



## AMS Assembly Minutes

September 21st, 2021

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

The meeting was convened at 6:30p.m. EST.

**Speaker Amir-Ali Golrokhian-Sani:** So, it's my first time really using Teams in years so hopefully that goes well. Let's begin with motion one.

**Motion #1 – Moved by Secretary Laura Devenny, Seconded by AMS President Zaid Kasim**  
*Motion for Assembly to approve the agenda of the meeting of September 21st, 2021].*

FOR: Unanimous  
AGAINST: None  
ABSENTIONS: None

*Motion carries.*

**Motion #2 – Moved by Secretary Devenny, Seconded by President Kasim**  
*Motion for Assembly to approve the minutes of the meeting of April 12th, 2021.*

FOR: Unanimous  
AGAINST: None  
ABSENTIONS: None

*Motion carries.*

## **Speaker's Business**

**Speaker Amir-Ali Golrokhian-Sani:** With that out of the way, we'll move into the Speaker's Business. So first we're going to begin with this new land acknowledgment that I have:

*Katarokwi or Kingston, as we understand it today, is abundant in history and modern-day traditions of many First Nations and Metis. In particular, the Alma Mater Society would like to acknowledge that it's Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee territory which Queen's University resides on. These lands surrounding the Great Lakes are immersed in thousands of generations of indigenous history, including language, art, celebrations, and resilience. We recognize that it was within the Crawford purchase of 1783 that these lands were made available for settlements, and the agreements made were upheld by the First Peoples, but not the British crown or later the Canadian government. While we work on these lands as uninvited guests we actively benefit from the oppression of indigenous peoples. Because of our settler positionality, we have an obligation to listen to indigenous voices, and we must act in ways that will condemn past and ongoing violence against indigenous peoples and support positive change.*

*As a branch of the Society that strives to connect student leaders and facilitate positive change and student advocacy on Turtle Island, we strive to maintain the core values and teachings from indigenous peoples. We are incredibly grateful for the ability to do so. As the Secretariat Office facilitates Assembly, elections and Judicial Affairs, it is our duty to ensure the voices of indigenous and marginalized peoples are amplified, as well as provide resources on how we can facilitate and help in advocacy that is important. We encourage all members of the Office as student leaders, to reflect on privileges that they have been afforded on this land, and use it to ensure campus safety, accessibility and impact for all students. As settlers on this stolen land of the Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee peoples, we must continue to educate ourselves and strive to decolonize every layer of our governance system and curricula, and to indigenize our learning. The resilience of indigenous peoples and their traditions should be applauded and inspire strength and kindness in us all. The Wampum belt covenant should be used as our compass as we navigate our journey of reconciliation with Indigenous people of Canada. The Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee people had a mutual understanding of how to share the land and resources peacefully with one another. By living on this land, we must also abide by these values.*

**Speaker Amir-Ali Golrokhian-Sani:** Sorry about that. I'll be better next time. And just some other information real quick. Once again, I will now encourage everyone to turn on their cameras if they haven't already, kind of like in person assembly, hopefully, and just a reminder that only voting assembly members can raise their hands or we will get very confused. Thank you. Alright, transitioning to our guest speaker for today, I will call forward Ombudsperson Lavonne Hood.

## Guest Speaker

**Full Name:** Lavonne Hood, Ombudsperson

**Ombudsperson Hood:** Hi, everyone. Good evening. Thank you for inviting me and welcoming me to your assembly today. My name is Lavonne Hood, I am the university ombudsperson, and I have been in that role since August 2019, which feels like ages ago. I started on campus until March of 2020 and I've been in my basement since then. I just wanted to let you all know a bit about our office and what we do. (Shows PowerPoint image) Here's our webpage, for the Office of the University Ombudsperson. So, I'm the one in the middle, and Catherine is the Intake Coordinator, she's the one on the right.

Catherine is the first point of contact. When you reach out to our office, it's Catherine that you're likely to hear from first and she does triage on matters. Amy Burtch, the one on the left, is the Communications and Outreach Manager, and she's responsible for our websites and all of our outreach and also all of the wonderful tipsheets and resources that we have on our website.

Our office is ruled by three key principles: we are impartial, independent and confidential. When you meet with us, any matter that we discuss is not going to be shared with anyone else unless you give us express consent to do so. We are impartial meaning that we do not take sides. We're not on anybody's side, so we're not there to take Queen's' side, and we're also not advocating for the student or any community member. We are impartial; we're actually on the side of fairness is how I like to think about it.

In our office we what we do essentially is that you come in or you contact us, since we are not physically in the office right now. We listen to what you have to say and then we give you advice and guide you through the processes. We give you guidance about policies and procedures, of which there are many. We also help to empower students, staff and faculty so that they know how to navigate through university decision-making and any process that they're involved with.

A bit more about what we do, because people try to guess what we do, and they don't know much about the office so we just decided to write it down and make it easier. The main thing that we do is help ensure procedural fairness in decision-making. We help to ensure that the decision made has been followed that there's been an opportunity for students to have their case heard, that the decision maker is not biased, that you have been given a reason for your decisions, that sort of thing. We also provide general advice to Queen's community members about their rights and responsibilities. Our office is unique in that we are not only the Ombuds Office for Students, but we also provide guidance for all community members. Students, faculty, parents, and community members can come to our office to connect with us, and so we're a resource for all community members. We provide guidance on the procedure to follow, and we help to ensure that community members understand policies and procedures that they are engaging with and know what their next steps are. That's a big part I would say of what we do: we take the anxiety out of "what is your next step?". In high-anxiety moments, you come to us and we help guide you and break the process down into easily digestible pieces.

We are also an office of referral, so we help to connect you with the appropriate office or publication at Queen's so that you are connected with the right office, the right individual or the right contacts so that you can get your matters resolved. We also recommend changes to any university policies and procedures if we feel that there is an issue around fairness, because we have a mandate for helping to identify systemic issues. We also provide training and educational tools. And then what we don't do: as I said earlier, we are not an advocate for any Queen's community member. I think there are some who are disappointed when they hear that because they are looking for an advocate, but fortunately we are not an advocate because we have that principle of impartiality, so we have to not advocate for any community member, including the University itself. Instead, we help to ensure that the process is fair and that it's being followed. We also do not have a case management role. We are not the decision-maker and we can't overturn any decision of the decision-maker. And if there's a grievance involving a collective agreement we can't be involved. Also, we don't accept notice on behalf of the university meaning someone cannot have an issue with Queen's, for example Queen's had been named in a lawsuit, and then they reach out to our office and think that, "Okay well Queen knows now they've been served". The Ombuds Office cannot be served on behalf of the university.

