



AMS Assembly Minutes

February 25, 2021

Minutes are tentative until approved at Assembly.

The meeting was convened at 18:03 EST.

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

Motion for Assembly to approve the agenda of the meeting of January 29th, 2021.

Secretary Hart: Can we remove I think it is motion five from the agenda?

Speaker DeVenney: We can remove it from the agenda. Any other amendments? Alright, we will bring it to a vote. If you are a voting member, please raise your hand. All in favour. All opposed.

Motion carries.

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

Motion for Assembly to approve the minutes of the meeting of December 3rd, 2020.

Motion carries.

Speaker's Business

Speaker DeVenney: *Land acknowledgement was stated.* I encourage you to do your research on where you are situated right now and we continue to learn about decolonizing our education as we strive to be the student leaders that we are. There isn't much from me, I know we're all ready and refreshed to go. The days are slowly getting more bright and I'm excited to continue.

Guest Speaker

Terry-Lynn Brennan: I would like to thank you for acknowledging this land. I would say it's -

The guest speaker has frozen and their zoom has dropped.

Secretary Hart: Brief moment everyone. I'll figure it out. If everyone here named Guest can change your name to your actual name that would be great. I'm just trying to figure out if our guest speaker has been put into another room, I'll be back. How about we move on to the next order of business and return to this after.

President's Report

AMS President den Otter: Hello, hope you're all doing well. I know we just got back from reading break, I hope you were all able to get away from your screens and reset. Not too many additional things for my report. We have a new AMS executive, congratulations to team RTZ. We're really excited to start that transition process, it's going to be a busy time. The harassment and sexual violence prevention policy review is still undergoing so you can find that I've linked it in my report so if you're looking for it you can find it there. They're in their second draft of feedback so look into that if you can. We actually got to meet with the provost today and he was chatting a bit how the student code of conduct is also taking comments and student feedback right now until March 18th. They're also planning to hold an open meeting for student code of conduct feedback don't forget about that. We're in the midst of AMS hiring right now, the new team will be hired in the next few weeks which is very exciting and hard to believe that it's been a year already for a lot of us. My last little update, I'm not sure if you folks have seen but the provincial government is now trying to appeal the decision that the divisional court made for the student choice initiative so we don't really know what's going to happen right now but a lot of decisions will be made in March so I just kind of wanted to let you know if you weren't aware and let you know that we will be shifting our transition process to be ready. We're preparing for that, sitting and waiting and monitoring that situation. If you folks have any questions at all, send me an email, set up a meeting. Let me know if you have any questions, if you wanted to chat we can chat about it further. I really hope that you were able to relax over the break and that you're getting back into the swing of things and midterms aren't too wild right now. Happy to take any questions.

Vice President's Report

VP-OPS Samoyloff: I hope everyone is doing well, hope you had a great reading week. If you're in Kingston over the next week, CoGro will be reopening, we have special deals over March and very exciting news to announce, so keep your eyes on our social media. It's very exciting that we'll be able to open up again and our other services will be following suit. Just another note, we have reopened the winter 2021 bus subsidy for one extra week so applications will close next Wednesday, please apply, love to find that extra support in funding the bus pass this year. That's it for me, happy to answer any questions. I hope everyone has a great rest of their week.

VP-UA Henriques: Hope everyone is doing well and got a bit of rest over the reading week. First, huge congratulations to the successful candidates in the election and referenda,

congratulations to Team RTZ. We're beginning that transition, we're already beginning that, they're beginning hiring so that'll be an exciting period. We're also expanding clubs, you'll see in the agenda as motion number three, hopefully expand the club realm at Queen's. We're proud of the clubs team for fulfilling this online remote ratification period. We are having conversations about international student support. We will be meeting myself as well as the campus affairs commissioner Galvani with the provost as well as the dean of student affairs and the VP of international so that'll be really exciting to start those conversations. I also add just a message from some folks at the DSA, they've been working on a student experiences survey, would like to should out Angela and Charlotte for their work consulting with the folks there. It's an in-depth initiative to understand racism, exclusionary practices, and sexual violence on campus, this is a pilot survey and the first one that has been done. They just wanted me to mention that the intention is to distribute this survey every two years to measure changes in the campus climate over time. I encourage you all to share it broadly with your peers. That's all from me for now, if anyone has any questions I can always take those.

