



AMS Assembly Minutes

*Meeting of Thursday, 5 November 2015
Sutherland Room, JDUC*

Minutes are tentative until approved by AMS Assembly.

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR NOVEMBER 5th, 2015

Motion 1: That AMS Assembly approve the agenda for the Assembly meeting of November 5th, 2015.

Moved by: Sarah Letersky

Seconded by: Kanivanan Chinniah

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

For: All

Against: 0

Motion Carries

2. APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 22nd MEETING

Motion 2: That AMS Assembly approve the minutes of the meeting of October 22nd, 2015.

Moved by: Sarah Letersky

Seconded by: Kanivanan Chinniah

For: All
Against: 0
Motion Carries

3. Speaker Business

Speaker: We are trying to rework how the rooms work, and where people sit. If you have any issues or suggestions, please come up to me and talk to me about it at the end of the assembly.

4. Guest Speakers

Janice Hill – Four Directions Aboriginal Centre Director

Janice Hill: Hello everyone, and welcome. I am from the Mohawk Nation. I am known as Janice Hill (that is my GST name). Recognizing Aboriginal people as traditional stewards of the land is a critical part of demonstrating respect for Aboriginals. There are a variety ways to acknowledge Aboriginal stewards, such as invite an Aboriginal elder to speak a welcome greeting, or to sing a song or a prayer. What I am encouraging is, anyone doing an event, do it acknowledging that it is on Aboriginal land. In the context of Aboriginal cultures, traditional territory refers to a specific place, like Kingston. In the past, several language groups made Kingston their home. Normally the welcome follows a traditional protocol, because we all had our own protocols when we entered other people's territories. The purpose in revisiting Aboriginal history is to not blame, or to not point fingers, but to understand and ensure something as horrendous as what happened to the Aboriginal people does not happen again. Reconciliation is about forwarding and maintaining respectful relationship. Here at Queen's, we can build these relationships by fostering greater understanding and awareness of indigenous affairs for both indigenous and non-indigenous students. We want to create a safe and welcoming space for all indigenous people. We want people to acknowledge the land we stand on, and to acknowledge the shared identities. As Queen's students, you are the future policy makers of the country. I believe it would be a disservice to you if you leave this university without knowing what exactly the aboriginal people went through. I am happy to entertain any questions.

President Chinniah: Thank you for the presentation. What are some of the things that students can do everyday to further indigenize in a way that is respectful for the indigenous community?

Janice Hill: It is probably easier... Well maybe not. What comes more quickly is what not to do. One of the things I encourage what not to do, is to think that if there is an Aboriginal person in your classes, is they know about all Aboriginal people. This is not true. Different Aboriginals have different cultures, traditions, and teachings. It is

important to understand about that diversity. It is one thing to learn about the diversity, but it is another thing to engage in it. By learning, most students will engage. It has been one of my mandates since 2010 to increase our visibility. If there is a way you can think of, of increasing the aboriginal visibility at Queen's that would be very welcome.

Rector Young: Students are usually not sure what word to use. What word is best used (aboriginal, indigenous, etc). When is one appropriate, and when is another inappropriate?

Janice Hill: All of them are appropriate in certain instances. Legislatively, we are status Indians. The most proper word, is the words we use for ourselves. It cannot be expected for everyone to learn all of the words. The word aboriginal and indigenous are used interchangeably, and either one isn't disrespectful. However, indigenous is the most globally known. Either aboriginal or indigenous. Aboriginal is more like the colonial word, and indigenous is more of the proper word, as it has more to do with us related to the land.

President Palmeri: I was just wondering, what aspect of your ancestry are you most proud of.

Janice Hill: A great percentage of Aboriginal people now are of mixed race. In my community, there is a vast majority who are mixed of Aboriginal and non-aboriginal. I consider myself lucky because I am Mohawk, and I can go back 7 generations and I am Mohawk. I have always been proud to be a Mohawk, because women are the bosses.

Speaker: Thank you for coming and we will all be able to provide our constituents with more information about the indigenous plight going forward. We will now move forward to the AMS executive giving their midyear report.

AMS Executive, Mid-Year Review

President Chinniah: We are actually going to present three and a half separate presentations. The first will be in open session of our midyear review. The next, we will present in closed session, a discussion on non-academic misconduct. The third, and the third a half, will be an area of which we will require legally constituted shareholders to be the only ones present – Only permanent voting members of the assembly, will be able to stay for that one. That is an issue of noted importance that we will have everyone leave for. Then, there is another half presentation we will present in closed session. So why are we doing this? This is because it is 2015. We are doing this because we have been at it for a while. We have been in these roles for six months. Six months of imperfection, and learn about what exactly it is that we do. We have another six months to finish the job. We are going to use the things we learned in the past six months. We are going to present what we have done, and where we will go from here.

