

## **Minutes for ASUS Assembly on February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

Starting Time: 7:04pm

*Speaker Davis will henceforth be known as Speaker*

### **Motion 1: "That ASUS Assembly approve the agenda for the February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2014 Assembly"**

Moved by: Benjamin Bourne

Seconded by: Scott Mason

#### **Vice-President Tahiri:**

I'd like to add a discussion topic

#### **Speaker:**

Just wait for discussion topic; there's a period for that.

Vote:

For: 16

Against: 0

Motion passes

### **Motion 2: "That ASUS Assembly approve the minutes for the January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2014 Assembly"**

Moved by: Benjamin Bourne

Seconded by: Scott Mason

#### **President Mason:**

I'll send you a little list for some spelling things

Vote:

For: 16

Against: 0

Motion passes

## **Speaker's Business**

#### **Speaker:**

Nice to see you all again!

## **Executive Reports**

#### **President Mason:**

Fantastic to be back!

Not much to add to my written report

Congratulations to all candidates from the election!

The one team ran a full-scale campaign with 40 class talks!

Congratulations to our senators and new representatives!

#### **Vice President Tahiri:**

Go to the Facebook page of the arts and science formal, click "going".

We need 1000 people by Monday. Facebook message your friends.

I need you for this – I am using you as a means to an end

Students upped the Good Times Diner fee.

Last year, they were contacted by the AMS and that they were up for tri-annual review. ASUS has no record of this e-mail.

The clubs manager told them that they were not up for tri-annual review, but that they lost it and needed to be added to the referendum

Nicola told me the whole situation – What we need to do is next week, a motion will come forward to bring the Good Times Diner to the AGM. It's a twice-a week soup kitchen that runs tuesday and thursday from 2-7

Final thing is that we have a position paper for the Dean. I'm meeting with my intern because she got positive feedback from first-year class talks. Everybody was down with a greater flexibility, and if we got rid of prerequisites for certain courses, that would increase flexibility.

## **Society Reports**

### ***Business of the Senate:***

**Senator Duchaine:**

### ***Business of the AMS***

**Representative Wiseman:**

CFRC is requesting a substantial increase to the student fee. Currently it's 5.07\$, and they want 7.50\$.

We saw a presentation by CFRC that shows how various levels of fee increases would work for them. They have a plan

They chose to do this instead of the referendum because they felt many students would not vote for a fee with such an increase.

They will come to the AGM next week

The increase will not follow through if the vote doesn't go through next week.

## **Statements by Members**

**Commissioner Cutajar:**

ASUS has a new service – ASUS trips.

It's a day-trip to Ottawa, running this Saturday!

Ticket sales end tomorrow. It's 25\$, so if you want to come out and support us, we're going to check out Winterlude.

You can buy the tickets at the ASUS Core. We take cash, credit, debit, and cheque!

**Commissioner Liu:**

This weekend is the 'Down There' production. Tickets are 10\$

All donations go to Sexual Assault Kingston and The Don House.

You can get tickets at Sleepless Goat, or ASUS Core (9-5) or the Queen's Center (11-3)

**President Mason:**

At a council meeting we just had, we decided we'd share this on our Facebook page.

We want to make sure everybody goes to the formal. Make sure you share it!

**Representative Wiseman:**

Shout-out to the new representative that we have!

**Senator Duchaine:**

Congratulations to all people who held down the fort while other people were campaigning. I think ASUS was in good hands in their absence, so thank you all for doing that.

**Question Period**

**Representative Lucas:**

Point of information: For CFRC, they didn't go to referendum because they felt students wouldn't support it. Was that conjecture or did they say that?

**Representative Wiseman:**

It was implied in a conversation I had with the director  
When Stu-Cons went for a fee increase, they also went to the AGM

**Senator Duchaine:**

What's the cap on ASUS formal?

**Vice-President Tahiri:**

600 people inside the building. Most people last year were 4<sup>th</sup> < years

**Senator Duchaine:**

How is the number 1000 chosen for the Facebook thing?

**Vice-President Tahiri:**

We had 750 people click "going" last year, and then we'll release the theme. This year we were bold and said 1000

**Representative Lumsden:**

What is the final voter turnout for ASUS and for AMS?

**Commissioner Bourne:**

I have not gotten the official numbers, but I believe that the final turnout was 34% for AMS, and 29% for our election.

By way of comparison, I believe it was 10% or less for the first fall election. Big improvement for us!

The AMS was high 30% last year

**Representative Wiseman:**

Voter turnout for AMS election for executive was in mid-30s, and for rector it was 28.8%

**Representative Goodman:**

Question for Senator Duchaine:

You recently had a meeting with professors to go over comments and complaints gathered in the first semester.

How did that meeting work?

**Senator Duchaine:**

Although it may seem not like that, there are people in here who aren't in politics

I'd be delighted to tell you about it at QP or something.  
Trust me, it was thrilling.

## **Old Business**

### **Motion 3: "That ASUS Assembly commence second reading on the amendments to section 18.03.05 of the constitution seen in Appendix A"**

Moved by: Scott Mason  
Seconded by: Benjamin Bourne

#### **Commissioner Bourne:**

It was brought to my attention that this was something that was passed in the discussion about honorarium last semester.