Speaker DeVenney: I will take it to Dr. Brennan now to continue with her presentation.

Guest Speaker

Terri-Lynn Brennan: Technology is great isn't it – I won't belabour this too long other than to say welcome to this virtual space and to the territory of my family here on the shores of Lake Ontario. I live on Wolff island, may some of you have visited it during your Queen's, well, when you're here – as a place to visit, I'm sure I've seen you on the ferry. To make this a bit quicker, I'm going to have you do an online virtual project with me through mentimeter. If you're familiar, great, if you're not, it's a fairly simple process. What I'm going to have you do is to open a new webpage in your browser – you don't need to exit out of zoom, just open a new webpage. I just need to get sorted here myself. In that new browser webpage, put in the website www.menti.com - can I share my screen?

Secretary Hart: You should be able to now.

Terri-Lynn Brennan: Awesome, thank you. I hope that you can see my screen and that you're seeing an introduction page to the process we are about to do. If you visit, you will see there is a place to input a code, our code is 9434865. Hopefully you all don't have any issue with getting in. I have to confess that it's really nice to be working with a younger group of folks, you have no idea how long it takes for some folks to bring up another webpage in a zoom call. If you're familiar with mentimeter, you will know it's a platform where people can submit comments and ideas, so if you're just sitting there sleeping on me behind a black screen, I might just have to track you down somehow. Joking. It'd be nice to see you if you don't mind sharing your video. I'm going to get started so that I don't make your meeting any longer than it needs to be. First question – is there a post-secondary institution you are familiar with that has an Indigenous initiatives office and/or comparable entity? And it's an office that you've engaged with and had a good experience with? If so, could you name the institution that it's at? You can also just say if you don't know. There's no right or wrong answer, it's just a gauge for me to know who or what

people are bringing in at this stage of the conversation. Have you engaged with the Indigenous initiatives office over the last three years and if so how did the office make you feel or help you learn, anything along those lines. Alright, thank you for that, I'm glad some of you are familiar with Four Directions. Next question – a little bit of background about why we are having this conversation. I am a strategic planner and intercultural planner policy advisor. I don't work for the office of Indigenous initiatives but I do a lot of work for Queen's as a contracted agent, so I have been contracted by the office to support a five year strategic plan for them. They came into existence three years ago when Queen's and the office was actually recommendation number three, the creation of it. In these three years they've been monitoring all units, all sectors of the university to ensure that people are taking up some of the twenty five recommendations to actually implement them in all that they try to do and encompass, not only on the academic side but in the administrative. Even in finance, if they are thinking of different ways to share their space - it's an all-encompassing way of thinking. We are trying to move beyond just following along with the recommendations but put it in a proactive place and meet what student, staff, and faculty and basically meeting the needs of what folks think it should be doing. How everyone can support the office and try and build a relationship with the office and see if there is a reciprocal relationship that can develop over time. What would you say if you hadn't had any engagement with the office of Indigenous initiatives and you're thinking about maybe not even understanding what the office does, what important considerations would be important for them to know, maybe take into consideration why you haven't engaged the office and therefore what might the office need to do to strengthen that or impress upon you more. Anything along those lines. Fabulous. This is great. Many of your comments are spot on to what kind of initiatives we are hoping to see. Just to give you some information, Four Directions did basically do what the office is doing now but because of the capacity overload of the people in Four Directions, Four Directions is trying to ramp up its student programming and its student support systems but in talking about the AMS, Clubs, societies, committees, the office of Indigenous initiatives would be part of that world and do that initiative. They're also trying to bring in more local groups here in Kingston, folks more directly from communities such and start to build those connections in a stronger way but this is fabulous, thank you. So that, keeping all that in mind, can you come up with any ideas of how the AMS could work or build a reciprocal relationship with the office of Indigenous initiatives to date, they have been very much on-call as a reactive voice to the violence that's occurred on campus so it's now about becoming proactive and how they can proactively work with organizations, councils, committees, all of those things, and the individuals specifically within them. Okay. Any more ideas or is this one a safe one to not expect everybody to answer? Position on council. Yeah, great. Alright, is it okay if I go on? Okay, I can't see all of you but if someone is dying to put something in here just yell out now, otherwise, 3, 2, 1. Okay. What does the office of Indigenous initiatives need to do in order to succeed and function effectively going forward? There are five individuals who work in the office and they support the entire institution, including the castle, the campuses, so it's a matter of understanding all of the parameters of what all you need to succeed so it might help to explain what type of resources you had in mind. I love the idea that it's succeeding by just existing, but is it though? Some of you hadn't heard of it, needs a marketing spiel that could work. But it's also a matter that if it doesn't stay effective or in a position that's growing, it's going to be not gotten rid of

