



AMS Assembly Minutes
Thursday, March 12, 2020
Wallace Hall, John Deutsch University Centre

Minutes are tentative until approved by Assembly

The meeting was convened at 18:31 PM EST.

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

Motion for the AMS approve the Agenda of the meeting of March 12th, 2020.

AMS President Pierce: I would like to make an amendment for Motion #4 to read the ratification of Matthew Mellon to the position of Commissioner of External Affairs to be included with Motion #4. I will also give an update on why he is here during the Vice-President's report.

No further debate, vote proceeds.

FOR: Unanimous

AGAINST: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

Motion carries.

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

Motion for the AMS approve the Minutes of the meeting of February 6th, 2020.

No debate, vote proceeds.

FOR: Unanimous

AGAINST: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

Motion carries.

Guest Speaker

Dr. Walker: Thank you very much. I feel a bit like I'm in a cathedral with the sound system. I'm also absolutely horrified to tell you but it's almost exactly 50 years ago when I sat in Assembly when I was a medical student at Queen's. It made me feel physically ill that I'm back because I don't think I'm that old, however it is nice to be back. I'm going to speak very briefly – many of you know a lot, some know less, some not as much. The principal has appointed me as the special advisor on the response to COVID-19. I am helping to coordinate all aspects of planning and preparation for the virus called COVID-19 which will come here. So we need to be prepared in all aspects on campus and Queen's-wide activities. The overarching objective in acting ahead of the virus is to protect all the university community members which includes you me, and all staff and faculty. We want to make sure that the vital academic and administrative operations can carry on as best as possible. The ultimate point to this is to protect the healthcare system from a surge it can't meet. It doesn't take much to think about societies that were not prepared and their health systems were overwhelmed. In Canada and Ontario, and especially Kingston, we want to make sure it doesn't happen.

A few things that sound stupid but simple – if you in the next little while, feel sick with any symptoms, the first thing to do is stay home. Don't walk around and work it out later. 9/10 change it is nothing serious. That is why Canada has been so successful in capturing people with signs. Avoid being in contact with people. There are currently no cases positive in South East Ontario, Kingston or campus. There are no cases. There are returning tourists from a cruise ship in California that are in quarantine in Trenton, however nobody here has this. The tourists seem to be quite well. There is a myth that all people in Canada with COVID-19 brought it in from somewhere else, which is not entirely true. There is beginning to be community spread. You can see this in BC such as Vancouver and perhaps Toronto. That is where you see changes in the way you are seeing significant changes such as the cancellation of the NBA, hockey, schools and stuff. For people of your age group, this is a mild illness, in almost all cases. Another factor is that infected people can spread the illness before they have symptoms. At the beginning, people are just shedding the virus and it is quite possible to spread it. We need to be cautious. If you're not feeling well, be on the safe side. It's a smart virus. No person has immunity to it except for those people who have had it and they have immunity. I kind of wish I had it so I wouldn't have to worry. It's the elderly and the frail that we need to protect and for our health care to take care of. Nursing homes and grandparents get severely ill. Of those who have it, 80% were mild. Children don't get it; they seem to manage it somehow. Nobody quite understands the mechanism. We don't see children getting sick with it. Since common colds are often coronaviruses, that some mild cross infection. Children seem not to be badly infected. 80% of the people who get it are mild, 15% are serious and hospitalized and 5% are severely ill, which requires a ventilator. The only treatment for COVID-19 is oxygen and a ventilator. If you do the math and work it out. Say there are 5000 people. If 5% of them got seriously ill and needed a ventilator, we only have 68 ventilators. As of today, 45/68 were busy with day to day operations. As this virus moves through our communities, then it will mutate. The current fatality rate is around 2% which may change and of course the 2% is in the elderly and frail group. It's becoming apparent that quite a lot of people have it very mildly so the denominator could change. For reference, the flu is an 8% fatality rate. We have a slide from the CDC where it says that if we do certain things by championing our own personal behaviour: not sneezing, coughing, and washing our hands, and then if health care systems are able to jump over cases that are positive, we can smooth this curve out. If you see the health system capacity, we don't want that to be red because we can't manage that. And that's what happening in Italy and what happened

in China. Only by making massive changes in social behaviour has it now been contained in China and hopefully soon, but yet to be in Italy.