Vice-President Beaudry: We wanted to start off with an overarching strategy which Sarah and I are going to touch upon. Student leadership is defined in a multitude of different ways.

Vice-President Letersky: Last year I got to interact with a lot of clubs. It is important to look at collaboration moving forward. Moving forward, we believe all organizations thrive when they are being involved and engaged with each other. Moving forward, we want to look at the collaboration we have with student leaders. We want to make the volunteer and salaried opportunities are more accessible to all students.

Vice-President Beaudry: We are going to do a quick platform refresher. Some things have changed. The first pillar was services and support. We wanted to add more seating to Common Ground. Customer Services at places at the AMS Corporate side of the organization is not consistent.

President Chinniah: The next thing we are looking at, is we want to see more study space on campus. It starts with the spaces we can run, but it will expand to other aspects of university life. We are also in collaboration with ASUS to implement a pass-fail credit. We are going to also continue with some of the credit mobility. Also, we want to have a stable continuation of the ReUnion street festival.

Vice-President Letersky: We want to see how we can reach out to all AMS members and how they can get involved with the AMS. We want to reach out and assist first years in their transition to second year.

Vice-President Beaudry: We will also be increasing our budget transparency, and if anyone has any questions about it, they will be able to find it website.

Vice-President Letersky: We are looking to expand on the services offered by the Peer Support Centre, both academically, socially, and other areas they need to reach this support.

Vice-President Beaudry: Just a check in at where we are at: The expansion of the bus service routes is half complete. We have only just collected all of our data of the actual school year. Now that we have the data, we need to actual go through with it and sit down with the city of Kingston. We have the data, but no decision yet. The seating of the common ground is coming around very shortly. There will be huge long tables that are powered.

Vice-President Letersky: We want to put graphics showing the peak times of the ARC, and least busy days of the week for students who want to go to ARC.

Vice-President Beaudry: The next one is the customer service audit. It is going to take place in the form of a secret shopper program. We want to enhance student card value. It has turned out to be an area of more confusion. We left it as a question mark, and will explore it more this year. Not something we are giving up on, but more conversations need to go on. The Faculty Society briefs turned out into more agreement sort of things. Insurance Packages for clubs – We made a brochure in the summer that talked how to sanction an event.

President Chinniah: With the ReUnion Street Festival, we believe it is stable now. In terms of major projects we are focusing on:

1. Signing of the framework for renovations of the JDUC. As this project is developed, we want to ensure that we are not left behind, and the JDUC is built up to a standard that is appropriate for a university like Queen's. We want to ensure we sign a framework in order to determine the renovation of the JDUC.

2. Non-Academic Discipline System: There is a review. We want to ensure the elements that worked in the previous systems are integrated into the new system.

3. ARC Fees – Programs and Services we were promised in 2009 when we passed a 10 year mandatory fee are still delivered to students in the years to come.

Vice-President Beaudry: In effect to the student activity fee policy – This will come forth next assembly. Again, there is specific principles that we will be able to go back and forth on. There are a few updates with the corporate services. Obviously there are always changes happening. There will also be a review of director positions, and this will continue into the next month.

Vice-President Letersky: I have been looking at the accessibility of student leadership positions. I will make sure all positions are accessible for all faculties. We are looking at a Fall Reading Week. Quite a few other universities have had one, and we will have a consultation with all of the Faculty Societies to discuss what a reading week would look like on our campus. OUSA has come up for review. Further, we will increase first year resources for students.

Vice-President Beaudry: Quick three things everyone should be familiar with. There is a bit of work for the 1.2 million renovations of the JDUC. That was dealt with throughout the summer, and the construction will begin in January, with gender-neutral washrooms beginning this week.

President Chinniah: In the next six months, we want to prioritize the negotiation of a responsible framework towards the redevelopment of the JDUC. This is the JDUC, and it should be for all students, but not all students use it.

Vice-President Letersky: We are looking at all commissions to create a framework for all of the programs and resources we provide. We want to ensure we are being fiscally responsible to students and meeting the needs they ask for.

President Chinniah: We want to ensure focusing on NAD. We will try to ensure that elements that we think are a priority are integrated into the NAD system.

Vice-President Letersky: We want to ensure we have a positive office environment. We want to ensure all resources are in place for student leaders. The idea of student government is that it is run by students and we need to leverage this moving forward. Fall Reading Week, we will ensure we have a lot of consultation throughout the year. We will look at how it differs between the faculties. It will be a priority that all faculties are consulted about the matter.

President Chinniah: We believe to increase faculty societies. What we realize, is that the AMS is valuable with its services that interact meaningful with faculty societies.

Vice-President Beaudry: The Corporate Services will constantly change. We have seen the changes to studio Q. We are thinking of structural changes moving forward.

