



AMS Assembly Minutes
Thursday, November 28, 2019
Wallace Hall

Minutes are tentative until approved by Assembly

The meeting was convened at 19:29PM EST.

Motion #1: Moved by: AMS VP-UA Greene, seconded by: AMS President Pierce.

Motion for the AMS Assembly approve the Agenda of the meeting of November 28th, 2019.

Speaker Maule: This motion will be delayed until January due to Secretary Borchenko not being able to be here.

Motion delayed to next Assembly.

Speakers Business

Speaker Maule: *Land recognition statement was read.* We recognize that we need to pay homage to the people who came before us and how we can individually and collectively correct the wrongs of the oppressive systems of colonialism that affect this country. Also, just want to say, have a happy holiday. Make sure you spend time with friends, family and loved ones and hit the new year with your best foot forward.

President's Report

AMS President Pierce: Nothing to add. As we learn more about the ruling on the Student Choice Initiative, I will update Assembly and students.

AMS Vice President's Report

AMS VP-OPS Dahanayake: Nothing to add, happy to take questions.

AMS VP-UA Greene: Not much to add outside of my report. Just wanted to update Assembly that Rector Da Silva and I met with the sexual violence task force and have been informed that any kind of changes or proposed changes will be going back to that group to be discussed. I'm happy to update everyone as it happens as this is an important issue to be mindful of.

Board of Director's Report

Chairperson Tharp was not present.

Undergraduate Student Trustee's Report

Trustee Macintyre: I have nothing to add.

Student Senator's Report

Chairperson Niddam-Dent: Apologies to everyone as I have something to add. However, there are only two or three things. First, the lead up to senate meeting, we discussed the fall term break. We're in the process of moving forwards. The AMS VP-UA and I had a few conversations with Deputy Provost Teri Shearer regarding updates on fall break. Essentially what's going to happen is that there currently is not enough time for a full review of the fall term break, especially since the sectional dates of the break for the academic 2020-2021 year have been approved. This will be the 4th year of the break so there's a decision to be made before there is a full review on the program. The decision will be made in 2020 by the Senate Committee. This committee has some student representation but not a lot; I don't believe anyone in this room is on it. There will be a survey that will go out and this will generate data that we can bring to them in the decision-making process. This survey process will be conducted at the end of this year and the data will be there at the end of January. This is crucial as the first people to experience the fall term break will be going into fourth year, so they will not have experienced what a fall term without the break is like. We want to collect relevant data on what's most beneficial for students. We need student data to analyze what's the best and most realistic option. After its 4th year pilot, the fall-term reading break will have a full assessment next year. It's on student leaders next year to carry out the voice of students and the long-term future of this break. I also asked a question on Chown Hall investigation and the police are still working on it. They can't figure it out who did it so I have no further updates on that. Lastly, a report was given to Senate on the impacts of enrollment at Queen's in response to the OSAP changes. First, around 6.43% of students who previously had received OSAP did not re-attend Queen's this year. Through the elimination of students who originally weren't going to re-attend regardless of OSAP, this equals to around 143 students. Additionally, 74 students at a maximum, decided to change their education pattern to part-time. Finally, it did not seem that students did not decide to work part-time more in response. The university feels that these numbers came out late and a lot of students didn't have time to adjust their patterns and respond accurately. The impact will be evident in years to come as students have more time to react to these changes. I think parents took up a lot of the cost this year. Just to reiterate, Queen's students received \$17 million less in OSAP this year compared to last year. Finally, they do expect secondary degree programs will continue in decreasing enrollment, as in response to the change of the independent student definition from 4 to 6 years. Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions.

ASUS President Perkins: Thank you so much for all the work you're doing. I have a question about Senate reviewing the sectional dates. Do all individual faculties have to review their dates for Senate to approve their dates?

Chairperson Niddam-Dent: I didn't bring it up as it's an inconsistency and was not addressed. I would say that was not what the impression I had. The senate will have a vote, between now and March, on the sessional dates of the university. My judgement, and this is more a personal judgement, is that the university was unorganized with this process. The faculty of ASUS voted on the fall-term break continuing in its form. When ASUS voted that down, the university went "Oh crap, we need to get our things together", and so I think from then on, I would appreciate if any other faculty would take a vote on sessional dates. Before that happened, my indication is that the Senate makes the decision and faculties follow but I never did get clarification on that from Deputy Provost Teri Shearer.