In terms of Queen's, we've got no active cases. There will be no changes to what we're doing at the moment. There are plans being made around the clock to react to positive cases, or suspicious cases. Inevitably, that will be when you start to see changes happening such as non-essential gatherings are stopped and the length of the term might be impacted. We have contingency plans for those things. The Medical Officer of Health, Kieran Moore, has said that if we were to get cases, or if members of faculty were to get cases, that will change the dynamic on how it will go. There still may be gatherings allowed but only 50 or 200. This is all in an attempt to stop person-to-person transmission or active cases. You will see changes. We have instigated some other changes. International programs were suspended for those outgoing. For those overseas in programs, they were more permissive based on where they are and what they're doing. Anyone who wants to come back, there will be arrangements made. Academic consideration will be a priority for those who are impacted. We will do everything possible to make sure you're not harmed in that regard. Now I will do my selling job: if you plan to attend large gatherings, faculty and students, a virus will come here sooner or later. There is one particular situation that I believe is really fraught which is St. Patrick's Day celebration. This may cause some difficulties. I may be preaching to the converted, I know some of my children have loved St. Patrick's Day and Homecoming. But I encourage you to just think for a minute that in an uncontrolled crowd like that, someone will have come from somewhere with community spread. Someone might feel feverish and if you come in contact with this person, you may not know you've got it for a few days or if you do notice it, you will call for help, or something will happen like all of the above. However, you might always inadvertently spread to family members. You could give this to your mother or father or grandparents and that would be very serious. What is of equal concern is that if in that crowd, there are people who become so intoxicated. I know this happens as an emergency doctor, we often see people who fall down drunk and are taken by paramedics to the hospital. If that person has COVID-19, those paramedics now have to be quarantined, the police officers involved are off their job, the emergency nurses will be off their job. Furthermore, those old souls in the hospital waiting to go back to the nursing home will catch it and it would run rampant through nursing homes. Those people will die, especially in the case where there are around 4-5 people needing ventilation, but only one person is getting it. So that's my concern – people are going to party and people are going to have fun. That is the issue, are we going to harm our family and friends? Are we going to suddenly harm our ability to provide healthcare? For the rest of the university: if a professor needs to instruct from distance, you can still study and they can still work from home. A cardiac doctor cannot work from home – it could really be the beginning of things getting out of control. We can manage classes, exams, and all our vital operations remotely. I would appeal to you to spread to your friends that it really is quite serious. If we can get past this weekend, I think we would be easier to manage the affairs of the university, your academic careers, and the Queen's community.

Some tips are to: wash your hands, don't touch your face, and don't shake hands. Or if you get sick and you don't feel well: you should go home, shut the door, and call for help. I want to put this in context. COVID-19 is something to be feared as it's new and disruptive, certainly disruptive in the stock market. It will make life very different in the next few months. It is not the flu. This will not go away when the spring comes as it marches around the year. Most of us, maybe 50% of us, will get it and we will get immunity and the vaccine will be available probably within a year. When that happens, it will then begin to settle down because there won't be

enough people to infect. I can now answer any questions – I might not be able to answer them all. There's a happy medium in being concerned – I'm feeling nervous that when I get this, I might get very sick. One of my kids and his wife and kids flew off to Australia and the other is pondering whether or not to go to Jamaica. There are many questions regarding one's capacity to accept risk. I would suggest if in doubt, Queen's has a website that answers most questions and we're developing more to frequently answered questions. It's got all sorts of resources on what's going on in the world and what to do. There are lots of resources to help you with what's happening.

NSS President Troiani: Nursing students will obviously be going out for St. Patrick's Day. I know you talked about for classes they will be going online. We have unique issue of next week, we will be going into clinical study where there are older and vulnerable people. When I talked to Faculty of Health Sciences, it seems like they're leaving it up to KGH and the clinical placements on whether or not to pull the plug on that. I'm concerned about whether or not nursing students do get that and do end up in a clinical setting – there just hasn't been much talk about that.

Dr. Walker: Good point. You may have noticed that the Faculty of Health Sciences have different rules with engagement, cancelled gatherings, and a variety of things that are moving rapidly to transmitting information virtually. The reason for that is that the professors in nursing and medicine and rehab are people who are doctors and nurses who also provide care to patients. We need to be particularly careful and the learners particularly. I would suggest nursing and medical and rehab students who go to the street parties and house parties, when it is discovered after the fact that someone was positive, just like the mining conference in Toronto, they will find themselves self-isolated for two weeks and will miss whatever they're doing. The reason again is that it's one thing when we infect each other, but if that nursing or medical student is looking after an elderly person who will visit a nursing home, suddenly the whole thing unravels. Anything you can do to point that out is critically important.

COMPSA VP Anand: Thank you so much for doing this. If classes were to move online, would campus buildings be closed?

Dr. Walker: Don't know answer precisely. When you see Laurentian and US schools who say "We're shutting down and going online", that's sort of code. You're all aware that e-learning and virtual courses take a long time to develop, especially if they're going to be good. I've got a course coming out on health policy and the thought of converting it online overnight is just not going to happen. I might take a stab but it will be paltry. If we have to constrain classes online, we have the advantage that there are only 3 weeks to go in most terms. Maybe things will get shortened by a week and there will be alternatives. There's lots of planning in every faculty on how that will happen and there would be some e-component to it. That will be on a case-by-case basis. We've got critical operations that can't be shut down. We've got laboratories that can't be stopped. So it would depend on the situation. You can't shut the door of a university and lock it and walk away. There are still people in residence so it wouldn't be a simplistic solution. People have to be fed, people have to find food, so on and so forth.

