



## AMS Assembly Minutes

December 3, 2020

**Minutes are tentative until approved at Assembly.**

The meeting was convened at 19:21 EST.

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

*Motion for AMS Assembly to approve the agenda of the meeting of December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020.*

**Speaker Devenny:** We will put this to a vote. As usual, for those who haven't been here or are new here, we do hand raise votes. If your camera is off, please use the emoji that looks like this to vote. All those in favour please raise your hand. All those opposed. Anyone who abstains.

*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 November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020.*

**Speaker Devenny:** All those in favour please raise your hand. All those against. Any abstentions.

*Motion passes.*

### **Speaker's Business**

**Speaker Devenny:** *Land recognition was statement read.* That's all from me for now, thank you everyone for coming out. I'm excited to be taking a break from schoolwork today. I'm sure everyone is excited too, I hope classes are going well.

### **President's Report**

**AMS President den Otter:** I'm not going to jump into my updates or go into my written report because I know we're on a time crunch. I did want to say welcome to some new folks, hello to Nathaniel, Ezra, and Emma. Welcome to assembly. I also just really wanted to say, we had a

really fun night talking to some students and some peers at the info session last night, thank you to all who showed up. I can't believe it's December, happy to take any questions as well.

### **Vice President's Report**

**AMS VP-OPS Samoyloff:** I will keep it short because I know I just talked everyone's ears off for thirty minutes. Just another big congratulations and a thank you to my team of head managers. Happy to take any questions.

**Speaker Devenny:** Thank you. We will move on to Vice President Henriques.

**AMS VP-UA Henriques:** Thank you for joining. First off, we had academic operations group on Tuesday. We got a lot of great feedback from faculty and admin, it was primarily regarding how all of the student feedback has been utilized and will be used in the coming semester. We've requested that the provost send out a mass communication to all students to let them know that they have been listening and have been working hard, that they're hearing student concerns and actively doing their best to implement them and improve coursework for the coming year. Also, there was a remote proctoring panel that occurred and they're recommending that they hold a couple more panels especially targeted at first years who might be struggling with their transition to post-secondary. To move along, just another update, I know that every month I chat about sexual violence prevention and response, the policy is going to the board of trustees this weekend for approval. And then finally, just flagging this, over the next semester there will be some campus wide surveys that will be coming out of the division of student affairs, one on student wellness and one focusing on sexual violence prevention and response. Those are my updates, looking forward to the new year, and I'm happy to take any questions.

### **Board of Directors Report**

**Chairperson Nensi:** I don't have any other updates on board business. Though it isn't undergrad, the graduate law student government got the law faculty to shut down proctor track for our exams over student privacy concerns, but always happy to chat about those advocacy efforts as well. Otherwise, nothing to add.

**Speaker Devenny:** EngSoc President Lee.

**EngSoc President Lee:** Did you say that proctor track was shut down for our students as in like undergrad or?

**Chairperson Nensi:** You wish. No, no, just the law students. Happy to support you guys in that effort but for now just us.

**AMS Representative Anderson:** I was just curious, what is the law department replacing the remote proctor system with?

**Chairperson Nensi:** I've got to say, they were not happy. At all. They were actually extremely angry. We will actually just be using Turnitin.

**AMS Representative Anderson:** I know I just have a class and this prof did say something about the worth of a Queen's degree. It is a fair point.

**Chairperson Nensi:** That is definitely one of the central counter-arguments.

**Speaker DeVenney:** Any other questions for Chairperson Nensi at this time?

### **Student Senator's Report**

**Chairperson Flowers:** Just on the topic we just came off though, at Senate we did talk about the academic integrity concerns from last year and in three faculties – engineering, education, and arts and science – have all increased fairly substantially in the last year in terms of, or at least over the last year, next semester certainly something that is worth considering in terms of advocacy.

**Speaker Devenny:** Any questions for Chairperson Flowers at this time?

### **Rector's Report**

**Speaker Devenny:** Rector Hiemstra regrettably could not be here tonight, so he asks that if you have any questions for him please email him directly or email Caroline.

### **Statements by Students**

**Speaker Devenny:** If you have anything that you would like to bring up or shout out, now is the time. Matt Mellon.

**Commissioner Mellon:** As a lot of you might have seen in my report, we were busy with UCRU advocacy week, meeting with various MPs last week. Rather timely, there was announced the cancellation of all interest on all federal student loans up until 2022. Coincidentally, that's one of the asks we were putting up all of last week. I just wanted to share with everybody here a message we received from a staffer from Freeland's office. I think you should be able to tell your student memberships that your advocacy yields results. I really did just want to share that with everyone here. Just kind of reminding everyone here that it does go to something. I think that this cancellation of interest on student loans is something that will really help people and that is thanks to the work we are doing here at the AMS, it does get noticed by the government.

**Speaker Devenny:** Any questions for Commissioner Mellon at this time? Does anyone have any comments they would like to bring up at this time?

## **Undergraduate Student Trustee Report**

**Trustee Bennett-Dwara:** Hi everyone. Nothing really to add, just adding two things. Board weekend is this weekend. Because we won't have assembly until next semester, if you are looking for any updates on this weekend, feel free to check out the report I will be releasing. Another exciting thing, a new program called Interchange 2020, it's something we've been after since classes were announced to be online this summer. But basically, it's this program from international students in china specifically where they can take credits at their home universities and have them count here. It is not the same as the letter of permission in that there is no application fee amongst other things. Happy to take questions.

