



AMS Assembly Minutes
Thursday, September 19, 2019
Wallace Hall

Minutes are tentative until approved by Assembly

The meeting was convened at 18:32 EST.

Speaker Maule: Good evening everyone. We would like to call order to the first AMS Assembly of the 2019-2020 year.

Motion #1: Moved by: Secretary Borchenko, seconded by: AMS President Pierce.

Motion for the AMS Assembly to approve the agenda for the meeting of September 19, 2019.

Speaker Maule: Are there any amendments to the Agenda?

AMS President Pierce: I'd like to amend the discussion topic about the JDUC. Simply due to time as this will be a very long Assembly. We want to cut it out and next time, we can bring a presenter. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask and I will do my best to answer.

No further debate, vote proceeds.

FOR: Unanimous

AGAINST: None

ABSENTIONS: None

Motion carries.

Motion #2: Moved by: Secretary Borchenko, seconded by: AMS President Pierce.

Motion for the AMS Assembly to approve the minutes of April 9, 2019 Assembly.

No changes to the minutes.

No debate, vote proceeds.

FOR: Unanimous

AGAINST: None

ABSENCES: None

Motion carries.

Speakers Business

Speaker Maule: *Land recognition statement was read.* It's important to acknowledge the original keepers of the land. As someone who has come to Canada recently as an immigrant, I never knew about the original names of these places. The Indigenous people and their struggles were always in past tense. I would like to take this opportunity now to recognize that we should all struggle against the systems of oppression that have stripped Indigenous people of their land and their rights. Please, if you have further questions or inquiries, I recommend you check out Four Directions Indigenous Student Centre.

Congratulations everyone for being a part of Assembly this year. Please don't take for granted your influence on student life, especially for future students. You hold a lot of responsibility. Please come prepared – it is important for you to add value and input to the discussions. Please read the agenda before Assembly and don't be afraid to speak up. You may have a point of view that isn't being considered. Please try to get here on time. We are chosen to represent the student body so please make it here on time. Please email me and Secretary Borchenko if you aren't able to make it. As for dress code, we are students so casual is okay but be professional.

Members-at-large, we are heavily encouraging your participation this year. Please if I mispronounce your name, please stop me and use your point of personal privilege to get me to say it right so I don't have to unlearn it and relearn it later.

It's very fresh week of us but if we could introduce ourselves to Assembly. Also, when you speak in Assembly, if you could say your name for the Scribe prior to your message.

Introductions were made by Assembly members.

Guest Speaker

AMS VP-OPS Dahanayake: Parker [Guest Speaker] is unfortunately ill so I will be speaking on his behalf. In light of the Student Choice Initiative, we wanted to make Student Constables more accessible. They are important to the safety of students at events. Our main priority was to subsidize the cost of Student Constables. We are implementing an increased bursary of \$1,400 for clubs to apply for based purely on financial need. The club will need to submit their budget and proof of financial need. We have the framework set up.

We are also subsidizing cost of student constables to the on-campus pubs. We understand the burden they have on Queen's Pub and Clark Hall Pub. These things will be changed once we get more info on the AMS revenue. Happy to take any questions.

Second Guest Speaker Presentation by OUSA Members Cat Dunne and Eddy Avila.

Guest Speaker Dunne: OUSA stands for Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance. My name is Cat and I am the President this year. I am also the Vice President of Western University's Students' Council.

Guest Speaker Avila: I am Eddy. I am a student back awhile ago; I also unfortunately went to Western but now I serve as the Executive Director of the OUSA Home Office. This is a general overview, we are doing campus visits at our member schools that are a part of OUSA. Hopefully, this will introduce you to OUSA and answer any questions you may have.

Guest Speaker Dunne: OUSA represents 8 member institutions across Ontario including Queen's, Brock, McMaster, Waterloo, Trent, Laurentian, Laurier and Western. Between the 8 schools, we represent over 150,000 students and how we advocate is by creating policy alongside our students. Some of the people at this Assembly have been part of our process before. We take student recommendations and vote on different priorities and then bring that to government. We use a variety of techniques, including campaigns. For example, today we were doing a letter writing campaign for Ontario OSAP decision and to reverse that legislation. We are student driven. These are our policies that everything is rooted in: Affordability, accessibility, quality and accountability. We draft policy recommendations by conducting research. Some of our research is based on all student opinions. Every two years we put out a survey on how our member schools are doing on these four principles. What are the gaps in post-secondary education? We develop these ideas at general assembly. Once we have that, our board of directors/steering committee decides what priorities will we be bringing to government each year. We represent students in the government sector and are excited to represent students and bring their opinions to the government.

Guest Speaker Avila: These are the current projects that we have. All of our policy is developed by students and student authors. A few people in this Assembly have contributed to student policy already. These contributions will be developed and brought to general assembly. At general assembly, I'm only allowed to say things in our policy that is truly developed by students themselves. This keeps it a student-led, student run organization. We do have 4 full-time staff members, including myself. Our role is to support the student authors in their policy research and opinion writing. However, when it comes down to it, it is up to the students to run OUSA. Our other activities include staying connected to the broader sector. We write blogs, op-eds, engage with social media and engaging through student broader campaigns. For example, right now we're doing a letter writing campaign specifically about the changes to OSAP and how they're affecting the students at Queen's but also around the province. If you're curious, you can check out the AMS social media accounts. You can even check out <https://www.ousa.ca/signtheletter> – we had over 500 signatures at the booth today, but the intention today was to raise awareness to what students are seeing, hearing and feeling. This is an example of an activity we do. We also conduct conferences and engage students.

Guest Speaker Dunne: OUSA's structures are what drives our organization. Any student that we represent can go through different processes to become a delegate. General Assembly is where we make our decisions – our recommendations are formed here and the voting is here. These motions we vote on are from student recommendations. Then, our long term plans are also passed here where students have a chance to speak on that. This is our steering committee for this year. It is made up of one member representative from each member school. We decide: where do we need to go? What are the pressing issues? It's one member institution, one vote. It's student leaders like you who have been chosen to represent their students. We also have our Home Office, who help us carry out the day to day operations. Here is an example of our General Assembly at Waterloo. You can see there are 50 delegates that we collaborate with on policy and concerns. We go through these papers pretty comprehensively. Here is our steering committee:

this was at our first board meeting in May. It was exciting to get together and see where we could collaborate and see changes to be made.

Guest Speaker Avila: Moving on to finances – part of the reason why we come is to show what you’re paying to be a part of OUSA. The current fee is \$3.16 per student per year. We’ll talk about what you get for being a part of OUSA. My understanding is that with the Student Choice Initiative, one thing that we recognize as partners of student associations is understanding that that process of payment had to be updated. We updated our policies this summer to only charge students who opted in. Again, everybody in the sector is trying to do their best with the Student Choice Initiative. We wanted to highlight the cleaning up our bylaws and policies to reflect this political climate. The one vote in the committee which only students make up of will allow them to be able to set OUSA’s priorities that year. They’ll be recognized as a leader in the province. These opportunities also give resources so that student groups are being transparent and responsible with our finances, have access to decision makers, resources and assistance in terms of research, communication, policy skills, best practice sharing, and provide opportunities for students in article writing, blogs.