ASUS Representative Hussein: You mentioned that in the coming months and years, how we will be treating the virus and such. I was just wondering if there is a treatment plan?

Dr. Walker: Unlike influenza, influenza is different in that it's been around in humans for a long time, and it changes a bit every year, occasionally it fools us by changing a lot. Most of us have

immune memory so when this year's flu comes around, it will be different from the last few years, but when you get it, your immune system goes "You're not quite the same as last time, I can have a run at you" and you end up winning nicely. Your immune system remembers enough that it responds. COVID-19 is entirely new so there is no immune memory to it whatsoever. With COVID-19, there is no evidence that any antiviral works. There is no treatment at all: most people don't need any treatment. The only treatment is oxygen and when your lungs truly fail, a ventilator. That's the only treatment there is. The people who get that way are usually old and frail. There are some that are young, particularly if you have other conditions, such as chronic lung, heart, kidney disease or diabetes, those are the people who get very ill. Until we get a vaccine, 2 things will happen over the next year or two: most of us will get it and we'll get a vaccine and we can vaccinate. Once 2/3 of the world has got some immunity, it won't be able to spread it very well. Other than that, there is no treatment other than oxygen and ventilators and that comes in limited supplies.

CESA Representative Bukala: Across Europe and the US, universities have been taking action against the virus. I was curious if Queen's will be benchmarking themselves with other Canadian universities and see what they're doing and take action based on that?

Dr. Walker: Yes, I'm on the phone almost everyday with the COU and in particular with Western and UofT to make sure there is a coordinated approach to this. We clearly keep our eye on things in Canada and the US. Everywhere is different. UofT cancelled non-essential gatherings this morning. They weren't advised to do it by public health, but there are people with COVID-19 in Toronto. Now the States, without being politically incorrect, the US approach is different. There are many parts in US that are out of control. The way you can work if a country or location is managing this well is for every death you see, you should see 100 positive cases. Because it should be around 1-2% die. In the states, when you see 1 death and only 20 cases, that means there are 80 people that haven't been tested or don't know about it walking around it. For awhile, we had done more tests in Ontario than in all of the US. There's all sort of benchmarks in the States, but they have a different situation since they have outbreaks everywhere. I did look at University of Oxford's website, they have 5 students who have COVID-19, and the message is we're going to carry on with business as usual. From the one to the other, getting it right is very tricky. I know a lot of faculty are worried about teaching and there are students who are worried about going to class. We could pull it all one day or we could be reasonable and go day by day and see what happens. The risk to you is low. It's the risk that you will give it to somebody else.

Commissioner Bath: As students, we plan a lot of events, especially ones later in the term in April. How do you suggest we go forward with planning large events?

Dr. Walker: It's so difficult - how do you plan for something? It's one thing to have a plan to put into place today for today's knowledge. How do you plan for where we will be in two weeks or a month? It's a complicated answer, we know the way this is going. This isn't going to go away tomorrow. So there will be an increasing number of Canadians who test positive. It will work through the society through the next few months or years. In the next few weeks, there will be significant constraints on gatherings. In places where there are positive cases of community spread, those events will be cancelled. As Kingston develops its cases, gatherings will be constrained. They will be reduced to the essential gatherings and under certain circumstances, everything might be cancelled. Travel might be impaired such as airlines. Students who are overseas, they might want to get home but they might not be able to get here. Mr. Trump blocked all air traffic from Europe into the US and thus he made Mexico and Canada the preferred way to

get into the US for people who need to be in the US. There are all sorts of constraints. You might find you go somewhere and you might get quarantined there. There could be two rounds of quarantine. You could spend 14 days in quarantine in the country before you leave and then you have to do it again for 14 days when you land. I have trouble planning from day to day because the platform upon which I stand shifts every time I make a decision. My recommendation would be to project forward, you can roughly guess where things will be and make decisions on that.

Chairperson Niddam-Dent: My question concerns the start of school next year. The start of school with orientation week involves lots of large gatherings. What kind of conditions need to be present in Southeastern Ontario for things to happen? Eventually if there are any active cases in September, does this impact classes or Orientation Week?