but it could be sucked into something bigger. Can someone tell me what QINS is? I don't know all of Queen's acronyms. Thank you all so much. How can or should the office of Indigenous initiatives center indigenization without erasing ideas of decolonization, anti-racism, unconscious bias, truth-telling, et cetera? This is a tough one. If you know, I'm hoping you know, but the mandate of Queen's has been the adoption of EDII, so where equity, diversity, and inclusion is a common acronym in the social justice world, Queen's has adopted a second "I" for indigenization, Queen's is the only organization that has done that, it makes quite the statement, but in doing that, what does indigenization mean in that capacity? And does it then diminish the other terms listed here or other ways at looking at diverse identity, the pride in diverse identity? What ways can indigenization become more of a daily routine across campus and across the Queen's scope? I appreciate the person who said they have mixed feelings about the inclusion of the second "I." There are many people in the higher positions at Queen's who are juggling with these concepts as well. Have any of you done the blanket exercise, the kairos blanket exercise? I see some shaking heads. Good. Does anybody else have some burning – oops. Burning questions? The next question is very similar – I see something else, good, thank you. I don't want to cut into too much of your time. So how can the office address past colonial wrongs and the violence that has occurred, not just the standout violence of the last year but for the 180 years that the university existed without erasing inconvenient truths. Might be a redundant question but also could maybe expand upon actionable things. I hope many of you go on to be faculty. Have any of you engaged with an Indigenous elder on campus, in a classroom or at events? Okay. Anyone who is, okay thank you, Cindy, that's great. Last question, then you're off the hook. In one word, what does the existence of the office of Indigenous initiatives mean to you? You can put in more than one word, I think you have the option to put in three different words. Thank you, Nya:weh'ko:wa, for sharing. If you wanted to share more offline or 1:1, I'm okay, Caroline, with you sharing my email, I don't check my Queen's one as much that's why I sent you my usual business one, I'm open to any and all conversations because I came to ensure the office has a long future. Unless someone has any questions or comments, I can let you get back to your very busy meeting. Thank you all for definitely being such a great group, you got onto the technology real fast and your answers are awesome. I'm really very, very appreciative of your wisdom.

Secretary Hart: I just wanted to say thank you again, I know I learned a lot. Thank you so much and I hope you have a great evening. I'm sorry for the technical difficulties at the beginning there.

Terri-Lynn Brennan: Thank you all so much for your time.

Zoom call was ended briefly due to technical difficulty. Assembly resumed at 18:59 EST.

Speaker DeVenney: Welcome back, everyone, from our brief interlude. We will recommence our reports with Chairperson Nensi.

Board Report

Chairperson Nensi: As always, nothing to really add. Happy to take any questions.

Trustee's Report

Trustee Bennett-Dwara: I'll make it brief, don't really have much to add. Board is going to be meeting next weekend, super excited for that lots of super exciting stuff. In terms of other initiatives, for those who don't know, we wanted to get a mural up on campus focused at promoting visibility for BIPOC students and I'm really happy to say we got approval. It is very early in the process right now, but we did get the go ahead so we're just figuring out what barriers are going to exist to get this up and what consults we would have to do between students and admin but it's super exciting, it been a long time coming, it's been a group effort for sure. If anyone wants to get more information on that feel free to email me hopefully we are looking at an end date of the end of this summer as many of our coalition members are graduating so we want to make sure that it's not left for the next leaders or chairs. For the medical amnesty policy, I was talking about bringing it up to the nonacademic subcommittee and as Jared mentioned the student conduct policy is being opened up right now because the harassment and sexual violence prevention policy is. It's kind of been tabled until the September board meeting because there's so much going on with the student code of conduct and there isn't enough time to address it properly with all of the other consultations going on right now. I'm obviously ending my position this June because I'm graduating. The consultation period is now open. The original closing end date was March 8 but we did get it extended because that was way too short. The last this is the student climate experience survey that Alexia mentioned, that's something that has been in the works for a long time, so many people worked on it. Happy to take questions.