Guest Speaker Dunne: This was a picture taken at our training day. We provide work integrated opportunities for students and here is us with our last lobby week. We had a lobby week in November that our Steering Committee attends and we meet with the MPPs at Queen’s Park to address the priorities that we will go into in a little bit. This is a photo of us with Premier Ford and 3 of over 60 MPPs that we were able to meet with during Lobby Week last year.

Guest Speaker Avila: How are we working with the current government, given the political climate? Around 26 of the MPPs that we had met with were with the current Progressive Conservative government in Ontario. We even had a quick meeting with the Premier and this is something that we want to do again.

Guest Speaker Dunne: We were fortunate to have Andrea Horvath, Leader of the Ontario New Democratic Party, to come out and talk about the post-secondary sector and on how we can work with government and bring up our concerns. We also usually get the members of government from the local riding to come out as well. These four priorities were set by our Steering Committee in June or July about the things we wanted to bring to politicians when lobbying. We are looking forward to meet with more MPPs before the budget season. One of the priorities was student mental health. The Ontario government has committed over \$1.9 billion, however, we want to see more investment in student towns where there is a large influx of services needed but not a huge percentage of the needs met in terms of international students and making sure that funding that was committed is addressing the needs of students. The second priority was sexual violence prevention & response. We know there is more that the government can be doing. We are asking for terms of reference to be included in programs shown such as in bystander intervention training. This is a broad safety initiative and this money should be going to these robust initiatives and programs. We also hope to incorporate more data analytics on sexual violence prevention and more training for campus security in bar intervention practices. We also wanted to prioritize preparing students for workforce. When students graduate, they want to have jobs. This includes increasing work-integrated learning, including internships and co-ops that help reduce the affordability burden on students and ensures that students have the opportunity to articulate what they’ve learned. Finally, a priority is student financial aid. We hope to reverse the changes to OSAP. We’ve collected over 500 letters that detail the impact and we need to make the changes to make education accessible to the students that need it the most.

Guest Speaker Avila: These are a few of our milestones. This list is available on our website. We also have some recent publications. It's been a very research-and-publications-heavy summer. We did the primary research on a lot of important student issues. Feel free to peruse the OUSA website and you will see additional policies in our policy library.

Guest Speaker Dunne: This is an example of one of our wins. We first brainstormed on the amount of grants that students who receive financial aid should be receiving based on family income. This was our second draft which was eventually included in our financial aid paper in 2015 that we presented to the government. This recommendation was adopted by the 2016 Ontario government who increased grants by \$4,000. This is what really became the targeted free tuition campaign in Ontario implemented by Kathleen Wynne. Another example of a win is when Student Choice Initiative was first released, affordable transit was a large issue for students. We made transit passes mandatory, which helped students save on transit costs over the year.

Guest Speaker Avila: Obviously, our biggest win was in a different political context. The Steering Committee has had to adjust with how we are going to work with current government.

Guest Speaker Dunne: We are always going to be representing what students are telling us at our core. Sometimes, we just have to strategize with how to best align that with our recommendations to the government. In our budget, you can see how we've split up our focus on these things: advocacy, outreach, research and policy, which take up most of our budget; and conference, contingency, and operations take up the rest. The proportions this year look the same, except for contingency. When Student Choice Initiative was announced, we knew our revenue would change and we tried to find efficiencies elsewhere. The Steering Committee looked at our financial statements line by line. Wherever we thought we could cut things out of the budget – the 12% – wherever we don't have revenue, that's where we put surplus in and we have made the changes we needed to make. We will be looking at our reserves in the short term and tomorrow, we will be looking at our fiscal and financial plan on where we will be going in the future. You can check out our website and social channels. We are happy to answer any questions.

ASUS President Perkins: What's your favourite part of your jobs?

Guest Speaker Dunne: I love talking to students. I really liked engaging with students and hearing their concerns and being able to represent them at the core so representation and being genuine is core to how I enjoy the job.

Guest Speaker Avila: After working within the USC [University Students' Council] at Western, I never thought of myself as much of an advocate. I attended an OUSA General Assembly and was inspired after seeing a bunch of like-minded people work on policy for a weekend. As strange as that was to me, I remember leaving feeling fulfilled, understanding that being a part of OUSA would enable me to do greater good and expand the narrative of students and their issues in that conversation. Seeing smart, capable students do well researched work is something that is super fulfilling and seeing how receptive politicians are and how impressed they are with OUSA's students' presentation of policy, they're often so surprised. Again, seeing students provide an evidence-based recommendation to receptive politicians is super fulfilling for me.

AMS VP-UA Greene: What issue are you most passionate about?

Guest Speaker Dunne: Financial aid is so important to ensure students can access university and ensure that students are thriving while here at university. But also sexual violence prevention and response is a huge passion for me and after helping students throughout that process, it put me on the train to advocacy and is a huge priority for me.

Guest Speaker Avila: Through the experience of students interacting, student mental health is the one I'm most passionate about. Anywhere I go and talk to students on their campus, the issues brought up are always OSAP or the lack of services for mental health. Being able to have complex discussions on complex issues is something very fulfilling to me and the progress made on destigmatizing mental health on campus has been great. There has been a change in provincial government but there is much opportunity for wins in student mental health branch in this government.

EngSoc VP-SA Kasim: Thank you for the presentation. A clarifying question – you said that the student fee was \$3.16. Does OUSA have an opt-out student fee at different schools or is that through the government?

AMS VP-UA Greene: On the fee slate, it's displayed as a \$3.14. That's due to the CPI indicator mandated by the university. So that's the increase that we made but OUSA has a different CPI indicator. This is an inconsistency that we will talk about next week at the Steering Committee meeting. The good news is the difference between the two is only about a \$300 difference in total.

Guest Speaker Avila: Generally, on every single campus, it is broken out as an opt-out fee.

Guest Speaker Dunne: Our fee, if you're curious, is typically increased by inflation each year.

COMPSA President Boateng: How long is the executive term?

Guest Speaker Dunne: One year. The executive team is elected at the end of May, therefore, I will be the executive until the next year in May.

Guest Speaker Avila: The only exception is if a Steering Committee member were to run again on behalf of their home institution. Then they could be an executive again on the Steering Committee.

No further debate.

President's Report

AMS President Pierce: Hi everyone. Welcome to first assembly of the year. Great to see everyone here. This will be a longer assembly but we will try to keep everything major that we've been working on in the reports. This is a very major year for everybody, not just here at Queen's, AMS, and faculty but within the Kingston community and within the province. We are in transient period. There have been a lot of new hires: the new principal, a new provost – so we wanted to welcome everybody to this assembly. You all ran in your respective elections to get involved and this is a great avenue to do so. Why we ran this year is because the AMS and students have a lot of mechanisms to bring positive change. We did a lot this summer and will continue slogging away at what we've started. We're excited to share with you what we've been up to this summer and our proposed platform. We want everyone to engage as much as possible for us to work together and make some good decisions. This is a pivotal year in the history of our

institution and we definitely feel the weight. There have been hundreds of hours of advocacy already. We were lucky to have the Student Choice Initiative roundtable with all the faculty presidents. We're working through problems and talking about these issues. It meant a lot to have people to work through these issues with so thank you.