Dr. Walker: Predicting the future is tricky as Yogi Bear said. There will be positive cases. We don't know how COVID-19 manages in warm weather. That's one thing about the flu is that it doesn't like warm, humid weather, that's why it's seasonal. Many of the epicentres of COVID-19 are in places that are warm. The summer will not be a respite. It will be a respite to some extent because we will be socially distancing ourselves – we might have done a lot of social distancing. There will be COVID-19 in the fall and we're planning in the next few weeks or months. I think it will change the way we do business in the next little bit until it settles down. You will see more e-learning, maybe smaller classes, and some classes done differently. Whether we as humans will not be gathering in the fall, I would certainly hope not and that we can gather. I don't know what will happen in the fall, my prediction is that it will be different than usual. My hope is that it won't be drastically different. If you look day by day, you will see what could happen, especially in China. There are massive constraints that are dampening the effect and they're beginning to go back to work. What's happening in the US will have more of an impact on us than anywhere else. If they can get control on this, the effect on us will be less. So that's a worry, what's going on down there.

Member-at-large Lee: There are so many first years in residence. Would you be able to outline procedures for quarantine for them such as outlining any potential plans with food supply and general health?

Dr. Walker: That's a very good question. There are plans being made for dealing with that. We need to be prepared for students in residence who are unwell and are told to isolate themselves. Then they can be tested and told to wait for test results. If it's 1-4 students maximum, then it can be handled. Larger numbers would require us to sequester a floor. We do have facilities for people who have to isolate so we do have that in plan. That involves making sure that people can safely give them food and movies and whatever they need. If it's 1-2 people, we can accommodate that but if it's 20-30 people then we will need a bigger plan. There will be some people wanting to go home or if courses go online and you don't need to stay so you need to think about how when you go home. Whoever comes to get you will have to agree to go into quarantine. Dad and Mom might not be keen to come. So there are plans afoot to deal with that and the overall rule of thumb is that if you're in residence and get sick, shut the door and call.

Member-at-large Pang: In the case that classes move online, what is your plan for students with limited availability or no access to devices or internet?

Dr. Walker: There are no plans, not that I know of. Clearly you can't be invited to do stuff online if you have no access. I will bear that in mind and take note. John Pierce is convening a daily meeting with Associate Deans on developing contingencies on those situations of "what

if?”. What if we go online? What if you have to watch your professor on Zoom and you don’t have access to a laptop, what will you do? I will take that back and plan that no one will be harmed because of that.

ENGSOCC President Benoit: I was wondering at what point in your best estimate, if at all, would you expect that the Canadian US border to be shut?

Dr. Walker: That’s a question that’s above my pay grade and I get paid very well. I don’t know the answer, I don’t think many people expect to close the border. I doubt that Canada would close the border but Mr. Trump has a habit of doing that seeing most threats to be external than internal. It’s a possibility. I don’t think Canada would do it but it could happen so we will see. It would have to be very bad scenario for that to happen. I promised my wife I would take her out for dinner because I haven’t seen her for a couple of days so I don’t want to get in trouble.

AMS President Pierce: On behalf of Queen’s students and the AMS, I would like to thank you for informing us a little more about the coronavirus and we’re thankful for your leadership among others in stringing Queen’s University and community throughout this time so thank you.

Dr. Walker: Thank you AMS President, SGPS President, and Rector da Silva for working together to deal with this, which we will succeed at. Humans are very good at dealing with this.

Secretary Borchenko: I would also like to thank StudioQ for setting this up on such short notice. We will now be proceeding with business as usual.

Speakers Business

Speaker Maule: *Land recognition statement was read.* I’ll keep this short as it is an important assembly. We acknowledge our position of privilege to be able to work, live, and play on lands, and we commit ourselves against the systemic oppression faced by Indigenous communities in the past and in the present. In light of COVID-19, something to consider is that Indigenous communities tend to face a lot more barriers than we do in terms of dealing with outbreaks, for example lack of clean drinking water, limited health services and overcrowded housing, which all stems from Canada’s colonial past and current practices. I think that’s worth pointing out, and is something we should not lose sight of in and amongst what’s going on currently. We are fortunate to have Dr. David Walker here with us today as a Guest Speaker. He was recently appointed by Principal Deane as the Special Advisor for planning and preparing for COVID-19. He was a former dean of Faculty of Health Sciences, Dr. Walker is a professor of Emergency Medicine, Family Medicine, and Policy Study here at Queen’s. He also chaired Ontario’s expert panel on SARS and Infectious Disease Control in 2003. He has taken time out of his busy schedule to come and answer questions on what we can do as student leaders.

President’s Report

AMS President Pierce: I’d like to thank everyone who came here today to hear from Dr. David Walker. I know this can be a very scary time and we have a lot of unanswered questions and concerns. We hope this talk has helped everybody with that. A big thank you to StudioQ, the SLC, and everyone who came together to have this discussion and topic streamed not just here but across the Queen’s community. We need to continue to do to work together to address campus issues. That’s been the defining feature of this year so it’s important that we do continue

on this path to cooperate and work together to make sure we make it on the other side of this year. Regarding St. Patrick's Day, I echo some of the thoughts from Dr. David Walker. It's important that when we're inviting people in that we're being safe. I'm not saying don't enjoy yourself, but be safe and take an informed approach. I'm not concerned about my own health but more for those around me. A lot of messaging was important when making decisions moving forward. That is all from my report, I'll accept any questions from anyone now.

