

EngSoc VPSA Alex Wood shall henceforth be known as Speaker.

Assembly commences at 7:00pm.

1. Motion #1 – Approval of the Agenda of the meeting of February 11, 2016

Moved: Commissioner Wiseman

Seconder: AMS President Chinniah

AMS President-Elect Lively: Would like to amend the agenda to add the motions #8-10 that was given to Commissioner Wiseman re: ratification of the Directors, all as one motion

Seconder: AMS Vice President Letersky

AMS Vice President Letersky: Would like to omnibus motions 3 through 10: ratification of AMS Council.

Seconder: AMS President Chinniah

Motion carries unanimously.

2. Motion #2 – Approval of the Minutes of the meeting of January 28, 2016

Did not get it in time for the meeting. As a result, this item will be moved to the next meeting.

3. Speaker's Business

Speaker Wood: Speaker Anderson will be in later tonight, as he is completing a midterm. I will be stepping in until he arrives.

4. Guest Speaker

None

5. President's Report: President Kanivanan Chinniah

AMS President Chinniah: Nothing to add.

a. Operations: Vice-President Kyle Beaudry

AMS Vice-President Beaudry: Nothing to add.

b. University Affairs: Vice-President Sarah Letersky

AMS Vice-President Letersky: Nothing to add.

7. Board of Director's Report: Chairperson Michael Blair

Chair Blair: Nothing to report.

8. Undergraduate Student Trustee's Report: Trustee Jennifer Li

Student Trustee Li: Nothing to add.

9. Student Senator's Report: Student Senate Caucus Chair Leah Brockie

Student Senator Brockie: Nothing to add.

10. Rector's Report: Rector Mike Young
N/A

11. Statements by Members

ComSoc President Lopez - Received an invitation from the Academy for the Student Awards Ceremony, recognizing the work of leaders on campus.

Another body that awards awards presented recognitions to give to some people:

Alexandra Palmari with the Leadership Award

Campus cutie award to Brandon Jamieson. Is he old enough to make quorum?

Student Life and Democracy - CEO of the Engineering society (?? Ryan Patrice)

12. Question Period

13. Business Arising from the Minutes

a. Motion #3 – “That AMS Assembly formally ratify Leah Brockie as the Commissioner of Academic Affairs for the 2016-2017 year.”

b. Motion #4 – “That AMS Assembly formally ratify Greg Kurcin as the Commissioner of Campus Activities for the 2016-2017 year.”

c. Motion #5 – “That AMS Assembly formally ratify Liam Dowling as the Commissioner of Environmental Affairs for the 2016-2017 year.”

d. Motion #6 – “That AMS Assembly formally ratify Francis Campbell as the Commissioner of Municipal Affairs for the 2016-2017 year.”

e. Motion #7 – “That AMS Assembly formally ratify Leandra Keren as the Commissioner of Social Issues for the 2016-2017 year.”

f. Motion #8 - “That AMS Assembly formally ratify Michael Judd as the Director of Information Technology for the 2016-2017 year.”

g. Motion #9 - “That AMS Assembly formally ratify Caitlin McKeen as the Director of Advancement for the 2016-2017 year.”

h. Motion #10 - “That AMS Assembly formally ratify Emma Jones as the Director of Human Resources for the 2016-2017 year.”

Commissioners and Directors asked to come to the front for ratification.

AMS Vice President University Affairs-Elect Carolyn Thompson: So excited to announce the team. 24h of interviews this weekend and so honoured to have been a part of this! Thank you to all those that applied!

Commissioner Wiseman: Any questions for any of the candidates - opening up for 3 questions.

Proxy - Jonathan Kreg proxy (EngSoc): What do you foresee the most challenging aspect of your role to be in the coming year?

Francis (incoming MAC): Pretty obvious that the most challenging would be the unforeseen circumstances that come up in the positions.

