

AMS General Meeting
January 28th, 2016

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR January 28th, 2016

Motion 1: That AMS Assembly approve the agenda for the Assembly meeting of January 28th, 2016.

Moved by: Jon Wiseman

Seconded by: Kanivanan Chinniah

Vice-President Wood: I would like to add a discussion period to change the AMS system from team based, to individual based?

Seconded by: Lawson

For: All

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

Motion Carries

Commissioner Wiseman: I would like to add a motion that was sent out not too long ago, in regards to equity grants. I would like it added as Motion 3: "AMS Assembly approve the Winter equity grants."

For: All

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

Motion Carries

Commissioner Wiseman: I would also like to add another motion, in regards to the Queen's sustainability conference, "That AMS Assembly approve the addition of the Queen's Sustainability Conference to the Commission of Environmental Sustainability."

Seconded by: Representative Dowling

For: All

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

Motion Carriers

Commissioner Wiseman: I would like to omnibust the three CIA motions as well.

Speaker: We will take 6, 7, and 8 on the motion sheet and omnibusting them.

President Palmeri: Can we begin to receive changes to the minutes more than a day before? Thank you.

Ana Lopez Knocks to show support

For: All

Against: 0

Abstention: 0

Motion Carries

Commissioner Wiseman: I would like to add a guest speaker to tonight's assembly.

For: All

Against: 0

Abstention: 0

Motion Carries

Motion #1 Vote

For: All

Against: 0

Abstention: 0

Motion Carries

2. APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 22nd MEETING

Motion 2: That AMS Assembly approve the minutes of the meeting of January 14th 2016

Moved by: Jon Wiseman

Seconded by: Kanivanan Chinniah

For: All

Against: 0

Motion Carries

3. Speaker Business

Speaker: Congratulations to all election teams for a historic turnout. Congratulations to all those who ran in the elections, and those in the faculty societies. It is a lot of work and I am sure everyone is appreciative of it.

4. Guest Speakers

Associate Vice-Provost of Teaching and Learning: Peter

Peter: I would like you to talk about four initiatives.

Initiative One:

Migration to OnQ

Each faculty has their own system to use. This has been very challenging to students. Soon after I got here, the decision was made to bring as many faculties as possible to one learning management system. The learning management system was developed by a systems engineer from the University of Waterloo. His parents were teachers, and he thought he could do better than what was out there. We have contacted Desire 2 Learn, which we have branded as OnQ.

Now there will be support directly to students and faculty. We will even pilot a 24/7 support system for the first year. We want to enhance support not to just students, but to faculty as well.

Initiative Two

Centrally Owned Faculty

If you are in the majority of centrally used classrooms, about 130, then you will know some need improvement, and some need to be gutted. We will start doing that this

summer. We have gotten from the university, about a million a year, to begin to renovate our classrooms. This one is quite exciting because we are looking at a mix of large lecture halls, medium sized classrooms, etc. We will focus on the full range of classrooms. We will also look at taking 10% of that money to putting it to renewal of classes we aren't updating (i.e., making sure seats are cleaned, technology maintenance, etc.)

In the Gazette, probably next week, there will be an article announcing the renovations, and there will be a link to the survey, asking anybody who is in the classroom to give us feedback on what can be improved in individual classrooms.

Initiative Three

Development of University Wide Outcomes

Over the last number of years, the perspective on what takes place in a course and in a program is changing. The changes from articulating what the course will be about, to what students, if successful, will be able to do as a result of. In other words, what is the outcome of sitting in the class. Not just what the course is going to cover, but what are you going to do as a result of sitting in that class. There are program expectations like teamwork, communication, ethics, etc. These are starting to emerge at a program level, so we understand that over the large number of courses you take, there has to be a puzzle being made. This really begs the question of, what is it to be a graduate of Queen's. Everyone knows that Queen's has such a strong identity, but what is that? Certainly, there is a huge extracurricular component for being at Queen's. We have gone through a process of looking at all existing outcomes from all programs, and a number of focus groups, we put out a survey from all of that information, and tried to articulate what are those core knowledge, skills, and values.

