



AMS Assembly Minutes

November 12, 2020

Minutes are tentative until approved at Assembly.

The meeting was convened at 18:02 EST.

Motion #1 - Moved by Caroline Hart, Seconded by Jared den Otter

Motion for AMS Assembly to approve the agenda of the meeting of November 12th, 2020.

Secretary Hart: Motion to amend the agenda, can we please add the ratification of the Health Sciences Society as well as the Dan School Undergraduate Society.

Speaker DeVenney: Any seconder?

AMS President Den Otter: I can second that, Laura.

Speaker DeVenney: Alright, moved by Secretary Hart and seconded by President den Otter. All in favour? All opposed? Any abstentions?

Motion passes.

Motion #2 - Moved by Caroline Hart, Seconded by Jared den Otter

Motion for AMS Assembly to approve the minutes for the meeting of October 8th, 2020.

Speaker DeVenney: Does anyone have any questions regarding the meeting of October 8th, 2020? To a vote then. All in favour? All opposed? Any abstentions?

Motion passes.

Speaker's Business

Speaker DeVenney: *Land acknowledgement was read.* Thank you, everyone, for coming out tonight. Hopefully everyone is coping well with week 9, I know it's been busy with midterms and such. We have an exciting agenda tonight, so without further ado I will move on to our guest speakers.

Guest Speakers

Eddie Avila and Julia Pereira

Guest Speaker Avila: Thank you for making the time for us. My name is Eddie Avila and I am a research and policy analyst as well as the executive director at the Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance.

Guest Speaker Pereira: My name is Julia Pereira and I am the president of OUSA as well as the vice president of Laurier's student union.

Guest Speaker Avila: I wanted to give you a quick overview – normally we do a campus visit but this year we are doing a virtual campus visit. A quick little note, just wanted to thank you all for the work you do as student leaders. You're here on a Thursday evening when you could be eating, resting, studying up. But yes, we'll dive into things.

Guest Speaker Pereira: This is a quick map of what OUSA looks like. Each student association has a representative that sits on our steering committee. We have two members from the AMS that participate and we have an observer school, they're very new to OUSA. We can maybe add them to the map soon so that's exciting. We represent students and altogether we represent 150000 students.

Guest Speaker Avila: On a high level, OUSA is a student collaboration of student governments. At a very high level, basically it is an alliance of various student governments.

Guest Speaker Pereira: Wherever there are discussions about students, we like to be there. Something we recently had over the last couple of weeks was our general assembly, we're actually conducting our Ontario undergraduate online earning experience survey right now, so that's running on your campus and the rest of our member campuses. That data will be used in the coming years to direct our advocacy.

Guest Speaker Avila: This is the list of our policy library, you can see that on our website. Everything that we talk about is written by students themselves. We have some full-time support staff that support the student staff with research. So that's a little bit of how our home office works, we have myself as the executive director and two student analysts. We try to engage students and the broader public on student issues through advocacy, conducting surveys, and other events. We would have in person conferences, but this year we've had to transfer to virtual conferences. We have our student advocacy conference starting Monday.

Guest Speaker Pereira: Students are the main drivers of the organization, like I said we have students who are chosen as delegates to attend our general assembly. We can advocate and lobby the government based on the ideas we have from our representatives. The general assembly will provide just general direction and govern the direction of the organization. This is a photo, I think, of our last general assembly, when we had last semester and had to have an emergency general assembly. This is a picture of our steering committee.

Guest Speaker Avila: Since OUSA is student driven and student funded, it's important to be transparent about the fees. It's \$3.25 and that's for the entire year. We know how important it is

to be open about student money and fees, even if it is a small one. It's always important for us to be as transparent as possible when it comes to that fee.

Guest Speaker Pereira: Obviously the biggest benefit is accessing these decision makers. We have been graciously invited to be consulted on political matters and legislation concerning undergraduate needs. Other than that, we also have a lot of opportunities for students. We are always looking for students to submit their blogs or writing. We have hired student authors to support the policy writing process. We also have an internship program, where even though COVID is happening we had our first fully virtual intern this year who has done amazing things.

We've still had really great take up with the politicians, I think we've had really great opportunities and have had a great impact through lobbying. We meet with them and we tell them these are our priorities for the year, these are kind of the forefront of what those meetings will look like.

Guest Speaker Avila: Julia and I have been trying to share this video, it's about a minute long. This is a project that was run and created by Ryerson. Let me know if you can see that.

Video is played.

Guest Speaker Avila: This is basically our budget as it stands for this coming year, with covid there are some expenses that won't be used up with no in person conferences. We're making sure that we're using student funds in the best and most responsible way. That's everything! We would love to answer any questions you may have.

Speaker DeVenney: So at this time are there any questions for our guests?

Secretary Hart: I've got a question from the chat, it's just asking about how the data collected from surveys is used and if there is an actual impact.

