



## **AMS Assembly Minutes**

**Wednesday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

### **Macdonald 01**

***Minutes are tentative until approved by Assembly***

*Palmer Lockridge will henceforth known as Speaker*

*Assembly commences at 7:04pm*

### **Approval of the Agenda**

*Motion 1 – Moved by: Secretariat Miguel Martinez, Seconded by: President Tyler Lively*

***That AMS Assembly approve the agenda for the Assembly meeting of March 29, 2017.***

**Speaker: Are there any amendments to the agenda?**

Add a new motion

All in favour: ALL

Opposed: 0

### **MOTION PASSES**

**Speaker:** Are there any other amendments to the agenda? Seeing none we will take a vote then, that AMS Assembly approve the agenda for the meeting of March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

All in favour: ALL

Opposed: 0

### **MOTION PASSES**

### **Approval of the Minutes**

*Motion 2 – Moved by: Secretariat Miguel Martinez, Seconded by: President Tyler Lively*

***That AMS approve the minutes for the Assembly meeting of March 16, 2017.***

**Speaker:** Are there any amendments to the minutes as presented? Seeing none, we will move to the vote.

All in favour: ALL

Opposed: 0

### **MOTION PASSES**

### **Speaker's Business**

**Speaker:** I will read the Queen's recognition statement, that Queen's and the AMS recognizes the traditional territories under whose land we live, study, and work here today. I would just like to remind assembly members that there are a lot of people in the gallery today, just based on the room that we're in it's going to be very difficult if you're sitting in the front couple rows for the people in the back to hear you, so please just make sure you are projecting your voice, and if you are not able to hear something make a point of personal privilege, which you can do by just raising your pinky and letting us know that you can't hear and we'll try to fix that. Otherwise, just a reminder I still do like it if you turn your placard onto the side when you're trying to speak, I'm really trying to implement this, so make sure you're doing that if you do wish to speak. There's no guest speaker so we'll move onto item number five, which is the President's Report.

### **Guest Speaker**

### **President's Report**

**President Tyler Lively:** So I did want to note for the members of Assembly, we did have a brief discussion about the AMS governance-working group, so I did want to formally announce the membership for the committee. So, as the Assembly will recall, I was empowered to go and create this working group as kind of an independent body that would not necessarily be a committee of the board or the Assembly, but would be a working group that's regularly reporting to and consulting with both the Board of Directors and the Assembly. So, the membership for next year is myself, Michael Blair, who is the incoming chair of the AMS Board of Directors now, congratulations, Alexandra Palmeri, who will be serving as Nursing Society President representing the Assembly, Neilson Gupta, who is the incoming AMS secretariat, along with Lynn Perry and Wayne Pender, both of whom are AMS permanent staff and are there to provide some continuity as this will most likely be a multi year process. At the request of Assembly, we are looking to add a member at large to the committee, preferably someone with little student government experience, but some expertise, or knowledge of, or passion for not for profit and or

corporate governance. So if you know anyone like that, I think they're relatively rare, we've got three applications to date, one of which is from a Western student. I laughed a little because I was like why are you wasting your time? So we would appreciate a couple more response. We're going to keep it open until the end of this week, and then assess where we're at and we will probably keep it open until the end of next week where we'll look to make a decision. We were hoping to announce that today but we don't want to make a decision until we have a few applications to consider. So if you know anyone that's interested, reach out to me I will send you the link to the google form application and then you can pass that along, thank you.

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

**Vice-President (Operations) Dave Walker:** So the only thing I'll add, is the last Assembly at City Hall we discussed student legal insurance, we talked about it at board last night, between Tyler, Carolyn and I, as well as the incoming executive, and we decided that we did not want to implement that for the coming year, but rather give the incoming executive the tools to explore that further as there were a few cases, none in Ontario, and we wanted to work with our health and dental provider student care to continue working on the communications plan and fine-tuning how the process would work. So, we're kind of handing that off to team JBP, so good luck. We're happy to transition on that over the next coming weeks.

**Vice-President (University Affairs) Carolyn Thompson:** So I said this really quickly in report, but I just wanted to say a really big thank you to everyone in this room for the past year. All the hard work, reading the agendas, coming to Assembly meetings. I've learned a lot from the discussions we've had, I really appreciate your friendship and support over this past year, so I just wanted to congratulate you guys on such an incredible year, and thank you so much for this opportunity, and the opportunity for us to all meet each other.

### **Board of Director's Report**

**Board of Director's Chair Person Quinn Giordano:** I will add a few things verbally to my report. Board of directors met yesterday, we had among other things a discussion of student legal care, as Dave eluded to, the decision was that more information was needed to make further progress on choosing that program for Queen's campus. We discussed among other things AMS employee policy and AMS brand perception, we also were pleased to report that there was a recommendation for report on the JDUC, which among various recommendations will include that renovations will bring the JDUC to full accessibility standards and improve the environmental impact of the building. So, we're very enthusiastic for what that means. Aside from that, there was a review of financial statements, the Underground continues to face financial challenges that are extraordinary and common ground continues to do very well. Aside from those trends, perhaps the most exciting thing for the general public is that we did hold our chair and vice-chair elections, as a result, there are some new faces, the leadership of board will be having Mike Blair

returning as chair, and we will also be seeing President Lively in the position of Vice-Chair. So we wish them well, the presentations are extensive, we believe that with new leadership the board in the following year will get a lot of things finished for the AMS on the corporate side, so we look forward to that we wish them well. If you have any questions, I'm happy to take them. Thank you.

**Engineering Society President Taylor Sawadsky:** Point of information, Quinn didn't submit a report so we were supposed to do 2/3-majority vote to let him speak.

### **Undergraduate Student Trustee's Report**

**Undergraduate Student Trustee Jennifer Li:** Nothing to report.

**Speaker:** We'll go to a 2/3 majority vote on Assembly to allow the Chair Person to do a report.

All in favour: ALL

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

### **MOTION PASSES**

**Student Senate Caucus Chair Brandon Jamieson:** So the senate met last week, and there's two things I would like to raise to everyone's attention. The first is the completion of the truth and reconciliation report, Queen's struck it's own task force under recommendation by the Federal Government, that aligns how Queen's can take their part in the reconciliation process. The reports now have been released, it is now published. As much as it is out there and concrete, there are aspects of it that ensure it is not static or under a check list, it is an on going process that requires communication with the indigenous community. The other thing, is the committee vacancies for Senate, there are quite a few vacancies right now for Senate committees, the Senate committee on Academic procedures, the Senate committee on cyclical program review, the equity, the library committee, the Ontario orientation review board and scholarships and student aid committee, all have AMS student vacancies, so I'll be posting in the AMS group, and I encourage if you guys are here next year to apply, it's a great way to get involved with the university governance to a higher degree.

### **Rector's Report**

**Speaker:** Do you have anything to add? Okay, we will move to the vote.

All in favour: ALL

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

### **MOTION PASSES**

**Rector Cam Yung:** Thanks for opportunity to speak, my sincerest apologies for not submitting a report, it seems a re-occurring thing for myself this year, but I'll make sure to address that for next year. So, I did want to say the principle's implementation committee for racism and diversity and inclusion has completed the majority of their consultations and right now are in the processing of writing their final report for this Friday, if you do have any recommendations or any further feedback that you would like to give for the implementation committee, you are more than welcome to do so. Further to this, I did want to add to Chair Jamieson's, that the university is going to create the office of indigenous initiatives, following the TRC report, which is a very exciting thing, especially to create a more inclusive campus for Queen's. Further to this, within these past few weeks I have had the opportunity of working with one student in particular, Dylan, who is a very influential student on campus and unfortunately has to take time off from school, but Dylan has been working diligently in order to put together a student wellness group, where we have the opportunity of bringing together groups across different aspects of student health and wellness. This is going to be the very first of its kind in order to improve collaboration, communication, and cooperation across the board. This is going to help make a difference for advocacy, as well for events throughout the year. Further to that, I did want to answer Tyler's question as to why a Western student would fill out the poll, well duh, when you go to a safety school you want to try and go for something better.