AMS Vice President's Report

AMS VP-OPS Dahanayake: I just have some brief updates. I wanted to say thank you to the Provost and the Vice-Principal of Finance and Administration for supporting the period projects as long as they have. In my report, we've started going around in the main SLC and libraries to figure out where ideal placements for the period product dispensers are. The dispensers are AODA compliant and you will get the free products. I had a meeting with Taylor MacPherson over residence and ways to incorporate menstruation education in don training. This will materialize as a follow up to when Rector da Silva mentioned the residence curriculum being redeveloped. A few service updates are that Queen's Pub is doing brunch again. It's going to be pitchers of mimosas. Also, after AGM so not this week, but the next, it will be the last Throwback Thursday ever. This will be at the Underground at 10:30pm so see you all there. I also wanted to mention that the PSC is hiring a PSC CARED Coordinator. This is a new salary position that has been approved, and they are looking for someone who will be dedicated to the project and see its growth over the year.

AMS VP-UA Greene: Wanted to make a few verbal additions as I wasn't expecting to be here today. OUSA General Assembly over at Western has been cancelled with what the institution has instructed. Passing the papers will be postponed to another date but I want to add on what AMS President said. We are working very closely with Dr. Walker, Kingston Public Health, the University administration over the next 72 hours to communicate everything we know to the student body. Please get in touch with us and we can hopefully help to quell any fears.

Board of Director's Report

Chairperson Tharp: Nothing to add. I am excited to see you all at CGM in the next few weeks which will address the election of Student Rectors and the appointment of a Community Rector.

Undergraduate Student Trustee's Report

Undergraduate Trustee was not present.

Student Senator's Report

Chairperson Niddam-Dent: Two quick things - one thing is that a couple of us went to Senate Retreat where one of the largest topics was the internationalization of Queen's. Queen's wants to set ourselves apart in the global leader research capacity as well as we're looking to make international students feel more at home. We'll continue to look forward on this into this year and through the next couple of years. Other business of Senate is in conjunction with ENGSOCC,

the SOARB, which is responsible for Orientation Week, reviewed the engineering orientation week and made decision to ban the standards exam. Like our take on that was that some of the most liked activities were ones that made a lot of students feel uncomfortable. This went to Senate and the ultimate decision of Senate was that this consideration needed more time. I wanted to extend thanks to the ENGSOC senators for their help on that one. I also wanted to update you all on that in terms of some of the considerations with respect to planning and I will update when SOARB comes to that decision. I'm happy to take any questions.

Rector's Report

Rector Da Silva: I have a few things to run through. Like VP-OPS said, after the last Assembly regarding the residence curriculum, I have reached out to the person formulating that if you're interested in coming and engaging in that conversation that will hopefully manifest in that curriculum. Hopefully, at next meeting, she will be here. This is a 3 year project so they will want to see things, try it and then see what works. The curriculum in first year will not be finalized by any means, and they want ongoing contribution. All of the university's advancement events will be cancelled. Advancement, by nature of what they do, manage alumni relations and award ceremonies that bring people across the country or world. They took proactive measures and there is a good team that's working on rescheduling some of them for now. Something like the Alumni Summit, they don't want to do something like that which will put people at risk, but those will be cancelled as of now. Relating back to presentation, if people have ongoing thoughts on COVID-19 such as special situations that the university administration haven't thought of, or really niche situations, please reach out to AMS President Pierce or myself. We can pass on those questions. We're part of the stakeholders group that meets every Tuesday and we can get that information to them immediately. There's no experts who know more than you about what's going on with students so please pass on any questions and do not keep them to yourself. There will be a full written explanation but you saw Board of Trustees met over weekend. They approved the recommendations going on with QBACC. This is something that's ongoing over the next few years and if you want details over the report, I'm happy to take any questions. AMS President Pierce and I and other executives had the pleasure of meeting the new Student Wellness Services Executive Director. I hope we, as Assembly, could speak with her and look at what changes she's looking to bring to SWS. We can anticipate conversation with her on how SWS is operating and have her listen to any suggestions or experiences you want to share. I want to emphasize on a different note that something that came up at the Senator Retreat, but in a smaller discussion, we talked about the lack of international engagement in student government. The conversation was centered realizing that student government is operated in the way that domestic students feel comfortable with. I hope you can all take this back to your faculty societies and have a larger conversation about. We talk a lot about how Queen's is a colonial institution and has colonial structures. I want people to take this back to their faculty societies, and think about who student government is set up to serve - the dominant group. I want us to think about how we can bring in the engagement of different populations if it's up to students who are now engaging in a system that wasn't built for them. What can people currently holding office do to decolonize student government. This is a much larger conversation and I can share a little bit more. If you want to bring it to your own faculty societies, reach out to the international students who might be engaged and talk about the barriers that they face. I'm happy to connect you to the right people. Also over the weekend with the Board of Trustees, the Principal is

