

**AMS Assembly Minutes**  
**Thursday, January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

*Sam Anderson shall henceforth be known as Speaker.*

**Motion 1: That AMS Assembly approve the agenda for the Assembly meeting of Thursday January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

Moved by: Commissioner of Internal Affairs Jon Wiseman

Seconded by: President Kanivanan Chinniah

**Commissioner of Internal Affairs Wiseman:** I motion that we omnibus motions 20-29 under fee increases.

*In Favour: All*

*Against: 0*

*Motion Carries*

**Commissioner of Internal Affairs Jon Wiseman:** I would like to strike motions 20-23. These are regular triennial reviews that do not need to go to assembly.

*In Favour: All*

*Against: 0*

**Commissioner of Internal Affairs Jon Wiseman:** I would like to strike motions 5 through 9.

*In Favour: All*

*Against: 0*

Vote on Agenda:

*In Favour: All*

*Opposed: 0*

*Abstentions: 0*

*Motion Carries*

**Motion #2: That AMS Assembly approve the minutes of the meeting of December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2015.**

Moved by: Commissioner of Internal Affairs Jon Wiseman

Seconded by: President Kanivanan Chinniah

*In Favour: All*

*Opposed: 0*

### **Speaker's Business**

**Speaker:** Welcome back everyone. We would like to recognize that we sit on the traditional lands of the Haudenosaunee and Anishinabek peoples.

### **Guest Speaker**

**Vice-President (University Affairs) Sarah Letersky:** We have some amazing guest speakers today to talk about hazing and initiation. You may be aware of some incidents of it, and we are going to learn a bit more about it today from Dr. Jay Johnson and Dr. Jessica W. Chin. We hope to give them our full attention and we thank them for coming this evening.

**Dr. Jessica W. Chin:** We are here to talk to you about hazing in hopes to better allow you to be able to make policies targeted at reducing the amount of it that happens on your campus.

**Dr. Jay Johnson:** We want to share some of our research with you to deal with that gray or fuzzy area for you.

**Dr. Jessica W. Chin:** We have one definition: It says hazing is defined as any dangerous activity expected of someone to join a group. The key part is the ending where it says it is regardless of the willingness to participate. Many laws in the U.S had to come into play, because some laws like assault, were not able to be used by lawyers in hazing incidents.

**Dr. Jay Johnson:** This has been going on in many cultures for centuries. Even though I have been studying and looking at this and speaking to student athletes, this is the first study of its kind that has looked across Canada. We actually have very little data. Through our study, we have found that administration doesn't actually get involved until after something has happened.

**Dr. Jessica W. Chin:** Suggestions include having some evidence of change, more education and support, proactive and positive programming, dialogue, having an advisory board, and using technology to prevent hazing.

### *Hazing Exercise*

### **President's Report**

**President Kanivanan Chinniah:** I would like to welcome 2 new members of assembly, to join us for the remainder of the term, Courtney and Kendra. I would like to acknowledge a few proxies as well.

### **Vice-President's Report**

**Vice-President (Operations) Kyle Beaudry:** The 1.2 million dollar renovations, construction is supposed to start on Monday. I also have included a list in my report of fees that didn't make it.

**Vice-President (University Affairs) Sarah Letersky:** I have one update, what we have coming up is obviously quite a few elections, and then we have the recruitment positions for AMS salaries. We have a campaign on Facebook, "What the F\*\*\* am I doing next year?"

### **Board of Directors**

**Board Chair Michael Blair:** I would like to give a brief update on the current projects. I mentioned a number of them, nested under committee reports. The social value of the AMS project is currently being undertaken. It is well on its way. A final report should be brought before the board in February. At that point I will bring it to the AMS Assembly for review.

## **Student Senator Report**

*Not Present*

## **Rector's Report**

**Rector Mike Young:** I didn't write a report. The tricolor nominations have been received and I am over the moon thrilled with how many we ended up with, and we are excited to have interviews with those nominated. Decisions will be made by January 31<sup>st</sup>, after which point they will become public. One seed I wanted to plant, the tricolor reward runs every year, and one issue we have is funding. I want to set my successor with ideas of what they can expect for this issue. As we move into election season, I hope everyone has a good time. I just want to remind everyone every year that these are not just Queen's students, but also human beings. Best of luck to everyone involved.