Guest Speaker Pereira: I think I understood the gist of the question, so it guides how we advocate – yup. We use the data as a guideline for how we go and advocate for students. So anything we advocate for has to be explicitly mentioned or asked for by students. I would say primarily our way of advocating for change is meeting with politicians, to actually lobby our priorities. I think that we are viewed as someone in the sector that MPPs and stakeholders respect.

Guest Speaker Avila: I would just add that advocacy is a long term game, year after year. We do have small wins all of the time, like a recent investment into post-secondary research institutions. We were also able to have a couple wins last budget.

Speaker DeVenney: Awesome, does anyone have any other questions please feel free to speak up. So, I will take that as no further questions. Thank you both for your presentation. They're leaving their info for the chat if anyone wants it. We will now move on to our next guest speaker, Rick Stratton.

Rick Stratton

Guest Speaker Stratton: Nice to be back at assembly. It's really great to see that moving forward, that student advocacy. I'll assume that everyone in attendance is a student and has done the USAT at least once here. If the speaker will permit, then we are happy to take any questions or feedback at the end.

Okay, so, the new survey is called the QSSET. There are also three other guests from my office who have joined, mostly to take notes or answer questions I can't.

QSSET. First, I just want to remind or inform people how these evaluations are used at Queen's. The information collected goes to department heads, deans and hiring committees, where it basically acts as job evaluation, job performance. There's some differences between USAT and QSSET, it's moved from a paper survey to an online survey. We are very fortunate that this was already in the works before this year went online, but it also saves a lot of paper so it's environmental too. We previously went through 125,000 paper forms a term. It was extremely costly, both financially and environmentally. One of the big differences is change in the language, removing the word assessment – students are not formal assessors, the word assess denotes that a professional or authority is reviewing the performance of an employee. The QSSET it's that, the idea is that it's about student experience, makes it a little more about the students' experience whereas the USAT has traditionally been all about the instructor. The questions are different, I won't go through the questions here but if you're interested you can find them, just google "Queen's QSSET." Any of you taking classes will most likely be getting these in the next few weeks. That is the end of my slides, and if the speaker will allow, I'm open to take questions.

Speaker DeVenney: Absolutely, thank you. Any questions?

AMS VP-UA Henriques: I would highly recommend that if anyone has anything right now it's so important you say it now with the team here.

Speaker DeVenney: One last call. ASUS President Niddam-Dent.

ASUS President Niddam-Dent: I was wondering if the DSCs would have access to this information or would be expected to distribute it still. Just saying, that if you want to reach out and discuss DSCs, I would be happy to. It's unfortunate the DSC agreement can't include seeing these responses and using it in their advocacy. DSC involvement has always been restricted to reading it and passing the forms around. That's another question we're working on, would love to work on that with you.

Speaker DeVenney: I believe Rector Hiemstra had a question.

Rector Hiemstra: My question just is, the governance body – is that going to be under another body, are we going to see reports from that overseeing body if you could go into specifics?

Guest Speaker Stratton: I can't give you specifics right now, my focus is mainly on implementation. There is a report and it does talk about how this committee would function.

Rector Hiemstra: That's great, thank you.

Speaker DeVenney: Does anyone have anything else before we move on? Awesome. Thank you so much for coming and talking to us.

Guest Speaker Stratton: Thank you so much, have a good evening.

President's Report

AMS President den Otter: Thank you. I don't have much else to add to my report. First, I chatted a bit about the first year intern council in the AMS which is really exciting, especially regarding the online year. We did chat with them for a bit, a fun kahoot. They're all really excited to get started, they've all been doing a great job. They're just starting to really get down that feedback that they want to get to different departments. I'm really excited to hear from other students as well. We're also meeting with different stakeholders to chat about different activities we could promote throughout the winter term, just so students have that opportunity to socialize. Also, you may have heard, residence will be taking an additional 295 students in the winter term, so we will have 300ish more students on campus. I'd be happy to take any questions or comments if anyone had any.

Speaker DeVenney: If there are no questions at this time, do you have anything else to add?

AMS President den Otter: No, that's everything for now.

Vice President's Reports

AMS VP-OPS Samoyloff: Just a quick addition to my report tonight – if you download the walkhome app up until november 22nd, you have the opportunity to win a lot of different prizes. Make sure you download the app, your chances of winning are really great. So spread the word if you can. My second quick add, CoGro is going to be having a lot of special weeks coming up, you'll have to wait for their announcements but a lot of special deals coming up. There's a special drink that was made this year, so check it out and stay tuned. There's also the opportunity with CoGro to win a full cake. Also, we're projected to have the winter term bus pass go on sale this month. We'll also be opening the bus pass subsidy for that term soon. Happy to take any questions.

Speaker DeVenney: Well it looks like there are no questions at this time so we will move on to VP Henriques.