While we passed a policy about those things that superseded a lot of the aims of what this policy was.

Technically, we still need to move forward to a second reading.

It's a constitutional amendment about the level of honoraria that it is possible to award.

If you feel this is useless, feel free to vote it down.

Vote on motion 3:

For: 16

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion passes

## **New Business**

### **Motion 4: "That ASUS Assembly commence first reading on the amendments to the constitution seen in Appendix B"**

Moved by: Irfan Tahiri  
Seconded by: Benjamin Bourne

#### **Vice-President Tahiri:**

This is just the stuff we discussed last assembly at the discussion period. It was all the changes we've made, now they're being passed.

*Vote on motion 4:*

For: 16

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion passes

### **Motion 5: "That ASUS Assembly approve the changes to section H-6 of the policy manual as seen in Appendix C"**

Moved by: Irfan Tahiri  
Seconded by: Benjamin Bourne

#### **Vice-President Tahiri:**

Same thing I said last time, it's already been discussed

*Vote on motion 5:*

For: 16

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion passes

**Motion 6: "That ASUS Assembly approve the changes to section I of the policy manual as seen in Appendix D"**

Moved by: Benjamin Bourne

Seconded by: Scott Mason

**Commissioner Bourne:**

This stems from a situation we had last assembly.

I usurped the role of speaker because Speaker Davis took a leave of absence, and deputy speaker was on a leave of absence for election.

This is policy so that in the absence of a speaker and the deputy speaker, the internal affairs commissioner or deputy would be able to assume the position of speaker on a purely temporary basis

**CESA Vice-President Ferguson:**

This is really small, but can we remove the term "his" from "his deputy" to make it gender neutral?

**Commissioner Bourne:**

Oops. I will change it.

**Senator Utioh:**

In terms of with special assembly, I know the president is the role of speaker.

Wouldn't it make more sense for that to be consistent and to have the president as speaker here?

**Vice-President Tahiri:**

Technically you're right, that could happen.

Logistically, the internal affairs commissioner knows what's in the agenda, where the room is booked, etc.

Obviously we're lucky to have a President that is well-versed in speaker stuff this year, but that might not always be the case

**Commissioner Bourne:**

The president will have a lot more duties answering questions during assembly, whereas I'm just pulling strings in terms of making things run.

If you want to change that, it's totally up to you.

**Commissioner Grotsky:**

In addition to that, the President gets to vote but internal affairs commissioner does not, so it makes more sense in that way.

*Vote on motion 6:*

For: 16

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion passes

**Motion 7: "That ASUS Assembly approve the changes to section C-3.06 of the policy manual as seen in Appendix E"**

Moved by: Benjamin Bourne

Seconded by: Scott Mason

**Commissioner Bourne:**

Also stems from something after last assembly.

As you know, Speaker Davis took a leave of absence recently.

Last year, when Daniel Basilio took a leave of absence to manage (then) BGP's campaign, and though he was not required to do so, it's important that those people take a step back from their formal positions.

They may not be running candidates themselves, but people campaigning openly for other people

**Representative Goodman:**

How do you define as a society who is campaigning?

Is it pledging allegiance and actively campaigning, or just changing your Facebook profile picture?

**Commissioner Bourne:**

A lot of informal statutes here.

The attitude when it comes to "liking" pages is "like them all" or "like none" in the formal interest that all candidates have a fair chance to run.

I'm not sure we could go out and monitor peoples' Facebook profiles, but for the purposes of this amendment, it would constitute actively and openly campaigning whether it be advertising or endorsement.

**Speaker:**

Both myself and representative Goodman have changes we are making to this, so this will come to assembly next time.

Vote in principle, not on exact wording.

*Vote on motion 7:*

For: 16

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion passes

**Motion 8: "That ASUS Assembly approve the changes to section C-9 of the policy manual as seen in Appendix F"**

Moved by: Adam Grotsky

Seconded by: Benjamin Bourne

**Commissioner Grotsky:**

This is part of an initiative Blake and I have for next year.

There's already policy put in place to have an HR officer, it was just never enacted.  
We're making some changes to this policy – biggest has to do with who hires.  
It's currently 3 members of assembly. We're changing it to 4 people (Business Manager, Equity Commissioner, and the Executive)

*Vote on motion 8:*

For: 15

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion passes

**Motion 9: "That ASUS Assembly endorse the resolutions of DSC Assembly concerning ancillary fees as seen in Appendix G"**

Moved by: Gray Lucas

Seconded by: Benjamin Bourne

**Representative Lucas:**

This one might be a bit of a debate.

We're talking about ancillary fees, which you must pay to the school or course to receive the grade.

Lab fees, compulsory things. Things that are not included are field trips, nor does it touch paint for fine art students.

Technically, they are not allowed to be charged according to the government.

This is our way that we'd like to stop it from happening.

We're proposing the DSC presidents, who know their departments well and the gray areas.

The DSC presidents will meet with the associate deans, and those fees will be run through Solus rather than to the professor or department.