So, a big thing that we deal with has to do with appeals processes. Students primarily engage with our office because they are going through an appeal and so we have developed several tip sheets that you can find on our websites; we have one on the appeal process itself at Queen's and also we have another tip sheet about writing an appeal letter. We also see a lot around academic integrity, so we have developed a tip sheet on how to respond to a notice of investigation, and guidance about the academic integrity process. We have all of these on our resources page on our website.

And then, lastly, we also have a training opportunity. As I said, we help to ensure procedural fairness, and in doing so, what we have done is actually developed training on procedural fairness because, from my point of view, I do not think it's fair that decision-makers are required to follow procedural fairness. How are they supposed to know what procedural fairness is? They should not have had to have gone to law school and become a lawyer like I did. So, to ensure that the process is fair from the beginning we have developed procedural fairness training, and also training on writing good decisions. These are available in asynchronous modules on Rise 360. We can meet with community members who are interested in the training for a follow up Q&A session to answer any questions from that training. If any of you were interested in that, I highly recommend it. The training is easy to follow and straightforward, and if you're dealing with students who might come to ask you about a process and if it was fair, it's helpful if you understand if there was actually any issues around procedural fairness. If any or you are interested in that training, please reach out to our office and we're happy to create a session specifically for you.

Lastly, we're working remotely. The best way to reach us is through email, or you can go to our website and all of those tipsheets that I mentioned are on there. There's also a page where you can connect with us and contact us that way. That's it for me. I'm happy to take any questions, if anyone has any questions about the Ombuds office or my role.

**Secretary Devenny:** So, how does your office interact with, say, the Rector? Once the new Rector is elected, how will you and your office work in that same capacity of procedural fairness? The Rector tends to work in the same vein as your office but as a significant other.

**Ombudsperson Hood:** Thank you for that question. Our office does have a big role with the Rector, it's almost like a mentor type of role. With the previous Rectors, we would meet bi-weekly or monthly, because the Rector has a similar role as the Ombuds office, but for students. I serve as a mentor, where they can come to me and ask any questions, or they can come to me if they're trying to get a matter resolved and just need some guidance, because my office is confidential and because I understand the process. Sometimes we also work together. A student might engage with the Rector first and then the Rector refers the students to me or vice versa. So, we do work really closely together.

**Secretary Devenny:** Awesome, that's really good to hear.

**Speaker Amir-Ali Golrokhian-Sani:** I'm not seeing any further questions, so thank you for the presentation. I will move on to the president's report, so if I may call forward President Kasim.

### **President's Report**

**AMS President Kasim:** Hello everyone! I'm Zaid Kasim, President of the AMS. Nice to see all of you, to see many familiar faces, and many new ones as well. Welcome to the first official Assembly of the academic year. Speaking on behalf of the AMS, we're truly excited to have you all here, and the next couple of months are going to be really exciting. Namely, we have the transition to in-person classes and operations ongoing, which is amazing. So, for my report this assembly, instead of telling everyone what I did all summer - I did have President's caucuses all summer so folks who are curious can ask the Presidents, and our executive for the AMS will be releasing a summer report and updated platform in the next week or two. So, if you're curious about those kind of updates, they're there or you can email me directly. I did want to share with everyone though that I have the privilege as President to give a couple speeches to the Board of Trustees, which is one of the three governing bodies of Queen's University, and I wanted to just share with everyone what my speech/report is going to be including because I think it's pretty relevant to all of us as students, and I'm your key advocate here so I want to make sure that all of you are aware of the things that I'm mentioning. One of the big things that I'm mentioning is, with regards to the return to in-person classes, over the past couple of weeks, the AMS has gotten quite a bit of feedback that there are quite a few students who are still not quite as satisfied with the online versions of their classes, as the quality of those classes does differentiate quite significantly between departments and faculties. And because all of us are paying full tuition, all of us deserve that sense of quality in our education, so I am mentioning that directly to the Board of Trustees, and really ensuring that they know that there need to be guidelines in place for instructors on how to develop those classes. As well, I think many instructors need to be a little bit more accommodating, because although we are moving into in-person instruction - which we are very privileged and happy about - we're still in the middle of a pandemic and accommodations for students need to be in place more than ever. Otherwise, and kind of in the

same vein, I am mentioning mental health and wellness. Obviously, the last year and a half has really shown us that wellness is key to the success of our community. And I think, you know, changes are hard, so transitioning out of a pandemic into a more in-person model can be very difficult on all of our students, staff, and faculty. So I am recommending to the Board of Trustees that they increase the allocation of funding to Student Wellness Services for these. I understand that the allocation of the budget for trustees has already been completed, but this is more being mentioned in the context of chats for next year, so that is something that hopefully they take well.

The next thing is student representation and I think this is an exciting one, that Laura and I have had great conversations about. The Presidents and I haven't chatted about it yet but we, through many of the conversations we've had over the summer, have recognized a systemic issue in our institution, and that is that students do not have enough representation on the Board of Trustees. While we have an Undergraduate Trustee, and we have a Rector (which is currently vacant), we think that every single faculty should be able to elect its own Undergraduate Trustee, similar to how every single faculty has a Senator, and that we should have a similar system to the Student Senate Caucus, have a Student Trustee Caucus. The more students on the Board of Trustees, the better. We think that this is a really fair ask; as you know, us undergraduates kind of drive this whole shindig so hopefully they respond well to that. I'm going to kind of put the ball in their court but be like "hey, we're aware of it, do something please!".

On the topic of the Rector, I did include a bit of a Rector report, but maybe I will let Laura chat about that later, as she is so passionate about the Rector. But all in all, that's what was in my report. As always, feel free to email me or message me if you ever need anything! That goes for every single person on this call because I am your number one supporter! That's it from me folks, thanks!

