

PRINCIPLES AND POSITIONS POLICY

ALMA MATER SOCIETY OF QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY

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1. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this paper is to outline the AMS' guiding principles and advocacy positions. In addition, the paper ensures that the AMS' position on pertinent student facing issues is easily and readily available. Furthermore, this paper seeks to communicate the AMS' established positions about our expectations of Queen's University and their commitment to student interests. This paper specifically aims to outline areas of distinct responsibility of the Queen's University administration. The AMS recognizes that we must also be held accountable for advocating in students' best interests. As such, the AMS' advocacy positions will be grounded in the stances outlined in this paper and demonstrate our unwavering commitment to the Queen's student body.

2. ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

It is the position of the AMS Assembly that academic integrity must be upheld in all academic matters. However, students must be provided with ample opportunity to gain awareness about academic integrity policies and procedures as well as be afforded leniency and treated fairly through investigations.

- a) Academic units must actively support the provision of student-run course support programs that promote accessibility, protect intellectual property, and provide students with alternatives to privately-run programs.
- b) Queen's University must, where possible, avoid the usage of remote proctoring software in order to protect student privacy and comfort. Where needed, students must be made aware of their use prior to enrolling in such courses.

3. ACCESSIBILITY

It is the position of the AMS Assembly that Queen's University must ensure all aspects of student life and learning are accessible. Accessibility can include, but is not limited to, physical, financial, academic, and technological.

- a) Queen's University must commit to ensuring all buildings and campus infrastructure, current and future, are accessible. Furthermore, accessible entry points must be clearly visible and marked, as well as available online.
- b) The Financial Aid office must commit to increasing scholarships, grants, and bursaries available to students in order to improve the affordability of academic and non-academic necessities.

- c) The Centre for Teaching and Learning must offer recommendations and establish guidelines for Queen's faculty and teaching staff regarding accessibility in course work.
- d) Academic accommodations must be accepted by all faculty and teaching staff, and course curriculum must be adapted to meet students' individual needs.

4. ANCILLARY FEE

It is the position of the AMS Assembly that ancillary fees are in place to strengthen, benefit, and compliment the Queen's University experience and must not be used to accumulate profit or for purposes other than their intended use.

- a) The University must ensure Student Activity Fees are at the discretion of the Student Association to determine what is essential for students to thrive on campus.
- b) Information about the allocation of these fees must be accessible to students, so they understand what they are paying for and from what they are benefitting from.
- c) Ancillary fees must only be mandatory if the receiving body is supporting and directly benefitting all students, whether on campus or elsewhere.

5. CAMPUS SAFTEY

It is the position of the AMS Assembly that Queen's University must ensure that all students feel safe and welcomed on our campus. This includes, but is not limited to, education on resources and the removal of security enforcement when possible.

- a) Queen's University must prioritize the use of peer-administered security and safety services.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

It is the position of the AMS Assembly that Queen's University must be committed to operating a sustainable campus and taking responsibility to lessen their environmental impact and address the climate crisis.

- a) Queen's University must fully divest from all fossil fuel investment portfolios and develop a comprehensive Environmental Policy to improve the sustainability of our campus and operations.

- b) Queen's University must strive to decrease waste and single-use plastics in all facilities including Hospitality, Retail, and Educational spaces.
- c) The Sustainability Office must challenge university operations which have negative environmental consequences and promote harmful behaviours.

7. EQUITY, DIVERSITY, INCLUSION, AND INDIGENEITY

It is the position of the AMS Assembly that Queen's University must undergo radical transformation and commit to implementing recommendations outlined by PICRDI, the TRC, and other relevant policies and action plans to foster a sense of community and belonging for all students.

8. EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

It is the position of the AMS Assembly that experiential learning and co-curricular engagement are essential components of the Queen's academic experience and must be valued by the University as an opportunity to develop tangible skills that cannot be gained in a classroom.

- a) Career Services must ensure that there are adequate experiential learning opportunities for students in all degree plans and that such opportunities are well-promoted, financially accessible, and appropriately compensated.
- b) Queen's University must acknowledge the equal importance of co-curricular engagement to traditional academic degree requirements and recognize and accommodate the need for students to balance academic and co-curricular commitments.

9. FRATERNITIES and SORORITIES

It is the position of the AMS Assembly that Greek life is not to be condoned on campus, as it can perpetuate a toxic culture of hazing and discrimination which encourages the exploitation of students in peer social settings.

10. GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

It is the position of the AMS Assembly that Queen's University must be committed to trauma-informed survivor-centric support, promoting campus-wide awareness, and actively working towards Gender Based Violence (GBV) prevention.

- a) Queen's University must commit to partnering with the Sexual Assault Centre Kingston to create a satellite office on campus to ensure all survivors of GBV have access to diverse and trauma informed support.
- b) The Sexual Violence Prevention & Response Office must be expanded to improve student engagement, diversify approaches to education & awareness, and increase its overall capacity.
- c) Queen's University must implement and enforce methods of prevention to ensure that all Queen's students, staff and faculty are informed and equipped to prevent GBV on our campus and extended communities.

11. HEALTH AND WELLNESS

It is the position of the AMS Assembly that students must have access to readily available, high-quality and holistic care without having to defer to private or off-campus healthcare. Students' academic success heavily relies upon their personal health and wellness, as such the University must integrate student health and wellness into all supports, resources, and program offerings.

12. INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

It is the position of the AMS Assembly that Queen's University must allocate additional resources and support to offset the barriers that International Students face in all aspects of student life and learning which can include, but is not limited to tuition, engagement with student life, acclimation to Canadian landscape, and overall health and wellness.