Student Senate's Report

Speaker DeVenny: Chairperson Flowers is not present, if you have any questions about his report please contact him directly.

Rector's Report

Speaker DeVenney: Rector Hiemstra is also not present. Please contact him directly if you have any questions.

Statements by Students

Speaker DeVenney: This is a time where members or members at large can bring up matters that are important to them and we can have members of assembly comment on them. If anyone has any statements please feel free to speak up now.

Secretary Hart: I don't know if Sydney or any members from Hillel are here or – Sydney, there you are.

Member-At-Large Sydney: As you saw in the agenda, we are putting forward a motion for the AMS to support Hillen and Holocaust education week. Holocaust education week is a method we use to encourage university students to grapple with the past to work towards the future and fight against events that are taking place, like the swastikas in the zoom bombing event. We are trying to encourage a greater dialogue on campus and to help educate about the Holocaust. If you have any questions I am happy to answer any questions.

Speaker DeVenney: Thank you, does anyone have anything they would like to add or ask on the matter?

Secretary Hart: Thanks Sydney for joining us and giving us all that information and also in the agenda there is in the appendix information given to you and this counted as our first reading of that motion so in March we will provide our official vote on that motion. Thank you so much Sydney for coming.

Speaker DeVenney: Awesome. Does anyone else have any motions they would like to bring forward? Seeing none, we will move on.

New Business

Motion #3 - Moved by Caroline Hart, Seconded by Alexia Henriques

Motion that AMS Assembly approve the ratification of twenty-three clubs.

AMS VP-UA Henriques: The assistant commissioner of clubs has joined us this evening and she was really a leader in the ratification process this winter. If any of you have any questions about clubs or how they were ratified, Sarah and I are both here to answer. I'll pass it over to Sarah now if she would like to go over any comments about the process this year.

Member-at-Large Deckers: I'm bringing forward this motion, the process for the winter 2021 process was the exact same as the fall period, totally up with the clubs policy as it composed of a written application, the submission of the clubs constitution, and an interview conducted by myself and the director of advancement. Let me know if you have any questions.

Speaker DeVenney: Does anyone have any questions for Member-at-Large Deckers? Seeing none – I think – we will move on to a vote. All those in favour, please raise your hand. All who would like to abstain. And anyone who would like to vote no.

Motion carries.

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

Motion that AMS Assembly approve the addition of CESA President Julia Bukala to the Norman, Ian, Lorna Rogers Scholarship Adjudication Committee.

AMS President den Otter: Some of you folks know this motion is to allow CESA President Bukala to sit on the selection committee for this award. I will quickly read the award description just so you folks know. This scholarship was established by the estate of the Rogers family, awarded annually at the close of each academic year to a student who displays outstanding leadership during said academic year. There is a member at large who sits on its committee and then it just goes off to describe the committee that awards the scholarship, we are putting forward the motion for Juliet to take that open seat.

Speaker DeVenney: Any questions at this time on that motion? Seeing none, we will now take this matter to a vote. All in favour please raise your hand. Any abstentions. And anyone who would like to vote no.

Motion carries.

Discussion Period

Commissioner Mellon: I'll keep this brief. UCRU, the federal advocacy group we are a member, has put forward a series of by-laws for the AMS to sign and we will have to agree with them and be legally bound by them going forward. This has been developed by their lawyers and reviewed by us including our own lawyers at the AMS. They have been vetted pretty thoroughly. We would sign on to them, that would formalize our membership with UCRU and legally bind us to these by-laws. I thought I would bring this up now in order to give everyone a chance to read them through and see if there are any final edits that should be added to them before we officially sign on.

Speaker DeVenney: Are there any questions at this time for Commissioner Mellon?

Commissioner Mellon: Alright, I'll take that as them looking really good. Thank you.

Adjournment

Moved by Samoyloff, Seconded by Henriques

Motion carries.

Assembly is adjourned at 19:14 EST.