Initiative Four

Art Show

Next year, we will hold an art show on the creative expression of teaching and learning. We will try to reframe student, and faculty work in an artistic way, and displaying it. We will go into the archives and look at student notebooks, for example. It may require a bit of taking a look at what you've done and looking at it differently. There is a whole group of people who are excited to display it as a creative expression, and not just an

assignment. It will be in the Gazette as well, and I know it isn't the most well read newspaper by students, so maybe you could help spread the word? There will be two categories: Already sitting in the drawer somewhere, and the other category: We will actually fund a number of projects for the exhibit.

This is the end of the information I wanted to share with you. Happy for questions.

Rector Young: I wanted to thank you for coming. I have the chance to work with a lot of people at Queen's, but you are one of the most passionate people I have ever seen. The thing Queen's does and is known for, is the passionate involvement of extracurricular, and trying to quantify what you actually get from jobs. I wanted to get your thoughts on this.

Peter: In regards to our learning outcomes, we tried to come up with ones that were not unique, but were highlighted to Queen's. A lot of school's I've been at in the past do not have as many professional schools as Queen's for example. I also read a stat somewhere that talked about 36% of Queen's graduates going to graduate school. 22% is the average across the country. That is a substantial difference. Perhaps having more undergraduate research is good. We need to identify that we are research focused here, and is there anyway we can recognize that? How can we leverage this? How can we increase opportunities for undergraduate research? These are things we need to look into.

President Garcia: What is the model that the university is looking forward to in the next few years, regarding class size increases, without program sizes increases.

Peter: Everywhere in Canada, the flocking to education is happening. 70% of people go to post-secondary education now. This tension will not be going away, and it is happening everywhere. I don't know what the enrollment is here, but I was at Guelph when it went from 15 to 22K after grade 13 went away. This all is easy to understand on the global level, but is hard to understand in the classroom level.

Representative Dowling: My question is in regards to physical classroom spaces. When renovations are going on in the next couple years, is increased enrollment being considered?

Peter: I haven't heard about increasing enrollment. We are not thinking of increasing the capacity of our classrooms. As a matter of fact, some renovations are going to shrink the sizes.

Peter: My name is Peter Wolf, feel free to contact me at Peter.Wolf@Queensu.ca. Have a good meeting, and thank you very much. Have a nice night.

5. President's Report

President Chinniah: I have two things to add to my report. The first is in regards to Fall reading break. I spoke to all faculty society presidents, and tomorrow I will discuss with Alan Harrison about parameters with a working group. Afterwards, we will come with you with a proposal for how this working group will happen. On behalf of Kyle and Sarah, the AMS executive, we want to congratulate all winners. First, we want to congratulate LWT as the 166th AMS executive. The three of us are very much looking forward to work with you, and for the next 93 days we will be at your service, as well as all other winners.

6. Vice-President Beaudry

Vice President Beaudry: The student constable fee did not make it through the referendum. We will now go back to the drawing board to ensure a stable budget for student constables, as well as fair fees.

Vice-President Letersky

Vice-President Letersky: There is an intern project coming up. Please make sure to check your emails about it. Second update is that hiring is going to be commencing, so make sure you get that information out.

7. Board of Trustee's

Chair of the Board Blair: The board of directors approved a number of changes to job descriptions. Specifics of which will be found in the minutes when they are posted. We changed the CIA to the secretariat, as well as the clubs manager and clubs assistant manager, and the SLC managers were changed as well. In addition, the StudioQ live stream were changed. Applications to the board of directors will open one month prior to March 9th. If you have any questions about anything I just said, please e-mail me.