AMS Vice President's Report

AMS VP-OPS Dahanayake: I do apologize that my July report didn't make it in. I'll give you a brief summary on what I did this summer. Typically, June is for goal plans, and July is for budgets, and then August is for consolidated budgets. In June, we made the goals for the year based on five principles: Financial and Environmental Efficiency, Consistency, Sustainability and Relevancy. These were submitted to the board and we made time with managers to go over them and they were approved. In July, for budgets, each service is treated different. We went over the plans and actions for whether the opt-out rate would be 30%, 50% and 90% and made plans accordingly. Finally, a project I've been working on all summer is the improvement of the event sanctioning form and creation of a resource graphic. This has been published if you could please take a look at it. Please give as much feedback as possible on it as it's new and the more feedback there is, the better it'll be.

AMS VP-UA Greene: I apologize if I stumble around on these topics but I wanted to talk about a few high level things in my report. The first is Orientation Week. It was a huge success. 2019 was much better than 2018 and there were less problems with our city and getting approval. We had an incredible ORT team that ran the week and were super competent and amazing. The faculty heads also made my job easy and continued to improve relationships that made it run as smoothly as possible. We've continued to see the integrity of the traditions on the programming which is great so we're excited to hear for more ways to continue the integrity of the orientation events. On sustainability, we've conducted sustainable orientation review. This is currently just raw data and for faculties, I will be conducting more detailed interviews on data for the events that you guys run. These are recommendations to help you guys improve your events, not to threaten but we want to be as sustainable as possible. The second thing were clubs. We recently had the Clubs Caucus at the Isabel Bader Centre. We're working on building that relationship as much as possible. We really want to engage the clubs this year and are consulting heavily with our clubs on what's happening on campus. They are the experts and will be able to help us set the agenda for changes on campus. Another thing we've been working on is the medical amnesty policy. This is a provision that if someone under the influence reaches out for help or for the safety of another student, they won't be punished punitively. This way, students aren't deterred from seeking safety. If students are in trouble, we want them to know they can reach out and not receive serious consequences. We consulted with the Director of Campus Security to see how this could be moved forward so we can advocate and show our value on that. Secretary Borchenko and Commissioner Bath are working heavily on this and another club on campus is helping us work on a policy proposal. We're really excited to work with you guys this year and build some relationships within the community.

Board of Director's Report

Chairperson Tharp: I'm here as a representative to the corporate side of the university. I've been working closely with AMS VP-OPS Dahanayake. There's a lot of information to tell but one of the main things is that we've updated the website and made sure that all the information present is up to date. We will also have updated financial statements up and the audit committee will have them posted online. The board is at its busiest in the summer when they're working on corporate initiatives on the services and the offices. Otherwise, I want to keep it brief. The board will be busy on the Student Choice Initiative which the AMS in general has been struggling with. Another thing is just sustainable planning, looking at plans that are hopefully longer than the 1 year term. If you have any questions, please feel free to email me.

Undergraduate Student Trustee's Report

Trustee Macintyre: I'll try to keep this brief. Governance is hard to access at Queen's so here is a loose idea of what I do. The Board of Trustees is one of the three governing bodies at the university. The board is most responsible for strategic planning and the operational and financial aspects of the university. They oversee the student code of conduct, financial endowment, new buildings, and negotiations with unions on campus. Clearly, there is a large purview. Basically, the board is in charge of anything that isn't research or academics at the university. They meet four times a year in a 2-day powersend. The first meeting will be next Friday and Saturday. They also oversee two committees which are NAM, non-academic misconduct, and the audit and risk committee, who audit the university's financials and risk tolerations. That is really brief summary so if you have any questions, feel free to reach out.

Student Senator's Report

Chairperson Niddam-Dent: I would like to echo these guys in keeping it brief and what I've been doing. The Senate is the university's policy making body for academics and sometimes extends to general welfare. The Senate is made of 55 members of which 17 are students and the rest are faculty and administrators. We work with them on these big issues and meet once a month. Basically, I represent students' concerns to that body. Senators come from a large number of different student bodies and faculties. Our first meeting will be October 1, 2019 and the agenda hasn't been released yet but I've been working with other student leaders to discuss priorities for advocacy this year on Senate. An example is the fall term break, which is moving past the three year pileup this year. The student voice on Senate will be making large progress on that. Please don't hesitate to reach out for questions.

Rector's Report

Rector Da Silva: Fun note: I learned I can officially nominate people for the Nobel Peace Prize – so not to challenge people but, convince me. Both of these folks [*Trustee Macintyre and Chairperson Niddam-Dent*] made my role easier. I sit of the Board of Trustees and as an observer on Senate. I'm also on different policy writing organizations on campus – so my areas and responsibilities are widespread. If you need help on something specific, I can connect you with someone who can help you. I mentioned a resource directory that I've been working on for awhile that is ready for a soft launch. I would like for assembly to be one of the beta testers. It is a user friendly interface for all the resources on campus, kind of like a BuzzFeed quiz where you

can click through and find the resources for what you're dealing with. On top that, we've been transitioning the University Ombudsperson. Her role is similar to mine in that she can direct students to the proper resources and take students through the appeal process so she'll take a look at policy and make sure they're being justly applied to the situations. She should be at Assembly in the near future. I've also been working really closely with the new principal. You should all be expecting a communication from here that will give you a good sense of where his head is at and where the direction of the university will be. I will be arranging "conversations" which will be townhalls and roundtables where stakeholders can come out to discuss how to improve experiences on campus. If you have opinions on what you would like those to look like, please feel free to reach out.

Statements by Students

VP-OPS COMPSA Anand: First of all, thank you to all of you. For the last couple of months we have been working on a few new things. This is COMPSA's 50th year so we have lots of events planned out this year including a university wide pitch competition. We've created a new mentorship program and we're looking to see if we can work with other faculties on this. We've also updated our offices and moved to the downstairs of Goodwin. It's nice to meet you all and look forward to meeting with you this year.

President COMPSA Boateng: I wanted to thank the AMS Executives. Auston, Jessica, Will: the work they did this summer specifically over Student Choice Initiative was great. It was a huge headache but I wanted to thank everyone for the work that they did.

No further debate.

Question Period

No questions asked.

Business Arising from the Minutes

Motion #3: Moved by: Secretary Borchenko, seconded by: AMS President Pierce.

Motion for the AMS Assembly to approve the agenda for the May 30th, 2019 President Caucus.

Secretary Borchenko: All of the agendas are for transparency so you can see what happened this summer. We only had one motion but lots of discussion periods that were mostly focused on Student Choice Initiative. We were meeting weekly for roundtable and if you have questions, please ask your faculty society president. If you have any questions on the content, you can direct your questions to myself, the AMS executives, or the faculty society presidents can all answer.

No further debate, vote proceeds.

FOR: Unanimous

AGAINST: None

ABSENTIONS: None

Motion carries.

Motion #4: Moved by: Secretary Borchenko, seconded by: AMS President Pierce.

Motion for the AMS Assembly to approve the agenda for the July 27th, 2019 President Caucus.

No debate, vote proceeds.

FOR: Unanimous

AGAINST: None

ABSENTIONS: None

Motion carries.

Motion #5: Moved by: Secretary Borchenko, seconded by: AMS President Pierce.

Motion for the AMS Assembly to approve the agenda for the July 24th, 2019 President Caucus.

No debate, vote proceeds.

FOR: Unanimous

AGAINST: None

ABSENTIONS: None

Motion carries.

Motion #6: Moved by: Secretary Borchenko, seconded by: AMS President Pierce.

Motion for the AMS Assembly to approve the agenda for the August 22nd, 2019 President Caucus.

No debate, vote proceeds.