## **Statement by Members**

**Undergraduate Student Trustee Jennifer Li:** Thank you John for putting me on the Agenda. The board of Trustees met in December. I wanted to tell everyone about the Jack.org Queen's student initiative fund. This is for any student or club supporting student health and wellness.

**NSS President Alexandra Palmeri:** It is good to see everyone again. On January 27<sup>th</sup> we will host an open mic night at CoGro.

## **Question Period**

*Nothing added.*

## **Business Arising from Minutes**

*Nothing added.*

## **New Business**

**Commissioner Wiseman:** I would like to open the agenda.

*In Favour: All*

*Opposed: None*

**Commissioner Wiseman:** To add to the top of the business, I would like to add a motion to ratify Simone Marcus as the chief electoral officer for the remainder of the academic year.

*In Favour: All*

*Opposed: 0*

**Motion 3: That AMS Assembly select three voting members of Assembly to serve on the AMS staff Award Nomination Committee.**

*In Favour: All*

*Opposed: 0*

*Motion Carries*

*\*Selected was Vasanth Ranganathan, Stefany Li, Kevin Corey\**

*In Favour: All*

*Opposed: None*

*Abstentions: None*

*Motion Carriers*

**Motion #10: That AMS Assembly approve the addition of Tyler Lively (President, Dave Walker (Operations), and Carolyn Thompson (University Affairs) as candidates on the 2016 AMS Executive Election ballot."**

*In Favor: All*

*Opposed: None*

*Abstentions: None*

**Motion #11 That AMS Assembly approve the addition of Colin Zarzour, (President, Sarah Anderson (Operations), and Gregory Radisic (University Affairs) as candidates on the 2016 AMS Executive Election ballot."**

*In Favour: All*

*Opposed: None*

*Abstentions: None*

**Speaker:** We have omnibus Motion #12 – #19. I will now read the motions all at once.

**\*Reads the motions all at once\***

**Commissioner Wiseman:** This is a set of various student groups on campus that are seeking a student fee for the first time. This is why they are categorized all at once. They have passed the validation phase and the signature phase. We looked at a brief history of their club, why they are seeking a fee, as well as a copy of their budget, etc. As Beaudry mentioned, some groups applied but did not make it. These groups did make it however.

**Rector Young:** What is grounds to not pass the validation phase.

Vice-President Beaudry: They must answer five questions, they must submit a statement that goes into the Journal, they have to submit budgets, and pretty much, if we are not seeing one of those components then we will not validate. Many did not make it because of budgets that did not accurately tell what the fee was needed for.

**President Lopez:** One discussion we have had at AMS Assembly here is if we should validate student fees for conferences, since maybe conferences should be sponsored more so by sponsors. Could student groups from conferences speak to that?

**Member at Large:** So Obviously, as we said, the first conference is happening this year and is being offset by sponsors. We made it clear that we are applying for the fee to create more programming that is not just a conference.

**Member at Large:** We hope to use student fees to set other activities throughout the year to ensure it benefits all students, not just us.

*In Favour: All*

*Opposed: None*

*Abstentions: None*

*Motion Carries*

**Speaker:** Motions 20-23 were struck, so now we will read the omnibus of motions 24-29.

**Commissioner Wiseman:** All of these groups have passed the validation and nomination phase. The process was again the same for the previous 7 motions. It was up to the clubs discretion to go for a decrease, increase, or maintaining a fee. Feel free to direct questions to the groups.

*In Favour: All*

*Opposed: None*

*Abstentions: None*

### **Motion Carries**

**Motion 30: That AMS Assembly approve the following question to the 2016 AMS Winter Referendum: Do you agree to an increase in the Queen's Student Constable mandatory student fee, from \$10.53 to \$11.53, an increase of \$1.00?**

**Vice President Beaudry:** I wanted to separate this for a reason. For a corporate fee, it needs to go through the board of directors. That happened on Monday, and now we are here. If you look at the proposal we submit, there is one real reason:

The Stucons have historically been paid a higher wage for recruitment purposes. It is one of the harder services to keep staff there.