8. Student Senator's Report

Senator Lockridge: Senate met on Tuesday. The first being that senate committee vacancies are now posted, and are due February 10th. The sexual assault draft policy has been posted, and can be found on the policy website of the university secretariat website. Spread it around as they will appreciate all feedback they could get. There is a major modification to the certificate in international studies, and there was a name change to the department of art.

9. Rector's Report

Rector Young: Sorry for not submitting a report. First and foremost, I would like to echo a congratulations to everyone. I am very excited to work with Cam Yung. He is always willing to listen to whatever is going on in your life. I too have 93 days left and I am not done yet. I am working on this weekend, the Tricolor Award Interviews. Announcement of recipients will be on February 1st. I have taken up learning about indigenous learning expectations at Queen's. I also was able to bring it up to the principle earlier this week. Establishing core objects that reflect indigenous ways of learning and assessing are things we will look at university wide. This is not something were you must take X or Y course, but more to look at broad objects.

10. Student Trustee's Report

Trustee Li: Nothing to add to my report, but I would like to offer my congratulations to all incoming executives, and all who put their names forward in the elections.

11. Statement of the Members

President Toft: This was not in my report: With reference to the Physical and Health education program: There may be a one year stall on admissions to this program.

Commissioner Wiseman: 44.3% voter turnout, the highest it has been since 1991. This could not have been done without this amazing elections team this year. I wanted to give them a shout out in Assembly. They dealt with all problems quickly, and moving forward I hope this continues. Next year, I hope we can push this to 50%.

Manager Williams: There are two new clubs that will be starting tomorrow, and am happy to answer questions about them.

President Lopez: I wanted to give everyone an update in regards to our elections. We will have results in tomorrow, so that is why we didn't get mentioned with everyone else, since we ran it on a different platform.

12. Question Period

Representative Dowling: In regards to the incoming AMS Executive team, what are your thoughts on the 600 people who voted "None of the above?". Are you Concerned?

Member at Large Thompson: One of the things we acknowledged in running our campaign is engagement has been lower, due to a distrust with the AMS. Hopefully next year, that will be a lot better, but I honestly think it is a distrust that students have. Everything we talked about in our election, we need to start doing now.

13. Business Arising From the Minutes

14. New Business

Motion 3: That AMS Assembly approve Winter Equity Grants.

Commissioner Chung: We granted about 2300 dollars to ASUS equity conference last semester. That conference is no longer happening, so we got that money back. There are four groups that were successful, the first being CESA equity, Queen's White Britain, Residence Pride League, Solidarity for Palestine Human Rights.

For: All

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

Motion Carries

Motion 4: AMS Assembly approve addition to the Queen's Sustainability Conference to the Commission of Environment Sustainability.

Commissioner Liberty: We are not just absorbing this conference, we were approached to do it and researched it prior. They are looking for some support that the AMS Assembly can provide.

President Lopez: Can you talk about the resources this conference will need?

Commissioner Liberty: Some of the big things they were missing out on, includes a lack of organization. This was started by a single person, who went on exchange, left the conference to its own devices, and there were a lot of people under her who did not know what was going on. One of the things we were hoping to overcome, they will have access to someone, like myself, or the next commissioner, someone who has more time to dedicate.

For: All

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

Motion Carries

Motion 5: AMS Assembly nominate two people to sit on the Robert Sutherland Prize committee.

If you would like to nominate yourself or someone else in the room, please select someone.

Vice President Wood: I would like to nominate President Garcia.

President Palmeri: I would like to nominate Representative Rukaj.

Both accept

Speaker: All in favour of appointing them to the committee?

For: All

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

Motion Carries

Motion 6: That AMS Assembly approve changes to AMS Policy Manual 2, as seen in Appendix: Amalgamation.

Charlotte: I am the director of the Peer Support Centre and we want to talk about the combination of the Academic Grievance Centre and the Peer Support Centre.

Nick: I am the director for the Academic Grievance Centre.

Charlotte: We will start with an overview with the academic grievance center and peer support center.