ASUS President Perkins: If you haven't had your faculty boards yet, I urge you to bring it up and try not to approve it. If your faculties have concerns with fall term reading break, then having your disapproved vote will create a bigger push for Senate to not approve these dates.

Chairperson Niddam-Dent: We have Senate members supporting our decision as well. We're doing our best to get this data to SCAT, but I wanted to mention that we do have allies on Senate. However, we need all the more support we can get from students to make a positive impact.

Rector's Report

Rector Da Silva: At the end of this April, around the same time that elections will happen, there will already be a vacancy for the Rector's position. If you know anyone who is interested or would be great in this position, I encourage them to meet with me to find out more about it so they can think about it more. There was supposed to be an information session however, it is now postponed to January. Another thing I wanted to talk about was launch of The Promise Scholar. The Promise Scholar is probably not relevant for people here, but good to know. It is a full ride scholarship to Queen's. It's particularly tailored for students with socioeconomic need, and takes into consideration a lot of privilege based barriers such as having heavy extra curriculars instead of work. The scholarship starts with 5 students and is for the Kingston community specifically but may expand country-wide. It's really exciting and is one of the responses prompted by the OSAP changes. Adding onto what Chairperson Niddam-Dent said about the Chown Hall situation, I received indication from Four Directions and Indigenous Affairs about things that they are doing and what we're doing long-term. There are longer term things in the works so expect communications from them but I will forward to them to Secretary Borchenko when he gets back to be circulated.

Last big thing to talk about is that I launched the applications for the Tricolour Award. If you don't know what it is, it's an award open to any Queen's student. It is the highest honour that a Queen's Student can receive outside of athletics and academics. It has looked like so many different things and different variations of extra-curriculars. The specific criteria will be established by the selection committee. Nomination packages are live and tomorrow will be printed and available at the SLC, AMS, SGPS and my desk. If you know anyone who would be good or just want to share it on your social media channels, the criteria for nominating a person includes two primary nominators who are students. Each nominator will have to write a letter detailing why. In addition, you will need 3-5 letters from anyone. This could be professors, people in the community or organizations that this person is involved in. Last year, we had an incredible selection and really fantastic winners. If you could expand the reach and spread the

word around. If you have questions on it or the nomination process, let me know. Just spread the word and tell people about this amazing award.

Statements by Students

NSS President Kruizinga: I'll try to keep this brief but happy week 12 everyone! To add something on the fall-term break, I know the AMS is planning on doing a survey but there were faculties that have previous survey results. Since a lot of current students won't know what it was like to not have a fall term break, these previous survey results might provide some insight. I'm happy to provide the data. 50% of our students completed that survey a year ago. I also wanted to thank the AMS for organizing the Principal's Conversation. It was very insightful, and encourage it to continue to make sure that the student voice is heard. These are most of my sentiments other than this is my last AMS Assembly. I've served on this committee for a few years and have been coming since when I was an intern. I left most of my sentiments in my final report. I am excited to welcome and congratulate the incoming NSS Executive team. They ran a very successful campaign and I'm excited to see what they'll do in the future. I wish you all the best for exams and winter break and continue doing great things.

ASUS President Perkins: Thank you so much for your work and contributions, especially to the Nursing community over the past few years. You've done a lot in your position the past couple of years, so thank you.

No further debate.

Question Period

No questions asked.

Business Arising from the Minutes

No business arising from the Minutes.

New Business

Motion #2: Moved by: Member-at-large Hiemstra, seconded by: Commissioner Henriques.

Motion for the AMS Assembly to give jurisdiction to the Queen's International Affairs Association (QIAA) to run and operate Queen's Model United Nations.

Commissioner Henriques: I just wanted to speak on the motion. I met with the Queen's International Affairs Association President who is here to address any further questions. Within the Campus Activity Commission, we have no plans to move and have full faith that QIAA will be able to provide a good conference. Thank you Member-at-large Hiemstra and good luck with Queen's Model United Nations.