**Speaker Amir-Ali Golrokhian-Sani:** Alright, thank you for that! Any questions?

**Engineering Society VP of Student Affairs Edwards:** Hi, I have a quick question. You mentioned talking to the departments about the delivery of online courses. I would also ask if the masking policy is going to be brought up, because I know a number of students in engineering are feeling very unsafe in their classrooms. A lot of our classes are only offered in-person and not online, and there are a lot of students who are not following the protocol. I think that that is also a worthwhile discussion point for the Board when it comes to in-person versus online offerings.

**AMS President Kasim:** That is a very, very good point Kaija, thank you for that. I actually had a meeting today with the provost, Mark Green, and I did bring this up to him. He is very, very aware of the issue. I do plan on bringing it up briefly in my speech. I understand that engineering is one of those tricky programs because there's that mandate that you need to be in-person for many of your classes, if not all of them. So, the AMS is always happy to work alongside the

Engineering Society, to help advocate for anything that you folks need, but we're definitely aware of it and we're going to try our best on our end to advocate for you folks because that's a big concern for us; you want every single student to feel safe, whether they're online or in-person.

**Engineering Society VP of Student Affairs Edwards:** Awesome, thank you.

**Speaker Amir-Ali Golrokhian-Sani:** Alright, if that's all, Vice President Wong, if you will come forward.

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

**AMS VP of Operations Wong:** Hi everyone, I'm Tiana Wong, Vice President of Operations of the AMS. My report was short and sweet this time, I didn't mention budgeting. I think I'll just highlight some points from my report. Due to the nature of some events happening at post-secondary institutions, I really want to highlight that the Peer Support Center and Walk Home are both functional and operating right now. The Peer Support Center is open, 10:00am to 8:00pm online, and starting next week they'll also be open in-person from 11:00am to 5:00pm. Please feel free to spread the word! Walk Home is open 8:00pm to 3:00am every single night, so please let everyone know if anyone is feeling unsafe or ever needs to talk to someone, they can access those services. They're completely confidential and judgment-free. The services have just been completing training, and we're continuing to hire so there's lots of opportunities out there for student jobs. Student Constables are hiring, and soon to come Walk Home and Student Life Center will be hiring. If anybody you know was looking for a position, they can just look at AMS Apply or [myams.org/apply](https://myams.org/apply).

Other than that, I'm working on planning for Charity Month in November, and an exciting update is that the senior management of the AMS has chosen Kingston Youth Center as the charity of choice for Charity Month this semester. I think those are all of my relevant updates, but I'm happy to take any questions.

**Speaker Amir-Ali Golrokhian-Sani:** I'm not seeing any questions, so once again thank you for that, and I will move on to VP of Undergraduate Affairs Sieg.

**AMS VP-UA Sieg:** Hi everyone, I'm Ryan Sieg, Vice President of Undergraduate Affairs. I'll give a few updates of what I've been working on through the end of the summer, and a few things that are coming forward. First, on the 11th and 12th and 18th and 19th, as I'm sure many of you know, we had our two weekends of in-person orientation events. They went very well and I think it was very impressive that they were pulled off so well, so thank you to all of our

orientation planners! Also, a big shout out to Campus Affairs Commissioner Anika and her team, they did a phenomenal job - everyone involved did a great job!

Something else that's been an ongoing topic that I know many of you are aware of as well is the idea of town-gown relations; of tensions with the city and increased enforcement with partying in the university district. With all of that, we've been in some meetings, there was the emergency town hall with Principal Deane. I have an open call for any recommendations if anyone has any ideas for how we can go about rebuilding those relationships, my inbox is always open. Also, if any of you are involved in any type of service that benefits the community, I would appreciate it if you can reach out to us and let us amplify your projects because I think that's a really big way of rebuilding the relationship with the city. For example, there have been citywide cleanups in the past; if any of you are doing things in the community that promote community good, let us know and we can help amplify that you're doing those things. I think that would be really beneficial for rebuilding the relationship.

The next thing is sustainability. Right now, Jessie, the Commissioner of Environmental Sustainability has this Sustainable Action Fund open to taking applications. If you have, or know of anyone who has, any sustainability initiatives, that's a great source of funding for that and so the applications are open right now. I believe they are closing on Friday the 24<sup>th</sup>, so get applications in for that! Something else I wanted to talk about is some of the equity stuff that we have going on right now. Our Social Issues Commissioner Mark has been leading monthly training for all of our senior management team which has been very good. Leading lots of EDI conversations with our senior management team, which was one of the commitments for last year and something that we're planning on continuing, and I think those are going very well. The Student Experience Survey that I was speaking about in the summer at Presidents' Caucus. the student group for that is still meeting they're looking to hire new student positions so if you know anybody interested in filling that position, anyone interested in equity work, it would be a great position to let people know about.

In other events, our update around clubs: the Tricolour Open House has come and gone, and Clubs Caucus is happening tomorrow. Big shout out to Clubs Commissioner Brian and his team. The last thing I wanted to talk about is our platform "Compass". Some of you may have heard about it, we were trying to do some promotion through Orientation, but if you haven't heard about Compass it's a phenomenal holistic student life platform that we have started out this year. In my written report I've added the link. There are a ton of different resources about mental health, physical health, there will be quick links for academics and things like that, and tons of different clubs resources. It's a good a one-stop shop for any of your student needs so I would highly recommend going and opening up your account on that. You can sign in with your Queen's email and then have access to all of those things. The last thing I want to talk about is a few hiring opportunities within the AMS at the moment. You can go check out AMS Apply, and check out our socials for all the different posts, but we have the Housing Resource Center, the Academic Grievance Center, and Cleanup Crew all hiring. That's all that I can think of at the moment, but I'm sure there's more hiring opportunities and more to come shortly as well so keep an eye on the socials. I believe that concludes my report, so I'm happy to take any questions.

**Engineering Society President Bisol:** Hi, Christina Bisol, Engineering Society President. I just have one question: in regard to the initiative you're doing to increase and keep community relations, how can we do the events that a society may typically do such as fix and clean where we go out into the community to help them, do volunteer work, if we're not allowed to do any in-person cocurricular activities at the moment?

**AMS VP-UA Sieg:** That's a good question. This is kind of a moving-forward thing as we hope to kind of progress through all of what we've talked about in the past of getting events going. I would say, you know, this is an ongoing thing - Rome wasn't built in a day. In terms of rebuilding this relationship, I think this is a semester-long thing so I'd say, hang in there. In terms of events, we hopefully have some good updates coming soon in terms of being able to have more events happening so I think this is, you know hopefully a long term commitment to building the relationship with the city. Thank you.