AMS VP-UA Henriques: Matt and I will be at OUSA's annual lobby week, meeting with MPPs. I'm always happy to chat offline if any of you have any questions. Matt and I are always happy to have some conversations and share more with you guys. Also, we were able to allocate over 220,000 towards forwarding our campus safety initiatives, that's a really exciting addition to our campus. There are lots of other opportunities for financial support through the AMS. I think that's all I have for you folks tonight, but happy to take any comments or questions.

Board of Director's Report

Chairperson Nensi: Nothing to add to my report but happy to take any questions.

Undergraduate Student Trustee's Report

Trustee Bennett-Dwara: Hope you guys are doing well. Nothing too much to add to my report, other than there are a lot of things happening with the board of trustees. So yeah, lots of exciting stuff. Also, if you haven't checked out the September trustee report, please feel free to check it out on my Facebook, that is there for anyone. Happy to take any questions.

Student Senator's Report

Absent. Email him directly.

Rector's Report

Rector Hiemstra: Thank you, speaker. I'm just going to take this time to plug my report as it talks about a lot of important things. Please make sure to check it out.

Statements by Students

Speaker DeVenney: If anyone has any statement they would like to make this is the time. Seeing none, we will move on.

Question Period

Chairperson Nensi: I'm wondering if the AMS is considering an alternative of executive elections?

Speaker DeVenney: I can speak in my other official capacity as the Chief Electoral Officer. Considering that the past several years have been uncontested in that capacity, we would love to check out other ways to drum up interest in running and explore new ways for students to vote and I know that simply voting does have the capacity to do ranked voting, but we can't implement it unless the election is contested.

Chairperson Nensi: In terms of considering moving from a slate to an individual run, is there any interest in changing to individual elections for executive positions?

Speaker DeVenney: Right now we are not considering splitting up the slate.

AMS VP-UA Henriques: I can say that in some research I was doing, in 2017, whilst looking through Assembly minutes, splitting up the executive elections has been something that has been discussed before. Interesting information in the archives, in the minutes. Splitting up executive for elections is not something that has been decided on or will be moved on this year.

ASUS President Niddam-Dent: Is there any indication that splitting up the executive would increase interest in running for AMS elections?

AMS President den Otter: We've chatted with – I've had conversations with other student union presidents. It seems to have worked for other university student unions and I would be interested in discussing it further with them in future, but there is no guarantee it would work better than our current electoral set up.

EngSoc President Lee: I think that if we were to look into how other schools would do it, I think it's really important to note that the AMS is very different in how it runs, it is one of the only incorporated student unions in Ontario. How that would apply to us, not necessarily taking for granted that it works for another school that it will work for us.

Speaker DeVenney: Does anyone have any further questions? Seeing as there are none – my apologies, for misinterpreting the question earlier. Alright, we will move on.

New Business

Motion #3 - Moved by Olivia Stanton, Seconded by Alexia Henriques

Motion for AMS Assembly approve the ratification of 39 clubs.

Commissioner Stanton: I can intro this. Every term we have a new ratification process for clubs where we offer the opportunity for students to start new clubs or to reratify student clubs that failed to be reratified in the previous year. We have some wonderful, expanded club opportunities. Happy to take any questions.

Speaker DeVenney: Any questions? Rector Hiemstra.

Rector Hiemstra: I am just curious about the club names, that include “the name of this club is.” If that is what we are ratifying them as, is that part of their official club name?

Commissioner Stanton: That's just a copy from the form, it is not part of their official names.

Speaker DeVenney: Any further questions? We will now vote – All in favour? All opposed? Any abstentions?

Motion carries.

Motion #4 - Moved by Caroline Hart, Seconded by Jared den Otter

Motion for AMS Assembly to ratify the Health Sciences Society (HSS).

Secretary Hart: These students have put in a lot of work to develop this new faculty. They've written a constitution, had meetings with department and faculty heads. In order to keep moving forward, we need Assembly's permission to get the ball rolling and develop fully their new faculty. I also think someone is here from that founding group to answer any questions and of course you can email me.

Speaker DeVenney: At this time, are there any questions for Secretary Hart or the founding member present at this time? Seeing none, we will move to a vote – All in favour? All opposed? Any abstentions?

Motion carries.

Motion #5 - Moved by Caroline Hart, Seconded by Jared den Otter

Motion for AMS Assembly to ratify the Dan School Undergraduate Society (DSUS).

Secretary Hart: This is actually wild – two faculties, one year. Kind of the same things as Health Sciences, just being one step ahead. How Dan is situated right now, they already have an exec team, but once we get the ball rolling they will be running an election. They are no longer a DSC, they will become a sister society to ASUS this year.

Speaker DeVenney: Last call for any questions on the Dan School. We will take this to a vote right now. All in favour? All opposed? Any abstentions?

Motion carries.

Adjournment

Moved by Alexia Henriques, Seconded by Hiemstra

Motion carries.

Assembly is adjourned at 19:09 EST.