coming to end of his Principal's Conversation series. He is working on a letter that will come and set the direction on where we take things next as a university, what the standard is, and how we value and prioritize things on campus. If you haven't engaged in that conversation, and you have things that you want to talk about, don't assume that it will get covered or that he will have the realization on his own. You will be surprised when we bring something up to administration, they have never thought about it like that before. We can't know everything floating around in your head so it is really valuable that you engage in that process. This is looking at what our university will look like 5-10 years. There is an online program for submission. It has its own spot on his website if you want to type things out or if you want to record yourself talking or would want me to help you connect with somebody to participate in that discussion, I can help you. This hasn't happened in a decade and could maybe not happen in the same monumental shift so take advantage of that capacity. Principal Deane really wants to listen and take questions.

Commissioner Samuels: Just a comment, I would ask that you refrain in using certain language, such as co-opting the word "decolonize". When you talk about decolonization, it's beyond integrating and it's looking the marginalized communities. I think we should be cognizant of the language that we use and make sure we are using them correctly.

Rector da Silva: I appreciate that, thank you.

ASUS Representative Chen: I appreciate that the Social Issues Commissioner and the Rector have been talking about this. Speaking on behalf of international students, the international student engagement has not been talked before. This group of students that are marginalized are not engaged enough.

Statements by Students

No further debate.

Question Period

No questions asked.

Business Arising from the Minutes

No business arising from the Minutes.

New Business

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

Motion for the AMS Assembly to ratify Caroline Hart to the position of Secretary of Internal Affairs, Charlotte Galvani to the position Commissioner of Campus Affairs, Angela Sahi to the position of Commissioner of Social Issues, Matthew Mellon to the position of Commissioner of External Affairs, and Olivia Stanton to the position of Commissioner of Clubs.

Commissioner Henriques: We're so excited to have these folks ratified. They've shown really great progress with transition period and we're proud of them and the rest of the team.

PHEKSA President den Otter: It was a tough decision but we whittled it down and have a great team. These guys sit on AMS assembly so they are here to be ratified. If anyone has any questions on the hiring process as a whole, I'm happy to take questions.

Director Schrempf: If you were to be any inanimate object, which one and why?

Member-at-large Galvani: A telephone because then I'm useful.

Member-at-large Hart: A whisk. You never know when you're going to need it but it will always be there.

Member-at-large Mellon: A book or something related to academics. I like academic advocacy and that's what inspired me to apply. Looking to continue to keep that up.

Member-at-large Stanton: A board game.

Member-at-large Sahi: A typewriter.

Commissioner Bath: I know you guys have just started your transition period. What's one thing you like and don't like going into your role?

Member-at-large Sahi: One thing I like about the role is that it's quite varied. There's a lot of roles with the SIC to explore passions. It's not a narrow scope. One thing is that you take a lot with you as the SIC including the emotional stress, which can be hard to manage. However, you do have a team to support you but it's something to be hesitant about.

Member-at-large Stanton: I really enjoy that the clubs office gets to oversee such a large amount of students, and hear what they're up to. It's a unique position to be in. I do think though that that opens it up to you dealing with a large amount of concerns or other things going on campus which can be stressful and tiresome at times.

Member-at-large Mellon: I am passionate about academic advocacy, and hope to continue that on university wide level. I wouldn't say I don't like how widespread it is but from the SHRC to the federal governmental level, it's hard to keep track of and a challenge for sure but I'm up for it.

Member-at-large Hart: I looked through this role and a lot of it is the back-end policy side. I would say that understanding the concepts as a whole and getting to see it from all angles has been interesting. One thing that I would say I dislike is that level of confidentiality and being removed from situations can be emotionally draining.

Member-at-large Galvani: One thing I'm excited for is revamping the role this year in the way that I can choose what I'm passionate about and advocate for that. However, that is very new and I will have to get used to that.

COMPSA President Boateng: I have a question for the hiring committee. Who sat on the panel and how did you handle biases?

PHEKSA President den Otter: Three executives sat on the panel and one permanent staff member from the AMS. There was also a general member or IT who sat as well. For biases, we would identify those to the group before the interview and remove themselves from discussion until the end.

Commissioner Henriques: We disclosed all application review and debriefing afterwards as well.

COMPSA Representative Ying: Why are your positions are important and what are you going to do to uphold the values of the AMS and Assembly?