### **Statements by Students**

**Speaker:** So this is an opportunity for any member of the AMS to make a statement.

**Engineering Society President Taylor Sawadsky:** I'm reading this statement on behalf of Ryan Patrice who couldn't be here today. First off I'd like to apologize for not being here to deliver this in person, I'm currently an internship student and although I made it out to our last session, I could not take further time off work to make it to this meeting. For my entire undergraduate career, I was excited to represent my fellow students on the voting body on one of the oldest and most influential student societies in the country. I was extremely surprised when I found the agenda contained 12 blank pages, which should have contained report. Four of which should have held reports from salary paid students by the body we all represent. The only penalty of not fulfilling one of the duties of their salary position was to stand and speak. To stand and speak at a meeting, which most members of this body must be elected to, to obtain a right to speak. I also understand that this week the meeting is one day earlier than most others, but I also understand that the

Secretariat sent reminders of the meeting and the report submission time. So, to have 10 of our top student leaders this week not submitting reports, is something I find very disrespectful to both their constituents and my own. Take a moment to think about the students you serve and represent, think of the purpose of this governing body and the value it has, take a second to think of the students who would do anything to have the position you currently fill, maybe they lost the election that gave your seat, or also applied for your position, you owe it to all of these students to lead to the best of your ability. Though they may seem insignificant to some, these reports provide prospective for other students at what important issues other faculties face. They also allow us to hold our salary positions, paid by student dollars, and elected officials accountable. So speaking to Assembly as a whole, but especially to Trustee Li, and Speaker Lockridge, I hope we can improve upon these metrics in next Assembly's session. Thank you all, and if you have any questions or concerns, or feel I have misrepresented you in any way, please feel free to ask the Secretariat for my contact information, I would love to speak to you about this information.

**Speaker:** Thank you President Sawadsky, so we'll keep moving forward.

**Nursing Society President Alexandra Palmeri:** Thank you to everyone in the room who has taken time out of your day to come out to Assembly tonight, I think it's going to be a really exciting night and we really value you taking your time to come out and speaking to the things your passionate about. Just aside from the report that I submitted, a couple more notes I wanted to offer. The first one being that tomorrow we have two very exciting interfaculty events happening, one of them being with the engineering society and the other being with the concurrent education student association. We highly encourage you to come out. We're having a movie night in the nursing student lounge tomorrow at 7, we're going to be watching Inside Out, and tomorrow night we're co-hosting a TBT at the Underground, and I highly encourage you guys to come out to that. We'll be selling line skip again tomorrow, so if you are keen to go definitely take advantage of that opportunity.

Commerce Society President Vyus: My apologies for not submitting a written report today, or by Friday. I didn't have too much to update on because we had our AGM on the weekend. Our AGM on Sunday night was very engaging, and I invite you all to check out the minutes. We had an amazing discussion on the freedom of speech principles, check it out there's both sides addressed. The personal interest credit, which we saw to get passed in September 2016, has made tremendous progress and I'm happy to announce to Assembly that there's possibility that it officially passes in May. I just want to commend the efforts of Chair Jamieson, and former VP of ASUS Andrew for all their instrumental mentorship on this, it's been very helpful. We have COMSOC Appreciation week coming up next week. That's where we give back to all of our society members because we tax them with the student fee, and what we're doing this week is a lot of fun. We're also self-launching our 50<sup>th</sup> brand. So, next year is COMSOC's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and Renee's team have been working on an incredible

new 50<sup>th</sup> brand and logo and reveal, so watch out for that. It will catch you off guard hopefully. Normal stuff is happening, transitioning is going on, our elections are finally completed, and our last round of hiring is just winding down. There was a major partnership announced between Smith and IBM, and this is specifically with their analytics and artificial intelligence unit. Smith's downtown Toronto space is a fully interactive IBM center, like the Raptor's for those that know. Smith students will have access to IBM technology, and this is the first partnership of its kind. So anyone who's getting a certificate in business, you also benefit from this. Lastly, thank you all for an amazing year. It's been a pleasure to sit on this Assembly with so many passionate, articulate, intelligent, and courageous people. My COMSOC team and I are excited for what we're able to accomplish, with all of you together, and we want to wish team JBP, and all of next year's Assembly the best of luck.

**ASUS Representative Carling Counter:** I really want to say thank you to everyone for being here. I want to address especially those in the gallery, it's nice to have people here who really care about what we are talking about. I also wanted to say, I've had an amazing year, I really didn't think I would have this much fun. So thank you to all of you for teaching me and working with me.

**Computing Science Society President Aniqah Mair:** Thank you to everyone for this year, and also thank you to everyone out in the gallery. It's hard to know what's going on and how to get involved so I really appreciate you coming out to Assembly and speaking about what matters to you. Some updates, we have chosen a new director. We are really pleased with the respect for the director, they care a lot about student experience. There is also a new ten year track position that is appointed in June, so the hiring will come up quickly. The last report I submitted was lengthy, but pretty much we have restructured and added new positions. The new counsel was just hired, after an outstanding number of applications. We are really excited and the incoming executives are really excited. I also wanted to mention the incoming council is gender balanced for the second year in a row. Another announcement, the movie premiere for Kiss and Cry is tomorrow. It's about a Queen's student and her boyfriend, just about their relationship and her struggle with cancer. It's at 7pm tomorrow, I believe in Dunning Hall, I'm not sure on that but I can find the information on Facebook for those who are interested. I encourage you all to go out and support a great cause.

**Member at large:** I'm here from the Queen's Journal, so typically we're not at Assemblies but it has been a great year covering you guys. Our new news editor was hired, she's here now, and this is Maureen. Anyone who is coming into a new position will talk to her about things, be nice, she'll be very excellent. I encourage you all to reach out to her.

**Secretariat Miguel Martinez:** So a few things I want to address. I want to take a single moment to thank every single person who has made this year happen, who have put their jobs before academics, and what's happening before themselves. Thank you to you for all the hard work you have put in this year. I want to give

special mention to ENGSOC and PHESKA for not only having high attendance, but also constant reports. I want to give another special mention to Nursing Society President Alexandra Palmeri for being the only member not in the AMS to submit a report for every Assembly and be in attendance for every Assembly. It's great to see such a high turn out in the gallery, when we go through the motions we welcome you all to speak. You are more than welcome to speak on any points. Lastly, any outgoing member not returning to the same position in the following year is free to take the plaque cards at the end of the night.

**Speaker:** Are there any more statements by students? Seeing none, moving onto question period.

### **Question Period**

**ASUS Representative Carling Counter:** I have a question for Commissioner Dowling, red winged blackbird. So why does this bird have a 95% rate for malaria?

**Commissioner of Environmental Affairs Liam Dowling:** I'm happy that people are looking at my OOTD. I'm doing research on the red winged black bird over the summer, so I don't have the answer to the question now, but I may be able to tell you in the future.

**Computing Science Society President Aniqah Mair:** I have a question for Secretariat Martinez. I was wondering, why are you called the secretariat and not the secretary?

**Secretariat Miguel Martinez:** That is a fantastic question, if you look at the constitution under job description it says that, please feel free to change it.