Currently, the peer support structure offers support in all areas possible, like mental health, academics, and relationships. It is commonly perceived that the peer support center is only for counseling, but we are trying to fight that and make it so that anyone can come in.

Volunteers do not get any training on academic policy, but they do get training on academic support. We do find that often we do refer them to the academic grievance center. We don't necessarily tackle the steps to receive that support though. Currently, we are in a space crisis. Last semester, we saw 261 students, which is a lot. We have been finding the space inaccessible. We only have one space, and we do find that students do line up outside the center throughout the day, and this is very stressful and means some students don't actually get seen before we close at 10 PM. Something I also found this year is I have to leave my office during an overflow shift to allow students to get support in my office.

Nick: The Academic Grievance center is a peer run support service for students who have concerns with academic regulations, or maybe want help with the appeal process. We have 10 volunteers that engage in one on one-interview style questions. We try to figure out their questions, and what concerns they may have. Our officers are trained with the relevant policy and skills needed. We are located in Room 261 in the JDUC, next door to the peer support center. The majority of cases we receive don't make it past the head of the department. When they do, these are more severe cases, and will be referred to the academic affairs commissioner or myself, where we talk with the student one on one. Sometimes I refer them to the rector as well.

The vast majority of students come in with exam or grade related issues. This trend continues this year as well.

Charlotte: Some challenges faced by the peer support center: Many want to talk to a

peer. We only have one room available, and one volunteer, and we have had to turn students away sometimes. 52% of students who came to the peer support center came in with stresses related to academics. Most often, students come in on Monday to Friday, and our busiest times are from 12-5PM.

The Proposal

We will not be able to advise students on issues on academic training and that sort of thing. That includes having the academic affairs commissioner, and talking to the students about academic policy, and that kind of thing. We will also be inheriting a policy manual, and using that for our volunteers in case they forget something. Our shift leaders will also reside in the academic grievance center as well. We will take any questions now.

President Palmeri: I like these changes. My question stems with the additional training volunteers will receive now. Has there ever been incorporation of faculty specific training?

Charlotte: During one of our training sessions that we have done, we have learning strategies come in and do a department specific tips.

Vice-President DiCapua: By merging both training, do you find that would be a lot of information for especially a volunteer to take in? How will you break that down that good quality information is given?

Nick: At the beginning of the year, at the AGC, officers go through a 5 hour training. The way we ensure that the students who come to us are going to receive the highest quality support that they can, is every two weeks we go over relevant policy with them and ensure they understand necessary policies. Now, I have full confidence in my officers when they are questioned. We did an anonymous survey last week, and asked them how well trained they are, and if they are helping out students: They said yes, I do feel like I am helping students. This is from the AGC side.

Charlotte: We do about a 30 hour training at the beginning of the year. In talking to Nick, the training we offer at the start of the year, if we did a 2-3 hour introduction at the beginning, and then offer ongoing training, this would ensure high quality training. It sounds like a lot of training and we acknowledge that as well.

Nick: It is also important to note, that it is hard to expect volunteers to know all the information, but that is why we have computers in the office.

Representative Siddiqui: I think this is a great service. Is there way to good feedback from those coming?

Charlotte: We currently use a peer support center survey once a semester. It is anonymous, and they can indicate to us if they felt if the support is appropriate. We then take that, and then make sure we are in fact providing appropriate support.

For: All

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

Motion Carries

Motion 7: That AMS Assembly approve the changes to Policy Manual 2, Section 8, as seen in Appendix: Sailing the Seven CEAs

Commissioner Liberty: We are eliminating the Room of Requirement committee, and we will be giving these responsibilities to the deputy who currently oversees this. Other changes are minor.

All: All

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

Motion Carries

Motion 8: That AMS Assembly approve the changes to Policy Manual 1, Policy Manual 2, and adopt the changes to the Constitution, all seen in the Appendix: CIAoCIA.