FOR: Unanimous

AGAINST: None

ABSENTIONS: None

Motion carries.

New Business

Motion #7: Moved by: Secretary Borchenko, seconded by: AMS President Pierce.

Motion for the AMS Assembly to ratify Bruce Baker, Laura Devenny, Tenzin Shomar, and Callum Robertson as Elections Deputies.

Secretary Borchenko: They will do a short introduction and we will have the chance to ask questions. Two of them were hired in spring hiring period and two were hired recently. We used the same interview questions and hiring panel for both. If you have questions on the hiring process, please let me know.

Chairperson Niddam-Dent: Why do you want the job?

Member-at-large Baker: I wanted to get involved and the AMS is a powerful institution. The best way to help was through elections.

Member-at-large Robertson: Being a first year, I wanted to have my voice heard and make a difference in a positive way.

Member-at-large Devenny: Elections is an important part of student life. This way, we all have our voices heard and we are able to touch on student life at Queen's.

Member-at-large Shomar: I served as the Disputes Deputy, which was a learning experience for me. I've been able to wear different hats as I have served as student trustee for my high school. I know the pressures that go with campaigns. I've also served as the CEO for a NPO so having both lenses of being on both sides will really help be fair and unbiased for everyone.

NSS President Kruizinga: What is one fun fact about you?

Member-at-large Baker: I can name every US president in order from beginning to end.

Member-at-large Robertson: I've never broke a bone in my body.

Member-at-large Devenny: Two weeks ago, I supposedly broke my foot and was in a cast for two weeks. I went back today to discover that my foot was not broken.

Member-at-large Shomar: I played house league hockey at 14. In the first year, I was the worst player but I actually persevered and was named team MVP in my final year. I made strides to be the player that I was.

COMPSA VP-OPS Anand: I have a specific question for the Elections Deputy for marketing. How do you plan to increase student engagement, at a historic low, on campus to go out and vote?

Member-at-large Devenny: Social media is becoming a huge platform. I would like to see more engagement through every platform, whether that's social media, paper, even through word of mouth. If you see your friends are voting, people will want to vote. I really want to make this about the students. I also want to see more of a personal engagement as well as driving people to vote through the different channels.

No further debate, vote proceeds.

FOR: Unanimous

AGAINST: None

ABSENTIONS: None

Motion is ratified and carries.

Motion #8: Moved by: Secretary Borchenko, seconded by: AMS President Pierce.

Motion for the AMS Assembly to approve the elections dates as seen in Appendix: Elections.

Secretary Borchenko: I tried to align the election dates so no one has to campaign over reading week. One complaint from last year was that the campaign week was over reading week. This new change is more work for the elections team but the voting dates are now the Tuesday and Wednesday before reading week and not the Monday and Tuesday after.

AMS President Pierce: *Point of information:* we have secured the data analysis software for the elections this year and we've been working with ITS to make sure that nothing gets sent to junk mail. Some of them last year were sent to junk and we are trying hard to increase engagement, especially in elections.

No further debate.

FOR: Unanimous

AGAINST: None

ABSECTIONS: None

Motion carries.

Motion #9: Moved by: Secretary Borchenko, seconded by AMS President Pierce.

Motion for the AMS Assembly to approve the elections spending limits as seen in Appendix: Spend.

Secretary Borchenko: There are the same as last year and I budgeted based on those. We thought about lowering it but if they were lowered, we were afraid that candidates would seek outside sources of funding. Having money for every elections team evens the playing field by allowing students who don't want to put their personal money in to run. Please let me know if you have any questions.

ASUS President Perkins: I was wondering specifically for executive teams running where \$800 comes from. In light of the Student Choice Initiative – I don't know how much the other faculties got for their elections but we ran our entire elections on \$75. So I am just wondering where \$800 is coming from.

Secretary Borchenko: I'm not sure why it initially was chosen however the AMS Executive campaign is a 3 person team and they do have to market to all 24000 students on campus. For example, one of the big banners at the cheapest place will cost \$80. Often times it does take a lot of money to run these and we have talked about lowering it but decided not to.

COMPSA VP-OPS Anand: I had a question about the per club during referendum fee. With students choosing to opt-in and opt-out – how does this work this year?

Secretary Borchenko: If any club wants to get a fee, they must go through referendum and through review every 3 years. This has not changed. Clubs don't campaign at all or use any budget and therefore it is uncommon that they use the per club referendum fee.

No further discussion. Vote proceeds.

FOR: 18

AGAINST: 3

ABSENCES: None

Motion carries.

Motion #10: Moved by AMS VP-UA Greene, seconded by: Commissioner Bath.

Motion for the AMS Assembly to approve the OUSA budget as seen in Appendix: OUSA.

AMS VP-UA Greene: There's been a significant reduction in fees this year regarding OUSA. OUSA as a Steering Committee has made strides to reduce transportation and accommodations and venue costs. We've gotten rid of fancy dinners. However, we still have the costs of members getting to Steering Committee meetings, the accommodations for General Assembly delegates and different conference fees. Based on projected opt-out fee on the OUSA membership fee, as OUSA said, we are happy to pay based on students who chose to opt-in to the fee so we won't be on the hook for any fees that aren't paid.

No debate, vote proceeds.

FOR: Unanimous

AGAINST: None

ABSENCES: None

Motion carries.

Motion #11: Moved by AMS VP-UA Greene, seconded by: Commissioner Bath.

Motion for the AMS Assembly to approve the External Advocacy Commission budget as seen in Appendix: CEA.

AMS VP-UA Greene: I wanted to make everyone aware that the correct budget was not in the Agenda, but Secretary Borchenko has sent out the correct budget. We've made significant reductions by combining two different commissions. We were able to get the academic grievance fee covered under a mandatory fee and we're projecting for the reduction.

EngSoc President Benoit: I think the most recent version has broken links that references files on Secretary Borchenko's computer but not sure if anyone else has noticed.

Secretary Borchenko: The correct budget should be in the email just sent out 30 minutes ago.

EngSoc President Benoit: It references a file that you're linking to. I also noticed that the 46 number stays the same and there is no deficit, it zeroes out. Can you explain the logic behind that?

AMS VPA-UA Greene: I believe that that's the previous version of the draft and it was prior to the calculation of the academic grievance fee, but I can re-send the budget.

ENGSOCS VP-SA Kasim: Quick question about the overall amount. The net loss of \$110,000 last year – I was wondering what the AMS exec is doing on that loss. I know the actuals from previous years are usually double what was budgeted, however, with the Student Choice Initiative being a prevalent threat to all student governments, how is a net zero possible?

AMS VP-UA Greene: There were huge changes made this year. We can cut out the salary of the commissioners and deputies that were cut. We've cut programming with high school students in the community by asking, *is the programming specifically important to AMS governments?* Of course we would love to be engaged however our focus was to start with the AMS members and see where we could grow with groups in the community that didn't require large parts of the budget.

AMS President Pierce: Also, the CEA position, you can see the destruction that has been caused by the Student Choice Initiative through the combination of these two commissions. We had committees that went out and fought against senior isolation, fought for at-risk youth, and clearly, we know that people are overworked. As Will said we reduced the cost of this commission drastically and having the Municipal Affairs Commission and the Academics Affairs Commission lost is a detriment to student advocacy on campus however, AMS VP-UA Greene and Commissioner Bath are amazing. We've been able to push everything forward the way we want to and our dream is save and bring back as many jobs as possible.