**Computing Science Society President Aniqah Mair:** If we wanted to change it how would we?

**Secretariat Miguel Martinez:** It would be a constitutional change which requires two assemblies.

**Speaker:** Are there any more questions? Seeing no more questions, we will be moving onto Business Arising from the Minutes.

### **Business Arising from the Minutes**

*Motion 3 – Moved by: President Tyler Lively, Seconded by: Secretariat Miguel Martinez*

***That AMS Assembly approve the final reading of the changes to Section 19 of the AMS constitution.***

**Speaker:** So president lively do you want the opening?

**President Tyler Lively:** As Assembly will recall the policy changes to clarify section 19 of constitution, they are non-substantive, and with it we also did bring a changed formatting to the AMS constitution. Based on the lack of commentary at the last Assembly, we assume it was okay. It is now available on the AMS website, it looks amazing, there was one small change, in that some headings that are in blue will change to black.

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

**ASUS Representative Carling Counter:** Could you just give us a quick refresher?

**President Tyler Lively:** So, it deals with the transition of power from one to the next. The new Assembly takes office after AGM, but doesn't actually assume power until May 1<sup>st</sup>, so we just changed it so that both say May 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Speaker:** Is there any final debate on the motion as it stands? Seeing none, we will move to vote.

All in favour: ALL

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

### **MOTION PASSES**

### **New Business**

**Speaker:** Since I sat on the chair for the hiring committee, I will be stepping off as Speaker, and usually Vice-President Dressel would be Speaker, but he also sat on the committee as a member of Assembly, so it will move to Secretariat Martinez as the Speaker for this item.

*Motion 4 – Moved by: Neilson Gupta, Seconded by: Vice-President (Operations) Dave Walker*

### ***That AMS Assembly ratify the Havan Dushaw as the Judicial Committee Chair 2017-2018***

**Neilson Gupta:** Havan really impressed us throughout the interview process. His application was very good, I really don't have much else to say but I am willing to answer any questions.

His app was very good

Would be willing to answer

**Secretariat Miguel Martinez:** We will now entertain any questions.

**Commerce Society President Bhavik Vyus:** What do you foresee as the biggest challenge in this role?

**Havan Dushaw:** I think that it's very easy to get involved emotionally, and it takes a certain amount of experience and skill to separate from that. It is also important to remember the objective is to be fair and implement restorative judgment.

**Ryan Pistorius:** In your own experiences, what is your favourite pillar of NAM?

**Havan Dushaw:** I believe my favourite pillar is restorative justice. It is important to bring justice to those who have been wronged, and ensure that they aren't punished for coming forward. This position comes with a lot of power, but every case that comes forward will be deeply considered.

**Secretariat Miguel Martinez:** Are there any other questions?

**Nursing Society President Alexandra Palmeri:** Who would be your favourite member of justice league and why?

**Havan Dushaw:** I'm a very big batman fan. Everyone else has various superpowers and he doesn't need help.

**Secretariat Miguel Martinez:** Are there any other questions? Seeing none I will call this motion to a vote.

All in favour: ALL but 1

Opposed: 0

Abstain: 1

### **MOTION PASSES**

*Motion 5 – Moved by: Ryan Pistorius, Seconded by: Secretariat Miguel Martinez*

***That AMS Assembly approve the changes to AMS Policy Manual 4.***

**Ryan Pistorius:** This is the product of many months of work. It does a number of things. First and most obvious change is complete renegotiation of the policy. This was done due to notices that the policy was clunky and big and hard to navigate through. We tried to streamline the policy that was included and so that people could find parts of policy that they were looking for. We used to have a single thing called NAB, which included the code of conduct and AMS violation and dealt with both of them. When the review happened the university took control of all of that,

and clarified the difference between them. The code of conduct is still to be dealt with through NAM. The policy manuals have policy infringement protocol, but the university has no interest in enforcing AMS policy. The AMS still has jurisdiction, and categorizes and reorganizes the way we enforce these policies. There is a conflict of interest within the system for the committees; we may still work next year on conflict of interest. The last thing is the right of parties. This was assumed, and most of this is exactly what was on the website. There are a few minor updates, but for the most part that's it. If you have any questions let me now.

**Speaker:** Is there any debate on the changes? Last opportunity for debate.

**Ryan Pistorius:** As a side note, I wanted the chance to thank everyone. Your kindness keeps me wanting to be here all the time. Although I am not apart of the AMS, it feels like I am.

**Speaker:** Thank you, we will now move to vote on new motion number 5.

All in favour: ALL

Opposed: 0

Abstain: 0

### **MOTION PASSES**

*Motion 6– Moved by: President Tyler Lively, Seconded by: Vice-President (University Affairs) Carolyn Thompson*

***That AMS approve the renewal of the AMS's membership in the Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance for a period of three years starting in 2017-2018.***

**President Tyler Lively:** For the benefit of Assembly we're going to walk through a brief overview of the process we've taken to date and go over the discussion we had around the costs and benefits for this motion. For a bit of context, we have been a member since 2004, and at that time we started doing a three-year renew process. Year 1 is directly after renewal, then in year 2 we strike a committee, and in year 3 we act upon the recommendations of the committee and decide if we want to renew membership. The committee has met and decided the review should go into this year because there were issues. We did an extensive review that started meeting in fall semester. We attended assemblies, explored costs and drawbacks. We met extensively as a committee to discuss the issues, and the costs are very easy to calculate, but in terms of benefits, in particular our ability to steer organizations, AMS typically plays a leadership role. It's our contribution to policy wins, and it's the access we get to decision makers and ability to directly influence. What we also heard it that many concerns from 15-16 review have been addressed thanks to the

work of Vice-President (University Affairs) Carolyn Thompson and Commissioner Brockie. In reinforcing role of representatives, we have started a governance review, but also of people who have responsibility. Given all of that we are recommending that Assembly approve the renewal of membership for the next three years. Should we fail to reach 2/3-majority vote, our membership would terminate for the next academic year.

**Speaker:** We will now open debate on this motion. Is there any debate on the motion?

**ASUS Representative Carling Counter:** I want to speak because I sat on committee as well. I encourage you guys to give the report a read through. This is what we use to lobby the provincial government, it is like our union. I would recommend you all vote for this. If we leave we can't get access to these people. In there it says during the year Queen's we could not meet with the premier or minister of education, and if you can't access these groups then you're sort of shooting yourself in the foot. I hope you all vote for this.

**Commerce Society President Bhavik Vyus:** I just wanted to reiterate that it is very important to be in favour of this. In the Agenda there is five years of highlights, which hopefully many of you have seen. In the fall people were questioning whether or not there were concrete results, the information displayed on the document does show the importance of this membership.