With this one dollar fee increase, we can bring in the wage back to a competitive rate, as minimum wage has been rising. This fee will also allow clubs who require Stucons for their events to receive such a service at a discount.

**Speaker:** Is there any debate on the motion?

**Vice-President Wood:** I throw full support behind this.

*In Favour: All*

*Opposed: None*

*Abstentions: None*

**Motion 31: That AMS Assembly approve the changes to Policy Manual 1, Sections 3 and 4, as seen in Appendix: Hello.**

**Vice President Beaudry:** For those of you that remember in the fall, we have a lot of discussions about the student activity fee. Just to jog everyone's memory, we have changed the definition for what was a mandatory fee, and what was an optional fee. For a group in a few years, what kind of policy is in there for groups to follow if they want to switch fees? We have added a section for this now. Also, if it fails, now, the line on the vote, there will be a one sentence context that says that it failed previously as a mandatory fee and now is an optional fee.

*In Favour:*

*Opposed:*

*Abstentions:*

*Motion Carries.*

### **Discussion Period**

#### **Fall Break Results**

**Commissioner Lively:** I will now go over the results of the survey that we sent out prior to the winter break for the Fall reading week. The proposal was different than what went out in the original report. Members from the administration have said this is the most likely proposal that will work.

As you can see, it would be a two day break in week 9, attached to the week of Remembrance day, and would involve moving back move in day to the Saturday, starting university orientation later again.

Bit of background: This was the most likely proposal was because from students, what we heard is they didn't want to sacrifice pre-exam study days. That played in hugely in sort of the amount of break we would get.

What we heard: A nearly 50-50 split. To sort of go over support by faculty, it is clear that certain faculties prefer this.

We also tracked reasons for support and reasons for non support. Mental health, and time off reasoning was sort of the main thing for support. And number one reason for non support was orientation week.

What of the questions we asked, was whether or not students would want a cut in faculty orientation, or university orientation? People much rather want it taken from university orientation than from faculty orientation.

This is an extremely divisive topic, especially between faculties. There is support for a Fall break, under the right conditions.

Moving forward, we need to go back to the drawing board and find a proposal that works with the students.

President Paulmary: Can you clarify a little more about the function of the working group?

**Commissioner Lively:** The outcome would be a proposal that everyone could agree on. In terms of process, this is something that needs to be worked out with university administration, but we need student consultation and input. We need a proposal that will get students on board by creating it, not by taking in feedback.

**President Chinniah:** I want to address some background. This is the first year that the marketing research office has really done its work like this. I want to make an observation for the record, this kind of evidence base actually improves our standing with the university, and improves our advocacy efforts.

**Gregory Radisic:** We saw 80% saying university orientation should be cut. Obviously faculty orientation is fun, but university orientation lays the culture of the university. That is important. Who would decide upon the membership of this working group.

**President Chinniah:** If we do want to strike a working group to examine the issue further, I think it is an undeniable fact that the biggest stakeholders of this issue are the students, and therefore the students should remain at the forefront of the consultations. That being said, I think there is a lot of opportunity for experts to weigh in.

**Member at Large:** For the "Yes I want the Fall Break", a lot of words like orientation week and mental health came up. I would like that going forward that this is brought up in presentations, and be considered in the conclusions.

**President Paulmary:** Going back to the first point, I just wanted to comment on the vast array, and link that into the composition for the group going forward. I think Chinniah

did a good job by saying it should include a diverse range of students.

**President Lopez:** I want to commend Michael for his incredible research. I was wondering what the role of the marketing research individual being in this working group.

**President Chinniah:** That remains to be seen. They generally work by engaging in specific consultation, and then come up with a suggestion. Typically it doesn't have a huge need for marketing research. The suggestions could be tested at the result level by market research though.

**Engineering President:** We as a faculty are very much are not in favour of a Fall Reading week. A dangerous thing about a group, is it seems to imply we want to implement it. I am personally not going to be comfortable with this working group.