This motion was passed unanimously (with abstentions) at DSC assembly

**Commissioner Grotsky:**

Fees are sketchy right now. They're done by professors, TAs, etc

We'll bring this toward other faculty societies as well, then AMS.

This is a big step. Please vote in favour

**Vice-President Tahiri:**

I want to commend everyone who worked on this.

These are concrete steps towards a solution to the problem.

**CESA Vice-President Ferguson:**

I'm wondering if this is going to extend to prof class?

**Representative Lucas:**

We met with Allison Williams who is the formal Academic Affairs Commissioner for the AMS.

They are very interested in bringing this forward to the AMS and to include all students.

This is to show that we support it, and that we want our students to benefit.

**Senator Duchaine:**

I think this is the best idea ever!

A little more context, as this is more radical than what we usually do.

Various people have brought this to the attention of the provost and the university registrar for the past year and a half.

If this is what it takes for them to start taking us seriously, then I think Representative Lucas is doing a great job!

They are charging lab fees in classes that don't even have labs.

Your ancillary fees aren't assessed into your OSAP payments, so it's very difficult for students who don't have the finances to pay for them.

**Commissioner Grotsky:**

I'm going to come to CESA on Sunday and talk to you about it then.

*Vote on motion 9:*

For: 16

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion passes

**Motion 10: "That ASUS Assembly strike the Scholarships Committee, to consist of four (4) members of assembly that represent three (3) different disciplines and one (1) member of council who will serve as a chair"**

Moved by: Scott Mason

Seconded by: Benjamin Bourne

**President Mason:**

This committee manages 1200 from Student Affairs and whatever ASUS budgeted for the year (typically 1200).

We give this out to students!

We are nominating a chair who would send out a WhenIsGood

It's under the executive portfolio, so you'd be working with Irfan and I.

**Representative Wiseman:**

What's the time commitment for this?

**President Mason:**

Assuming it'd be a weekend. Meet a Saturday/Sunday and go over all the applications

**Senator Duchaine:**

When are these scholarships due and how do you apply for them?

**Commissioner Bourne:**

According to policy it's vague, but both this and the Mark R. Wilson award are supposed to be distributed at AGM.

The timeline is you have until then to chair and convene everything.

**Senator Duchaine:**

How do you apply for the scholarship?

**Commissioner Bourne:**



The committee must actually put the application forward for that.

**2017 Year Society President Clark:**

What is this award?

**Commissioner Bourne:**

This is only for graduating students to recognize academic and non-athletic extra-curricular

**Senator Duchaine:**

If it's only for 2014 graduates, should we not have any of those people on the committee?

**Commissioner Bourne:**

It's up for you to decide.

I can see how there might be a good number of friends and classmates in the scholarship pool, but I'll leave it up to your discretion

**Speaker Davis:**

I'm sitting on the Tricolour Award. It's amazing how quickly you know the people applying.

In that regard, I'd say people who are graduating not apply

Student government does not have good policy for when to omit yourself

**Vice-President Tahiri:**

Just to move things along: If you go to the ASUS Website/Resources/Policy and Constitution. Click on Policy, go to page 146.

There are three sections: Humanities, Social Sciences, Natural and Physical Sciences. We need one person from each of those.

**President Mason:**

Motion to open nominations

Vote:

For: 16

Against: 0

Motion passes

***Nominations for chair:***

*Scott Mason – Accept*

*Commissioner Falk – Decline*

*Commissioner Colocado – Decline*

***Nominations for Humanities:***

*Representative Tsang - Accept*

**Representative Wiseman:**

Because Year President Clark is in first year and not a major yet, which category does he fall into?

**Speaker:**

None

***Nominations for Social Sciences:***

*Representative Goodman – Decline*

*Representative Wiseman – Accept*

**Commissioner Bourne:**

The way this is worded, just so you know it asks for 4 members of at least three.

If there's only one person for natural and physical sciences, we can take both of these nominations.

***Nominations for Natural and Physical Sciences:***

*Senator Smolej – Decline*

*Senator Utioh – Decline*

*COMPSA Vice-President Bannerman – Accept*

**Speaker:**

The fourth person must be in at least one of those disciplines.

The logic is that the person can evaluate upper year coursework.

***Nominations for Member-At-Large:***

*Representative Goodman – Accept*

**Speaker:**

Those who have been selected, please send your emails to [president@asus.queensu.ca](mailto:president@asus.queensu.ca)

*Vote on motion 10:*

For: 16

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion passes

**Motion 11: "That ASUS Assembly strike the Mark R. Wilson Award Committee to consist of four (4) members of assembly and one (1) member of council who will serve as chair"**

Moved by: Scott Mason

Seconded by: Benjamin Bourne

**Vice-President Tahiri:**

Can we strike the committee and ratify it at next assembly?

**Senator Duchaine:**

Let's talk about some fun things!

**Vice-President Tahiri:**

There's another group here doing a class discussion

*Vote on members:*

For: 16

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion passes

**Representative Goodman:**

President Clark has to leave. Is it possible for him to nominate a member at large to proxy?