## **New Business**

### **Motion #3 – Moved by Caroline Hart, Seconded by Jared den Otter**

*That AMS Assembly ratify Yasmin Sawan as Judicial Affairs Deputy.*

**Secretary Hart:** Just what we talked about at the September assembly, we hired our last round of judicial affairs deputies as well as one more elections deputy. They're excited to learn, they've all gotten started. Happy to take any questions.

**Speaker Devenny:** Are there any questions for Secretary Hart or President den Otter? Seeing none, we will move on to a vote. All in favour please raise your hand. Anyone who would like to vote no. Any abstention.

*Motion passes.*

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

*That AMS Assembly ratify Tina Derak as Judicial Affairs Deputy.*

**Secretary Hart:** I will just echo the statement I said before.

**Speaker Devenny:** We will now take this to a vote if there are no questions. All in favour please raise your hand. All opposed. And if there are any abstentions.

*Motion passes.*

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

*That AMS Assembly ratify Mia Sunner as Judicial Affairs Deputy.*

**Speaker Devenny:** We can take any questions or statements at this time Seeing as there are no questions or introductions, we will move on to a vote. All in favour please raise your hand. All opposed. Any abstentions.

*Motion passes.*

**Motion #6 - Moved by Caroline Hart, Seconded by Jared den Otter**

*That AMS Assembly ratify Dennis Gavriline as Judicial Affairs Deputy.*

**Speaker Devenny:** If anyone has any questions at this time please feel free to speak up. Seeing as there are none right now, we will vote right now. All in favour please raise your hand. All opposed. And any abstentions.

*Motion passes.*

**Motion #7 - Moved by Caroline Hart, Seconded by Jared den Otter**

*That AMS Assembly ratify Ashley Chen as Elections Deputy.*

**Secretary Hart:** Nothing to add to the current other statement.

**Speaker Devenny:** If there are any questions please speak up. Once again, we will take it to a vote. All in favour please raise your hand. All opposed. And any abstentions.

*Motion passes.*

**Discussion Period**

**Secretary Hart:** So, if you guys all received my email, you would have seen that we've been working for the past seven months on sort of revamping what used to be policy manual three. I apologize, there was a name change after we sent it out, the now proposed name is "AMS Principals and Positions" as it is no longer a policy manual and is a position paper. We took the time to read the old policy manual three attached to that email and we took it amongst ourselves to rewrite these stances with the student intention in the focus. We've been working on it since May, if anyone else who worked on this wants to say something feel free. We just wanted to bring it to your attention as this is something we're really passionate about working on, hoping to bring it forward as a discussion and get some feedback. In January, we will bring it back and hopefully pass and implement it. Everyone who worked on the policy is all here so we're happy to take any questions.

**Speaker Devenny:** EngSoc President Lee.

**EngSoc President Lee:** As a point of information, is there any rationale to the ordering of these sections or is it purely just random?

**Secretary Hart:** It is alphabetical.

**EngSoc President Lee:** I just wanted to say that this year the issue of international student tuition was brought up to me and I'm glad to see that international student advocacy is still in the AMS's policy manual.

**Commissioner Galvani:** I would just like to say that we now have a director of international affairs within my commission as well. We've been holding lots of meetings with different stakeholders in the university that international students are facing in the university. Thank you.

**ASUS President Niddam-Dent:** Looking through here, I noticed that there are a few sections with a little more detail, like sexual violence prevention and response, but then the section on EDII is lighter. I was wondering if that was an intentional choice, but was it relevant or a decision not to include those specific recommendations as you went forward?

**Commissioner Sahi:** Very fair. That was a conversation we had at the AMS as well. EDII is a huge umbrella and arguably could have its own paper, its own policy, which is why we wanted to make sure we weren't picking and choosing things to keep out, we thought that would be too exclusionary to choose what we were and potentially were not discussing and we didn't feel comfortable singling out ones we were currently addressing at the university's interest. We figured EDI is something that can be addressed on an annual basis.

**EngSoc President Lee:** I just wanted to note as something that might be of interest to the members of assembly that even though the EDII section may be short, a lot of the other sections do contain EDII components such as the tuition section and the international student section so it is all interwoven.

**Speaker Devenny:** Did anyone else have anything they would like to add to the discussion regarding policy manual three? Secretary Hart.

**Secretary Hart:** If you take some time over the winter break to fully read it over and you have some questions, feel free to email any of us. But again, I just wanted to echo that, on behalf of the team that worked on this, thank you for discussing this with us so that we can put forward the best possible policy manual.

**EngSoc President Lee:** I just had a question about the order we follow, does the policy paper plan to be a motion, does it have to be approved at next assembly?

**Speaker Devenny:** Yes, this is just a discussion topic. It is up to Secretary Hart if it comes up for a vote at the next assembly.

### **Adjournment**

**Moved by Alexandra Samoyloff, Seconded by Jared den Otter**

*Motion carries.*

Assembly is adjourned at 19:48 EST.