**President Chinniah:** That is well taken. This is like electoral reform. The process that ought to happen is, this working group ought to have its deliberation and take its time to suggest or not suggest a Fall break.

**Rector Young:** Theoretically, if there was some sort of option that did not affect orientation week scheduling and pre exam study? Would engineers be more likely to support this?

**President Tseng:** Definitely. However, 4 pre exam days is required, and orientation week is untouchable for us.

**President Lopez:** If the working group is in the possibility for looking at a reading week, is that okay with the engineering society?

**President Paulmary:** At this time, I am sensing some uncertainty. On my mind, I think this presentation was very comprehensive, but, from a personal stand point, I want a little more time to digest the results and review them with my assembly.

**Item B:**

**Vice-President Letersky:** Today we are here to give an overview beyond the proposal and job description we have given everyone. This is a time to give feedback if you are uncertain of what the portfolio is. Quite a bit of the position is administrative. They

have a lot of responsibilities, including a budget. It also oversees assembly programming, election team, etc.

A bit of background on the office. Back in the 50s and the 60s, it was an administrative office called the internal affairs office that had student constables, clubs office, judicial affairs office, elections team, and assembly.

**Commissioner Wiseman:** Shown here is the current structure. We see who reports to who, and who is responsible to who.

**Vice-President Letersky:** Why are we doing this? We are doing this because through a review, we found that the office is an internal support. A lot of the work they do is consistent from year to year. There is so many independent parts within the office that do operate independently who just report to Jon as a checkmark. The office is currently large, and what we are trying to do here is envision these moving parts in a way that allows them to grow into a larger format that fulfills the potential of the offices.

Shown here is the proposed structure. We have narrowed in on the assembly part of the office to allow it to work with policy and elections team more.

We are struggling with how clubs will change currently. Some options include it becomes an independent office under VPUA, placed under AMS Campus Activities Commissioner, or placed under student life center managing director.

**Chair Blair:** The model proposed having a secretariat. I would like to say that model works well for the corporation and is something worth considering. Additionally, the point of the job description, the board is prepared to meet to consider changes to job descriptions.

**Proxy Julianna Jeans:** I like most of the restructure, in the proposal you sent out, it mentions that the new secretariat will act as the assembly speaker. This makes me uncomfortable because the speaker has a lot of power. What are your thoughts on that?

**Vice-President Letersky:** Yes, this would move the speaker position from being elected to being hired.

**Vice-President Wood:** I would like to echo this. I would never feel comfortable having a position like this having this much power over student government.

**Chair Blair:** Because this is a unique position being proposed, we can have a joint hiring committee?

**Member at Large:** I have two clarifications. The first one, is if JCOMM oversees speaker disputes, is there not a conflict of interest? Given the fact that there are still changes being made in NAD, why is now the best time to make restructuring?

**Vice-President Letersky:** Sorry, the diagram shown has an error and that is not the case. Why now? This is the year that we are doing a review, and it is important that the executive has more of a say in NAD. This restructuring will allow for this to happen.

Representative Dowling: How will this affect hiring in the next month? How will you plan to deal with that?

**Vice-President Letersky:** Right now, they aren't able to apply. They won't be able to until this decision is made.

#### **Question Period for the Nominated Teams for AMS Executive:**

**President Paulmary:** If you can choose two animals and combine them to represent your team, which ones would you pick?

**Gregory Radisic:** A tiger and a fox.

**Tyler Lively:** A dog and a bear.

**Representative Dowling:** If you had to pick one of the following, what would you pick: Justin Bieber, Justin Timberlake, or Justin Trudeau.

**Colin Zarzour:** Justin Timberlake.

**Member at Large:** How will you be nice to each other?

**Team Lively:** We are here for the students, and that is what matters at the end of the day. We all have similar goals, and that should be supported throughout the campaign.

**Team Zarzour:** I think during a campaign period there is a unique opportunity were we

are campaigning for votes, but there is another thing that happens during the period, is that as more and more days go by, more students see things that they haven't been exposed to.

**Motion to Adjourn.**

**Motion Carries.**