**President Mason:**

Leave, and we'll figure it out.

Isabelle, Peter, Matt, and Keziah there will be an e-mail

**Vice-President Tahiri:**

Can Representative Clark remain so we have quorum for discussion period?

**Speaker:**

We don't need quorum during discussion period

**Vice-President Tahiri:**

I'd like to add a discussion topic so that we talk to the Union Gallery group.

They are making a bid to go to AMS assembly next week to pass their motion to go to the AGM to have a student fee added

*We no longer have quorum. These minutes are accurate but unofficial.*

*Here be dragons.*

## **Discussion Period**

### **Union Gallery:**

**Member Jesse:**

We're trying to reinstate our student fee of 3.71 which lost by only 27 votes last year.

We're a student driven gallery located in Stauffer. We've been in operation since 1994

One of the first student-driven galleries in Canada.

One of only two venues displaying contemporary visual arts not-for-profit on campus.

One of three in Kingston.

**Member Lyndsay:**

A brief description of what we do: Our mission is to showcase contemporary arts and give learning experience for students and up-and-coming artists.

We have a student board of directors, student committees.

Although we have a professional gallery director, students are involved in pretty much everything else.

As Jesse mentioned, we lost our AMS mandatory student fee in the Fall 2012 Referendum.

I'll give you a brief overview of how we operate.

55% of our funding comes from student fees.

28% from university (rent)

13% operating grant from university

8% government funding, kingston operating grant, kingston art council grant

11% is private sector support

We've never had a deficit.

Our total attendance is over 5000 per year

When we lost that much of our student fee, we had to cut down a lot.

Our gallery hours were cut in half.

We want to provide experiential opportunities, SWEP jobs, and we can't implement them to the fullest extent yet.

We haven't been able to do as much mentorship or outreach as we would have hoped to do outside of the Arts programs.

We're looking to have that support again to provide these services to Queen's

**Member Jesse:**

We have a national profile. We've had artists from Toronto and Montreal come in

**Member Lyndsay:**

If you have any questions or comments for us, please give us your input

**Vice-President Tahiri:**

The first thing I'm thinking of is why are you going to AGM and not referendum?

**Member Lyndsay:**

We talked with a lot of people to figure out the best option.

We ended up deciding that going to assembly would give us the opportunity to speak to people directly. We want to know what people will get out of the gallery, and why they might not know about us.

Likely what happened last time is people didn't know who we were.

Our goal is to reach out and have discussions and get some feedback so that we know why we do or don't get through

Why didn't those 27 votes come our way?

**Vice-President Tahiri:**

You've received the student fee consistently for the past 20 years?

**Member Lyndsay:**

For the past 19. It's a mandatory fee of 3.71

**Representative Tsang:**

So you guys are in Stauffer. What kind of artists do you feature? Canadian, student artists?

**Member Jesse:**

It's a space where professional and student artists can display their work.

We had a Toronto collective come up and make a mural on the wall.

Currently we have lots of 4<sup>th</sup> year students.

We want to develop a networking system

**Senator Duchaine:**

What steps has the Union Gallery taken over the past year to promote their presence to students on campus?

**Member Lyndsay:**

We've been trying to implement programs to facilitate interdisciplinary conversations. We've had guest speakers from various other programs. Grad students, professors to come and talk.

We recently had a cultural studies Ph.D student come in and talk in conjunction with the student artists.

We've also been working towards having tours for students so that we can reach out to other faculties and create some interpretive material to help people better understand what's going on in Art shows. We recognize sometimes that it's not always obvious what the artist is going for.

Unfortunately with our hours cut down, it's been hard to program things as much as we would like.

**Representative Goodman:**

How much is the fee you are seeking? Is it opt-outable?

**Member Lyndsay:**

It is mandatory and \$3.71.

Originally it also had a cost of living increase, so when we go to assembly it will be incorporating this cost of living, so it will be 3.75

**Representative Wiseman:**

Last year, CFRC had a big presentation for how they would be using their budget. Do you have a plan for this?

**Member Lyndsay:**

Absolutely. We have a powerpoint and a whole presentation

**Representative Tsang:**

You outlined that you provide workshops for students around campus and you outlined that they were experiential learning classes. What steps have you taken to reach out to students about these experiential classes, and what do these classes involve?

**Member Lyndsay:**

Most of these experiential opportunities come from volunteering.

Everything we do and organize, we're mentored by the gallery director.

We also have gallery attendants who learn about the shows and talk about the show. They are also overseen by the staff

We've also had grant proposal writing workshops

We also have exhibition workshops around this time of year.

**Member Jesse:**

One thing is that we have ~80 volunteers. We do have workshops, and many are outside of the normal classroom experience.

We have huge committees working to do promotions and get it off the ground.

It could be as simple as learning how to write grants, to running a show

**Vice-President Tahiri:**

You're asking for \$3.71?

**Member Lyndsay:**

\$3.75, which is what the cost of living increase would have been had we kept the fee

**Vice-President Tahiri:**

For students who are not into the arts niche, can you explain why a mandatory \$3.75 fee is necessary?