**Speaker:** One last call for debate on the motion. Seeing none, move to vote.

All in favour: ALL but 3

Opposed: 0

Abstain: 3

### **MOTION PASSES**

*Motion 7 – Moved by: President Tyler Lively, Seconded by: Vice-President (Operations) Dave Walker*

***That AMS Assembly adopt the AMS Student Activity Fee Policy with the provisions set out in Appendix: Bravo***

**President Tyler Lively:** First off for the benefit of the speaker, I would note that we are going to look to exercise the right to have the mover and the seconder speak. Our intention is to amend the policy on the floor. The amendments were sent out earlier today in response to comments that we've received to clarify definitions. The intention is to send clauses to the student activity fee review committee which will be struck as a result of the approval of this policy and have them fine tune wording,

in ensuring that there are concrete guidelines in place for the interpretation of those policy provisions. We have heard a lot of feedback from students that they're unsure of what that means and that we have tried to hastily clarify this, but we don't think it's appropriate at this time to approve those things being put into policy. So, as part of the provisions, I would move an amendment at this time to change those provisions, so you'll note that there's provisions I through V, I'm looking to add a new provision, IV, and then IV and V would move down, that the student activity fee review committee should review the assigned eligibility related policy provisions and bring the recommendation to AMS Assembly and the AMS Board of Directors no later than the end of Fall 2017. I can send that via email. So I would note for the benefit of the members of Assembly and for the members in the gallery that our intention here was not as we've heard, to disallow groups from lobbying as a function or a coercion of their activities. The intent was always to stop groups whose sole purpose or primary purpose is to lobby from receiving student fees. Although it's unclear, pretty much disallowed under the existing policy. In terms of the political activity, this has been a long-standing provision that sort of the campus political groups were not allowed to get student fees. This is something we're hoping to clarify, as we've noted, and members have noted, we haven't done a very good job of that so we are going to put that to committee. So moving on I did want to speak to the purpose and the goals behind this policy.

**Speaker:** Before we do that can we just get a seconder for your amendment? Seconded by Vice-President Walker. So, that provision is added. Do you want to repeat that?

**President Tyler Lively:** So I'm going to send the exact provisions along, but the idea is I'm going to amend it to move the definition of lobbying, the definition of parties with political activities, as well as the sections that say the eligibility of a club be further restricted by, and then there's a list of four conditions, and then under external groups there's a list of three conditions, as well as a clause that says eligibility will further be restricted to not allow groups to receive a fee if they provide competing programming, so those clauses that I will send along shortly to the secretariat, we're looking to push those to the committee and then add this provision to the list of provisions of approval that will task the committee to look at those and to bring back their own wording based on consultation, research, and more time crafting the wording. So moving on, I did want to discuss the goals of the committee. A bit of background, we did strike a student activity fee task force in the fall, the goal of which was to set out and clarify the student activity fee policy. There's been ongoing policy reviews since 2011, they have been sporadic, and none of them have effectively done what we have set out to do in terms of goals. So we met over the course of the small semester, we did an initial bit of research, and what we found out is the way we do student fees at Queen's is significantly different than any other university in Ontario. We have the largest student fee slate in terms of the number of student fees by far, and we're the only university where students have an ability and a very clear process in place where any group can come and participate in a fair and open referendum process, and can achieve a student fee. So, what we

realized is there was no best practices we could base a policy, so we started to work on taking our existing policy based on these goals and improving it. So, the goals were to clarify the existing policy to reduce the student fee slate and improve accountability. So, I'll kind of go through each of those goals and speak to why they're important. In terms of clarity, the current policy is unclear. As I've mentioned, we've been working on it for a long time, but the current policy isn't very readable in that it doesn't separate out the distinct portions of the student fee process. We kind of viewed those as one, your eligibility of getting a fee, two, your process of getting a fee, and three, once you get a fee, what kind of requirements are placed on you to ensure that you are spending the fee appropriately. So we tried to do that first and foremost, to separate it into three distinct elements, which you can see in the new policy. We also worked to clarify a lot of the existing definitions around what is an essential service, what do we mean by lobbying and parties involved in political activity, what do we mean when we look at services. So we looked at a lot of those things and tried to clarify what we mean, so when we're actually going through the process of determining whose eligible and who isn't, there are more clear guide lines in place. Now I would note we have heard a lot over the past couple of days, around how the new policy leaves things open to interpretation, while I do agree that that's the case, we've made substantial progress from the previous policy, and I think the number one way we've done that is by removing the sole discretion by the approval of student fees from the VP OPS and the Secretariat, and putting it into the student activity fee review committee that's going to have membership from the AMS Board of Directors, AMS Assembly, as well as AMS staff, so that we have more eyes on each of these packages and we can really determine an eligibility in a way that's cooperative and that's accountable. So we are really trying to put it more in the hands in a broader range of people than just it being AMS staff and the AMS executive that's deciding. The goal of having less student fees, of all the student fees that were approved this year, I believe next year there will be 114 student fees, which is the largest number of student fees on any slate in the province. It's our assessment that students can't reasonably understand what each of these student fees mean, as well there's a huge administrative burden both on the AMS and the university to ensure that there's proper accountability for how those student fees are spent. We met with the university registrar, which is the office for the university that handles admissions, enrollment, and the SOLUS system, and they told us that they are processing two million transactions every year that are related to opt-out student fees, so this process is costing tens of thousands of dollars to administer this system. That's money that could otherwise be going towards faculty renewal, other priorities that mental health and sexual violence prevention, rather than just funding an electronic system and the staff time that goes into ensuring that this system is in place. Where I do want to go is, a lot of people have brought up concerns around that we're removing funding from groups, but what we're trying to do is not necessarily remove funding, but we're looking at funding along a spectrum. Most universities since they don't allow opt-out fees, are solely funding groups through grants, where as we're on the complete other end of the spectrum, in that we don't have a very large amount of grants available, so we allow most groups to be able to get a student fee, but because of the number of

student fees, we feel we have gone too far in the direction of just allowing student fees, and we need to find an equilibrium that's bit closer to providing more grants and less student fees. The way we decided to do that, is that AMS can put restrictions onto who can get student fees to try and define what sort of functions are more valuable, or what kind of groups are more valuable than others, but for us that went against the very principle of the system, that students get to decide who gets a student fee, and then after the fact the AMS is in charge of making sure that those decisions that students make based on a 300 word statement, based on a budget, that those practices and results and how these groups say they're spending the money is actually how they're spending the money. So we decided we would want to increase the threshold to 2/3, rather than introduce a number of restrictions. So over the past two years, the AMS has removed seven fees from the student fee slate from reasons varying from not picking up the student fee cheque to embezzlement on the part of group executives, and this is very serious. We cannot guarantee that student fees are being spent appropriately when we can only audit 10% of the student fee slate every year, which amounts to 10 groups of those 114. To put it into perspective, we've audited 20 clubs over the past two years, and seven clubs have been removed from the slate. This is a real issue, and we do want to ensure that this policy, as much as people may have problems with it, does go forward because there are important pieces in here that need to be in place so that we can begin putting together the implementation plan for a lot of these things. As you'll note from the provisions, none of this is coming into effect immediately, the goal is not to remove student fees from the slate or to impose new restrictions, the idea is to pass this policy and start a process implementing these new requirements over time. I realize that's a lot, so I'm going to allow Dave to speak towards more of the details.