Leah (incoming AAC): Work with OUSA with tuition framework and funding

Liam (incoming CEA): Commission is constantly changing, and as it expands, making sure it reflects students needs

Michael Judd (incoming IT): So much technology! Deciding what students need; deciding what is the best this upcoming year

Leandra (incoming SIC): Lots going on in the social climate; may be overwhelming to take it all on!

Greg (incoming CAC): Lots of students and positions for events; making sure we are holding events the students want

Caitlyn (incoming advancement): Such a new position; only the 2nd year in the AMS as an official role. Really establishing it as an office and establishing what we do is really important.

Emma (HR): Professional development and making sure we can all get hired after these positions.

Rector-Elect Yung: How will you make sure your work reflects the needs of students?

Francis: Having open lines of communication with the team. Making uniform decisions; being able to communicate ideas back and forth, such that we can make uniform decisions

Leah: Greater consultations; using Faculties that know their students best

Liam: Echo Leah; be a resource out to Faculties

Michael: Want more communication with students; find easier ways to consult through IT

Leandra: Working more with committee members and volunteers, gauging what is important to them.

Greg: Talking to the students about what they want is really important in this role

Caitlyn: Looking at how we can benefit the whole student body through; esp. with fundraising and sponsorship

Emma: Working with current staff and volunteers to make sure they have the resources and supports they need.

NSS President Palmari: What inspired each of you for your role and what equips you best for this role?

Frances: Lives in Kingston - has seen Queen's develop over time and is inspired to be further involved.

Leah: Work on senate, governing academics will help her in my term. My willingness to learn will also be helpful.

Liam: Come from a biology background; have a lot of "roots" (haha... so funny!). Experience with ASUS and AMS re: policy and reaching out to students

Michael: In computer science - always a "nerd" for technology and hoping to make it easier for everyone.

SIC: Active listening and engaging with students is catalyst for change with students

Greg: Give back to students, create opportunities. I'm a "nice guy" and look forward to working with everyone.

Caitlyn: Orientation week; NEWTS orientation - something that we've worked on restructuring. Willing to put on the work.

Emma: I'm a huge fan of the Student Wellness initiative that will be going forward in HR in the upcoming year, hopefully. And I also have a weird obsession for resources that are available on campus. My friends call me "mamma Jones", because whenever they need anything, they just come up to me and ask. So I thought this position would be the best for me.

Commissioners and Directors asked to leave the room to discuss.

No debate on the motion.

For - Unanimous

Against - 0

f. Motion #11 – “That AMS Assembly authorize the Executive to lobby the federal government of Canada on the Canada Student Loan Program, as seen in Appendix: Because it’s 2016.”

Motioner: AMS Vice President University Affairs Letersky

Seconder: AMS President Chinniah

VPUA Letersky passes talking rights to AMS President.

AMS President Chinniah: We are asking for explicit authorization to lobby the Federal government of Canada on three issues. Those issues are in the package. The first is the Canada Student Loan Program, the second is generally on international student issues, the third will be on student employment and undergraduate research opportunities. *Tells funny joke about names of appendices*

For a bit of background, the AMS is not a member of any Federal lobby organization. There’s a reason for that. We tried to join one in 2009 - that was the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations and we actually left it after a year, because Federal issues are not that pertinent to student interests generally. So that’s why we left. In 1990, the last time we tried to engage federally, was when the team at the time ran a referendum to join the Canadian Federation of Students, which was defeated 80% No in a referendum question. The AMS has really never lobbied on educational issues at a Federal level. We think that with the permeation of the new government and with the opportunities involved in that with the newly elected team, ready to spend money, in a favourable fiscal climate. It is a prime opportunity to lobby on these three issues that matter to students in some way.

Canada Student Loan program: Canada Student Loan program is the first line of assistance afforded to any student seeking government aid. OSAP doesn’t kick in until you have exhausted your limit for the Canada Student Loan program. That is the first line of defense that we generally don’t touch, right now through OUSA. As our student body is beginning to get outside Ontario and because the new government, this program works well because there is no political will, but with the new government and permeation of new spending plans, there may be opportunity to ask for enhancements to this plan. The reason why for all this motion we have not specified certain asks, is because we are going into this with the other U15 Universities - Western USC, Waterloo, McMaster, Saskatchewan, UBC, Dalhousie, Ryerson, U of T will soon - generally similar to Queen’s, with similar interests. Whatever framework we come up with will generally align with what our students want.