Director Schrempf: I also want to clarify that we aren't losing any committees. A lot of them we were able to save under the clubs portfolio. We don't provide funding like they used to when they were commissions, however, they are now autonomous but will run as clubs. We've lost some of other clubs but we have established and maintained relationships with other organizations to continue those operations.

NSS President Kruizinga: How did you predict the opt-out rates to structure the budget?

AMS VP-UA Greene: The projected opt-out rate was 30% however with the different specific commissions and offices, some of them felt it more than others. Unfortunately the advocacy portfolio was a large hit. We don't want to diminish advocacy but wanted to restart that grass roots movement and find a way to push our agenda forward while looking for external fundraising.

No further debate, vote proceeds.

FOR: Unanimous

AGAINST: None

ABSENCES: None

Motion carries.

Motion #12: Moved by: AMS VP-UA Greene, seconded by: Commissioner Henriques.

Motion for the AMS Assembly to approve the Campus Activities Commission Budget as seen in Appendix: CAC.

Commissioner Henriques: I'm really excited for this year to work with executive team and advocate for orientation groups and faculties to internal and external external. I'm really passionate about maintaining the integrity of all groups and their events. Another priority is working with the QMP co-chairs to ensure financial sustainability of that club. Finally, we were able to increase our allocation towards grants and bursaries for students to use on campus to improve and increase student engagement.

EngSoc VP-SA Kasim: You've budgeted for a net zero. In previous years it's been flip-floppy in deficits and surpluses. What mechanism do you have to keep yourself accountable to this budget?

AMS VP-UA Greene: Historically, in the past, there have been issues with some conferences that exist in the AMS and the deficits they've run up. One this year is QMP. This is a major priority of us and the board as they are on a probationary period. We are really trying to net zero and not indulge, just making sure that we're financially responsible. We've lost a lot of conferences that attribute to those deficits so that's our number 1 priority and everything else comes after that.

No further debate, vote proceeds.

FOR: Unanimous

AGAINST: None

ABSENTIONS: None

Motion carries.

Motion #13: AMS VP-UA Greene, seconded by: Director Schrempf.

Motion for the AMS Assembly to approve the Clubs Office budget as seen in Appendix: CLUB.

Director Schrempf: Excited to work with you and advocate for clubs on campus this year. First of all, I will be helping to support club initiatives. Clubs are the backbone of student experience and it's evident in this executive platform and everything we've been working on. We're working on streamlining event sanctioning this year as well as increasing individual bursaries and grants this year to make sure that when clubs run the events this year, people can still attend without the risk of not being able to financially go. We've also been able to shift the student constable bursary onto the student constables so this isn't affecting that student constable bursary and people can still access that bursary. I'm working with Peer Support Centre and the Student Life Centre to create opportunities for new events on campus and helping clubs with advertising, financials and marketing. My second goal is to make Clubs Caucus a better resource for students on a whole. We're trying to switch up different locations, linking resources through a resource fair, and showing events they can hold in Isabel using the MyIsabel grant. Finally, we're trying to increase engagement in AMS Clubs by also creating a better website to streamline everything. I'm excited to really work with clubs to facilitate the change they want to see on campus and represent them to Assembly and the executive with anything they want to get done.

No debate, vote proceeds.

FOR: Unanimous

AGAINST: None

ABSENTIONS: None

Motion carries.

Motion #14: Moved by: AMS VP-UA Greene, seconded by: AMS President Pierce.

Motion for the AMS Assembly to approve the VP UA Budget as seen in Appendix: VP UA.

AMS VP-UA Greene: There's obviously a glaring item and that's the grants and bursaries line. The one that I allocate is the Sustainability Action Fund. This is also an optional fee and a committee gets to decide who spends it. The lot of that went underspent last year so there is a large amount of money to spend on sustainability initiatives this year. I'm excited to empower that this year. If you can see the differences between actual and budget, my budget will be a buffer for all of them. I want to have that there so that if there are any special events, that will be used as a buffer to support those initiatives this year

No debate, vote proceeds.

FOR: Unanimous

AGAINST: None

ABSENTIONS: None

Motion carries.

Motion #15: Moved by: AMS President Pierce, seconded by: Secretary Borchenko.

Motion for the AMS Assembly to approve the Secretariat Budget seen in Appendix: SEC.

Secretary Borchenko: Last year's actuals are way lower than the budgeted because we only had one team run for executive and one team for student trustees. Normally at least two teams run so we always budget for three teams. On my side of the budget, we only made modest reductions. My budget is hard to work with because the fixed costs are difficult to budge. The voting software and the rest of the budgets are difficult to cut. This budget also looks different because we've moved the judicial affairs committee under my budget. However, we have been reducing marketing and excess printing costs and we'll be taking a more creative focus to marketing this year by paying less for paper and for people to do things. We also used to advertise in the Queen's Journal and we cut that from our budget. Also, the judicial affairs committee is more of a service that does not need to be advertised. They are there for students in their time of need, going through Level 1 cases. That's why those numbers look interesting. I'm happy to take questions.

No debate, vote proceeds.

FOR: Unanimous

AGAINST: None

ABSENTIONS: None

Motion carries.

Motion #16: Moved by: AMS VP-UA Greene, seconded by: Commissioner Samuals.

Motion for the AMS Assembly to approve the Social Issues Commission Budget seen in Appendix: SIC.

AMS VP-UA Greene: Once again, there was a significant reduction between last year and this year. Lots of cuts were made last year based on committees, as with the Commission of External Affairs. Those committees have been transitioned to clubs to continue their work on campus. We are also taking a grassroots approach to the Social Issues Commission. I am confident we can work to pull it off despite budget cuts.

No debate, vote proceeds.

FOR: Unanimous

AGAINST: None

ABSENTIONS: None

Motion carries.

Motion #17: Moved by: Director Schrempf, seconded by: Secretary Borchenko.

Motion for the AMS Assembly to approve the changes to Clubs Policy as seen in Appendix: Clubs Policy.

Director Schrempf: This was to fix the confusion with clubs. As soon as the club is deratified, they lose funding. When clubs are getting student fees, they're saying, "I'm an AMS club, this is to fund events on campus for AMS members". This is a repeat of another part of club policy but wanted to move under deratification to clarify for clubs on campus.

No debate, vote proceeds.

FOR: Unanimous

AGAINST: None

ABSENTIONS: None

Motion carries.

Motion #18: Moved by: Secretary Borchenko, seconded by: AMS President Pierce.

Motion for the AMS Assembly to the changes to the AMS Constitution as seen in Appendix: AMS Constitution.

Secretary Borchenko: Hopefully you've read through it. There's a change in every page of it. We've cut sections, created new sections, and a bunch of things had to be changed: the title, realigning policy with internal practice. Our council structure hasn't been operated on in a couple of years, the titles and responsibilities have changed after the merger of the Municipal Affairs Commission and the Academic Affairs Commission, and lots of grammar changes. Through the 80 years of having this constitution, we still had typos. We fixed most of those. NAD was still referenced which has since changed to NAM. We also added a clarification of AMS membership. 80% of this policy change falls under the housekeeping rule – grammar, budget cuts, etc. – and then 20 % are substantial changes. I welcome any comments or questions. We can edit it in between these two readings or see things that we've done wrong and would like to fix.