**Speaker Amir-Ali Golrokhian-Sani:** All right, I see no further questions, so thank you for that, and we can now move on to the Board of Directors report from Chairperson Arora. Come forward, please.

### **Board of Director's Report**

**Secretary Devenny:** Chairperson Arora unfortunately had to send her regrets tonight, but you can email her at boardchair@ams, and I believe she also provided a report.

**Speaker Amir-Ali Golrokhian-Sani:** Awesome, then you can access that and we'll go to the next item, undergraduate trustee report from Trustee Sharma.

### **Undergraduate Student Trustee's Report**

**Trustee Sharma:** Hi, everyone, my name is Jaya and I'm the Undergraduate Trustee. This month has been pretty busy in terms of getting started on a lot of meetings for the Audit and Risk committee. Just to give a bit of background, this committee looks at the risks the university is

facing and the procedures that are in place to mitigate these risks, and surprisingly there have been a lot of conversations on student wellness that have taken place in these meetings, so it was nice to hear that considered.

Upcoming this week are several board meetings throughout Thursday and Saturday, so that'll be an important time to be having these discussions with folks on the Board. And after having read President Zaid's report, I think that a lot of the things he mentioned were things that I was hoping to keep in mind throughout the sessions as well as it will be important to mention those for long term considerations. I think regarding the representation, that's something that's absolutely necessary as well even if it's just two more positions. Other than that, there was a Google form that I sent out on my Instagram. It was good to get some responses about that regarding student issues but in general, I think that I find it really helpful to go to the AMS meetings and other things to keep up to date with all that. Thank you.

**Speaker Amir-Ali Golrokhian-Sani:** All right, any questions? No? Then I will now move on. I believe the Caucus Chair is absent today?

**Secretary Devenny:** Yes, unfortunately Jeremy cannot be here today, but he can be reached at [sscc@ams.queensu.ca](mailto:sscc@ams.queensu.ca), and he says that the Senate is meeting next week so he will finally have some Senate-themed updates for us, which I'm looking forward to because for Jeremy, the Senate just didn't meet for a little while.

**Speaker Amir-Ali Golrokhian-Sani:** Sure, no worries. Moving on to the next step, the State of the Assembly from Secretary Devenny.

### **Statements by Students**

#### **a. State of the Assembly – Laura Devenny**

**Secretary Devenny:** Hi everyone, I'm sure that you thought I was done talking about Assembly, that's not the case. I am still here to explain assembly, all over again. Well, not all over again, but in sort of a condensed way. So, regarding statements by students, members of the AMS, or general student members, or your faculties, feel free to submit a motion ahead of time to speak at this time if you have any initiatives you're working on that you want everyone to know about.

First, I just wanted to go through quickly, what Assembly is for those of us who have not been here before or have a deep, deep interest in what Assembly is. The AMS Assembly is the encompassing body of all the faculties from the university. We all get together on a monthly

basis to debate on motions and policies, ratify people, look forward to upcoming events like student elections, talk about fun initiatives, things like that. Each Commissioner, faculty Presidents, Ex-Officio, submits a report for the society to read that are posted on our website ahead of the Assembly. The reports are debated on and they are kept for institutional memory and information.

All of us members are welcome to join the Assembly and submit questions to respective faculty members, either through email or through Assembly. Voting members are the only ones that are allowed to vote, unfortunately. Here, we're using the "raise hand" function, but at a real Assembly, everyone gets their own placards to raise. Goodness I hope one day we're back in person.

Voting members are elected as you may know. Societies all elect their own members and assign them to Assembly, and I post online roles. We meet through Zoom – or we used to, we're Microsoft people now, but that's fine with me. Everyone, thank you everyone for submitting a headshot. I am so happy that you're all with me and that AMS Assembly is not only my passion, but your passion too this year. I am so incredibly excited; I will be printing this out and putting it on my wall in my office. So, thank you everybody who submitted a bio and a headshot, you'll be able to find these soon on the AMS website.

Onto the state of AMS Assembly: We're currently at 42 Assembly members and staff, including myself, our Scribe and our Speaker. We're striving this year to have one Assembly member per 500 students. For me, it's very interesting that the AMS has only 3 seats and it's weighted the same as everyone else. ASUS, as you can see, she's big, got a lot of members. I believe all of your seven representatives are going to be elected very soon. I'm so excited to meet them all. And then we've got EngSoc, can't wait to meet your 3 representatives, hopefully we'll talk soon. Then we've got nursing, the NSS, COMPSA, CESA, PHEKSA, and recently added DSUS Dan School Undergraduate Society and the Health Sciences Society, and our QSAA president is also here to join us today. So, this is our current state if you wanted to know who is voting and debating on the motions submitted by different members, or that's voting on you being ratified, or, you know, they could just vote to take down this whole Assembly. But please don't. I would cry on this one. Anyway, I know that we will move on to business arising. Thank you, Amir, for letting me speak., and thank you all for being here. I'm always so incredibly excited to talk about Assembly.

Actually, just quickly before we move on, shout out to Erica and the rest of our elections team who are doing a really good job at marketing and coming up with different methods of engagement, and shout out follow @AMSGovernance on Instagram and also shout out to ASUS for being the inspiration behind that account! Thank you everyone for being so great and listening to me talk during these last few months about the Rector election and Assembly - can't wait to do all again starting in November for our AMS Executive elections.

**Speaker Amir-Ali Golrokhian-Sani:** Great stuff! Any more questions? If not, I will move on to Question Period for any general questions for anything that has come up so far. Okay, now we shall move on to Business Arising from the Minutes.

**Business Arising from the Minutes**

**Motion #3 – Moved by Secretary Devenny, Seconded by President Kasim**

*Motion that AMS Assembly approve the motions from the month of June, as seen in appendix “June”.*

FOR: Unanimous  
AGAINST: None  
ABSENTIONS: None

*Motion carries.*

**Speaker Amir-Ali Golrokhian-Sani:** Okay, my mistake, I should have asked if anyone wanted to speak on the motion, I will for the next one.

**Motion 4 – Moved by Secretary Devenny, Seconded by President Kasim**

*Motion that Assembly approve the motions from the month of July as seen in appendix “July”.*

**Secretary Devenny:** So, from our July presidents caucus we only have one motion, and if anyone has any questions I can direct you to Jessie Wile, Commissioner of Environmental Sustainability.