Member-at-large Hiemstra: For those of you who don't know, QIAA is an umbrella organization run on the Queen's campus. We have a variety of other MUN initiatives. We also host our own conference, QMUNI. This past fall, we had our 6th iteration of this conference and

had the largest turnout so far with around 250 delegates across North America. This allowed these students to practice diplomacy. We also hosted a national MUN for high school students. Around 60 high school students across Ontario were able to attend. In the past, MUN has been hosted by the AMS under the Campus Activities Commission. However, in due time with the Student Choice Initiative, we have to run this event under our umbrella. We have the volunteer base and know how to continue running the conference successfully, so I hope you support this motion so we can do a good job and advocate for students. Happy to take questions.

No further debate, vote proceeds.

FOR: Unanimous - 1

AGAINST: None

ABSENTIONS: 1

Motion carries.

Motion #2: Moved by: Commissioner Henriques, seconded by: Member-at-large Hiemstra.

AMS VP-UA Greene: So, for Policy Manual 2, we're going to be doing a deeper dive next semester into trying to bring policy up-to-date. A lot of policies are not accurate so we'll do an overhaul for that. Basically, this motion is to remove QMUN from Policy Manual 2 to go in alignment with the motion we just voted on.

No further debate, vote proceeds.

FOR: Unanimous

AGAINST: None

ABSENTIONS: None

Motion carries.

Motion #4: Moved by: AMS President Pierce, seconded by: AMS VP-UA Greene.

Motion for the AMS Assembly to approve the changes to AMS Election and Referenda Policy as seen in Appendix Happy.

AMS President Pierce: As for the discussion we had at the last Assembly, we're trying to engage more people in the elections process. We feel like this will allow more people to engage. Around 2% of total AMS members need to sign on the nomination packages. We want to reduce that number to stimulate more engagement. It's now reduced to 1%, which is around 160 signatures. We had discussions on having an online system which we are looking into. We want to make sure it's as secure as possible. There's nothing in policy that prohibits us from doing it online so there's nothing to include or update policy in that regard. Even if it's operationalized in some way, maybe not this year but for the next few years, it could be useful.

Proxy: What's the previous #4?

AMS President Pierce: The previous #4 was based on enrollment instead of AMS numbers. That policy needs two readings as does the Rector Election Policy. We will have an online vote about that over the break.

No further debate, vote proceeds.

FOR: Unanimous - 1

AGAINST: None

ABSENTIONS: 1

Motion carries.

Motion #5: Moved by: AMS President Pierce, seconded by: AMS VP-UA Greene.

Motion for the AMS Assembly to approve the changes to AMS Rector Elections Policy and Procedures Manual as seen in Appendix Holiday.

AMS VP-UA Greene: Another part of elections engagement is to bridge the Rector Elections Policy discrepancy between the AMS and the SGPS. Since the rector is a body to both the SGPS and AMS, the standards should be the same across both societies. Gathering support from 4% of the total population, considering there is only one person running, is a big challenge and burden. We've reduced it to 100 student signatures instead of a percentage with full support from the AMS and SGPS. The SGPS has already brought this forward and we are putting it forward now. We drove down the number to be between the 1% that the AMS has for other elections and the same for the SGPS. There is a challenge for graduate students to gather huge amounts of signatures since their cohorts are smaller. This is to make it fair for competitive elections and why we're moving in this direction. We're looking to see more people become engaged in these elections and to reduce these barriers.

No further debate, vote proceeds.

FOR: Unanimous

AGAINST: None

ABSENTIONS: None

Motion carries.

Discussion Period

AMS VP-UA Greene: Just wanted to say welcome to the new AMS Assembly members. We're happy to have you and see you participate in Assembly.

Proxy: As a newly elected ASUS representative, the only information we received about Assembly was forwarded to us afterwards as we were not included in the original communications.

AMS President Pierce: Yes, we understand and have spoken to someone about this. You were newly elected and since Secretary Borchenko is away with a concussion, he is unable to do any

work and input the new elections results. I do not have control. I've talked to Libby to reach out to the newly elected Assembly members and make sure all communications reach everyone.

AMS VP-OPS: If there's anything you want to chat about regarding the services, I'm happy to hear any feedback on how they can be the best that they can be.

Adjournment

Moved by: AMS VP-UA Greene, seconded by: Chairperson Macintyre.

Vote proceeds.

FOR: Unanimous - 2

AGAINST: 2

ABSENTIONS: None

Motion carries.

Assembly is adjourned at 19:56 PM EST.