**Vice-President (Operations) Dave Walker:** Part of my portfolio is overseeing all student activity fees, both the ones that the AMS receives for services, but also all club fees. As Tyler mentioned, we are responsible for auditing 10% of all student activity fees, which is roughly 10 or 11 groups. However, this is only something we've been doing for the past two years. The reason for why that came up, is because there was an identifiable risk for the AMS for holding this transfer of money, for providing the insurance for these clubs, but actually having no idea what this money is spent on. Ultimately that's a problem when we have no idea what's on the slate. So, as I said, it's only been two years that we've been looking at these fees in terms of the auditing process. We have removed seven, some as a result of the auditing process, some as a result of clubs not picking up their student fee cheques for the full year. So this year alone we will deposit \$35,000 into the AMS membership bursary, which is great, but as a result of clubs not picking up that money that students paid for. I am okay with the AMS funding bursaries to reimburse student activity fees, but I'm not necessarily okay with it being more than we budgeted for because students are paying for something that they didn't know, or didn't set out to pay for. The other side of it is, is how the process really exists currently. As Tyler mentioned, it's all in my office. Again, this is something that we've been doing for two years, but this is the first year where we came up with a

format for which all clubs that were audited would respond to the same questions, and in which they're evaluated on a matrix. So, I think we've come a long way in that we had no idea what clubs were doing, we've put in so regulations, and we've said we need to be updated. As Tyler mentioned, none of this is going to take place tomorrow. I spoke at the clubs Caucus earlier tonight, which has representatives from all clubs, and we kind of heard their concerns that are very valid, we did not do our job in speaking with every necessary stake holder, and I absolutely get that and it is retroactive in many senses, but some of the concerns were how do we just do this tomorrow, we wouldn't obligate anyone to report until 2018, instead next year through this committee we would be empowering them to work with all necessary stake holders in what a feasible reporting method would look like. In previous years it was the expectation that AMS was going to audit every receipt, of every club purchase in the past seven years, that's not fair and never going to happen, but how can we come up with things that are actually tangible and actually going to objectively say, is this student fee going towards what students voted on and supported or did not support? I think what we're really addressing here tonight is the empowerment of a committee to look at the student activity fee policy, to look at an accountability method, and to work with all necessary stake holders in the coming year to find out how we can all find a mutual compromise. I get it, we don't need to be over top of every group that gets a student fee all the time, but we do have to be able to say when we get audited, that we can know what's going on. Part of that is the consultation, the other part is the controller who has tremendous experience in not-for-profit. Prior to this is looking at the implementation of enterprise level software where all clubs would be on the same page. Everyone would operate in the same budget form, in the same database, that sort of thing, and therefore there's no objectiveness in the information that is being presented, the club then just has to fill it in and provide us with that information rather than the hassle of guessing at what we're asking. So, I think this policy has come a long way in what was initially put out there, I read the overheard comments, I get it that people don't know how to access us all the time, that's reasonable, but there were some misconceptions that steered this discussion into something it wasn't, our intent was always good, but we realize the importance of not leaving our intent up to something that is vague and can be misinterpreted in the coming years. I'm open to any questions on the topic.

**Speaker:** Thank you Vice-President Walker. We will now open up the floor to questions. So I'll try to keep a speakers list.

**Member at large:** The document is colour coated, but there are no indication of what the colours mean, so I would like that to be addressed, just that it is not clear of the intent of colouring. I also want to voice my concerns for the 2/3-majority vote. If the intent is to not renew or allow for new club fees for clubs that are not adequately educated about the fees, I would wonder why new policy is about biasing the vote. Also, the duplication policy, would it not be possible for AMS to say that AMS is duplicating that particular club?

**Vice-President (Operations) Dave Walker:** If you take a club, it is ratified on the premise that it does not duplicate another club. That stays the same though, if you're ratified as a club, you are not duplicating another club. You can be duplicating AMS, and if your club is ratified, you are eligible for a student fee.

**President Tyler Lively:** The colour coding did get a bit out of hand, the idea was that to match the policy with the briefing note, so that the policy and the note would match up. The recent one doesn't have any track changes, it should be just highlighted. If it is then those would have been taken out in the earlier amendment. I'm happy to email the copy that highlights the policy that was taken out. It already guidelines how you interpret that, more in terms of service. For example, we fund an after hours walk-in clinic, so we wouldn't have a second fee to fund a walk-in clinic.

**Engineering Society Vice-President (Student Affairs) Evan Dressel:** So first of all with regards to Dave's comments, I think the easiest thing we can do right there, if you have a stale dated cheque is get rid of their student fee, that will immediately cut a student fee off of it if you don't have someone who is willing to go through the process of picking it up. You have removed fees from the audits, which means the audits are working. In terms of advice I can offer from my faculty society, we as engineers have a Dean's donation. That's how a lot of our student groups get their fees. In order to receive a donation, they have to write a seven-page report at the beginning and end of the year. I think it's very valuable, in that it deters anyone who is not fully passionate about getting a student fee, and would keep them accountable. They would have to present a budget and a full action plan. We could also help you guys with that. We could have an engineering student on the task force to help you set that up. Also, it would be beneficial to start investigating more heavily on the new fees coming in, and make a mandatory pre audit to make sure they are managing their money before we align ourselves with them. With respect to the 2/3-majority vote, I myself do not believe that's an effective way to reduce student fees. It should be 50%, that's why executive elections are 50% vote, and vote of confidence, and to pass a motion at Assembly. Democracy means at least 50% majority. If people don't want it, they do have the opportunity to opt-out, it is also very clear that you can opt-out.

**Vice-President (Operations) Dave Walker:** I will add that I am in favour of auditing more clubs. The purpose of this committee would allow more clubs to be audited in a fashion that has just my eyes or my successors eyes on them. After one year we've been pretty generous when we've tried to work with clubs, and the fee was only removed after the second infraction. I would be happy to have ENGSOC representation on the task force.

**Member at large:** I think if the intent is about preventing student's sole purpose from lobbying, then that will be a little problematic. There are a lot of clubs, which shows how much students care about different issues. For example, AFAC lobbies about environmental issues. How can the AMS ensure they will take on that responsibility? Especially with the consideration of the commission of

environmental affairs. Also, the AMS website has no names or emails. I spent two days trying to find out who the people in this room are, so if you got an email from me and it should not have been sent to you I'm sorry, but I really had no idea who to contact. You say that you want students to be here, but you are so inaccessible to students.

**Secretariat Miguel Martinez:** Just as a point of information, if you go on the AMS website, if you click on the tab assembly my info will be there and I can give you any information and I am a point of reference if you have any one you want to get in contact with.

**Vice-President (Operations) Dave Walker:** I do want to clarify that the lobbying part was removed and wasn't a misunderstanding. In regards to the lessened workload that is not true. Student fees have not been given priority and are only overseen by myself and I just want more students to have the opportunity to get involved.

**President Tyler Lively:** So the idea was that it would be composed of a board of assemblies, the directors and staff didn't provision for members at large. These opinions should be flowing up through the governance body, and we don't typically add a member at large unless there is a reason. In this particular committee, experience is very helpful. We don't want people to be interpreting things way too far off in one direction or another. We are more likely to interpret or make reasonable interpretation at the committee level.

**Member at large:** How does that account for biases?

**President Tyler Lively:** It isn't just the AMS, most of the people there are more involved in faulty societies than the AMS. This is an improvement over our current system as we are broadening our perspectives. In two years we can assess if the perspective is broad enough, but I think for now the safer bet is this way and then we can always come back to it in a year or two.

**Member at large:** I want to know more about the process with this policy. There was an explicit reference of "after extensive research" but we were not consulted and were extremely shocked when this was brought up on overheard. Unfortunately this is not a one off of my Queen's experience. Clubs are often not seen as important stakeholders on campus policy. I think more should have been done if the AMS is committed to working with and supporting clubs. With regards to the 2/3-majority, and how this will impact clubs, I do not believe this vote will help with the accountability issue and will be based solely on popularity. Any new or small clubs will not reflect intent to use student fees. If the vote had been 2/3 this year, 50% of the groups would not have gotten their fees this year. We have the highest clubs per capita in North America aside from Harvard. Clubs are very enriching for our community, and I believe in a fully informed discussion we must provide information in what the clubs offer to the community. The rest of the policy and concerns are being forwarded to the committee, with need for further consultation. I

am not opposed to the key goals this policy gets at, but just as a general suggestion I strongly urge to take the voices of clubs into consideration, as depicted by the backlash this policy amendment has received.