FOR: Unanimous  
AGAINST: None  
ABSENTIONS: None

*Motion carries.*

**Motion 5 – Moved by Secretary Devenny, Seconded by President Kasim**

*Motion that Assembly approve the motions from the month of August as seen in the appendix “August”.*

**Secretary Devenny:** So, this was a bigger month with our approval of the Rector elections dates and Assembly dates for 2021-22. We approved the Rector budget at \$400, the AMS contributes \$300 and the SGPS contributes \$100. Also, we made two housekeeping changes to Assembly and Rector policy: we added the Alumni Association President as an Ex-“Officio member and removed the MBA Students Society due to inactivity and removed students’ ad hoc policy from AMS jurisdiction as that policy is governed by both individual faculty societies, and the university itself. So now we can take questions.

**Speaker Amir-Ali Golrokhian-Sani:** Sure, you can always ask questions afterwards, this is a quick reminder, but I'm not seeing any raised hands so I'll move on.

FOR: Unanimous  
AGAINST: None  
ABSENTIONS: None

*Motion carries.*

### **New Business**

#### **Motion #6 – Moved by Secretary Devenny, Seconded by President Kasim**

*Motion that Assembly ratify Hailey Pride, Alex DesLauriers, Zeeshan Asim, Kelly Liang, Kieran Paterson and Caroline Abouchar to the Judicial Committee.*

**Secretary Devenny:** Okay so, as a general procedural process, Assembly has to ratify anybody who's coming either into the elections office. We ratify just to ensure that there's no Assembly members that have conflicts of interest, or if you believe that someone does have conflict of interest or should not be on these panels, that's when you bring this up now. However, I'm very confident, as well is Kate Burke-Pellizzari, who is our Judicial Affairs Manager, in our judicial committee this year. I don't know if anyone's here from Judicial Committee today but I'm very excited for the year.

FOR: Unanimous  
AGAINST: None  
ABSENTIONS: None

*Motion carries.*

**Motion #7 – Moved by Secretary Devenny, Seconded by President Kasim**

*Motion that Assembly ratify Cat Rose as a Judicial Affairs Deputy.*

**Secretary Devenny:** So, Kate and I, Erica, hired Cat a few weeks ago as a deputy, as we were looking to round out our team. We are very confident in them. We believe that this team will accomplish great things this year, so if anyone has any questions, feel free to ask!

**Engineering Society 2022 Representative Salma Ibrahim:** I've just got a procedural question, because I've been on AMS before in-person but not in the last year. I'm not sure how it works in the online environment but usually I remember for these ratifications, the people that are being elected would stand at the front of the room and we'd ask them questions and vote like an election. I'm not sure if that's different for online or why that is.

**Secretary Devenny:** If you do have questions, you can feel free to ask us and we'll delegate the question to the appropriate deputy or committee member, but just for the sake of time as well as pre-submitted papers, there's not much of a need online anymore.

FOR: Unanimous  
AGAINST: None  
ABSENTIONS: None

*Motion carries.*

**Motion #8 – Moved by Secretary Devenny, Seconded by President Kasim**

*Motion that Assembly ratify Emma-Rose Blair, Lauren Durand and Nate Feldman as Elections Deputies.*

**Chief Electoral Officer Erica Johnson:** I can speak on that briefly. So, this past month I hired three new election deputies. Emma unfortunately couldn't make it tonight but I'm pretty sure Lauren and Nate are both here. Lauren is going to be our Marketing Deputy, Nate is our Disputes Deputy and Emma is our Logistics/Finance Deputy, and they're going to be working with me over this term on the Rector election, on the AMS Executive election and Fall Referendum. I'm super excited to be working with them and they're lovely people.

FOR: Unanimous  
AGAINST: None  
ABSENTIONS: None

Motion carries.

**Motion #9 – Moved by Secretary Devenny, Seconded by President Kasim**

*Motion that Assembly ratify Maya Marcos to be on the Rector ballot.*

**Secretary Devenny:** I believe I missed the question, but if the rector candidate wants to come up and quickly introduce themselves, that would be great.

**Rector Candidate Morcos:** Hi everyone, my name is Maya Morcos and I'm a second year Health Science student. I'll quickly explain why I want to run for the Rector position. So, yeah, in general, it's just hard to express how much I love being a student at Queen's, and although I've only lived here for about a month. The community is unlike anything I've ever been part of, so I'm wanting to do everything in my power to improve it. When I heard about the Rector position, I did my research and learned about the tremendous responsibilities it entails, and I saw it as an opportunity to leave my mark I could see why this may sound like pandering, but I really do think that I'm capable and motivated enough to be effective as the Rector and I want to avail you of my services.

**AMS President Kasim:** Hello Maya, thanks for being here tonight. It's nice to meet you. As the Rector, you'll be working directly with the Queen's Administration. My question to you is how will you balance your duties, working with the Queen's administration, with your duty as Rector to advocate for students and work in collaboration with the AMS, faculty societies, and affiliated organizations.

**Rector Candidate Morcos:** Yeah, good question. I want to have a forum for open communication and transparency with everything that I'm working on. So a way to balance my work between working with different committees and groups is to be able to have open communication between the groups and methods for them to express any concerns to me, even if they want to be anonymous. This way I could communicate those concerns to others and then just have meetings with each group regularly to keep track of all the different duties of the different Assemblies to make sure everything's kind of working together in good flow.

**Speaker Amir-Ali Golrokhian-Sani:** The next question was Secretary Devaney if she still wants to speak.

**Secretary Devenny:** No, I don't need to. We are only allowed to ask her three questions so I will pass it around.

**ASUS President Roos:** Nice to meet you, Maya. Because of the fact that the Rector has the opportunity to deal with a lot of administration and have a seat at a lot of people's different tables, I just want to get a sense of if there's any issues or topics that you're particularly passionate about advocating for on campus?

