

Minutes for ASUS Assembly on Thursday February 7th, 2013

Starting Time: 7:02

President Whittaker: Motion number 4, change the policy to just elect two student reps from assembly tonight. It's for the board of directors hiring panel. We need two students.

Vice-President Jacobs: There are some clarifications on A-2.04. Just started selling tickets, made some clarification changes if you want to view it online.

Motion 1: "That ASUS Assembly approve the agenda for the February, 7th, 2013 Assembly"

Moved by: Zaeem Anwar

Seconded by: John Whittaker

Vote:

For: 18

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion passed

Motion 2: "That ASUS Assembly approve the minutes for the January, 10th, 2013 Assembly"

Moved by: Zaeem Anwar

Seconded by: John Whittaker

Vote:

For: 15

Against: 0

Abstain:

Motion passed

Speaker's Business:

Speaker Kasraee: Welcome. I don't have anything to say, so we can get started.

Guest Speaker:

Executive Reports:

President Whitaker

- Congratulations to Mason/Tahiri being elected the new reps for ASUS
- Quick update on the Dean search. We had our first interview, 3 hours long. It was very exciting, and we had 6 candidates for the first round. I'll keep you updated as I can

Vice President Jacobs

- Nothing to report, besides the submitted report. Congratulations to Mr. Irfan. We've started our first few hours of transition. Thank you

Society Reports:

Business of the Senate, Presented by Senator Prince

- The schedule is set for next tuesday.
- Planning on asking senate about GPA update and the senator enrolment

Business of the Alma Mater Society, Presented by Representative Basilio

- Nothing to add to my report

Statements by Members:

Commissioner Anwar: Glad to be back, just a few housekeeping things. Within the next week I'll be meeting with all elected members. There are still a few spots, like ASUS representatives, to meet with them about their basic roles and positions, so that the next year has more experience going in. ASUS reps/senators, please contact the new ones to introduce them to their new roles. It can be kind of scary fulfilling all of those obligations. Even informal transitioning can be helpful. In addition to that, congratulations to all the winners. I'll have stats for next assembly once I have some time

President Whittaker: On Sunday, January 18th, an ASUS member made a comment about equity/discrimination that does not represent ASUS. We do not condone this behaviour. It was on QTV. They were on leave, so our jurisdiction is diminished. ASUS will continue to strive to be inclusive and understanding to all individuals, regardless of disabilities visible or invisible. E-mail me at president@asus.queensu.ca

Question Period

Motion 3: "That ASUS Assembly accept the changes to policy section E-4 as seen in Appendix A"

Commissioner Tsukahara: Hopefully you've had a chance to read the changes in the assembly package. It's regarding the movie theatre. The changes come from analysis from Hannah Lee the service commissioner and the movie theatre director. Currently the director is subject to a 1500\$ honorarium. This is because the service is supposed to generate revenue. Lately it hasn't been. This December, they started putting together a proposal for how this service can be more sustainable. The changes are outlined in policy. Instead of once per week, it would be once/month. This is to create larger, more creative events. Two committee chairs instead of a director, and they would not receive an honorarium. Any changes to the honorarium will be made at the AGM.

Member at large Mason: I think this is a fantastic idea!

Commissioner Tsukahara: any other questions? Any concerns?

Moved by: Hannah Lee

Seconded by: Melody Tsukahara

Vote:

For: 22

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion approved

Director Morphy: To hire next year's board, we need two arts and science members to help us hire next year's directors. Let nominations begin

Speaker Kasraee: What's the expected time commitment?

Director Morphy: 7 members, 12 applications. We can work around your availability

Nominations

ASUS Representative to the AMS Basilio accept

ASUS Internal Affairs Commissioner Anwar decline

ASUS Representative to the AMS Prescott accept

ASUS 2015 Year Representative Stemp accept

Speaker Kasraee: There are 2 positions and 3 candidates. We'll get the candidates to come say a quick word about themselves and then we'll vote on it.

Year Society '15 President Stemp: I work at a summer camp, going into my 5th year as a staff member as a hiring panel member. I think it would be a great opportunity to meet different people

Representative Prescott: Relevant to this job, it's important to the hiring committee that they find people who are the proper representatives that we need. I can bring this to the table from my past experience in the financial sector. It's important going forth that we have these kind of people

Representative Basilio I was an orientation chair awhile ago. I also believe we need the proper stewards coming into place next year. I'd love to be on this committee to help determine that.