**Vice-President (Operations) Dave Walker:** We set out on platform to serve clubs but have failed without going to full consultation. The intent was always good, but that doesn't excuse the policy that came forward. The overall idea of policy is good in merit but the way it was done could have improvements. Many of the concerns put out have been taken into consideration, with exception of the 2/3-majority vote. The purpose is that the committee would consult and work with clubs. Tonight we are seeking approval to create committee and go down that route.

**Member at large:** Would the speakers on this motion be willing to strike the 2/3-majority clause?

**President Tyler Lively:** No. Some clubs are going to lose their fee but I think what we are talking about is that we need to reduce the student fee slate. I haven't heard a reason that makes that goal invalid. Earlier tonight we approved a motion that it required 2/3 majority. In some cases we do need broader support, like in new clubs and clubs that are smaller. These don't necessarily correlate with new or small, lesser known groups though, the vote tends to be a reflection on the purpose of the group. For example, more people support broad benefiting clubs. When a club has a niche purpose or is within one faculty, people tend to be less receptive. This is going to come in for a minimum of one year; we can look to grants for support. We do hear a lot of concerns about how a new club grant doesn't give enough start-up funding, so we may be creating a fee that specifically goes towards that process.

**Member at large:** I take exception to some of the notions; like that students don't understand the opt-out fees. You're out of touch with the student body, if I don't understand I won't vote or I'll opt-out in September. I believe we need to work with the sanctity of the referendum, as it is the purest form of democracy, and the purest voice of the students. AMS to have this back channel of communication to over reach the student population is inappropriate. What students want is not being represented. So my question is, when you put forth this policy, did you not create a voice for a voice of students in the referendum? Do you not understand that referendum is the purest form of democracy? The AMS should take a more striding effort to make sure you are not taking yourselves too seriously. Listen to your peers, that's it.

**President Tyler Lively:** I think we value the referendum process a lot and that's why we've maintained that. We saw two different ways of looking at the student fee slate, trying to allow students to choose through the referendum process. The choice is very valuable with students; we witnessed this with the AMS review fee after fee. To that point, I admire the clubs that are willing to put their fees out there, having been involved in the clubs community, I bring this option forward and see it as the best way of doing things. The extra money to spend otherwise can be put to club

grants that are effected by this policy, and that's why we are developing that implementation. We are not trying to disregard student advice at all, and we are getting a lot more feedback this time, than last time.

**Secretariat Miguel Martinez:** I am leaving on a point of personal privilege, but I just wanted to say thank you everyone for a great year.

**Proxy:** What would be happening right now if we were to pass this motion?

**President Tyler Lively:** We would be introducing this series of classifications, so defining what can be a mandatory fee, and what cannot. It says the mandatory fee will only be from external groups.

**ASUS Representative Carling Counter:** Point of information, what is an external group?

**President Tyler Lively:** I move an amendment to this effect "group may not bring forward a subsequent application in the same academic year, as or the academic year following." Any decisions to suspend are going to be brought to the committee. Assembly will ultimately approve this and assembly will make the final choice.

**Member at large:** What do you mean concerning lobbying?

**President Tyler Lively:** Lobbying is talking about, are you going in and writing policy briefs, are you setting up meetings with politicians and university officials? It is very professional and advocacy would not be covered under lobbying, which I don't think a lot of groups do as their primacy purpose. For example, Jack.org is a great organization that is broader than mental health initiatives. There are a lot of other elements of the organization.

**Aesculpiian Society Junior Representative Julia Milden:** Most of the fears I have been talking about is the fear of a fee being stripped or not operating with the same level they have without consultation. It would be a shame if clubs didn't have that anymore. If you could speak to support to how clubs will be aided so they will not be alone and how this change will be implemented.

**President Tyler Lively:** Our goal has been to look at enterprise level that clubs can use to better keep track of expenses. So if we put out one standardized system, in just helping clubs generally keeping on top of their finances. We can put some pretty substantial reports in place or just talking to the Secretariat, or how to navigate getting a fee. This is all something we're still working on. We are working to increase grants from beginning of this year. So that is one of the things we can look into, or make it known for how to find other funding, or if we implement a student fee that funds the club granting pool.

**Vice-President (Operations) Dave Walker:** The implementation of the committee assesses collateral damage of this policy. It will ultimately come back to assembly. We will also have a higher-level support in the transition should their fee be removed. So what does this new policy mean? It means having better detailed explanations of those processes.

**Proxy:** I feel this is a disservice to our students to say they are not capable of deciding what to opt out of or not opt of. We should just be utilizing the opt-out process better. The incoming executive can look into publicizing the process more. We should not be arguing against reducing the number of student fees, but we should be using this to get rid of fees not using their money properly. I do think it's a little strange on Queen's having the second highest number of clubs in North America and to us being shocked about having more student fees, we should be putting our money where our mouth is, if we are bragging about having these clubs. As someone who has been very involved, I did find this policy difficult to go through, so I expect that members not as involved or experienced in policy to have had a very hard time sifting through the document.

**Vice-President (Operations) Dave Walker:** I don't think we meant it as students are not capable. I do want to stress the number of people who do come our way and say why am I paying when did this opt out period occur, particularly with health and dental. A lot of people have complained that they didn't know about the fee being opt-outable. We found in many cases the emails were never being opened, so we did try to push the opt-out process. We are happy to take more suggestions on how to get that out there. There is just a lot of fees to know them all and know what each one means. We go to Queen's, we are very capable of understanding and reading through the explanations, but there are 114 fees, so that is just a lot in general. The trade off becomes where do we bring the money to provide the more oversight.

**President Tyler Lively:** It is important to note we do want to support clubs but more towards a better balance of grants and student fees. McMaster is a very similar university to us, and they have 6 student fees and groups are required to do an annual presentation and extensive reporting to keep their student fee. There is such a huge gap between us and everyone else in terms of student fees, and we want to move in that direction to close that gap.

**Member at large:** It is disappointing to see the lack of consultation and consideration when about it is about clubs and it is critical to clubs. I say that with issues directly related to effecting students at Queen's, I do think context is quite important. I think we need to put more careful consideration into wording. With grants, is this money available and not being used? Would this grant make the decision more subjective? Could this leave clubs in a more precarious position? Will there be changes from year to year? With the argument for reducing the number of fees, is the risk the number of fees, or is the risk that the money isn't being used properly? Lastly, did you consult the clubs that donate money to charity and how that will affect them moving forward?

**Vice-President (Operations) Dave Walker:** In no way do we think we are the sole advocacy or lobbying efforts at Queen's. We couldn't imagine having to do more than we already do. We didn't consult with clubs properly, but that being said it is a very intricate policy including provincial regulations. The whole process is accountability and the report side. Right now as policy stands we can only audit 10% of the clubs that have a student fee, I'm the only one who does them. If we implement a committee, they can audit more fees, as well as add perspective and view points given in the auditing process. I simply don't think my office can handle more of that. This is a 16 million dollar corporation that requires a lot of other intention, and that's the intent of this committee, more eyes. Through the auditing process, we see that more and more clubs are donating, but we cannot control provincial law. We will work to find the most effective ways of auditing through the transition period, and I think the rest comes from that it is a large student fee slate, and as it has begun to grow and audit, we've found more problems. Clubs have been spending the money more inappropriately, and the positive impact to campus life just wasn't happening. With respect to all the clubs that were audited, I don't think they would tell you they were shocked when they had their student fee revoked. They don't always know why they have their fees, but we don't have the capacity to go through every club with a student fee and what they're spending it on, or why they initially got the fee. Student Wellness Services has had their fee since 1979, and they're not alone. Other groups say they'll do x, y, and z with their fee and that's not the case. This doesn't apply to every club but some aren't spending it right. In the granting pool we put \$42,000 towards club grants, and we look to raise a student fee that would support the increase in club grants. This may be more subjective, but in oversight it has to happen.