President Toff: Can you provide an example where resources provided by the AMS may be overlapped?

Vice-President Letersky: A lot of our committees can collaborate. Maybe committees can collaborate at event. For example, some committees can host a social for first years.

President Kurgan: You mentioned there are some barriers to accessing the AMS. What are some of these barriers?

Vice-President Letersky: Having students take on a fifth year, as well as the time commitment. We want to look at the time commitment of these roles, and the financial viability of them.

Vice-President DiCapua: Can you explain more about the student cards. What is the landscape on that? We have the most basic students cards on the planet... I know McGill has their students cards gain access to doors.

Vice-President Beaudry: I recently started conversations at the end of the summer, and am looking at the budgets. Currently, student cards are all run by Queen's. In order for the AMS to explore this is to change that. It is seen as non-profitable to explore things that involve leaving the closed system.

Back from Closed Meeting

5. President's Report

President Chinniah: Nothing Further

6. Vice-President Beaudry

Vice President Beaudry: We will look into further how we are going to get out of Mac-Brown building.

7. Internal Affairs Commissioner

Vice-President Letersky: Position to fill Bart's spot closes tomorrow.

8. Board of Trustee's

Chair of the Board Blair: The minutes of the board meetings will now be posted on the website. Additionally, I have laid out the goals of the various committees. If you have any questions pertaining to these goals, you can ask me during the question period, or shoot me an e-mail. Of course the corporate special general meeting is on Tuesday, November 10th. At that meeting, the audit findings report for last year will be presented, as will the financials. In addition, a report from the service director and the president on the various services on the offices for this and last year. Additionally, you will be appointing the auditor for the upcoming financial year, you will be able to ask them questions.

9. Student Senator's Report

Senator Lockridge: Chairperson Brockie is unable to attend and sends her regrets. Senate met this past Tuesday, November 3rd. First off, as Sarah mentioned about the Fall reading week. Senate approved the petition, and will be integrating this into their meetings. There will also be a closure of theology program due to low enrollment. All current students in the program will be able to finish their classes without any interruptions. This is the first closure that has occurred, and the only program in history that Queen's has ever closed.

10. Rector's Report

Rector Young: Some verbal updates. First and foremost, tricolor award nomination is open. I encourage you to nominate outstanding peers for non-academic, non-athletic services to the school. Second, the selection committee consists of a member from each faculty, so I would like it if you can appoint that. If you do not get a representative, your faculty or school has no voice. Further, the orientation week flag will happen this year, but differently. Instead of just having the flag signed during orientation week and unveiling it in the second semester, we will have a reunion night for frosh groups to sign it.

11. Student Trustee's Report

Trustee Li: Nothing to add.

12. Statement of the Members

President Jamieson: We would love to introduce Victoria Chapell, one of our newest members.

President Paulmary: By the next time we meet, we will be into National Nursing Student Week, so please watch out for that.

President Tseng: We just finished construction of the structure inside Grant Hall, Open House from 10am-5pm on Sunday. Entrance by donation, the entire inside has been transformed, come check it out.

13. Question Period

Speaker: Any Questions? Seeing none, we will move on.

14. Business Arising From the Minutes

Motion 3: That AMS Assembly approve the second reading of the amendments to the AMS Constitution, Section 3.03, article 3.03.03 as seen in Appendix A: Student Activity Fees.

Moved by: Chinniah

Seconded by: Letersky

President Chinniah: This is the second reading, this removes the provision of the AGM to pass the student fee. From now, any sort of student fee change must go to a full campus wide referendum.

For: All
Against: 0
Abstentions: 0
Motion Carries

14. New Business

Motion 4: That AMS Assembly Ratifies Tyler Lively for Academic Affairs Commissioner for the remainder of the 2015-2016 year.

Moved by: Letersky
Seconded by: Chinniah

Vice-President Letersky: We chose Lively for a series of reasons. He showed an ability to step into the role with initiative. He actually has already attended OUSA to ensure he was meeting the individuals there. So if anyone does have any questions, please let us know.

President Garcia: Will someone take over his previous position.

Vice-President Beaudry: We discussed this, and we will not hire another person. We are pretty late in the game, and it is very relationship based role.

Representative Hagerman: To the candidate, what are you most excited about?

Applicant and Lively: Working with the members of academic caucus and my team of volunteers and advocating for students.

For: All
Against: None
Abstentions: None
Motions Carries

Motion 5: That AMS Assembly approve the edits to Section 1, Part K of the Campus Activities Commission of AMS Policy Manual 2 as seen in Appendix B: found in Section 1: New Events Grants Committee.

Moved by: Daniel Kimberly
Seconded by: Sarah Letersky

For: All
Against: None
Abstentions: None
Motion Carries

15. Discussion Period

Nothing to add.

END OF ASSEMBLY