



AMS Annual General Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 6th, 2017

Wallace Hall, JDUC

President Tyler Lively will henceforth be known as Speaker

Assembly commences at 7:50

Approval of the Agenda

Motion 1 – Moved by: Secretariat Miguel Martinez, Seconded by: Brianne Moore

That AMS approve the agenda for 2017 AMS Annual General Meeting

All in favour: ALL

Opposed: 0

MOTION PASSES

Speaker's Business

President Tyler Lively: So you will note that there are not motions today. Under the AMS constitution, motions do need to be submitted 7 days in advance to the secretariat, therefore no motions can be added. If you wish to speak you can do so later on in the statements by students section or in the discussion period, just raise your hand to do so.

Guest Speaker

President Tyler Lively: \$200,000 is the total amount that students pay each year for student fees that students pay because of the 2013-2014 AMS Annual general meeting. \$200,000 in fees were approved at the 2014-2015 meeting as well. Now they have become a chance for us to reflect on the AMS and where the organization could go in the coming years. I bring up the example of new student fees to bring up an attitude of entitlement, reckless self confidence and resistance to change that leads student government to be out of touch with its student members. A few years ago the AMS was a very different organization. The issues that were focused on, and not focused on were different. For example, non-academic misconduct was a great

conflict between the AMS and the university, as there were two student deaths in 2010. This caused a renewed focus on health and safety. Since it was a student run non-academic misconduct incidence, it struck investigation. The AMS president sent a letter to the provost telling them not to underestimate resolve on this issue. Instead of engaging they ruined the relationship with the administration. They couldn't make gains on values that mattered the most to students, and they did it to protect a tradition rather than to serve students. Since AMS pub services have been rebranded from TAPS to Underground, we have lost \$100,000 each year, this year having now lost a cumulative \$500,000. Although we have tried to take a critical look this year, it is not until now that we've realized the problem. These examples speak to the way the AMS has done things for years. For the old the AMS, the ends always justified the means, and that is an attitude that is resistant to change. We saw this attitude when changing the CEA, there was no amount of hard work and listening that would have ever be enough. Clubs are second-class leadership opportunities, rather than genuine partners in improving the Queen's experience. When we ran for executive, we wanted to do better than talk about programs and plans. We wanted a vision that took the AMS in a new direction. Our vision was focused, determined and better. They represent a vision for an AMS that works for students and with students. AMS is at its strongest when we play to our strengths. Each and every year doesn't have to be defined by a major milestone, we as a team take that to heart and put it into action. We found realistic and achievable ways to improve services. As some examples, remote printing at PC&C, skate sharpeners at Bites and Board, opening up seating at the Brew providing 24/7-study space, and expanding bus services at the Tricolour Outlet. All of these changes represent small faces; we did not come into office with a mandate or desire to make large unrealistic changes, as these services have been around a while and work well. We would have liked to done more but we are constrained, as the JDUC is simply not up to par. At the beginning we set out a goal to be a world class Student life center. We want every student to be proud of it and use it. I'm proud to say we've made more progress this year than in the past 5 years combined. We have provided groundwork for renovation. We've reached an agreement to secure JDUC residence space, and we've learned from past mistakes. When JBP takes on they'll be ready to hit the ground running. Advocacy should be focused on issues that matter most and deliver tangible results. As the voice of undergrad students, the AMS has a responsibility. Without their help we cannot build a Queen's that lives up to these expectations. In the fall we released a survey regarding study space on campus, and the consensus was that there is not enough study space on campus. Since then, we have developed a valuable relationship with library and used these results and relationship to push the university to dedicate money to increasing study space. We're able to start a positive and constructive conversation with data values. With respect to campus wellness services, we've had immense success. La sale is now open more hours with more staff. There's now better training for all front-line medical staff. These efforts were the result of data driven advocacy. When students have a problem, it's best to work to understand the issue. We've taken a similar approach to better understanding student life. This is the true value of the Queen's experience and its what sets us apart from other schools. Students come here for the