In terms of logistics, they want to engage in lobbying with MPs and the government at the end of March, scheduling for the end of March, in Ottawa. Devoting some resources to this.

The second thing we want to lobby on is with international student issues. Specifically, right now tuition is the only thing we touch. The previous government changed rules to improve working arrangements for international students - international students now don't need a permit to work on campus and off campus, during a full-time course load. But there are some gaps in this policy. For example, full-time means 3 full-time courses. This becomes tougher with new programs Queen's is offering. Basically, there are holes in the international student program, with work-permits, visa, and work permits after graduation work. Want to draw attention to that.

In terms of research and the Canada jobs grant - this doesn't really affect our interest, but something the government wants to get into. In terms of Undergraduate research opportunities, the Canadian government mainly funds research, generally. There is opportunity to tie some funding to undergraduate research. Cannot put all money into research, so as to sacrifice teaching - it is a touchy area. The other element is the Canada job grants, started in 2013, which is a wage subsidy. In exchange for training for researchers, the government provides a subsidy to the employer. If the government replaced the Canada jobs grant, that they include these wage subsidies, or they don't replace the Canada jobs grant.

Happy to take questions, now if you have any. I will emphasize that it is hard to get to specifics, as we are still developing these specifics with our partner schools. To be clear, if we disagree with our partner schools or our interests do not align, we will not engage in those issues.

Commissioner Wiseman: Opening debate for motion #9 - Canada Student Loan program

ASUS Representative Dowling: Question with regards to transparency. With lobbying, there is no individual other than the Executive who can lobby. How are you going to be transparent to the student body, if you do move forward with this?

AMS President Chinniah: Good question. Alongside the U15, the Western USC Communications person is going to come to Ottawa, to make sure that what is discussed is communicated. Very comfortable with sharing these outcomes, making this public to AMS Assembly and the student body.

EngSoc President Tseng: Brought up concerns during President Caucus yesterday. Want to raise that the AMS has never done Federal lobbying. Market research tells us that students are not of interest in this. In my opinion, this has not had enough time to properly consult with students about this motion, so cannot vote in favour of this motion.

AMS President Chinniah: That's very fair - generally, we at OUSA don't like Federal advocacy. It's because our students don't want to get involved, as politics gets divisive at a Federal level. It's why our students are opposed to it, and I respect that we have not had enough time to consult our students. What I will say is that this is a prime opportunity to get share of budget, to ensure that students get a share of this pie and that we get it in a way that is sustainable. Once in a government lifetime opportunity - only time in 8 years we will

be able to make these differences. Time sensitive nature, but respect that federal advocacy is touchy.

COMPSA President Garcia: Speaking as an international student myself, I like this. I know a lot of people are against Federal advocacy. For international students, realistically, it's Federal advocacy or nothing. On my behalf and other international students, it's a great thing.

EngSoc VPSA Wood: I have a couple issues with this. This is a huge representational undertaking, and we haven't had the time to consider this and consult with our students. This is the worst assembly to do this at - rushing to complete this before 8:15. This is coming under very sketchy circumstances. This sets a precedence that anytime there is a Federal issue, the AMS can lobby Federally. Students don't vote in our AMS Executive to lobby Federally, maybe to the University or Ontario, but not Federally. Students need to be consulted before we're confident doing this - I feel really uncomfortable rushing into this.

AMS President Chinniah: I didn't choose for this Assembly to not make Quorum. There is a time-sensitive nature for this to happen. (*makes a joke*) It is at the point where we are at the government cycle where they are most willing to listen to partners and stakeholders, so we want to get in there before this opportunity closes. Want to set a precedent where the AMS Executive will not lobby Federally, unless ratified through AMS Assembly their lobbying abilities. The pragmatic option is to allow for Federal lobbying, as our interests are quite clear on these three issues.