**Rector Candidate Morcos:** Yeah, great question. So, I did have like a basic three-point platform of things that interest me and things that I would love to try to work on in the position of Rector. So, the first one is, as I mentioned before, making it easier to communicate with the Rector, so I would like to create a direct anonymous mode of communication with the Rector, that is more accessible to the student body so that they can comfortably contact me on all manner of issues. The second one was improving equity and social justice. Queen's is home to many organizations that increase diversity and acceptance, and although they may get some support post-ratification, I'd like to extend their reach so that their voices can be heard throughout the levels of administration at the university. I'm a big advocate for direct communication and I'm open to the idea of working on a system that would make it easier for those interested in social justice to find what they're looking for. As Rector, I would be the student advocate so I would like to give voice to events that prioritize community building. The Queen's community has been so welcoming to me and I want that to be the same for everyone who steps in our halls. Finally, the third one was easing the transition back to traditional schooling. I heard this mentioned a few times during the meeting, which is awesome. But yeah, transitioning back from the pandemic has not been easy for many and studies have shown its effects on mental health. I'm worried for our students and staff as we get back on campus and I want to make sure to remove stigma around mental health supports, along with improving their availability. When the pandemic began, many of our in-person mental health resources had to transition online, and that challenge has taught us quite a few lessons that we could now apply; offering anything in a hybrid format is imperative for accessibility, and I want to make sure that our programs are equipped for that. I know that the hybrid lecture system has its faults, and I want to gather opinions from students, so that I can assemble a series of recommendations on how to make instruction easier for everyone. And this challenge has brought about many creative solutions so all we really need to do is be creative but yeah, those are my three main points I would say for now.

**Engineering Society VP Edwards:** My name is Kaija. I'm the Vice President of Student Affairs Engineering Society. My pronouns are she/ her, and I have a question for our Rector candidate. I'm wondering, as a fairly recent student to Queen's in second year, how do you plan to bridge the gap in terms of this being your first year on campus, as well as advocating for your students, and all of our undergraduate students?

**Rector Candidate Marcos:** Yeah, that's a great question. So, you're right, this is my first year actually being on campus. I have only been in Kingston for about a month, and it's all new to me, I can't even find buildings that easily, so I'm still finding my way around. It's true that my point of view, or my experiences do not match students who have been here since the beginning or have been on campus for years, and that's why I think it's so important to really put my name out there and put methods of communication out there to make myself accessible for everyone to talk to me. Make it welcoming, make it easy, make it like if they want it to be anonymous, they can. If they want to come talk to me, my door is always open. Although like I may not know all the issues happening, I'm excited and willing to learn about them and to help raise them to the different levels of administration at Queen's. I would just be really trying to encourage people to bring forward their issues so that I can help them voice them. I hope that answers your question.

**PHEKSA Equity and Wellness Officer Pang:** Hi, my name is Eunice and I represent, Equity and Wellness on PHEKA. I know you mentioned working towards equity on campus and I think

that we can all agree that there has been a real great need to move towards indigenizing our school community and indigenizing our ways of learning and knowing, so I was just wondering if that was something on your agenda and how you plan to address those issues on campus. Thank you.

**Rector Candidate Morcos:** Yeah, for sure. No, I definitely agree with you, especially since coming to Queen's I feel like I've become more aware of these issues because of training for different leadership positions and even just going into meetings there's all these little land acknowledgments, so I guess that sort of like has sparked already my interest and care for the subject. But yes, I completely agree that although there have been steps taken, this can go way further than it is, and I would love to help advocate and get students' opinions on what ways we can, as a community, do better and be better. I would love to put a focus on that.

**Commissioner of External Affairs Marinelli:** Maya, I first want to say thank you so much for coming out tonight and answering these tough questions. And, thank you for wanting to pursue such a pivotal role at the university, it's extremely impressive. My question is, you put an emphasis on mental health, and when you're going into such a pivotal role I want to hear from you more so about how you're going to prioritize your mental health and taking care of yourself over the next year or two years as well.

**Rector Candidate Morcos:** Thank you. I actually really like that question. Yeah, I've seen how much of a responsibility this role is, looking at how much work it was on previous Rectors and how it can take a toll on people. This is something really good to keep I guess on the forefront of my mind. In general, I like to implement meditation and mental health practices in my life like taking breaks, going on walks, and putting boundaries to when I can't be contacted – the door's always open until like it hits like nighttime hours and then it's just sleep time. I'm definitely taking my own advice in the idea of making the mental health resources at Queen's not only available but without stigma. So, I'll be looking into those and reaching out for help when I do need it. I think that'd be really important in the next coming years, even without the Rector role, just as a student at Queen's University. I think everyone should be able to utilize all the resources that Queen's offers to really prioritize your health, so that's a really interesting thing to think about. Thank you for bringing that up.

**Speaker Amir-Ali Golrokhian-Sani:** Alright, so for any further questions I would ask for someone to potentially email at that point, we have quite a few laws of engagement. Let's proceed to the vote.

FOR: Unanimous  
AGAINST: None  
ABSENCES: None

Motion carries.

**Speaker Amir-Ali Golrokhian-Sani:** Just to quickly preface, motions 10-16 are all budget motions.

**Motion #10 – Moved by VPUA Sieg, Seconded by President Kasim**

*Motion that Assembly approve the Campus Affairs Commission Goal Plan and Budget as seen in linked appendix A-1, A-2*

**AMS VPUA Sieg:** I'll try and go through these quickly and focus more on the budgets and then if any of the commissioners feel like I'm missing anything they can jump in. So, in the budget, you'll notice that the allocation has gone up a little bit this year, I think one key change is inputs and a couple new people, so there is new positions within this commission. That would be the Sponsorship and Special Projects Coordinator who's working over the summer, as well as the International Deputy who is getting an honorarium. The International Affairs portfolio in the budget is opening up and that's a new line in there. One other kind of notable thing is that we're working with the co-chairs of Queen's Model Parliament on transitioning them to be in a normal AMS ratified club, so we are trying very hard not to allow them to run a deficit within the Commission of Campus Affairs. I'm happy to field questions.

**Speaker Amir-Ali Golrokhian-Sani:** I also saw a message from the Commissioner of Campus Affairs, if they would like to add on to that.

**Commissioner of Campus Affairs Chowdhury:** I was going to ask if Ryan wanted me to speak on this but I feel he's done a good job. One thing I did want to mention is that we have added a new bursary, which is the International Student bursary. It will offer international students an opportunity to apply for financial aid, and last year's Commissioner had this passed, and this year we'll be opening it up, which is really exciting.