EngSoc VP-SA Kasim: I would like to propose a motion to open up the agenda.

Motion #18a: Moved by: EngSoc VP-SA Kasim, seconded by: EngSoc President Benoit.

Motion to amend the agenda by splitting Motion #18 to approve all changes in the AMS Constitution as seen in Appendix: AMS Constitution except matter regarding the changes to the AMS membership clause in the Constitution and then to add a new motion regarding the changes to the AMS membership clause.

EngSoc VP-SA Kasim: I move to amend the agenda and split the current agenda so that everything in this motion remains except for the AMS clarification membership clause. I'd like to have a separate discussion about the AMS membership clarification.

FOR: Unanimous

AGAINST: None

ABSTENTISON: None

Motion carries.

Motion #18b: Moved by: EngSoc VP-SA Kasim, seconded by: EngSoc President Benoit.

Motion to close the agenda.

FOR: Unanimous

AGAINST: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

Motion carries.

Return to Motion #18.

AMS VP-OPS Dahanayake: My apologies for not specifying before but the section that advises members of corporate caucus was also changed because the management of the Queen's Journal does not specifically say head managers. Therefore, we should change it to specify "Managers of the Queen's Journal" and "Business Manager".

Secretary Borchenko: This amendment is friendly and the changes will be added in on second reading of the Constitution.

No further debate, vote proceeds.

FOR: Unanimous

AGAINST: None

ABSENTIONS: None

Motion carries.

Motion #19: Moved by: EngSoc VP-SA Kasim, seconded by: EngSoc President Benoit.

Motion for the AMS Assembly to the changes regarding AMS Membership Fees to the AMS Constitution as seen in Appendix: AMS Constitution.

Secretary Borchenko: We removed the word “including” and added the word “and”. AMS membership would’ve fallen under the housekeeping rule but the word “including” does not. We wanted to make sure our constitution was as clear as possible. We wanted people to know that they had to pay the mandatory fee. Thus, the fee name changes had to be amended.

EngSoc President Benoit: The reason we wanted to separate it from the other changes was technically the changes for the fee would be housekeeping. We don’t agree that just the name of the fee has been changed, but the spirit of the fee has too. Before it read that it included a membership fee so that there was more clarity. I don’t think the constitution read the way we’re amending it to be. I don’t think this membership fee would be included and I don’t think it was fair that this was instituted before it got brought to Assembly.

AMS President Pierce: How membership fees works for the faculty societies and AMS fees with exception of Nursing Science Society and the Engineering Society is that previously all students were AMS members if they paid their AMS Specific and were full-time students. All full-time students had to pay that fee because they had to pay their mandatory fees. Many part-time students would have to go into the Registrar’s Office and re-opt into your fees as a part-time student in order to be considered an AMS member.

We decided to change it to a mandatory AMS fee but, we early on in the process, when we were doing the opt-out slates and working with the university , there were no fee descriptions on the slates. We wanted to be open and transparent so students know what these changes are. We are adhering to the Constitution as it’s the only way we are able to do elections if we define membership. Students now have the option of associating themselves with student unions. We’ve done as much as we can, but unfortunately, I would’ve loved for everyone to be AMS members genuinely. However, we weren’t able to protect that fee. That was also one of the reasons why we weren’t able to lead faculty elections to the membership and we have to delink the AMS to faculty societies so they can still have senators sit on the board

Secretary Borchenko: The provincial framework requires us to allow people to leave and not be members. We are required to do this. Faculty societies aren’t as bound but we have to make the change to be in line with provincial law.

AMS President Pierce: We reached out for expert advice to preserve governance structures, but unfortunately, we had to cut losses to make sure that our faculty societies weren’t forced to adhere.

No further debate, vote proceeds.

FOR: 16

AGAINST: 5

ABSENTIONS: None

Motion carries.

Motion #20: Moved by: Secretary Borchenko, seconded by: AMS President Pierce.

Motion for the AMS Assembly to new Non-Academic Policies and Procedures as seen in Appendix: NAM.

Secretary Borchenko: This was a change I worked on all summer with partners in the university and the AMS. The Rector and I worked on it with administrators, the AMS Presidents, and the General Manager. Last year, there was a lot of confusion between NAM and PIP and they are very separate. NAM is a system that exists for students going through Non-Academic Misconduct. The university handles all Level 2 violations which include sexual harassment and violence and stuff like that. We handle all Level 1 cases. Previously our NAM and PIP were in the same document, however, they are totally separate entities and they fall under different scopes. Happy to take questions.

No debate, vote proceeds.

FOR: Unanimous

AGAINST: None

ABSECTIONS: None

Motion carries

Motion #20: Moved by: Secretary Borchenko, seconded by: AMS President Pierce.

Motion for the AMS Assembly to new Policy infringement protocol and Procedures as seen in Appendix: PIP.

Secretary Borchenko: PIP stands for Policy Infringement Protocol. It is often jumbled up with Nam. We made a big changes to it. An appeal board worked on this with the Rector and Ombudsperson. The purpose of PIP is an internal investigatory process if a policy has been broken and not followed, they can request an investigation. Last year the whole controversy was done under PIP but it was filed under NAM files. The idea of PIP is that, I can, with 2/3 approval of Assembly, appoint someone to the appeal board of PIP. This is because the people on the committee were the Undergraduate Student Senate Chair, Rector, and AMS President. There was a chance that the rector and others on the committee members would be graduate students and would not fall under the policy. We added a part to it so that I can put forward a name that will be approved by Assembly to be appointed to the appeals board. We also used to have group NAM and group PIP sections. Usually, they were the exact same. Now, we've added all of those sections into the policy and if this is a group case, we have more direct instructions now instead of having a separate section which made it confusing for everyone to read on our website.

No debate, vote proceeds.

FOR: Unanimous

AGAINST: None

ABSECTIONS: None

Motion carries.

Discussion Period

AMS President Pierce: AMS VP-OPS Dahanayake and AMS VP-UA Greene touched a little bit on what they did earlier. A massive undertaking this year was to make sure that everything didn't collapse because of the Student Choice Initiative. We met with all of the presidents that were here. Most of the time, it was everyone, which was great to walk through all of the issues and to go around the table and advocate together. We got a lot done in the face of a lot of challenges and questions. There were a lot of sleepless nights and tons and tons of hours contemplating. The weight of what we're going through is very real; not only on the impact it has on student financial aid and on student services, but also on the community. For example, all these services students deemed mandatory from the Queen's Journal to the Sexual Health Centre Kingston to the CFRS are all under the gun so to speak. The challenges aren't over. We're finding out new things and I will speak to the processes that we had to go through. Another big thing we worked on was our consultation period. We embarked on a massive consultation process over a week and a half. We met with over 30 clubs to discuss what they thought was valuable on our campus and what was important for them on campus. We were really focused on engagement and that was a focus of our election. We were able to make a lot of positive change on campus with students and even student leaders on campus. Jack.org brought up the lack of mental health resources on campus including the long wait times for counselling. There were lots of stories that we heard. We revalued what we wanted to do for students this year. We met with an article writer of HerCampus. They let us look into cognitive behavioural parts of this issue and we wanted to offer more online services that were available 24/7. We talked to experts at StudentCare who told us about Beacon and what other schools had implemented. We eventually decided to go another way. Over the last four months we've been working with StudentCare, Aspiira, and the university to implement a new counselling service 24/7 outside of the Student Wellness hours that was accessible over the telephone, online, on an app. The connection time is within a couple of phone rings. This isn't a phone line. You get signed up with a counsellor right away and there is no cap on how many phone calls you make. At other places, you could have caps where there is none for this service. Every person you want to speak with, you get to decide how you want to do it. There are a bunch of counsellors in the community that are tied in. We at the AMS are paying for it and the university will tentatively pay for 50%. We had to keep it a secret for a long time because if we failed, we didn't want to add the expectation to students in case. So that's what EmpowerMe does. I know personally, it would've helped me when I was struggling. With the recent changes at Student Wellness Services, we hope we can relieve the burden by having students choose this care. We reached out to the SGPS, despite it being driven by the AMS so that every single student on campus is able to access this resource. Please take this information back to your constituents. We need a culture of caring and we need to direct people to the right resources. If the Student Choice Initiative and cuts to OSAP tell us anything, it's that students need to be united. That's why we reach out if we're all in together, we're able to accomplish so much more. Please share this information as a leader on campus as people will come to you to ask for help. I'm sorry about keeping it a secret and encourage you to share this information with those you know who are struggling.