**President Tyler Lively:** It may be a bad idea to give a student fee to new clubs, as they are still changing mandate and don't know how much money they need. In that case, the club grant may be more suitable for new clubs. If you're getting a student fee and donating it to charity you are running foul of the rule stated in section 2.2. This is also under provincial regulations.

**Member at large:** Debate on the motion should only last 90 minutes, I move that we extend another 30 minutes.

**Speaker:** We need a seconder. Seconded by Chair Person Quinn Giordano.

All in favour: ALL but 2

Opposed: 1

Abstained: 1

**MOTION PASSES**

**Member at large:** We had to have two thirds of a vote to make that policy. The 2/3-majority vote gives legitimacy. The 2/3-student fee speaks to the broad acceptance of the club. Most people don't know they pay these fees or that they know they can opt-out. I think that at the end of the day, clubs need to show that they are doing something good for students.

**Member at large:** There are three examples given of clubs that lost their fees and why they lost them, I am just wondering if there is an exhaustive list of all the clubs that have lost their student fee, and why?

**Vice-President (Operations) Dave Walker:** I could provide some additional information. There are some groups that given the events that took place we decided to not reveal that publically. This is legally binding, but I can tell you what year they're from. The blood team was a fee we withheld this year as they were sitting on a tremendous amount of money. The World Wildlife fund has had their fee cut in half because they didn't pick up their cheque and didn't keep up with the review process. The solar design team had a substantial cheque that went stale dated and were audited this year so part of that fee was withheld.

**Engineering Society President Taylor Sawadsky:** The sentiments are good, but I feel that people pointed out issues and good things to think of. I motion to table this and mandate the executive to assess what has been said today.

**President Tyler Lively:** Point of order, motion to table is out of order since there is no assembly leading to move it to.

**Engineering Society President Taylor Sawadsky:** If we're mandating it to be brought back in the fall is that an exemption or something we could look at?

**Speaker:** Two minute recess. I will take the chance to review policy manual 1.

**Speaker:** So according to that there is nothing that prevents a motion to be tabled. We will now open debate on motion to be tabled.

**Engineering Society President Taylor Sawadsky:** So I've motioned to table this motion for further refinement based on what students have said, but in the recess it was brought to my attention that nothing could be done until this motion was passed so I'm more indifferent.

**President Tyler Lively:** We want to get started on the very least the accountability measures. These are measures that need to be implemented. Differences we are bringing forward in the policy can be changed. It does not allow us to prepare implementations over the fall. These are things we have started working on, but are going to need a lot work to be ready. If this is delayed until the fall, there's a significant risk that it won't happen. The 2/3-majority vote could be deferred to committee and then be brought back.

**Board of Director's Chair Person Quinn Giordano:** I am against the idea of tabling this motion. Tabling it means we kill it. Why don't we use objections and use them in amendments and pass them tonight and proceed to doing some good for the accountability of student dollars when we have the chance to fix it.

**Nursing Society President Alexandra Palmeri:** So I would definitely like to echo Chair Person Giordano, I think tabling would be the wrong idea; there is a lot of good and benefit that could come out of this. A lot of the conversation has been perceiving what students are going to lose. AMS is seen as an antagonist to student opportunity, but it is about students coming together trying to put forward and improve student experience. The perception tonight is no student fee means no clubs, as if they lose a student fee they cease to exist. Instead, we are opening up grant and bursary opportunities. We're on our way to getting an education that speaks very well to our intelligence. If we as a student government are going to offer fees to them, then we are going to benefit the student opportunity at large.

**Commerce Society President Bhavik Vyas:** I am also against tabling this motion. I am in favor of discussing policy. Furthermore, this policy is misinterpreted. I do think the policy can be passed and then heavily refined with many peoples' inputs and complete enacted at a later date.

**ASUS Representative Nicholas Maida:** I move to call the motion to question.

**Speaker:** Seconded by Aniqah Mair.

All in favour: ALL

Opposed: 0

**MOTION PASSES**

**Speaker:** We will now vote to table this motion.

All in favour: 1

Opposed: ALL but 3

Abstained: 2

**Speaker:** The motion does not pass, and we will return to the original Speaker's list.

**Board of Director's Chair Person Quinn Giordano:** We have talked to a lot, but what the main sticking point has been is we are hung up entirely on the 2/3-majority rule. My understanding is if we do something about the 2/3 rule we would be willing to pass the motion. What I want to know is are we able to get rid of the

2/3 rule and add another member to the committee for more accountability? I think we can use this to actual amendments.

**Member at large:** Point of information. I move to extend discussion by another 30 minutes.

**Speaker:** Motion seconded by Alexandra Palmeri. We will now vote to extend the discussion.

All in favour: ALL but 3

Opposed: 3

**MOTION PASSES**

**Lauren Bates:** I want to know what also applies to faculty societies, does the 2/3-majority rule apply to us getting our fees?

**President Tyler Lively:** Point of information. Protocol says that our rules apply to faculty societies, but I don't know if they're all congruent. That's an additional question we did not set out to answer. Provisions would apply, but AMS should look at giving faculty societies a bit of leeway.

**ASUS Representative Carling Counter:** Is the money being spent the way we think it is? There are a lot of ways to encourage fiscal opportunity, like budgeting spread sheets, increasing club audits, and getting rid of stale dated students fees. The issue with inability to audit sparks discussion on lack of ability to audit and new resources for that. The administration of SOLUS could get easier, we could move to something different from SOLUS and learn how to audit more clubs, and how to audit them better. I think the cooling off period seems very cautious, what's the harm in a group giving it a second go? I just don't see why that would be an issue. I would like clarification on that. I would also motion to move to committee to discuss that the establishment of a new student fee requires 2/3-majority vote.

**Speaker:** Seconded by Romanski, The motion is debatable on referral to the committee.

**Engineering Society Vice-President (Student Affairs) Evan Dressel:** Can you clarify the motion?

**ASUS Representative Carling Counter:** The requirement of the 2/3-majority vote to establish a new student fee, to move to a committee to discuss it. If we move this to a committee we can develop it alongside a policy and allow it to get started and get rid of the complicated issues we are hashing out here tonight.

**Proxy:** Point of information. That would mean that until another motion is brought it could be passed with 50% majority and policy committee would look to this further but until approved in assembly would still be 1/2?

**Speaker:** Is there any more debate on the motion? Seeing no debate we will move into the vote.

All in favour: ALL but 2

Opposed: 1

Abstained: 1

### **MOTION PASSES**

**Computing Science Society Vice-President (Operations) Vinith Suriyakamar:** I want to discuss how are clubs duplicating each other? Within our society, there is a 12-hour hackathon and a 36-hour hackathon. These cater to two different groups of people, because some people are not up for a full 36 hours. I am sort of wondering the mechanisms in place if the clubs are doing duplicate things?

**Clubs Manager Grace Kim:** For the new club ratification process we go through an application and interview for what they are hoping to do on their term as a club. We compare this to mandate of existing clubs, and it goes to mandate for review. If there are too many similarities then the club won't get approved. It is understood that different students have different interest, but committee does discuss if there is a need for that particular club on campus. If we think it's the same as a club that currently exists, we think they should combine their efforts instead of having two bodies doing the same thing.

**Vice-President (University Affairs) Carolyn Thompson:** We also have a few appeals come forward if they weren't initially granted club status and make their case as to why they were different from that club.