CFRC gave a huge presentation, met with everybody, mailed out a package to everyone else. What steps have you taken?

**Member Lyndsay:**

Obviously we feel that the arts are valuable for everyone. Queen's has a reputation of being diverse.

The gallery is free and open to any student that wants to take advantage of that.

We are looking to get a more interdisciplinary dialogue going on with our shows.

We feel that the arts can be integrated into any discipline you're doing. You can have a conversation about the arts and the connections that are made between any different area of study.

It's an amazing resource for students to show other students.

That's why we feel it's an important resource to have

**Vice-President Tahiri:**

I'm comparing you guys to CFRC. To pass at AGM is a very big deal for assembly. How will you approach that level of seriousness?

**Member Lyndsay:**

We have been reaching out to all of the different student societies and all members within them.

We want to see what questions are coming up.

We are preparing budgets to show at the meeting, as well as showing what we plan to do with this student fee reinstated.

**Speaker:**

I hate to sound partial because I know it will.

I'm going to ask it anyways.

Last time you went up for student support, the majority of students said no to a mandatory fee less than what you are asking for now

How do you justify asking more money than students have already declined, especially when some people will have financial difficulty?

**Member Lyndsay:**

We feel that since we lost by such a small number of votes, part of why that happened is because people don't know who we are and all of the things that we do.

From our own outreach, we've found people didn't know what the Union Gallery was.

They didn't even realize that they were that gallery.

When people were going through the list, seeing the high fee, and deciding against that.

The reason we're going to assembly is to be able to talk to people and get this input.

I think that regardless of whether students choose to take advantages of our services or not, we're there, open, and completely free.

**Speaker:**

In lieu of you saying that you don't have high visibility, and the associated high cost, why

return and request a mandatory fee rather than an opt-outable fee?

**Member Jesse:**

Unfortunately when it comes to city grants, they are not solid. We don't know if we're going to get them from year to year. We feel like we're an important part of the Queen's community and hope that you do too.

There are new groups applying for these grants every year. We don't know where our money will come from.

**Member Lyndsay:**

The student fee will be to supplement the money from the grants.

We received less money from the city of Kingston this year than in previous years

We have discussed an opt-out fee, and it is not out of our minds, but because most of our funding is not stable, we felt that an opt-out fee was kind of necessary

**Scribe:**

You should come speak to COMPSA next tuesday!

If you do get the mandatory fee, how long would you have it?

**Member Lyndsay:**

I am in contact with Sahib! Three years

**Representative Tsang:**

My confusion lies in that you tried to do a lot of outreach, but people aren't understanding you or relating to you and that's the main problem.

I've been in the gallery before. It's fantastic and wonderful, but in terms of the general population of Queen's, it's very difficult to relate to modern art.

Many people don't relate to the art that you present.

If we were to decide to put you back on the form, would you be able to make the art and the experience more relatable?

**Member Lyndsay:**

In terms of the relatability of contemporary art, that is a challenge these days.

A large part of what we want to do is create some more interpretive materials.

We're trying to implement tours for various student groups, help them with the dialogue, and understand what's going on in the shows.

Sometimes we have artists with their work to explain it.

These are a lot of things we've been trying to get off the ground but have not been able to push forward with limited hours and funding.

We're running on volunteers as much as possible right now.

**Member Jesse:**

As Member Lyndsay said, we've had student talks.

We were also at Reel Out last night which had many students

**Representative Tsang:**

But what steps do you want to take to make this more relatable to the general population

**Member Jesse:**

One project we're working on is student tours. We're contacting specific groups on campus and explaining the art. Giving them guided tours to explain what the work is about, and the arts community.

**Member Lyndsay:**

Another thing we're interested in is bringing language clubs and other clubs that may have discussion as part of their committee.

That's something we have planned for next year. To foster a dialogue about the art, and help the experience.

**Representative Tsang:**

I'm in Music, so I do understand your struggles. That being said, have you ever tried going out, rather than bringing people out?

**Member Jesse:**

We had a quiltmaker come in, and last year they invited a large student group to create an enormous quilt to display.

**Member Lyndsay:**

That was in conjunction with the equity office.

We try to have projects that are open to all students.

It is about resources right now, in terms of how much time we have.

In terms of going out to speak to classes, that might be an interesting way to go about it.

We are always looking for ways to do that, and we have been having those discussions

We've been participating in the AMS Arts Council, which is new. Their goal is to have an arts festival that encompasses all of the arts on campus, so it's another way to bring it to the students.

**Representative Wiseman:**

What's the biggest difference between the Union Gallery and the Agnes Etherington Arts Centre?

**Member Lyndsay:**

Agnes Etherington Arts Centre is strictly professional arts. It's more of a museum setting.

Agnes does provide student volunteer opportunities, but the Union Gallery provides a direct opportunity in running a gallery. This provides direct experience in planning, programming, and running a gallery.

The Union Gallery is very student run, and the Agnes Etherington Art Centre is very professional.

We provide opportunities to students for every part of running a gallery

## **Restructuring of Internal Affairs Commission:**

**Commissioner Bourne:**

This stems from a discussion last year relating to the CEO and their leave of absence

This got me to thinking about a project I've had in mind which is restructuring the role of deputy internal affairs commissioner.

