides all of the resources to help with this sort of thing.

**President Hennick:** Thanks for taking on this fantastic initiative. I would like to keep the focus on recommendation twenty one. I find it the most important; providing the resource in this way. When you benchmark Queen's, you throw some weight in this. My understanding is there's space at innovation park. I don't think there's anywhere on campus or in the district that has space that can be used on a daily basis.

**Member at Large Sherman:** I have a series of questions. If you're looking for light reading, most universities have a space like this.

**Commissioner Williams, A:** For example, Ryerson has now created the zone. With this policy all students have entrepreneurship. It means something different to every department. The idea that you see yourself as an entrepreneur, I think that developing the social entrepreneurship is fundamental. Students can receive a course credit with solving a problem within the community.

**Member at Large Sherman:** How do you see entrepreneurship being more integrated with the curriculum?

**Commissioner Williams, A:** Having that specialized funnel that brings students into the low maintenance contact with these ideas. Something like a speakers series. I will add some integration into our reports. Take other courses not related around experiential learning. It's a way to teach new learning. I also think having some courses, some upper years bringing in new faculties, would help. Finally, I think offering some credentials. Fast track for entrepreneur needs.

**ComSoc Representative Jones:** Recommendation twenty two. I think it's great to encourage innovative courses. I think a great example of how this sort of thing is sweeping across



universities and how it's revolutionizing our studies. It's essentially pass or fail, based on the honesty system, with take home exams. It's on the student to not be dishonest. The reputation of the school is so high. One thing with the USATS, we don't have the luxury of being so innovative, I think if we take the position to the school that we trust they would mark us fairly. That's more incentive for them to trust students with self-marking. I wish it was the way that we could be as innovative as possible. I don't know if this is the best answer we have as a student government.

**Commissioner Williams, A:** I will say that it will still be collected and reviewed by the prof. I did think that we would have to go to a body for this.

**Member at Large Aguilar:** I wanted to talk on the recommendation regarding computer space. Social innovation is an area that we can excel in. Students are already looking at alternatives. I am in support of having computer space within the community. As an entrepreneur, I want to know what the demand is for whatever. There's no better way to know that than going to the people where the demand is going. Furthermore, we need to know the individuals doing the same thing. Too rarely, we don't have enough from the community coming into Queen's. Another thing, if you want to solve a problem, you're not as invested in the community as someone who has been there all their life. What happens after you leave? To be honest, I think that this is a sole judgement. Universities have to take care of their own backyard. I think there is so much poverty, inequality, etc, it's impossible for universities publicly funded to deal with these problems.

**Vice President Tahiri:** Speaking on Jones' concerns, I would support moving forward with this. We need to take certain risks. This could be very safe, I appreciate your concern.

**Member at Large Sherman:** How do we see this policy in a strategy? How do you see this in the remaking of the town management agreement expiring in 2014?

**Commissioner Wright:** We talked a little about the reasons we want Kingston to be on board. The issue is that the Kingston is a university city, but the people don't necessarily want to be known as that. I would say that the issue with that is that they are funding initiatives, they are funding an economic growth of other communities. We would like to see students here during the summer. One of the recommendations is to create a hub for learning. It's pretty much empty here for those four months. It's hard to get faculty to teach over the summer. We would have experiential learning that wouldn't require faculty. That would provide us to get them in touch with people in the community.

**Member at Large Sherman:** How could you, or would you, secure mentorship? The member as a student, there are other forms of mentorship, in time management. Last question, yes, you have the space, but then there's social space outside of that.

**Commissioner Williams, A:** It's one of those things that I'm looking for suggestions. Some of the suggestions are having space on campus for that sort of thing, such as having the campus host a night with potential mentors.



**President Daya:** One of my favourite points is the connector between Kingston and Queen's. One thing that was pointed out is that Kingston is a microcosm of a lot of cities trying to start up. There's every kind of pocket we're trying to get. I think that this would be a great piece as an incubator.

*Discussion point closed.*

## **D. Pensions**

**Proxy Lively:** The discussion topic is pertinent to us. Their pensions are part of one pension plan. Over the next ten years, the goal is 5 million. What that means is that they are likely to lead to cuts, probably affecting us. What do we plan to do about it?

**Member at Large Sherman:** As I understand it, that's set by the ministry of finance, the payback should be ten or twelve percent over the next ten years. COU is going to lobby on this.

**Proxy Lively:** Where is the COU on this lobby front?

**Commissioner Williams, A:** What the Premier says is important is that we should move toward joint sponsorship plans, the joint sponsorship plan with the retention plan.

**Member at Large Sherman:** What role can we play beyond that?

**Vice President of Operations Plummer:** I can assure you that the university is not taking this lightly. They are very conservative about the pension plan. Interesting reading for anyone interested in the pension plan.

**ASUS Proxy Sherman:** Has OUSA taken a stance?

**Vice President of Operations Plummer:** Maybe VP Pritchard or Commissioner Williams, A can comment.

**Commissioner Williams, A:** They have in their research paper but not in the policy paper. I just wrote a blog on this. We are talking about containment at our OUSA lobby conference to address this problem. We're bringing key priorities to Queens Park.

**Trustee Aulthouse:** I feel this has been touched on already. The pension plan is a Board of Trustees issue and is a top priority. The October meeting we saw full presentation on the plan. We've moved into Phase 2 of it. Initially we would have to have come into the new plan. It's been extended to 2015; pensions are the main cost for all public institutions. We're not the only university facing this, and we're also not necessarily the worst off. We will work to create solution. Many options are being discussed. Not everything can be discussed right now but I'm glad we're discussing this at Assembly.

**Vice President Tahiri:** This Jim guy keeps coming up. Are we happy about him being on this?



Yes? Ok. I think the concern from people here is that if it gets to that point, then what is our position as Assembly? What is best for students? Would this jeopardize our education? So Jim is good for us; just needed that reassurance.

**Commissioner Williams, A:** Technically we have this covered in enrollment policy. Beauty of policy process.

**Trustee Aulthouse:** This will certainly continue to be a main topic of discussion for the Board of Trustees. I will do my best to keep Assembly informed moving forward.

**Proxy Lively:** To close, it's good we're getting more information. Policy so far generally covers what has been going on so far. I think there should be a strong stance on what's going on with AMS Assembly. It's a very political process. As a society we must take a very strong stance on this specific issue when we have all the information and when Assembly can work out the specific wording of that stance.

**Speaker:** Last call for speakers? We will now proceed to closed session.

*Assembly proceeds to closed session.*