Director Morphy: What do you see as being the ideal director for the board of directors?

Representative Basilio: I think they should be able to work with the rest of the director team. They should look at what's best for the society, and what would help the most students.

Representative Prescott: Fiscal competency. The ability to go through the spreadsheets, and determine where to be spending money. They need that fiscal stewardship.

Year Society '15 President Stemp: Choose directors who have a variety of experience in ASUS and the Queen's community. You don't want somebody with a one-way point of view.

Vice-President Jacobs: With ASUS producing a contingency each year, that being which something the board oversees in its long-term growth: what do you think this money should be used for if you were to advise the executive?

Year Society '15 President Stemp: Before decision-making, look into past spending. A lot of students are very blind to the idea of how much we spend. It would be good to have student input. Polling the students to determine how money should be spent.

Representative Prescott: Going for the committee for hiring, it wouldn't necessarily be our call. Looking for somebody who recognizes that this is a cushion should things go poorly, or for starting projects. To have that foresight, and to know that we need to keep that money at a certain level as a contingency.

Representative Basilio: Depending on how much the contingency is, it should be kept within a certain percentage. If you are banking way more than that, looking with assembly and board of approval to move those funds around. Service development would be good, but that's not my decision.

Vote:

Speaker Kasraee: Everybody has two votes.

For Basilio: 10

For Prescott: 4

For Stemp: 10

Motion 4: "That ASUS Assembly accept the changes to policy as seen in Appendix B"

Moved by: John Whittaker

Seconded by: Chelsey Morphy

Vote:

For: 14
Against: 0
Abstain: 0
Motion approved

Motion 5: "That ASUS Assembly accept the changes to policy as seen in Appendix B"

Vice-President Jacobs: Made it clearer who's getting discounts, and when they expire. Before they weren't expiring, so it was difficult to keep track of who was getting discounts. You could stack up discounts based on past positions. Just makes it easier on our end

Year Society '15 President Stemp: For the OC members, they can only use it for the subsequent year for the discount? So they will have to pay full price in their 4th year. And another question? For OCs previously, is this being grandfathered in?

Vice-President Jacobs: Old OCs will still get the discount, but new ones will not receive that. And in years going forward, OC '13 will be able to use their discount at formal '14

Representative Allan: Why was QFA removed from your discounts policy?

Vice-President Jacobs: Nothing against QFA. If as an assembly you want to put that back in, we can. We don't have any records of QFA employment, so we can only take them at face value. For simplicity's sake, we thought we would remove it.

Representative Allan: QFA does attend the event though, does it not?

Vice-President Jacobs: Yes, 2-3 members

Representative Allan: I just want to make that clear about my stance. I think if they're doing the service for free, and QFA is all volunteers. I understand it's difficult for you to be able to tell, but QFA keeps excellent records.

Vice-President Jacobs: If anybody does want to create a motion for that, I would consider it friendly. It is a volunteer service, and we appreciate it. There's no way of guaranteeing that they're ASUS members anyways

Representative Basilio: Two amendments. Tickets for positions held this year: The number goes "ABCDEFGH." Under tickets that shall be distributed the year following it held, it should say "member(s)"

Representative Prescott: Question for Basilio. It says "member who has worked for QFA for the previous year"

Representative Basilio: "The following tickets shall be distributed in the year immediately following the year of the position held"

Vice-President Jacobs: Are we giving them a full-price ticket or 50% off?

Representative Basilio: I will friendly amend my amendment

Speaker Kasraee: Any concerns?

Moved by: Thomas Jacobs

Seconded by: Chelsey Morphy

Vote:

For: 17

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion approved

Speaker Kasraee: Concludes all motions

Discussion Period

Representative Prescott:

- The only issue is regarding editorial economy (section 4)
- To create the tartan, it was given a grant. Am I correct?

President Whitaker:

- Yes, from the board of directors and students fee

Representative Prescott:

- If ASUS members have not had the chance to fund such publication, should they be given the grant? We don't want to go under the root of The Journal, where it's a mandatory fee and the students can't opt out and they can publish whatever they want
- To prevent future problems, I think there should be an opt-outable fee directly relatable to tartan, such that students can choose whether or not to pay it
- It's a two-way street. I like how it's written currently, but it's a funding formula question

Representative Basilio:

- The tartan is funded slightly differently than The Journal
- The initial donation from board of directors will be paid back
- No intention to introduce a mandatory student fee
- Important to have editorial economy
- AMS assembly has had motions to force The Journal to print something
- No body should have the power to force an editorial to print something
- Either way, this doesn't apply as they're not taking money from the students.