One of the changes at the AGM was to get rid of deputy internal affairs commissioner entirely.



There is relatively little that differentiates deputy internal from other deputies.

I want to either have deputy internal affairs commissioner take some advisor roles on different committees within ASUS, like the policy committee so that they can be a bridge between internal and the committees.

Another option was having the deputy internal affairs commissioner assume the role of CRO.

In general, there are a lot of different issues on who deserves to get what portfolio in terms of the internal affairs commission.

Because there are a lot of opinions, I wanted to get an informal feedback on which direction you'd like to see the internal affairs commission to go before I draw up a formal document for the Judicial Affairs Committee.

**Speaker:**

My role is merged with the CEO. In the two elections we've done, I've done absolutely nothing.

The CRO breaks the vote, and I hold onto their envelope. Those are the only jobs. That part of my portfolio is entirely redundant and useless

**Vice-President Tahiri:**

In one or two sentences, what is the main contention here. What do you want out of us?

**Commissioner Bourne:**

Deputy internal affairs commissioner does not have enough to do.

Position of CEO is perceived as irrelevant

Should the position of deputy be expanded or merged with CRO?

Lots of questions as to how internal affairs is structured.

**Vice-President Tahiri:**

What do you feel about the DRO and CRO being merged?

**Commissioner Bourne:**

Right now, the DROs were not used at all.

If the CRO can do everything themselves, that's fine

That's my informal observation about how the elections work.

For example, have a deputy returning officer for marketing, services, etc.

I'd be open to having my deputy assume the role of CRO, CEO, or some combination.

I'm trying to find a way to rescue the position

**Representative Lucas:**

Not sure if this is relevant, but for the DSC elections that we're trying to run. If you don't have enough to do, we've got another election for you!

**Commissioner Bourne:**

For the running of the DSC elections, I am supposed to be an adviser

If you are swamped, I could add it in for the deputy to have a role

**Senator Duchaine:**

I'm going to wear my DSC President hat.

There are 28 elections that ASUS is supposed to be managing.

If we have a CEO, why can't they have a leadership position in that?

I don't know what you mean by saying that the CEO doesn't have a role in being the CEO.

**Commissioner Bourne:**

What I meant is that they're like archives. They're there, but they don't get used a lot

**Senator Duchaine:**

What does the CEO of the AMS do?

**Representative Wiseman:**

Conflict resolution. They're the final judicator of justice

**Senator Duchaine:**

Do you foresee a conflict happening in any election offered by ASUS?

**Commissioner Bourne:**

As the internal affairs commissioner, no I don't

**Speaker:**

You don't see much conflict.

There are violations of policy that occur, but they are usually so straightforward that no mediation is needed by the CEO.

There is no role here needed in and of itself.

**Commissioner Bourne:**

A lot of people told me last time that we should split the roles

**Senator Duchaine:**

I think that it's an absolutely awful statement about Arts and Science that we barely have contested positions.

If there's nobody going around to pump up elections, shouldn't there be?

**Vice-President Tahiri:**

That's not fair to say, but I don't understand how it's an awful situation?

**Commissioner Bourne:**

Our elections were a lot better than last year.

Though this is not a new problem.

**Representative Wiseman:**

Would you be open to having the CEO responsibilities to drop to deputy, or head of JCOMM?

**Commissioner Grotzky:**

The speaker is supposed to be impartial, as is the person who does conflict resolution.

We're passing DSC policy on elections on Wednesday. Many roles are given to the CEO.

**Speaker:**

That's been a thing I've heard no end of. The speaker should have no portfolio nor

constituency on whose behalf they advocate. I should not be involved in any aspect of policy change.  
The speaker is free to be involved in any non-ASUS activity.  
As long as you don't have an active bias against speaking members.  
There's a great deal more that the speaker can do without compromising impartiality without offending constitution

**Vice-President Tahiri:**

Does this assembly feel that the DRO or CRO should play a larger role in the DSC elections?

*Strawpoll:*

For: 14

**Vice-President Tahiri:**

It's not going to do any good to continue and sit here talking about it.

**Program Closures**

**Senator Duchaine:**

My name is Isabelle!

I'm going to talk about program closures. The document went through several updates yesterday, so the current version will be re-released on Monday.

If you have feedback on program closures, please let us know.

This ties into Irfan's point that he asked the Union Gallery which was "Why support Arts on campus?"

What is the value of being a balanced academy? The value of having multiple programs?

The new budget for Arts and Science is such that Fine Art, Music, Computing, other programs with low enrollment would have a deficit. They would need some compensation from other programs.

If you're in politics, should part of your tuition go to other faculties?

If they don't have a larger societal value, should

Fun fact: Queen's doesn't have a policy for program closing.

We no longer have a Marxist Studies program. We had one before 1993!

Whenever they want to close a program, after the program has withered and died, they do

This committee is writing procedure for the program closure.

We have ~15 questions that somebody that was a head of a program would need to ask

"Are there comparable programs at other institutions?" Queen's has the only Arts Conservation program in Canada.