Commissioner Wiseman: As in our last assembly, all of the commissions have been undergoing a thorough review. It has been deliberated to completely restructure the CIA. So a lot of it is very similar to the proposal presented last week. We did take into consideration that the Secretariat, Speaker, and CEO will be three different speakers. A lot of things in terms of policy is many things that include the words CIA have been

changed to The Secretariat. Also, the Secretariat will be a 12 month position, and will be a 10-15 hour commitment with a 6500 dollar salary. If you have any questions about the fate of the CIA, I am happy to take any questions.

Representative Dowling: Is this a salary position or a volunteer position?

Vice-President Letersky: Upon review of the hours of work, we narrowed it down to a matter of details and daily tasks, it will be an honoraria in the summer, but starting September 1st, they will be a salaried staff on a 15 hour contract.

Rector Young: If SONAD is still a thing, who will be the AMS representative to sit on the SONAD committee?

Vice-President Letersky: Determining what happens in the future, the judicial affairs director represents the AMS with the Vice-President Operations.

Vice-President Wood: Is it common for an honoraria to be over the summer?

Vice-President Letersky: Yes, over the summer, when we have positions do we work, we usually give them a gift. In this case, the gift is monetary based.

President Palmeri: Can you touch upon recruitment strategies going forward?

Vice-President Letersky: We have ample time to determine this and discussing with students the changes. The hope with this, is to continue to touch upon the internal workings of the position.

Representative Cohen: I was wondering if the Secretariat is able to run in the elections?

Vice-President Letersky: They will still be exempt.

For: All

Against: None

Abstentions: None

Motion Carries

15. Discussion Period

Vice President Wood: I apologize for dropping this on everyone. This is something I have been thinking of in the last year. I have always thought why there is a team based elections. I see the value in both. For information, EngSoc is separate runs. I would like to hear people's opinions about this. The pros for the current system mostly come down to united visions, etc. The cons I find is it is a very exclusive practice, and some people feel like finding a team is very difficult. Trying to balance out a team is difficult and limits people not already in the AMS. The pros of a single candidate system: Some say there is a chance people won't like each other. I don't see that as a terrible thing. I think of people have different views it keeps them more accountable with their views. It also tends to be more accessible. You don't need to worry about having a team comes forward with you. The cons of this system of course, are you could have too many people running at once. Also, there could be too many different platforms.

Representative Dowling: I do see a lot of concern with having a lot of individuals running. The publicity is too much. Because of the over saturation of elections, students may get apathetic.

Representative Hagerman: In EngSoc, we had two candidates run for each position. It wasn't oversaturated at all. Maybe a little more saturation is a good thing, since some people (i.e. ASUS president and vice-president) didn't even have competition, over saturation is a good thing.

Vice-President DiCapua: An individual system may not allow very much engagement to occur. For EngSoc, over 50% vote, and for ASUS, about 30% voted. It is pretty good, but the comparison in numbers are not the same.

President Palmeri: I want to emphasis the uniqueness of the AMS structure. What if we had students seeking two of the three positions. What would happen if the president position for example, is not sought after. My only concern then, is if we knock off the team dynamic, what if one of the positions is not sought after? What would happen there?

President Garcia: In the computing faculty, that exact thing happened. No one ran for Vice-President, and we will be having another election in September.

Representative Cohen: In the executive race, only one team ran. This isn't because of the group thing. For the ASUS Rep positions, two people ran for six positions. If you elect

individuals, there may be less security that they would be able to pull off their campaigns when the three candidates make it to office.

Representative Susic: I look at quality over quantity. We've had many years where the AMS ran unopposed, but we still had great people doing the positions. To be effective in leading a whole body also, it is a good thing to be able to bring together a team at the beginning, but I see the issues with people having difficulties with it who aren't necessarily AMS insiders.

Vice-President Wood: I appreciate the discussion, one major counter point I would kind of give back, is I think it does come down to inclusivity within the AMS. As it currently stands, unless you are part of the AMS, you are not running for a team.