The second thing we really worked on was the AMS website. This was something in our platform and Commissioner Schrempf dedicated a lot of his time to working on it with a lot of people, especially our director of IT. We hope to launch it soon because it is such a broken mess.

We want people to be able to find out info as much as possible. That will be launched very soon. This was a massive effort and the AMS team has been working on it. I just want on the record that our current website is terrible.

I also assisted AMS VP-UA Greene and AMS VP-OPS Dahanayake and the service staff with their sustainability initiatives. There is a lot we've dedicated to sustainability. As leaders on campus, there are many things that you can do or even with Orientation Week to be cognisant of sustainability and the environmental impact on the campus and the world. As student leaders and leaders of tomorrow, we should act as soon as possible. We will be making a huge announcement next week that we've been working on with our general members, but are not allowed to say but we did brief President's Caucus on that.

We also looked at the alcohol policy and were heavily involved in that process. The amount of time and effort and sleepless nights that we spent over this. The persistence over this was incredible as VP-UA Greene will explain how we were able to get this done with consultation, and he will talk about that.

Recently, I sat in on the Senate Committee, working with the senators to push forward some of the agenda items to bring forward. One big one is Orientation Week and Fall Reading Week. There is a strong opportunity to bring this forward now as currently we have students who have experienced both scenarios. There are also students who have only had the current scenario and if we don't do anything now, we will not have students who have seen both and be able to see how students want to envision it.

These are the major points, as we go through our platform, you will see that some of them are checked off. Before we begin with that, we want to go through this – that this is a platform for the students. We did a platform of all the consultations during our campaign, and with everyone on the AMS driving this together, we're lucky to have such a good team who generally want to make the experience better and are so committed to it. I want to extend this to the service staff and service managers and everyone in Government Caucus.

We want this to be a living document and want Assembly to contribute and want everyone to give their input in things that they seem fit for the AMS to assist in. This is an opportunity for you to speak in the AMS to push your agenda forward or for things that your individual constituencies want to push forward. We have the networks and mechanisms to push those things forward. So this platform is absolutely doors open. We're going to be working on this together.

AMS VP-UA Greene: We can go through this in more detail but sustainability was a major priority. A couple of things have been done in terms of Orientation Review, Cogro and TAPS to test all of their products for their level of compostability. A lot of our products are compostable and we want Common Ground and The Brew to phase out all recyclable materials and garbage. This includes implementing a surcharge for disposables. After learning that disposable cups are not longer being accepted by landfills. If we no longer have compostable cups, the goal is to have reuseable cups. VP-OPS Dahanayake just worked really hard on the uniform recycling. Instead of buying new uniforms, we're washing and reusing the uniforms. We're also introducing reusable products so our team can eat lunch and not use plastic. There are impending waste management strategies on how we waste, recycle, and compost. It'll be hard to articulate the university district's implications on that. However, we implemented our first sustainability office for a launch training with Member-at-large Wootton. There's lots going on, happy to field

any questions on our sustainability issues and the things we've accomplished and what we have yet to accomplish.

COMPSA VP-OPS Anand: Out of curiosity, how much of TAPS is non-compostable?

AMS VP-UA Greene: Here are a few items. The take-out containers, napkins, and wrap papers, compostable. The area is focus on the cost effectiveness. The straws, the sauce cups, and the cutlery are all still not but we're trying to be mindful of a way for compostable products. The training we conducted was to help staff understand that the majority of products at TAPS are compostable. Our sustainability audit will find sources of waste in the service: what are we seeing a lot of? How can we limit the amount of sauce cups being used while still offering students the choice and the ability to do so?

ASUS VP Chaudhury: Are you collecting data on how often people use EmpowerMe?

AMS President Pierce: Yes, we're on for a year-long probation period so far but StudentCare will collect data on the amount of usage. I know they will count the amount of hours used and the number of students who've used it. If it's not beneficial, we will find something else. It does cost money and it doesn't make sense for the AMS to continue this by ourselves. Our hope is to continue this collaboration with the university and the SGPS. We're rolling this out like how it was rolled out at UBC, which funnily enough, their student government is also called the AMS. They introduce this as a collaborative partnership between them and the university and it was so successful that the university took the cost on by themselves. So yes, we are collecting data on usage.

PHEKSA President Otter: I was wondering if it will be run through the Student Wellness Services?

AMS President Pierce: The representatives at StudentCare met with people at Student Wellness Services and Student Wellness Services were present for all the meetings. They will be referring people to StudentCare and the EmpowerMe service as much as they can. This was important for us and why we engaged with the university on this was to get enough people knowledgeable about it. The best metric is to see how many people use it. We expect them to push people through there if they can and they have materials that we've provided them with.

What is the Student Choice Initiative? It is a new program rolled out by the provincial government announced alongside cuts of OSAP and cuts to tuition. They thought it would save students thousands of dollars however, it will only save Queen's students a total of \$180. Across all student unions and the AMS, all student fees are now not mandatory. Now it's up to the provincial government to determine whether or not these fees are mandatory. They put the onus on the university to implement the program on the student unions and clubs. Anyone misappropriately using the funds will have to give back the funds and the university will lose operational funds. It allows all non-essential fees to be opt-outable. What's essential includes: athletics and recreation, career services, student buildings, health and counselling, academic support, student ID cards, student achievement and records, financial aid offices, and campus safety programs. Whatever does not fall into that category are deemed non-mandatory. The way that this news broke, we were pushed hard by the administration with very little information. The AMS is the only student association that used to allow students to opt-out of fees prior to the Student Choice Initiative. We are the baby thrown out with the bath water in response to the Ryerson and uOttawa scandals. Since we had this opt-out system, we were a resource for the rest

of the schools when the Student Choice Initiative broke out. We forecasted for a 30% opt-out fee. For some individual budgets, we did a sensitivity analysis to determine what we can do. Some of the fees beyond 30% are pretty abysmal and would have a significant impact on campus. A couple of days after we were elected, we talked through what the future of the AMS would be. For example, there is no food at Assembly this year, which was one thing that Assembly suggested to cut. A lot of cuts were made last year in a weighty and heavy environment in board meetings. There was a lot of thought put into the cuts. Commissions were combined, we lost 30 salaried jobs and 100 hourly jobs. This removes the ability for students to support themselves. Since then, we've seen a 34% increase for application for grants and bursaries. Hundreds of volunteer positions, manager hours, and many deputy positions were also cut. The Commission of External Affairs was created by combining the Municipal Affairs Commission and Academic Affairs Commition, QJ and CFRC are under pressure and the ReUnion St. Festival was cancelled. Around 30% of AMS was cut and we reduced budgets by 40%. Therefore, our old platform that we ran on was thrown out and we are glad to build a new one based on the students' new needs.