Member at large:

- The amount that the publication costs (as it's online) is less than we'll be making through advertisements

Vice-President Jacobs:

- Important to be revenue positive in the future
- Some clarification is that the student fee that was collected was opt-outable, so we consider this to be a service to arts and science students. That might help ease some minds on the money we did receive

Representative Prescott:

- A clarification: this has been drawn from a service fund

Director Morphy:

- It's in my report from months ago, but there was a proposal brought to Board of Directors in October
- Detailed their expenses this year (startup costs and operating expenses)
- Based on their proposal, and their re-meeting with us (once now, once after reading week)
- We decided to give them startup and operating costs based on these meetings
- Board of Directors has not decided to give them any money past this year
- Through advertising, they will be able to support themselves sustainably past this year
- The money itself came from the student fee that was deemed specifically for a service

- We deem this to be a new service from ASUS, so it was alright to be allocated to this service

Representative Basilio:

- One part missing from this, which is the constitutional changes
- Editor-in-chief could be removed by assembly, which effectively reduces
- We changed it, so the old version says a motion can be brought forth to the assembly
- Now it says 10% referendum has to be brought up, and then assembly can discuss it
- If they go completely offensive, there is a way to ring them in. It is just not super easy to do it
- We could've done it as internal to The Journal staff, but then they'd be impeaching their boss which seems inappropriate
- The editor-in-chief of The Journal operates a similar way

Representative Laidlaw:

- From 7.36-10, it skips. Is that numbering?

Representative Basilio:

- We changed that to the constitution, because it shouldn't be in the Tartan policy

Representative Laidlaw:

- So we'll see it later?

Representative Basilio:

- You won't get to vote on the tartan policy. It's brought up to bring up issues

Representative Prescott:

- The way The Journal operates, there is no editor
- We can't get rid of smear campaigns
- At least this way, there would be a method
- It's important to have those put in place

Representative Laidlaw:

- A suggestion: a lot of newspapers use fact checkers.
- Something I dislike about The Journal is that they print a lot of false information, so we should put something in there to enforce that

Representative Basilio:

- To remove the editor-in-chief of The Journal, it required a campus-wide referendum.
- Approval by the AMS
- Approval by ASUS
- Approved by 2/3 of The Journal board, 2/3 of the editorial board, then the board of directors (or the other way around)

Representative Prescott:

- De facto wise, you can't remove The Journal editor. De facto wise to what you explained about the tartan, we could remove them
- There's no way we'd expect them to get a 2/3 majority, and they'd have to be absolutely terrible

Vice-President Jacobs:

- Important for Assembly's knowledge that the tartan receives 1500-2000 hits a week, and the people running it have logged on ~2000 times this week updating/changing articles
- Very impressive considering it's only been up for a couple of weeks

Speaker Kasraee:

- Any other discussions?

Representative Basilio:

- To Representative Laidlaw: Not sure how we would implement a fact-checking. It says they have to provide accurate, unbiased and factual information in policy. We could look into hiring somebody to serve that body in that position

Representative Laidlaw:

- Big newspapers hire interns, and they go through all the articles
- Anything that looks like it might be wrong (name, statistic), they go online or call somebody to check it

Queen's Relay for Life:

Year Society '15 President Stemp: I'm a Queen's Bands highland dancer (also an exec) and co-captain for relay for life.

- Research for people who are affected by cancer
- Collecting spare change to fundraise
- If anybody is interested in donating, I'm going to pass around a tupperware
- We're going to wrap it all and put it towards our campaign total
- If you're interested in making a team, there is still a week left
- Go to relayforlife.com/queensuniversity
- You can go online at relayforlife.com
- My team is called 'band of hope'
- Collecting till March 8th, 2013, which is also the day of the event

Commissioner Tsukahara:

- Plugging the silent auction happening for community outreach
- Helps all 16 of our charities

Commissioner Anwar:

- Anybody on a committee that still has work left to do, get in contact with your chairs
- As we get closer to midterms and exams, it's important that we get all the work done while you still have some time

Speaker's Last Word

Great assembly.

"The flower that blooms in adversity is the most rare and beautiful of all". It's from Mulan

Motion to close

Vote:

For: 13

Against: 3

Abstain: 0

Motion passed

Finishing Time: 7:46