Other questions asked: "Is it a high quality program?" "Has it won multiple awards?"

"High student enrollment numbers?" "Are people dropping out quickly?"

It captures normative aspects of the program's value as well as more practical, hard-hitting questions.

My favourite part of this policy is how it outlines how we create a program backwards.

Linguistics is a program within Arts and Science that is not doing so well.

Changing funding structure means that it may not survive long-term.

Every month at Senate, we see proposals for creating programs. They start in curriculum committee, go to arts and science faculty board (both with high levels of student representation), then they go to the senate of academic development, then the senate, then the board of trustees.

To get rid of a program, you'd have to do this backwards.

Another model we were looking at gives Deans the ultimate control of closing a program. I said no to this!

One of the bigger points of contention is “What is a program?”

**Scribe:**

Anything compiled or interpreted!

**Senator Duchaine:**

The definition of the term “program” or “plan” given by Hugh Horton is “Any combination of courses that when bundled together, show a specific amount of learning”

Major, minor, medial, program, stream, all mean different things to engineering.

The Con-Ed/Computing program is going to be closed.

A stream to us is substantive, but to Engineering is nothing.

Dean Woodhouse from engineering was saying that would be a lot of work! Because they're more similar to courses for them.

A program is something you are enrolled in that goes on your transcript.

A life science specialization? If you are doing that, it goes on your transcript.

It's weird that you have all of these people in a room who think “This is not the worst thing”

**Representation Lucas:**

Something interesting that could come out of letting programs fend for themselves to some extent

I've taken Computing courses, and couldn't have done without them.

If you force them to become relevant to more students, they'll make themselves more relevant.

Computing should be running a course for R.

**Senator Duchaine:**

Many programs are trying to become more interdisciplinary

**Vice-President Tahiri:**

What are you hoping from assembly?

Just so we're all working on how we can help senate get a more legitimate mandate

You talked about the activity-based model. I know politics is very safe financially.

What about classics? It would shrink.

The informative part is wicked, but I want to make sure we're helping you guys

**Senator Duchaine:**

I'll post the document in the Facebook group within the next week.

**Vice-President Tahiri:**

What question do we need to be answering?

**Senator Duchaine:**

Do you think we need policy on program closure?

People say that as soon as you make this process, people will be going for it.

**Vice-President Tahiri:**

Do you think the flexibility afforded under the current model is good?

**Senator Duchaine:**

With this, we lose a lot of flexibility in terms of academic planning that we may have had before.

We lose that flexibility, but we gain accountability in that there are certain steps that need to be taken

**Vice-President Tahiri:**

Has there been a history of program closures being malicious or detrimental?

**Senator Duchaine:**

Fine arts, and the Canadian Studies program!

There were students still in Canadian Studies program when it was axed.

The policy is such that if you have a student enrolled in that stream, they have to be able to finish.

**Representative Tsang:**

Absolutely I think there should be policy.

You mentioned something about more and more programs are wanting to become more and more interdisciplinary. I find that not so fantastic, especially because you go to university to get an experience in something specific. If I came here for Music, why would I want to do something that's Film, or Drama? It doesn't make sense.

**Senator Duchaine:**

It's all about depth of knowledge vs. breadth of knowledge

**Representative Goodman:**

Myself, I'm taking a Japanese Studies course. I'm interested in it and I want to learn a new skill.

You can learn Japanese, or Mandarin, and many other things like that.

If they want to close these programs but don't want to talk to us, that's an issue

**Senator Duchaine:**

Languages, literature and culture was an amalgamated program that closed last year. It included German.

**Member Butler:**

I came to University not knowing what I wanted to do.

If a program were to close, hypothetically history, is there still the option for students to take a history course? Or is history just gone?

**Senator Duchaine:**

You can still take German even though it's closed.

No faculty member can be moved without their will. You can't close history and fire the profs. You'd have to get them to agree to move faculties

**Senator Chishti:**

At the end of the day, if you don't want interdisciplinary, you don't have to. It's not forced.

You'd never be asked as a Music major to take a film or history class.

**Senator Duchaine:**

Her concerns are important ones to hear out, especially when you consider the fact that courses that are more interdisciplinary have students coming in with more breadth and less depth.

This may require letting in students without as high of an academic standing, which could give the perception of a lesser quality of education.

**Director Ismail-Tera:**

I am the most excited for my next year because I have 7 electives. I'm here because I want to take a broad range of things.

That's what I'm here to do, and especially with Tuba's point that you don't have to take random courses if you don't want to, but I think it's incredibly important.

There are a lot of people here like myself who came here to find out what they want to do.

I have a good friend who is in German, and she's being made to finish her 4<sup>th</sup> year in Germany.

She was in the castle in first year, and wanted to finish out her remaining 3 years here, but cannot.

**Commissioner Grotsky:**

Please send me her name ASAP. Like yesterday.

**Representative Tsang:**

What I meant by interdisciplinary was that each course would become interdisciplinary. For example, a politics would be politics/geography/medicine.