To leave OUSA, we would've had legal repercussions. Faculty societies, you know how you were affected and how you will be affected. There are so many fees that were mandatory by students that are now optional. We expect to see a food insecurity issue on campus because of the cuts to OSAP, financial aid, and bursaries. Lots of things were impacted including a 40% budget cut across the AMS. Our HR manager was busy and Secretary Borchenko spent time on policy to clean it up. This was a massive shock to everyone and changes a significant number of things to the AMS and the organizations mentioned before. We wanted to inform students as much as possible as to what this impact of the Student Choice Initiative has had, especially the fact that this is the first time that full-time students had the option to not be members. Some of our peer schools didn't do any advertising on it but we wanted to be as transparent as possible. We encountered a lot of problems with it. The university released a document in partnership with the SGPS, which we got a lot of input with the faculty societies for. We wanted to emulate Waterloo on what their system looked liked in terms of transparency and informing students. We wanted to include a survey but were unsuccessful. We were told not to have fee descriptions but we disagreed. It's also why we decided to change the name to "AMS Membership Fee". We were unclear what it would be. For a lot of organizations, we believe that's not enough. We undertook the process of collecting the fee descriptions and making that as transparent as possible, especially including that on the Registrar's website. One of the problems is the finality of the choice. When people opt-out, that's it. There is little chance to make any changes. We worked hard to fight so that students can appeal. This period goes until September 30 but there is also a smaller window between October 1-14. We worked closely with the SGPS and the faculty societies. We met every single Monday to discuss membership, to discuss implications on voting, sharing agreements, the agreements we have yet to sign (ancillary fee, and referendum process). One of the things we're trying to do is to preserve as much governance as we can because it was the spirit of the Student Choice Initiative to allow people to choose if they want to associate with these student unions. The AMS is very far from a Marxist student union but that's what the Premier had said about our student union. We presented to Senate to delink the Senate elections so that Senators can still be accountable to their student unions. This vote was deferred and we will find out at the end of September what that vote will be. This has massive implications for how we do things on campus as governance structures have been uprooted. This has changed the way we administer bursaries and elections. We were able to cover a lot with the

sharing agreements. There were only a couple of clauses that were different. We also got regular updates throughout this opt-out period. Another thing is that there was a very strenuous process. There was not a lot of collaboration or cooperation. The university said this was a trial year and we advocated to make sure that we were on the same page across the campus. One thing was that the university said they would help rebundle the fees. The fees so far, 2 weeks into the opt-out period, are at a 12.2% opt out rate. We still have more weeks to go so there's more to come on that. The opt-out rates for the AMS Foodbank are at 16.15%, Campus Safety and Risk is at 18%, and OUSA is at 19%. Across the board, I will say that bundling was a great benefit because those who had their fees debundled to an extreme amount saw in an increase in the numbers opting out. For any questions, your faculty society presidents were involved in this process throughout – feel free to ask questions to them or to myself.

ENGSOV VP-UA Kasim: Just clarifying, is the AMS not facilitating faculty society elections this year?

AMS President Pierce: Yes, we are administering faculty society elections. Our first one is on Monday. There is a workaround due to the sharing agreements so as long as you have signed that agreement, then we are good to go.

Representative Arpin: How do you feel this is being received by students?

AMS President Pierce: We've received a lot of positive feedback, nothing negative. We get a lot of questions and messages about how it works. We really wanted to be able to focus on parents. A lot of parents opt-out of their system right away. We took the opportunity at SOAR to talk to parents and students about what life is like on campus. We give presentations to all the Orientation Week leaders, and at all of our booths during Orientation Week. A video was released on this recently that was very well received. Its viewership is almost as high as the EmpowerMe announcements. We wanted to put a positive spin on things. In the processes of establishing the AMS membership bursary fee, we had around \$13,000 to go into it. Students who have any financial barriers or limitations are granted on a sliding scale. We should be able to help 238 students. The Advancement campaign has also helped, Queen's Journal and also we've reached out to ex-AMS members. In previous years, we were able to have \$40,000 to this bursary fund, we don't have that because of the Student Choice Initiative.

AMS VP-UA Greene: I will now speak to the alcohol policy. I want to preface this by saying that EngSoc President Benoit and AMS President Pierce were heavily involved. We wish we could've had more involvement with EngSoc specifically however EngSoc was not invited in on the the working group. We would love to see more of that involvement especially when it affects the pub operators and faculty advisors but at the beginning of May, we had negotiations on impending alcohol policy. Within 10 days of office, we had highlighted major concerns with this policy. They had increased restrictions on campus pubs and restrictions of advertising alcohol on campus. The Advertising Subcommittee was a body that was created to review advertisements for all alcohol. Clubs would have to go through this once every 30 days where they reviewed things on a case by case basis. There's over 2600 events and events don't get planned 40 days in advance therefore, this review would really not be feasible. We already faced problems with getting events sanctioned so this was one thing we really articulated on. The Advertising Subcommittee was removed. Throughout the process, we also had a significant concern with restrictions on campus pubs, which by the way, the proposed restriction was one shot per person per visit. We saw issues with that regarding student choice. We know we've been making pubs

as safe and welcoming as possible so what we were trying to represent is that we provide a safe environment. By providing more restrictions, students will be deterred and students would choose a more unsafe environment. We don't operate our pubs for profit, we operate them to provide a safe environment. We tried to articulate that about the alcohol policy and found difficulties with the meeting committee in that we weren't able to sit in on meetings with EngSoc, SGPS, or pub operators to discuss these issues. These were significant concerns that we had. In my report, the one shot rule was actually in the policy a week ago and this was going to go to public consultation. We were planning really on getting student feedback on that so we're happy to see they took that clause away. There is no limitation and restrictions on high peak periods. That was a major win over the summer and we worked really hard to implement that this summer. Small concerns were raised this summer throughout the policy. Graduate students made Graduate Orientation Week dry and substance free. We are going to seek student input on the strategy and we want to get as much student input of perceptions surrounding alcohol and areas that pose risks. Our main priority was to keep students safe and provide them with as much choice as possible. We will circulate the final policy.

PHEKSA President Otter: There was a blackout period for certain events?

AMS VP-UA Greene: The blackout policy was that no shots would be served in high peak times such as homecoming weekend. A lot of alumni go through the pub and that was the one give and take on the policy.

EngSoc President Benoit: I want to echo what AMS VP-UA Greene said. We had a hard time this summer as he alluded to earlier. We were not invited to many meetings. The students who did sit in on the meetings were not heard. When it does go to public consultation, I encourage you to get your voice heard as much as possible. I encourage you to participate. You definitely don't have to share our views but please share your opinions.

Adjournment

Moved by: AMS VP-UA Greene, seconded by: Representative Vasila.

Vote proceeds.

FOR: Unanimous

AGAINST: None

ABSESIONS: None

Motion carries.

Assembly is adjourned at 21:29PM EST.