education, not just the degree. AMS needs to preserve this for the next generation of students. This begins with recognizing importance of faculty societies and clubs, and celebrating the traditions that make our university great. We've dedicated time and resources to ensure this happens. During our campaign we spoke with dozens of club leaders and asked them how can the AMS better support the work they do, and we heard a lot and we took action. We created a clubs manual that encompasses all of the aspects. We have two major projects in the pipeline, a club compass and a job board. The club compass allows students to sift through 300 clubs so that they know what's out there. The job board will allow students to get involved more easily as they will know the opportunities available to them. We've done a lot to rebuild the trust of clubs. They feel they only hear from us when the AMS needs something from them. Now we have tried to end this one-way conversation, for example by meeting with faculty society presidents every two weeks. These have been great conversations about the future of the AMS. All of this would not be possible without the hard work and dedication of our staff. They have stuck with us throughout the entire year. Their wisdom and expertise has been greatly appreciated. Thank you for your guidance and for your commitment. Lastly, I want to thank the entire student body. This evening we spoke a lot about what we've contributed, I would require another speech to outline everything you have given us. Thanks for being a community of students who do more than just going to class and going home. That lasts well beyond the time we spend in university and thank you for motivating us to do the same. In closing, I want to leave you a message about the future. AMS has come a long way since I arrived at Queen's, but we're still not perfect. The same attitudes that have held us back still persist, and we as student leaders recognize that. You must speak up when we are short sighted, challenge AMS and the people involved when you do not think we are representing students, and ask the tough questions. Thank you.

Judicial Affairs Manager: I figured this would be appropriate time to look back at the year behind us. It's bittersweet to see my time end. It is my fifth year at Queen's. I should also say I won't be going in depth to my report today, but it is attached to the agenda and if you do have any questions concerning it I'm happy to answer those at any time. On this day, most of my work is falsely based as high profile cases. The independence of the judicial committee assists at functionaries from arms length. This is why my manager will personally deal with the AMS president. This allows the university now to remove students from NAM related activities. This ensures that the system reports to the society, which is why I'm reporting to all of you here today. Now was to what has been happening, I have exciting new projects to address misconduct, to create policies, to clearly clarify the AMS independent authority, to work to digitize the office, and to work to pivot the judicial affairs office. So all in all a very exciting year in terms of the development. Next year NAM will celebrate their 120th birthday. Since 1898 students have been the primary executives, which has brought the organization great success. In a sense the change from NAB to NAM is just a shift in the system, but it would be naïve to underestimate the significance of the review. So what has the significance of the review been? In the five years before the 2015-2016 NAM review, sanctions

averaged \$2000 in bonds each year. In 2010-2011, there was an average of 70 hours of time spent from sanctions. There were dozens of educational sanctions each year. The number of total cases plummeted now to less than half, and the severity also lessened. Last year's review was most significantly challenged to have hope for the future. The relationship between the university and AMS has improved, from several years of committed effort. So, where are we now? Where does this year stand? Sadly, I have had numerous meetings with students where they have expressed that they were uncomfortable filing complaints. It was nobody's intent to discourage individuals to come forward, meanwhile a piece of the code said that students could no longer file these complaints to fellow students. Though well intentioned, it has led to serious concerns. They have asked me how harshly they should be cracking down underage students, but this could lead to alienating students. Should our priority be to be there for first year students or ensuring proper measures are taken when violating code of conduct? By not talking to them about drinking, in this sense what we want is coverage for what we want or students' health and safety? Hazing is a university level offence now, but this could still be argued to still be around. University should still place trust in student leaders to make this change. We must strive to improve in areas that we have fallen short. I do have hope that we can increase awareness. Trust is slowly building. NAM intake office has faith in the AMS, now AMS must prove we deserve the trust that NAM has taken in us. NAM and AMS were both created on principles, now this system must continue on the same principles. Students must care and show that they care, and engage with the system and fight to defend it. Thank you.
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President Tyler Lively: With that we will move into statements by students

Statements by Students

President Tyler Lively: Usually these statements are capped at about a minute, but since it's an annual general meeting I won't put a cap on the statement, but if you ramble I may ask you to finish your point or I'll potentially cut you off.

