



## AMS Assembly Minutes

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*Meeting of Friday, June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015  
AMS Boardroom, JDUC*

*Minutes are tentative until approved by AMS Assembly.*

***Attending:***

*AMS Executive - AMS President Kanivanan Chinniah, AMS Vice-President Operations Kyle Beaudry, AMS Vice-President University Affairs Catherine Wright*

*AMS Council - Campus Activities Commissioner Danielle Kimmerly, Commissioner of the Environment & Sustainability Peter Liberty, Commissioner of Internal Affairs Miriam Bart, Municipal Affairs Commissioner Matt Kussin, Social Issues Commissioner Alex Chung, Campus Services Director Emma Fuller, Hospitality and Safety Services Director Stephanie Harper, Retail and Design Services Director Tyler Lively*

***Regrets:***

*Academic Affairs Commissioner Read Leask*

*Assembly starts at 3: 10 pm*

**Speaker Kanivanan Chinniah** (hereafter referred to as **Speaker**):

- 1. Approval of agenda for the meeting of June 12<sup>th</sup> 2015**



**MOTION 1: That AMS Assembly approve the agenda for the meeting of June 12<sup>th</sup> 2015.**

*Moved by: Miriam Bart*

*Seconded by: Catherine Wright*

*Motion (1) carries*

*For: All*

*Opposed: 0*

## **2. Speaker's Business**

**Speaker:** Today is June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015 and also the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Magna Carta.

## **3. New Business**

**MOTION 2: That AMS Assembly approve the amendments to Policy Manual II, section K as seen in Appendix A: SIC Policy Updates.**

*Moved by: Alex Chung*

*Seconded by: Catherine Wright*

**Commissioner Chung:** Accessibility Queen's (AQ) is a committee within the Social Issues Commission. It has a \$3.00 mandatory fee, most of which is used to fund grant proposals. Historically, there has only been one granting period throughout the year and last year was the first year that they amended this to two and it was during January and November. The problem is that there is still no summer granting period and so this receives somewhat poor feedback from university personnel and student groups that are planning over the summer and want to start their implementation in the fall. This stunts large capital projects, which is what the fund is capable of doing. As a result, the fund has accumulated quite a bit of money, which compromises the integrity of what the money is supposed to do because the people paying the money should be able to benefit from it. That is why we are amending section K of the AQ policy, because adding an August granting period would allow us to allow those groups to start their implementation in September.

**Speaker:** Thank you Commissioner Chung. Any remarks from the seconder?

**Vice-President University Affairs Wright:** I want to clarify that we are actually moving from one application to three.

**Commissioner Chung:** In the policy it doesn't currently specify how many granting periods there should be so we are looking to specify three in August, November and January.



**Speaker:** Any points of debate on the motion?

**Commissioner Liberty:** I'd like to propose an amendment to the motion. In the first line of the policy it say it's been around for two decades. Could we change that to three since it started in 1983?

**Speaker:** Does the mover find this friendly?

**Commissioner Chung:** Yes, it's friendly.

**Director Lively:** Point of information. Is it convention or in policy that regularly changes brought to summer assembly are non-substantive?

**Vice-President University Affairs Wright:** Yes. The reason why we are this through summer assembly is because this is a change that they have been trying to make for the past two years. The university should be able to propose applications in the summer months because that is what fits best with their budgeting and they're the ones that are best able to request capital project expenditures. The reason why we are pushing this through now is because the recommendation has finally come through in our transition manuals to do this ASAP so that the changes can be reflected in August. In direct response to your question, substantive changes to policy would not necessarily go through Summer Assembly if it is not time pressing.

**Director Lively:** On that point, just to clarify then, if this policy were passed by us today then I believe it is up to 50% of the fund would be spent before Assembly would have an actual chance to accept or reject or policy changes.

**Vice-President University Affairs Wright:** Yes, that is the case. Again, to go back to why this happening, we run a high risk when this fund has such a high rollover rate year after year. We are finally able to push through a large capital project expenditure right now, coming up to board, that we are finally getting rid of some of that fund. It puts our Not-For-Profit status at risk when we are not able to disseminate the fund appropriately. For that reason, we want to make sure that we are opening up the grants in August of this year.

**Commissioner Liberty:** I asked Alex these questions already but for the benefit of the minutes I'll ask them again. Could you elaborate on why you went for the 50-25-25?

**Commissioner Chung:** As we mentioned earlier, the fundamental reason why we are making August the first granting period is because that's when the larger capital projects are planned and budgeted for. Thus, we think it is appropriate that a larger proportion of the grant should be given to these groups that are requesting it. However, the language in the policy states "normally" so that it is not binding. If the granting

committee decides it is appropriate to spend more or less than 25 in the fall or winter periods they are able to do so.

**Vice-President University Affairs Wright:** The 25-25 largely comes from the idea that conversely, student groups that may be applying for this grant would not be asking for as much money, given that they do not have the capacity to do capital expenditure projects as often. This is to reflect the opportunity to apply for grants both in the fall and winter, given the time of student clubs and groups.

**Commissioner Liberty:** If this is a fee paid for by students, why are we giving this money to the university if they are the people who are largely spending the 50%?

**Commissioner Chung:** That's a really good question. Our reasoning is that that money should be applied to who is benefitting from the project and not necessarily who is spending that money. So it is up to the discretion of this committee to allow that. For example, a few years ago we added an accessible entryway to the Grey House and that building is mostly used by students so that would be an example that the University took on.

**Director Lively:** In the brief introduction to what the policy is, it mentions that SGPS students also pay into this fee. Have you consulted SGPS on this policy change?

**Vice-President University Affairs Wright:** No, because this change was passed on to us directly from last year's team. It really does not change any of the spirit of the grant or where the grant is distributed. It is just giving more opportunity for the grant to be used because currently we are not receiving enough applications to be distributing the grant in its entirety. The other end of what we had discussed and decided not to propose here is that this could even be a rolling grant application, which would similarly benefit students.

**Commissioner Chung:** To put it into perspective, the \$3.00 mandatory fee usually comes out to about \$48 or more thousand per year. This fund has had a high rollover rate in the past thus changing this doesn't really change how much is available to spend throughout the year.

**Commissioner Liberty:** Have you considered decreasing the fee if you aren't able to give it all out? Just as an option.

**Commissioner Chung:** Yes absolutely. That is definitely a point to consider, however, we do not think that the lack of spending is due to a lack of need. We think the lack of spending is due to the inconvenience of our granting periods so that is exactly what we are trying to amend through this policy change.



*Motion (2) carries*

*For: all*

*Opposed: 0*

**Speaker:** Seeing as we are at the end of our agenda, I will entertain the motion to adjourn summer assembly. Motion to close?

*Moved by: Peter Liberty*

*Seconded by: Kyle Beaudry*

*Assembly adjourns at 3:22pm.*