Future of Environmental Affairs Commission

Tyler Lively: The commission has shifted to different directions, nearly year over year. What we have seen in the most recent election, we were elected on the mandate of building partnerships with the university and the Kingston community. We are looking for guidance going forward: Is that the right vision? When we are making a hiring decision, we want to ensure we are making an informed one.

President Lopez: I have seen a lot of the changes happen to it. And it almost feels like we are finding things to add to the portfolio. It is almost like we are reallocating clubs that work fine, to this one.

Vice-President Wood: I am not super familiar with the changes, however, one thing I will say is that the definition of environmental sustainability has changed every year, for the last ten years. I am not super surprised that it is a changing portfolio. I think it is probably a case where the commission is trying to find its niche. I do find value in having all of these clubs under one banner. Combining all under a single commissioner and having AMS support behind it, and also having an opportunity to unite them under a single cause, is a lot more effective.

Commissioner Liberty: In regards to President Lopez's comments: Firstly, the conference that we just took in, they approached me to join the AMS, I didn't approach them. I understand Lopez's concerns thoughts. There is a lot of things this commission does that is not sexy, but it is a large part of the commission. For example, I have been lobbying for compost programs around campus, as well as salt distribution.

Tyler Lively: There is a dual mandate: Lobbying and Educational services. When we are talking things about the Blue Dot campaign, we are talking about something that has a greater societal benefit, but it doesn't necessarily deliver things to benefit students today paying the fees. We would like more broad input on whether or not this should even still be a commission in and itself.

Member at Large Crawford: The best way to lobby a group, is to inform the member base. The CEA is a parallel of that. The CEA is more about an idea, and not a specific group, whereas municipal affairs is to the city, academics is to the university. The CEA can be basically to anyone you want. For a hiring choice, find someone who has a focus to lobby into a specific group.

Representative Dowling: I am going to focus on the education aspect of the commission. I think it is very important that we have someone to inform students about the environmental issues facing the city, the province, and the federal government.

President Lopez: There are a lot of clubs that are effective as a lobbying piece. I am not sure if it is necessary to always be associated with the commission to promote all of these environmental concerns.

President Toft: I honor LWT for trying to think about how they can advance this role. I wish I had more to contribute, but I would say I trust Peter and his insight into this role, and how he feels with how this is going.

Representative Flisikowski: I agree that the commission can be reviewed. As silly as it sounds, the environment can't speak for itself. Having the commission, although not ranked as #1 importance, having it as someone who can set a standard for universities across Canada and the world, it could be something that a lot of universities do.

Rector Young: Some people may think that the CEA may think of it as the most important body we have as an undergraduate society. We need to consider different people's thoughts. We also need to consider the implications of entirely removing a commission.

President Jamieson: What is the purpose of a commission? A commission's purpose is to represent a sector of students in the student body. However, you also have other offices, like SLC, that run laterally. The CEA is to help the AMS levy its other projects

that go on. Not necessarily a sector of student life, but gave student's a connection to the university and environment. If students want a bang for their buck, turn the office into something that focuses on project management. Things like renovations, and salt distribution, these are projects. I think a lot of what the CEA is doing, is helping the community, and is supporting the MAC in its mandate.

President Palmeri: Just to go off of what President Jamieson said. I think it is interesting to see how he connected the CEA connects to the MAC. Kind of when this motion came forward today, I thought it was a great way for the assembly to review the commission. I think we should look to review all the individual components of this commission and see if we can bring them to other sectors of the AMS. I also wonder if, when we spoke of the Blue Dot campaign, can that run under another sector of the AMS? The Bell Lets Talk campaign was a good way for us to see how a campaign can be successful without being under a commission.

Member at Large Thompson: I wanted to thank you guys for having this discussion with us. I think it is important to include you guys in our decisions. If you have other thoughts, please come and talk to us about it later.

Speaker: Motion to close assembly?

Moved by: President Garcia

Seconded by: Vice-President Wood

END OF ASSEMBLY