Secretariat Miguel Martinez: I have two quick reminders, next week's assembly is on March 16th; this assembly is the city hall assembly. As well due to unforeseen planning the March 30th assembly is moving to March 29th.

Member at large: One of my concerns is that the non-academic misconduct committee at AMS has failed to reprimand the racist party that happened at Queen's and I was wondering if the AMS would speak to that event.

Judicial affairs: Just to address purely from perspective there are a few things to take into account. I don't mean to deflect responsibility away from AMS, but in terms of the misconduct committee, in order to take something on it has to be analyzed by the intake office by university, this is with any violation of the code of conduct, and the office will then determine where is the most appropriate body for it to be sent

to. Whether it's to NAM or a separate body. Even within NAM we do not deal with cases of blatant discrimination that would be dealt with through human rights offices.

President Tyler Lively: Are there any additional statements by students? Seeing no additional statements we will move onto the question period.

Question Period

President Tyler Lively: Are there any questions?

Member at large: I have a question about the counseling services. Frankly the current services are only available once a week, and it is very difficult to get meetings with a counselor. During crisis, it typically takes 2-3 weeks to see someone. When I had a crisis I had to wait a month to see a psychiatrist. I do want to thank AMS for investing and improving the issues with the student wellness services, but I am wondering if it will be something that's moving forward as a priority for next year. I bring this up because it is severely affect the health of students.

Vice-President (University Affairs) Carolyn Thompson: I can't speak for incoming executive team, but this is an extremely large problem at our university. With the feedback system that's something were hoping to keep open not just for this year but for years to come. Now that we have been collecting data, this is finally catching the attention of the university, and we will continue to do analysis.

President Tyler Lively: I would add that discussions with the university have been productive, as they are going to expand the physical footprint of these services. There is a capacity issue in La Salle to service everyone, as there is simply not enough space for more staff and offices. With the renovations of the new gym, that is set to be finished for Fall 2018, there will be more services available. Are there any additional questions?

Member at large: Something that I've never been able to get an answer on, there is a decent amount of frustration that clubs don't get enough support, as we receive no office space and no funding. In Policy manual 2 or 3 that deals with clubs policy, it states that politically affiliated clubs, it doesn't say they can't get funding, but says that they can't apply for grants. So, can we get funding?

Vice-President (Operations) Dave Walker: It is AMS policy that clubs are not eligible for student fee.

President Tyler Lively: In policy manual 1 page 73 and 74 under the new clubs grant and clubs experience grant student clubs accept those directly associated with political companies. This is a long-standing practice. There is not a lot of offices around as well so we are limited to space we could provide.

Member at large: Is this a standard across other universities?

Vice-President (Operations) Dave Walker: Yes this is a standard, and Queen's is larger than most universities. We get a sum amount to clubs offices and disperse it to clubs.

President Tyler Lively: Any additional questions from students?

Member at large: Where would students go to learn more about the AMS policy? To know tangibly what you guys are up to.

President Tyler Lively: There are monthly newsletters where we highlight key initiatives. We also publish reports every two weeks at AMS assembly. There are a number of initiatives that end up in the Queen's Journal. It is difficult to communicate everything we're doing, but if people are ever interested I've had people come into my office and ask me about things. We are more than happy to sit down with people. If you have any suggestions we would be more than happy to consider them. Most people don't think we do anything but just don't do a good job at communicating. Any other questions from students? Seeing no additional questions, we will move onto Business arriving from minutes.

Business Arising from the Minutes

President Tyler Lively: Since no motions were submitted, we will move onto new business.

New Business

President Tyler Lively: Since no motions were submitted, we will move onto the Discussion Period.

Discussion Period

President Tyler Lively: Any member of the society can move to add a discussion period to the agenda for consideration. Does anyone want to add a discussion period? Seeing no discussion periods that brings us to the end of the agenda for this meeting. Does anyone want to motion to adjourn?

Motion 2 – Moved by: Kevin Donaldson, Seconded by: John Wiser

That AMS move to adjourn the Assembly

All in favour: ALL

Opposed: 0

MOTION PASSES

Adjournment

Assembly concludes at 8:42

Assembly length: 52 minutes