I didn't realize it meant more linkages between faculties

**CESA Vice-President Ferguson:**

Lots of Con-Ed students go after courses outside of their major/minor to get a third teachable, which is great to have. Jobs are not exactly out there, so interdisciplinary studies is great for teachable.

**Representative Wiseman:**

Differentiation is not really a thing in Arts and Science.

Waterloo has

Queen's has Arts and Science in the same thing.

If programs close, would the University go in a direction of differentiation?

**Senator Duchaine:**

There's been a push from the Ontario government asking that universities further differentiate themselves.

Other governments have said "pick your top 5 programs, and we're only going to fund you 70% of those programs, and 60% for other programs"

Guelph has a program prioritization process. They rank which programs are fundamental to the university's position.

Queen's is very supportive of the broad first year system. It is one of the only universities with an Arts & Science program

At Carleton you have to declare your major going in, when you're in grade 12

**Vice-President Tahiri:**

I spoke with COMSOC President last year.  
I didn't know politics was a thing. I came here for the Queen's experience.  
A big thing for Arts and Science students is the student experience.

**Commissioner Grotsky:**

The mission of Queen's is really important; to speak to a broad range of programs.  
We should preserve diverse and minority interests.  
That's my general thought.

**Representation Lucas:**

For sciences, if you have any interest in Life Sciences and a potential interest in Psychology, you have no electives.  
That being said, you have a lot of choices within science.

**Senator Chishti:**

Anything in science you are limited unless you take extra or summer courses.  
The fact that Queen's loves their broad first year stuff poses a lot of issues because they don't know where you're going.  
You could've said that your interest was politics when you came here.  
Once you make the minimum requirements, you can go into the specific stream.  
It seems unfair to anyone coming in to say "you can take any of these classes, but only the top 200 of you make it into the program"  
They don't want to get rid of the broad first year, but programs can't keep expanding.

**Senator Duchaine:**

Average incoming class size for politics used to be over 700 less than 5 years ago. Now it's 450.  
It causes a lot of stress in the departments to juggle changing class sizes every day.

**Representative Goodman:**

The faculty of Arts and Science is very much only connected by name.  
One of the major problems I've had is that I want to take something in science.  
Perhaps I'm interested even in first year.  
Because of high school requirements, you aren't able to take a course like that.  
One side of me says "Okay, I don't have the prerequisites." The other says "I'm willing to pay for this"  
If I wanted to pay for a course, that would be my choice as to whether or not I pass or fail.  
Why is the university stopping me from doing so?  
When I look at prerequisites for upper year science courses, anyone can take an arts course.  
Anyone can take an arts course. It is much more exclusive in the sciences.  
I'm taking a second year psychology course being treated as an intro to psychology course as it doesn't have prerequisites.

**Senator Duchaine:**

My first year was when it got canceled, but you used to be able to double major in Arts and Science.

**Senator Smolej:**

I understand the comments that were made and I understand the thought process. I have the same situation as a science student. I can't take 2<sup>nd</sup> year political studies courses. There is a systemic barrier, and there is good logic behind them. The school wants to see us do well, and not fail, even if we are willing to.

If we're talking about a disadvantage of several years, that can be huge.

The university should discuss upper year courses without prerequisites.

Maybe an international relations course for non-political studies kids.

I would participate in that. I think it would be interesting.

If there is enough popularity for the course, then the funding would make it feasible

There's a road scholar from U of T from Oxford going to study Economics

### **Representative Lucas:**

Back to the first-year thing. Another reason it's not all roses and daisies is because life sci usually has way too many people apply. We have ~235 life science students, but we are expanding our program to be >400. We will have enough people enrolling that we will have enough seats.

There's no reason that biology shouldn't be able to enroll students. The number two option for life science students is biology.

People that might actually want to study plants, to study biology, won't get in because there are all these life scis that get backed off into biology.

The idea that we have all this flexibility, it doesn't always work out that way.

### **Vice-President Tahiri:**

A quick thing – you all saw the Union Gallery thing.

Myself, Scott, and the other representatives will go off and talk about how we will vote.

Please talk to your housemates and say “Are you down to dish out 3.75\$ to a student group dedicated to promoting fine arts.

Give me an e-mail at [vp@asus.queensu.ca](mailto:vp@asus.queensu.ca)

If each one of you speak to your housemates, that gives us a better idea of who is interested

### **Senator Chishti:**

QTV and The Journal are both going from an optional to a mandatory student fee.

## **Speaker's Last Words**

### **Speaker:**

We have a problem with truancy lately.

Individuals who are part of a broader group, please get your caucus to show up.

If you haven't spoken to Ben within 24 hours before assembly, you will receive a written warning.

We've had an individual retire from a lack of absence

### **Senator Duchaine:**

I'd like it to be known that he chose to retire.

### **Commissioner Bourne:**

There is someone who will be summoned at the next assembly.

Two people will get written warnings, and I thought there'd be another one as well but I was not getting their e-mail until midway through the year.



**Senator Duchaine:**

The AMS and Senate keeps an attendance list

*Motion to adjourn never occurred because we do not have quorum.*

Finishing Time: 9:27pm