**Rector Cam Yung:** I just wanted to support the comment of President Palmeri and Chair Person Giordano, I think setting up a committee in order to review many aspects of this policy will be quite critical.

**Member at large:** Concerning section C44 regarding external fees, how will the AMS ensure the power won't be manipulated by future AMS executives, specially what measures are in place to ensure AMS won't selectively advocate against groups that they don't agree with or issues they do agree with?

**President Tyler Lively:** No, we did not consult these groups as we represent AMS members. AMS members should be represented in these group if we are paying fees. If there froups are divorced from AMS members, there's no way we can influence

their programming directly. I can't ensure that any discretion will not be manipulated. This is not a standard for judging this kind of policy. We have a pretty good system. The AMS has a spot of CFRC, and this is done through the nomination committee, where approximately six members of Assembly are getting together to have committee. This ensures that it is not the AMS executive making those choices; it is something they agree should happen and try to make an agreement with them.

**Engineering Society Vice-President (Student Affairs) Evan Dressel:** Point of information. Also the AMS assembly member who was elected to CFRC got placed on the Board of Director's from the nomination committee, which is reviewed by a large number of elected student officials that represent the views of the AMS.

**Member at large:** Great amendments have been made. I want to know how much time was put into making this policy lacking proper consultation?

**President Tyler Lively:** We started out on this in the fall. We brought together a number of members from this body and the Finance Chair from the Board of Director's. So we had in terms of a governance standpoint a broad perspective. We looked at what policies existed, and what we discovered in looking at comparison schools, is that nobody does student fees like us. So we thought, where do we go from here? Why do student fees exist? Where are we now, and where should we be going? In mid February, we were drafting this policy, and we met in February to discuss it. We made changes and brought it to Assembly two weeks ago. It seems like we've been receiving a lot of feedback recently, we didn't expect this much feedback but we are glad we received it and have incorporated it into policy. Making these updates will be relatively straight forward because they are aligning with things we wanted to get across anyways. It hasn't been public to date because we wanted to bring it to board and get it improved with delayed implementation.

**Nursing Society President Alexandra Palmeri:** Point of information. The conversation surrounding student activity fees span far back into last year as well. So Tyler could you comment about that?

**President Tyler Lively:** The time last year took a different approach, they put restriction on purposes of groups like disallowing conferences from having student fees. This didn't pass. Students have the ultimate say in what gets fees. What they did approve is the wording around if these could be mandatory or not. So what they did was they passed it and then tried to start interpreting the policy and what happened what the interpretation and the student groups being affected were vastly different. So nobody had their fee modified at that time, so we took this wording and have done a preliminary analysis of who would be affected and will bring that to Assembly some time next year.

**ASUS Representative Carling Counter:** I am still wondering what the point of the cooling off period is?

**President Tyler Lively:** Our view is that if you fail to get a student fee you need to go back to the drawing board and reassess instead of coming back at the next opportunity. Groups that failed and came back again and even a third time did not succeed. It's about giving a group a bit of time to reassess and see why they failed. The fees will also be manageable for students.

**ASUS Representative Carling Counter:** I motion to refer the cooling off period to the committee.

**Speaker:** Seconded by proxy.

**Nursing Society President Alexandra Palmeri:** I wouldn't refer that to the committee because it does seem pretty straightforward. If they haven't met the requirements, go back to the drawing board and figure out a better plan so you have a better opportunity to be successful so groups moving forward will have best opportunity to succeed moving forward.

**ASUS Representative Carling Counter:** Point of information. I still have the agenda and it says two academic year.

**Speaker:** Same year and subsequent academic year. One year.

**Computing Science Society Vice-President (Operations) Vinith Suriyakamar:** If you keep bringing a fee to students they'll feel worn down, they're going to be like this group keeps asking so they'll be like lets just let it pass, I don't want to see it again. The cooling off period promotes that they will be bringing something new each time, and reevaluating what they are offering to students.

**ASUS Representative Carling Counter:** Point of order. I'll withdraw the amendment.

**Proxy:** I move that we extend the debate another 30 minutes.

**Speaker:** Seconded by Draegger. We will now vote on the motion.

All in favour: ALL but 5

Opposed: 4

Abstain: 1

### **MOTION PASSES**

**Member at large:** I would like the make up of the committee to be clarified. I also want to raise concerns with the cooling off period. So if you say you had a clubs executive having to wait that year and another year is pretty detrimental to the club.

So, I think that it is important to understand how the cooling off period works. With specification to the charity clause, I do not feel it is fully reflected in current motions.

**President Tyler Lively:** I guess what I meant is there wasn't a lets go through every single fee and bring it forward. What were talking about is look through each fee and look at the purpose. This kind of doesn't apply to you. The committee composition for the review portion definitely makes sense to add a clubs person. The review portion of the policy from the review of the actual packages themselves. The committee composition is now fully listed here. It will house two members of AMS, the AMS Assembly Secretariat, VP OPS, and a member of the board. We can add the President of Clubs Caucus.

**ASUS Representative Carling Counter:** Motion to call to question.

**Speaker:** Seconded by President Nelms.

All in favour: ALL

Opposed: 0

**MOTION PASSES**

Speaker: We will now move the motion to a vote.

All in favour: ALL

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

**MOTION PASSES**

*Motion 8 – Moved by: Liam Dowling, Seconded by: Vice-President (University Affairs) Carolyn Thompson*

***That AMS Assembly approve the Government Environmental Procedures Manual 2017-2019***

Dowling: So this is the exact same that was brought here in December, the only significant change is the administration in the way that it is structured and administered. The procedures are still the same and there are no significant changes.

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

**Nursing Society President Alexandra Palmeri:** I want to make a comment of gratitude for all of his hard work. This is a great addition to the AMS mandate moving forward. You have done a great job this year.

**Speaker:** Is there any more debate on the motion? Last call for debate on the motion. Seeing none, we will move to vote.

All in favour: ALL

Opposed: 0

Abstain: 0

**MOTION PASSES**

*Motion 9 – Moved by: Greg Kurcin, Seconded by: Vice-President (University Affairs) Carolyn Thompson*

***That AMS Assembly approve the addition of Section 1, Part N to AMS Policy Manual 1 as seen in Appendix: Charlie***

**Greg Kurcin:** This policy is just the establishment of a grant. If you've ever tried to book a space in the Isabel, it's very expensive. This agreement is to get spaces for students. We would have two usages of the concert hall and lobby free of cost for a 4-hour call. The committee would create grant applications and committee would read applications and look at eligibility and groups could use space for free and save money. I'm happy to take any questions.

**ASUS Representative Carling Counter:** I just want to say I'm totally in favour of this. I work there so I know how expensive it is. Student groups come in so infrequently but it is Queen's campus. The space fee is several thousand dollars to rent out. The space seats about 506 people, so selling each seat at \$10 a head for pure profit would be a great opportunity. This is our space so we should be able to use it.

**Speaker:** Any other debate on the motion? Seeing none, we will move to vote.

All in favour: ALL

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

**MOTION PASSES**

**Discussion Period**

**Computing Science Society President Aniqah Mair:** Seeing that it's week 11 and it's really late I say we skip it.

**Speaker:** Just before I recognize adjournment I want to thank you all. I really enjoyed being speaker and I appreciate all you guys have done this year. Thank you. I will now need someone to motion to adjourn. Moved by Proxy, and seconded by Carling Counter. We will now move to vote.

All in favour: ALL but 3

Opposed: 3

**MOTION PASSES**

**Adjournment**

*Assembly concludes at 10:53*

*Assembly length: 3h 49m*