13. NON-ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

It is the position of the AMS Assembly that peer-to-peer administered discipline must be widely encouraged to facilitate restorative justice processes and encourage continual learning, self-reflection, and growth.

14. ORIENTATION WEEK

It is the position of the AMS Assembly that Queen's Orientation must continue to be primarily student-run and must offer all incoming students the opportunity to find community through safe and equitable programming.

- a) Recognizing the excess of student labour (planning, facilitation, etc.) for Orientation Week to run, the University must be more committed to financially support Orientation Week while maintaining student autonomy in the process.

15. QUALITY OF EDUCATION

It is the position of the AMS Assembly that all students are entitled to high-quality academic experiences at Queen's University.

- a) Queen's University must take an active role in ensuring a high-quality education by investing in the Centre for Teaching and Learning to increase resources for faculty and teaching staff and implementing quality control measures for individual courses.
- b) Queen's University must ensure that faculty members reflect the diversity of the student body and academic units must encourage the internationalization of curriculum, in order to enrich the academic experience with a variety of perspectives.
- c) Academic units must encourage instructors to incorporate alternative pedagogical techniques and modes of assessments.

16. RECRUITMENT and ENROLMENT

It is the position of the AMS Assembly that Queen's University must diversify their methods of recruitment to increase enrolment of under-represented populations.

- a) Undergraduate Admissions and Recruitment must work to reduce traditional admissions criteria and secondary school preferences and expand to a holistic approach that includes recruitment programming for students from diverse demographic backgrounds.
- b) Queen's University must prioritize need-based entry bursaries instead of merit-based scholarships to reduce financial barriers and offer stronger incentives to recruit students from underrepresented populations.

17. RESIDENCE and FOOD SERVICES

It is the position of the AMS Assembly that all students entering their first year of studies must be guaranteed a place within residence that is accessible, affordable, and provides a safe living environment.

- a) Queen's University must continue offering accommodations at reduced rates (via options like the Economy Double room) to ensure all students have access to residence regardless of financial circumstances.
- b) Queen's University must continuously conduct audits of all residence buildings and facilities to ensure that they are safe, accessible, and livable for all.
- c) Queen's University must ensure all food offered through the meal plan within dining halls and retail services include nutritious, fresh, and a wide range of options.

18. STUDENT EVALUATION OF TEACHING

It is the position of the AMS Assembly that student evaluation of teaching is invaluable and must be more highly regarded among faculty members as a tool for course development and improvement since students have direct experiences with course work and understand their own learning styles.

- a) Data and information collected from student evaluations of teaching must be more transparent and must be used as a means of accountability to ensure instructors are actively making improvements to their courses.

19. STUDENT FINANCIAL AID

It is the position of the AMS Assembly that Queen's University must prioritize needs-based grants and bursaries as well as incorporate a holistic approach to assess student financial needs.

- a) The Student Financial Aid Office must re-evaluate their aid assessment formula in order to provide adequate funding to meet each student's needs and support students who are graduating with increasingly dangerous debt loads.

20. STUDENT REPRESENTATION

It is the position of the AMS Assembly that all University-led committees and working groups must include at least one AMS representative. Consultations must happen often and broadly to make sure the student voice is represented. Such consultations must not be completed as a “check-box” and must be meaningfully incorporated into policies and action plans.

21. SUBSTANCE USE

It is the position of the AMS Assembly that Queen’s students must be able to participate in the safe consumption of substances at licensed establishments in accordance with provincial laws.

- a) The University must implement a policy that addresses marijuana usage, as this is not included in current substance policies.
- b) The University must provide on-campus spaces to promote safe substance use and recognize students’ autonomy as legal adults as per Ontario government laws.
- c) A medical amnesty policy must be clearly outlined and worded in all relevant University policies and in the Student Code of Conduct.

22. TECHNOLOGY-ENABLED LEARNING

It is the position of the AMS Assembly that Queen’s University must adequately prepare students for post-graduation by incorporating technology into the curriculum in an affordable and accessible manner.

- a) Online courses and learning materials must be used to augment education and their quality must be comparable to in-person teaching.
- b) Academic units must mandate the usage of learning management systems in all courses and encourage instructors to transition from traditional textbooks to open educational resources.
- c) Technology requirements in courses must not require additional financial burdens on students and technology-related accommodations must be honoured.

23. TOWN-GOWN RELATIONS

It is the position of the AMS Assembly that Queen’s University students must be well-integrated into the Kingston community and must be adequately represented on the municipal level in all matters concerning student life.

- a) The City of Kingston and the University must take a risk-mitigation approach that prioritizes student safety and responsible and lawful celebrating.
- b) Queen’s students must receive equal and fair treatment from both police and by-law officers with regards to ticketing, unreasonable delays in court times, fines, and other matters.
- c) The City of Kingston must support student tenants by holding landlords accountable.

24. TUITION

It is the position of the AMS Assembly that tuition must be reasonably affordable and fairly charged and be reflective of the quality of education being provided.

- a) The University must be transparent with the breakdown of how student tuition is being used and must not use student dollars to subsidize other operations of the University.
- b) Additional expenses for course materials for textbooks, supplies, and equipment deemed necessary by the instructor must be minimized where possible and encompassed by tuition fees.

Contact person	Secretary of Internal Affairs
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Related policies, procedures and guidelines	N/A
Policies superseded by this policy	AMS Policy Manual 3