FOR: Unanimous  
AGAINST: None  
ABSENTIONS: None

*Motion carries.*

**Motion #11 – Moved by VPUA Sieg, Seconded by President Kasim**

*Motion that Assembly approve the External Affairs Commission Goal Plan and Budget as seen in linked appendix B-1, B-2 .*

**AMS VPUA Sieg:** I can yield the floor to Commissioner Marinelli on this one.

**Commissioner of External Affairs Marinelli:** Hi, everyone. Not much has changed in the budget from previous years. As you can see through it, there's a little bit more allocated to

OUSA, which is the Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance and that's all of our provincial advocacy, our provincial Student Alliance. As the fee increases, you can see that in the budget, we've allocated a little bit more money this year towards creating a new bursary for third party accessories and support and we're hoping that is launched coming into the new year, but not much has changed.

FOR: Unanimous  
AGAINST: None  
ABSENTIONS: None

Motion carries.

**Motion #12 – Moved by VPUA Sieg, Seconded by President Kasim**

*Motion that Assembly approve the Commission of Environmental Sustainability Goal Plan and Budget as seen in linked appendix C-1, C-2*

**AMS VPUA Sieg:** I can yield the floor to the Commissioner of Environmental Sustainability on this one.

**Commissioner of Environmental Sustainability Wile:** Sure! This is the first year since the commissioners reinstated this commission and given it its own budget that's not under the VPUA. The Sustainable Action Fund is in my budget, which Ryan spoke about earlier. Also, a lot of the budget has gone towards Sustainability Month Planning, including the dumpster art contest which will be happening at the end of the month. That's pretty much it.

FOR: Unanimous  
AGAINST: None  
ABSENTIONS: None

Motion carries.

**Motion #13 – Moved by VPUA Sieg, Seconded by President Kasim**

*Motion that Assembly approve the Clubs Goal Plan and Budget as seen in linked appendix D-1, D-2*

**Commissioner of Clubs Seo:** Hi, I'm Brian, Commissioner of Clubs and I use he/him pronouns. I based my budget pretty much entirely on the budget from two years ago. Clubs have a very different operation in-person versus online as much of our expenditures are geared towards grants. So, if you look into the budget I have comments on every single expenditure,

pretty much. And if it is not being used for salaries or, which I'm calling operational expenditures, they're used for grant disbursements.

FOR: Unanimous  
AGAINST: None  
ABSECTIONS: None

Motion carries.

**Motion #14 – Moved by VPUA Sieg, Seconded by President Kasim**

*Motion that Assembly approve the Social Issues Commission Goal Plan and Budget as seen in linked appendix E-1,E-2 j.*

**Commissioner of Social Issues Lijiam:** I can speak on this. I'm sorry that my camera's off, my Wi Fi isn't letting me have it on and hear everyone at the same time. With my budget this year a lot has changed with the introduction of two new staff, which is really exciting. They've been a really great resource to the SIC. We also have new programs that have been introduced, particularly funding and support for the Gender Affirming Assistance Project, which is also reflected in the budget, and the main item other than salaries for the two new staff that increased was our allocation for grants and bursaries. We want to make sure that we're able to support students as best we can and fund the work that they're doing so we felt this is an important line to increase. Thank you.

FOR: Unanimous  
AGAINST: None  
ABSECTIONS: None

Motion carries.

**Motion #15 – Moved by VPUA Sieg, Seconded by President Kasim**

*Motion that Assembly approve the Secretary of Internal Affairs Goal Plan and Budget as seen in linked appendix F-1,F-2 k.*

**Secretary Devenny:** So, I'm not a commission, I'm an office, but my budget is still funded by Assembly so it needs to be approved by everyone here. My budget is pretty straightforward. Going off of what Secretary Borchenko and Secretary Hart have done the last couple of years, we've gone into somewhat of an increase, as our office continues to grow, but as you can see it's mostly focused on three different elements. First, our election budget. It's a bit difficult to gauge

as we fund candidates' elections marketing, we give candidates a budget, and honestly we don't know ahead of time how many candidates we're going to get so things might shift around a little bit. Also within our elections team, we've put some money aside for a new sort of branding contract with our recent new logo by Niki from StudioQ. She did a very good job on that! We're increasing some accessibility within elections, as well. Also, some allocation to the Judicial Affairs Office as we're looking to begin an advocacy project with the Social Issues Commission where we highlight the resources of the Judicial Affairs Office and the non-academic misconduct procedures, so everyone knows how to get to the JAO and to use all these resources - just general sort of awareness, marketing plans, a lot about Assembly and hopefully when we're returning into person, we'll be able to print placards and have room allocations too. As for my goal plan, I feel it's pretty clear. It cuts some goals this year, bringing in a lot of research about elections and student elections, even though, you know, the student elections, not many people would read reports but we've got our policy review committee coming up, and several motions for now. I'm very excited to get started on that and do a lot of research projects into making our elections policy more accessible and reachable to students, and encourage everyone to go a little bit more in sort of identifying the three different facets of awareness of AMS candidate recruitment and then voting engagement. That's my budget, I added some graphs in there for those of us who are visual learners, like myself, but that's all for me!

FOR: Unanimous  
AGAINST: None  
ABSECTIONS: None

*Motion carries.*

**Motion #16 – Moved by VPUA Sieg, Seconded by President Kasim**

*Motion that Assembly approve the Orientation Roundtable Budget as seen in linked appendix G-1.*

**AMS VPUA Sieg:** Alright, as Vice President of University Affairs I'll speak on this one. This is the ORT budget which has largely already been spent, as Orientation has come and gone. For this budget, you'll notice it's a little bit bigger than last year as there was in-person events this year, but a little bit smaller than previous years as there was no concert which tends to be a pretty big expense. The expenses for the ORT itself are fairly minimal: some printing costs, uniform costs, and miscellaneous and then the bulk of it is what is billed back to the faculties through the fee and slogan order forms. I'm happy to field any questions.

FOR: Unanimous  
AGAINST: None  
ABSECTIONS: None

Motion carries.