Member-at-large Galvani: Again, we are revamping this position so it can have more of a say with advocacy and within different aspects of the university that we don't have right now. I'll be taking on more of what the executive are doing right now because they're so busy right now so it will relieve them. In terms of upholding AMS values with work and within work, I realize that while I'm working to make sure that I'm following policy and being as equitable as possible with the work that I'm doing. Outside of work, I have to make sure that I'm maintaining the brand image as an AMS ambassador.

Member-at-large Hart: I think that this position is important as policy as a whole is very exciting. Having someone there to manage that and oversee the different groups is super important as without policy, there is mayhem. We need to have such a clear view of the rules aligned so we can follow procedures. There's always a solution for something on such a mass scale. Also echoing what Member-at-large Galvani said, making sure you are holding yourself accountable. If we're going to say something to the students, you have to act the same way. There's always someone there knowing who you are.

Member-at-large Mellon: This position has a lot to do with advocacy and bringing the student voice to the table. I know that if I don't speak up, who will? It's important that there are students speaking up for others and this position can offer a lot. I think that ties in with upholding AMS values is being the voice for students and not trying to substitute voices. I will be trying to represent what students are saying, and in terms of upholding those values, doing outreach to see what students that I'm not just representing my own views, but the total student opinions.

Member-at-large Stanton: It is really important position as it's two-fold. The Commissioner of Clubs acts like an advocate for those who participate in campus activities but there's also just a logistics part to it in terms of ratification. Because Queen's is such a campus that involves students, whether it's activities or clubs, it's important that we have that space for students to be involved as it often makes or breaks their experience. In terms of upholding values, being an advocate for students in this capacity is important. Knowing that you don't have all the answers but that there is a supportive system around you that you can return to. It's a network you can return to, and a support system. It's never a singular decision at any point.

Member-at-large Sahi: At its core, the SIC is important for advocating alongside marginalized people, identifying gaps and institutional behaviours, and providing support for students. It is also crucial to provide students with space to find areas of improvement, and build community, carving out space where students feel included. Regarding upholding the values, accountability is important. It's important to keep the AMS accountable and make sure that every student is feeling important and represented. This is an important pillar. We should be held accountable and that we are establishing the opinions of the students who have felt disengaged in the past.

No further debate, vote proceeds.

FOR: Unanimous - 2

AGAINST: None

ABSTENTIONS: 2

Motion carries and is ratified.

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

Motion for the AMS Assembly to approve the first reading of the changes to the AMS Constitution as seen in appendix: This Again?.

Secretary Borchenko: So recently board policy is being overhauled by the Board of Directors. This is the constitutional aspect of that. Certain things in the Constitution that are no longer relevant were removed and we are updating the Constitution to be in line with that. If you have any questions, let me know. Most of this is relatively uncontroversial.

No further debate, vote proceeds.

FOR: Unanimous

AGAINST: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

Motion carries.

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

Motion for the AMS Assembly to approve the following question to be added to the March Trustee Referenda ballot: Do you agree to the continuation of CFRC 101.9 FM's optional fee of \$8.22. This fee was originally established in 1976 and last went to referendum in 2016.

Secretary Borchenko: As we discussed, their Referenda question will be happening at the March Trustee By-Election. Most of this was discussed at the last Assembly. This is just to get any questions on it.

COMPSA VP Anand: I wasn't here at the last Assembly. Once it is on ballot, can we opt out or is it a mandatory fee?

Secretary Borchenko: It is an optional fee, if it does pass. It's opt-outable.

ENGSOB President Benoit: What's the difference in the wording from last time? Do you know off the top of your head? I was curious because it's very similar.

Secretary Borchenko: This format follows the Tri-Annual review structure. The previous question didn't follow that structure, as related to the Student Choice Initiative, everything kind of happened on the fly. The question read slightly different which led to some people thinking that if the fee didn't pass, the fee wouldn't exist. This reads: "Do you agree to continuation...". The continuation implies that if it does not pass, it does not continue.

FOR: Unanimous

AGAINST: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

Motion carries.

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

Motion for the AMS Assembly to approve Michael Zhang, Michael Fraser, Aidan Turnbull, and Shoshannah Bennett Dwara to be on the ballot for the March 2020 Trustee by-election.

Secretary Borchenko: All four candidates handed in nomination packages and signatures. All the signatures were confirmed as valid. You can ask myself about the nomination process, but you can also ask three questions of them. Please do not ask anything as if they are campaigning.

AMS President Pierce: My first question is why do you want to run for the Board of Trustees for the upcoming year?

Member-at-Large Turnbull: I'm a third year student in bio-medical computing. Why? It's a great job – it's a great position. You have a lot of ways to impact the school long term. You're not just looking at it for next year, but like 5-10 years down the road. I'm from Kingston, I love this school and I would love to make an impact on a larger scale. I don't know many of you as this is my first time at Assembly but I would like to make a difference and this is one way I would like to try to do that.