NSS President Palmeri: I want to thank the Executive for bringing this forward. In the last few weeks, I have dealt with issues beyond my grasp - ones with provincial and federal implications. Students can stand to benefit from lobbying on these issues. I wish to highlight that President CHinniah has mentioned that with the budget about to drop, we need to get students interests at the forefront, during this small window of opportunity. Having said that, it's not something the AMS Executive has done in the past, but coming forward now shows that they have the resources, initiative and support to take on a project of this magnitude, and I appreciate and admire that as a student leader.

ASUS President Jamieson: I'd like to comment on the values of student government at Queen's. I respect the views of EngSoc, and the roles of being student leaders, but that we are acting in the best interests of the students we represent. It's now an opportunity for our student government to take a strong stance and work proactively (*makes joke*)

EngSoc Representative Rukaj: I have a few comments. First, I'm a little surprised as to how the Universities came together - are there any documents you have all put together? There must be some common political theme. I appreciated that you said that we wouldn't be bound to something we wouldn't agree to, however, I think there should be an accountability measure. You need to come back to us and get our approval, put together a policy document. Finally, I do want to representative VPSA Wood - we have never given the AMS Executive a Federal mandate - those are two separate mandates.

AMS President Chinniah: First, I think we would, in any case, even with our OUSA policy papers, we would bring that forward to Assembly. We have done that at every instance. We would do the same here. We would share that here. In terms of the current framework, basically what there is is how much contribution should we give - negotiations are occurring. For example, should we give a student fee - we have decided to not contribute financially. This is an Ad Hoc group - a group of student organizations that don't have a student lobbying presence. We are negotiating through a framework. As you can appreciate, it's mid-February, and we want to get in there before April starts, as that is when the budget consultation starts. The problem is that we just don't have enough time to present a framework and policies for Assembly.

Ascepulian Society President Sidiki: Everyone is doing a great job speaking in this room! Understand that the AMS has not advocated in the Federal level, and that this could be divisive should not have us shy away from the topics. As the Ascepulian society, a national survey went out to talk to medical students at the Federal level. There were 5-10 asks, contemplating what to advocate from. The top 3 were picked on the Federal and Provincial levels. Members of the Assembly picked the ones they were most comfortable pursuing and advocating for. This way, there was some accountability. Hope to have a similar system for the AMS.

Proxy Craig: Yield

EngSoc VPSA Wood: We keep talking about the end of March. To clarify, I misspoke earlier - I'm not against the idea of us Federally advocating. What I am against is that we have not had as much opportunity to speak with our students, and to say that we are representing our students. So, you're saying the end of March, so why does that stop us from bringing up this discussion at the special Assembly after Reading Week or at the AGM? That way we can say we are representing our students, because at this point I can't say I am accurately representing our students.

AMS President Chinniah: Frankly, I don't want to go into negotiation with other schools without approval from some students. This is not the be all end all - we want to get this authorization to be able to talk to other schools, to bring that framework, and bring more people into the discussion. that's why we put it at this time. I wouldn't be able to negotiate in good faith, before knowing that the Assembly is at least someone behind the issues, being of interest to our students.

NSS President Palmari: Pass for now

EngSoc Representative Rukaj: Maybe you can move forward, but I'm not comfortable with you lobbying, only comfortable with you beginning the process. I don't think it would be so time sensitive if you come back with a stance when you have it.

EngSoc VPSA Wood: I like what Representative Rukaj said, so I move to amend the motion to read that "the Assembly authorizes the Executive to examine the feasibility to lobby the Federal government of Canada on the Student Loan program."

AMS President Chinniah: Deemed friendly.

No debate on the motion.

Moved: Letersky

Seconder: President

Motion carries.

Meeting adjourned earlier due to inability to meet quorum - cited section 5.04.04 of Constitution re: quorum.

Assembly concludes at 8:21pm

Length: 1h 21m