**Motion #17 – Moved by VPUA Sieg, Seconded by President Kasim**

*Motion that Assembly approve the standing committee allocations as seen in linked appendix H-1.*

**Secretary Devenny:** I will speak on this. We had our nomination committee, the committee that allocates, and the committee reviews the placements of the standing committees. It was sort of understanding everyone's skills, and trying to balance between faculty societies, as well as the voting and non-voting members who will be determined by the each committee themselves. If you are not on a committee yet, there will be a quite a few more struck during the year on numerous different things. If anyone has any questions right now or would like themselves removed from a committee, feel free to message me after. We'll just vote on this and it will be good to go for now. And we can vote to amend it later if anyone would like to relinquish their committee duties, or if a committee finds that they would like to add another member for duties.

FOR: Unanimous  
AGAINST: None  
ABSENTIONS: None

Motion carries.

**Discussion Period**

- a. Policy Papers – Commissioner Marinelli and VPSA Ryan Sieg

**External Affairs Commissioner Marinelli:** Hi everyone, I promise I'll keep this really short, but I have a little bit of a special project that myself, Ryan and Laura have been working on. Through the year and through discussions with students, we really want to keep people engaged with Assembly, and also you know, have some institutional memory about where we stand on some topics and some goals for the future. So, the idea is a have a library of policy papers. Now, you may be asking “what is a policy paper?”. Policy papers are a research piece focused on a specific policy issue that provides clear recommendations for policymakers. These policies that we're hoping for will follow a similar model that Western, as well as OUSA, uses, and that guides the organization's advocacy for the future.

These policies are written by students based on student feedback on a wide variety of issues, and it would allow us to have clear cut recommendations, and Ryan will talk about more about why we want to introduce them but clear-cut recommendations on topics that we can then

go to administration and say “this is what our students want”. So maybe I'll let Ryan take it away and talk about why we want to introduce them.

**AMS VP-UA Seig:** So, you can see four main points about why we want to introduce policy papers. First off, to take stances and guide our advocacy moving forward into the future. So right now we have PM3, which is our positions that we take as AMS, but they don't really guide advocacy super well. So, these policy papers will allow us to collaboratively come up with recommendations that we can actually use as our main advocacy points.

The next is to increase engagement with Assembly and improve the transparency of our advocacy efforts. Right now, sometimes our advocacy is we just go to meetings, or working groups and we advocate on behalf of the student body, but the idea behind doing this is, we'll be engaging with all of you on coming up with what principles and recommendations we want to advocate on behalf of and then be able to take those points directly into our meetings and use them as the basis of our advocacy.

The next point is to increase student engagement in general and ensure we're effectively communicating student needs. So, part of this is as Assembly, we'll have a much wider sense of student opinion, and we know that you are very in touch with your students that you represent. So, this kind of increases the overall engagement with the wider student body. Finally, we want to continually review and update our policies as they impact students. So the idea behind this is once we can build up a policy library, we can renew papers, change any of the principles and recommendations over time based off of what is relevant at the time, what's been working, what hasn't been working, any new information that comes out, any new research.

**External Affairs Commissioner Marinelli:** Thanks Ryan. So, what does a policy library consist of? So, within these papers, there'll be subsections for example, access to resources, and they follow this PCR (“principal concern recommendation”) format. Where you all will come in is when we get into the actual writing process. This is where we develop our principles and our concerns based on listening to our students and reaching out to them, so we'll whether we make a standing committee, whether we include student voices, all the research will be guided into forming these recommendations in which we can go to admin and advocate for your student needs.

With OUSA there is a wide plethora of papers in their policy library. Some include responding to COVID-19, mental health, racial and religious equity, and we really want to engage with you as well as your students to ensure that our policies are consistent with what they want, the actionable change that they want to see, and then they can go to our policy library eventually when it's built up to see what we have done and what we need to improve on. These papers, like Ryan said, could be added to and renewed on an annual basis, and we would basically vote as assembly of which papers we want to rewrite. If we don't think something's effective anymore, we would expire the paper and put it in the library, and it's a really great way to ensure that we have one institutional memory of what we've done, but also kind of allows students to see what's going on. I'll pass it back to you Ryan.

**AMS VP-UA Seig:** So as we were mentioning before, Assembly as a whole is meant to represent a very wide range of students, so representing everyone from all of the disciplines. By doing this, we're hoping to be able to engage with all of you and be able to get feedback directly into the paper. Also, having all of you directly involved in the advocacy process, coming up with all of the ideas that we can be advocating upon, drawing on everything that's important to the student body, and then being able to formally vote on them and pass the stances that we want to be using, and being able to have those as our stances for years to come as Jacob was just explaining that to you.

External Affairs Commissioner Marinelli: We have some first steps as this is a very early process and we just wanted to open it up to discussion period. So we're going to develop a policy-writing committee, and that's going to be working alongside with Laura and Ryan, and then we're going to get to the brainstorming process. I have spoken with Housing Resource Manager Callen Robertson, and especially with the developing COVID situation, he's developing a housing resource survey that we're hoping to get out in the coming weeks, which we think would be a great start with some actionable data to develop a policy. So that would be more information to come but that's what we're hypothesizing as one of our first policy reading topics.

The committee will then take that data and work on the policy. Depending on the length of the process, you may see it this year but it might most likely will be into the 2022 year that you see the paper, and then we're going to bring the paper back to Assembly to incorporate your feedback, allow your students to see the paper, and then eventually we would get to the approval process. So that's a general overview of the topic, I know we're a little bit over time so I'm hesitant to ramble on, so if anyone has any questions, please let me know. This is very early in the works, but we thought we would bring it here because you great minds, you know what your students want, and we wanted to get a sense if we think this is a good idea or not.

**AMS VP-UA Seig:** Very quickly, if you're interested in engaging with us and being involved in the policy writing process or if you just have ideas about how you think it can be implemented well or ideas for papers, our inboxes are always open.

**ASUS President Roos:** I just want to say I've really enjoyed the format. I'm always a big policy fan and I think the format of establishing what the issue is and the recommendations piece might even be making it easier to communicate with external stakeholders in the instance that we are kind of doing outreach to the city or different lobbying groups as well. So I'm very much on board with that format, I'm so very excited to engage in this in any way that I can.

**Secretary Devenny:** You are all dismissed at adjournment but if you would like to join us for our All Candidate's meeting it is happening right after Assembly.

## Adjournment

**Moved by AMS VP-UA Seig, Seconded by AMS VP-O Wong.**

FOR: Unanimous  
AGAINST: None  
ABSENTIONS: None

*Motion carries.*

Assembly is adjourned at 8:07 EST.