Member-at-Large Dwara: I'm a third year biology student. I was initially interested as I can bring a different opinion and voice that is not heard on the Board of Trustee right now. A lot of the experiences I've had at Queen's and the communities I represent bring a different voice and can cultivate change. It will help the people following us to have a better experience and make sure that their voices are heard.

Member-at-Large Fraser: I'm a third year in political science. How to make it personal: in my three years, I've wanted to consistently get engaged and to find a way to work in the role of advocacy without being partisan in any way. This role would allow me to advocate for all students, without having to pick a side and be a voice for anyone.

Member-at-Large Dong: I'm a third year English major. No one in my family was meant to be a politician, but I wanted to try mostly to see what could happen. I think I can bring a different voice to the Board of Trustees, specifically with recent experiences that have affected students. , My parents had fled from Communist China post-Mao rule. I fully understand how important politics is to the rest of the world. Even if other students don't understand what the Trustee does, I can bring a fresh perspective, no matter how old they are, whether they are faculty, I will represent them.

Chairperson Tharp: What is your current understanding of the Board of Trustees? They sit on some really important decisions so can you talk about decisions that they've made?

Member-at-Large Dong: From what I've heard, Trustees voted on the divestment campaign in fossil fuels. That was one of the most important choices they made this year. A couple of years back, they also worked on the JDUC Revitalization program. This affected many students I understand. The Board of Trustees is vital to the operations of the university and students. I think it shouldn't be taken for granted. People should learn what the job really entails and its hidden importance shouldn't be underestimated.

Member-at-Large Fraser: The university is very similar as while being open to students, has many business aspects. The Board of Trustees is governing the university to go forward. Undergraduate trustees, while they can't make the biggest dent, provide the student voice at the table and ensures that voices are being heard. Whether this is with divestment, with the recent walkout, there are lots of things going on campus. Many of the Trustees are not on campus and it's important they understand what's going on with students and the campus.

Member-at-Large Dwara: I don't know too much. What I know and the limited knowledge that I know, it's similar to the undergraduate community at Queen's. From what I do know, they make bigger decisions, and they are there to represent the student perspective. Hopefully, I will learn a little more about what goes on at those meetings.

Member-at-Large Turnbull: The Board of Trustees is entrusted with mostly the business aspects involving the assets. If myself or any of these fine people were elected, we would be one voice on the twenty something Board of Directors for the University, providing the undergraduate voice. There are certain positions that are more towards the graduate end, however, this position, is about the undergraduates. Doing the signature nominations, I realized that people really have no clue on what the undergraduate does. This is I think, more of a judicial role, not just for ourselves, but for the community as a whole.

Chairperson Niddam-Dent: Imagine some of the issues that undergraduate students care about and what you would bring to the table?

Member-at-Large Turnbull: I'm not supposed to be saying promises. I'm not sure the Trustee can make that many promises, but to make sure our voices aren't being ignored. A big issue on Overheard surrounds mental health wait times when seeing Student Wellness Services. I have never participated in Student Wellness Services but from my friends' experiences and overall community, it takes 3 months to see someone. By that time, the situation has changed. The services aren't bad but just not accessible. That is something that trustees can bring to whole board and hopefully get things done.

Member-at-Large Dwara: One of the biggest issues present is the huge amount of cultural insensitivity. People are uneducated about a lot of the different topics primarily because of their background and communities that they're a part of. A lot of them feel as though the opinions and experiences they have aren't really represented as they aren't seeing the change they want to see. On campus, they want to feel more included and safe instead of being a marginalized community. This is one of the bigger issues that I have seen and heard and talked to people about.

Member-at-Large Fraser: Just to clarify, I do think that Trustee can make a dent, but they don't always push the conversation. That really digs into this question that the Trustee doesn't always set the agenda. They are there to debate and talk on the agenda and bring the view of students. Students are interested are hearing about it so a vital role is bringing what's going on with the agenda of the Trustee and bringing back to students, rather than walking in with a fixed mindset and making sure that students fit into the agenda of the trustee. I do think that it's important that students would want to know what's going on in the agenda more than anything else

Member-at-Large Dong: Mental health is a biggest especially with all the stories I'm hearing. Many students require general mental health and it can be up to 4-5 months before they see an expert. This has a drastic effect on students, and the mental outcome of the year. One aspect I want to touch on is the impact on marginalized groups especially concerning the coronavirus outbreak and the effect on international Chinese students. I've seen many stories of people associating the virus with being Asian, and this leads to very disgusting behaviour. This image needs to be dispelled.

FOR: Unanimous - 2

AGAINST: 2

ABSTENTIONS: None

Motion carries and is ratified.

Discussion Period

No discussion.

Adjournment

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

Vote proceeds.

FOR: Unanimous

AGAINST: Unanimous

ABSTENTIONS: None

Motion carries.

Assembly is adjourned at 20:03 PM EST.