

Minutes for ASUS Assembly on Tuesday, March 5th, 2013

Starting Time: 7:02

Speaker Kasraee: Before we start, we have a student to speak

Speaker Kasraee will henceforth be referred to as Speaker

Hagar Prah:

- Supporting people is what I do best
- I'm glad to be here. I was asked to be here because I really wanted to talk to you about the importance of being mindful and respectful to one another during sensitive and impactful situations that are to be discussed
- I think that you all know somebody who has been impacted in some way by some of the issues being discussed this evening, if not yourself
- It's important to not make any assumptions about each other
- The humanity factor – we tend to be cerebral when debating and trying to get our points across, and often forget about the humanity factor
- The commitment to watch your tone and body language when speaking and a commitment to be respectful is hopefully not too much to ask
- Health Counselling and Disability Services counsellors will be there tomorrow if anyone wants support
- I will remain in the room quietly, available for those who want to discuss quietly

Speaker:

- There are a lot of resources that can be contacted:
 - Sexual Assault Centre Kingston (24-hours crisis support)
 - AMS Peer Support Centre (2pm-1130pm everyday, JDUC in room 34. www.amspeersupport.com)
 - Frontenac Mental Health (24-hour telephone line)
 - Health Counselling and Disability Services (9am opening and will meet in case of emergency. 146 stuart street, in the Lasalle building)
 - Dr. Prah, other student advisors, etc
- First of all, everybody speaks towards me, though it does have to touch upon the body language and speaking to others mentioned by Dr. Prah
- All members can only speak once on a motion. Once you have spoken, you cannot speak again unless somebody else waives their speaking rights to you
- What is meant by point of information: when you have a question. Let me be clear, it is a one sentence question. There should be no preamble to clarify the situation
- Point of personal privilege: When you are personally offended at a comment that another assembly member has said, that is a point of personal privilege. It has to be directed at a person. It can also be used to go to the bathroom.
- This being said, I will not tolerate unequitable or offensive language. I will warn you and after a couple of warnings, I will have to ask you to leave the room and assembly in total

Representative Prescott: Point of Information: If there's many comments directed at certain single members and there's only an opportunity to speak once on a motion, is there an opportunity to speak directly towards a single member as a response to a question?

Speaker: Yes that's possible.

Member at large: Are we allowed to add motions to the agenda?

Speaker: Yes

Member at large: It only mentions that we are discussing censure. Are we able to open up a discussion for impeachment?

Commissioner Anwar: You will require a seconder, and once it is a motion it will be debated on whether or not it should be added to the agenda. It will then be voted on. Since it is a motion about removing a member from assembly, it will require a 2/3 vote. Section 5.03.13 requires a 2-week notice for members of an assembly to be removed. A motion to remove could be presented as a 2-weeks point at this time, but we would be violating policy.

Representative Prescott: Point of Information: If a motion for impeachment is brought forward this evening and it is deemed unconstitutional, do we proceed with the debate? Or do we just not allow it to be added to the agenda

Commissioner Anwar: Completely up to the Speaker to rule it unconstitutional. If it is, the assembly will proceed as planned. You can choose to challenge the Speaker's opinion, which will require a 2/3 opinion and it can then be added as a motion regardless of the Speaker's choice

Representative Allan: Wondering if it was possible to add a discussion topic to the end outlining code of conduct that future representatives must sign before assuming office
Seconded by Year Society '15 President Stemp
Motion passes

Representative Palia: I would like to add a motion for the impeachment of Alexander Prescott.

Speaker: I would like to add a motion to take a 5 minute recess

Representative Palia: Point of information: If I have a seconder and majority of assembly, we can have a debate on it?

Speaker: Yes, but it can't be introduced as a motion because 2 weeks notice wasn't given, as per policy. That's why I'm asking for a 5 minutes recess to discuss it with internal affairs commission

Representative Lively: According to the rules of order, the agenda approval has to be the first motion to pass, so we cannot motion to recess

Representative Basilio: Point of information: You two can conspire quietly while we wait

Speaker: The internal affairs commissioner and I have deemed this motion unconstitutional

Commissioner Anwar:

- 2-weeks notice was not given to Representative Prescott, so it's not fair
- In 2009, there was a motion for the removal of Jacob Mantle and it was deemed unconstitutional
- If you wish to move forward, you will need a motioner, seconder, and a 2/3 majority of ASUS assembly.

Member at Large: Point of information: Is it only members of assembly who can motion? Or are members at large allowed to as well?

Speaker: Members are allowed too, but only elected members can vote on a motion

Representative Palia: I would like to challenge the motion
Seconded by Representative Basilio

Comissioner Ghavami: Point of information: Is it that proxies do not count towards quarums, or that they cannot vote towards motions at all?

Speaker: Only on quarums.

Senator Yang: I think there should be a recount

Comiss Anwar: We're only counting for voters for quarum

Member at Large: Point of information: It is theoretically possible that 41/40 votes are casted if proxies do not count?

Member at large: Point of information: The number needed is 2/3 of the people who are not proxies

Speaker: To reiterate the point: There needs to be a certain amount of people needed here for assembly to run. Proxies don't count towards that, but they do count as voting members.

Representative Rottman: It was brought up before that the agenda had to be approved first, before we judge whether this is deemed unconstitutional

Commissioner Anwar: This has to be resolved in order to move forward

Speaker: To clarify, we're voting on my decision that this motion would be unconstitutional.

Representative Lively: In the preamble to the ASUS constitution, it says that all of the rulings made by this body must be consistent with the constitution, and that challenging the chair on a constitutional decision is not constitutional

Member Mason: Assembly is the highest governing body so they can vote however they want to

Representative Lively: We're allowed to overrule our constitution, based solely on a 2/3 vote?

Speaker: Yes

Vote:

For: 9

Against: 12

Motion fails

Representative Lively: Point of information: I'd like to state that a point of information does not necessarily have to be a question, according to the rules of ASUS, it allows members to bring up pertinent information

Motion 1: "That ASUS Assembly approve the agenda for the March 5th, 2013 Assembly"

Moved by: Zaeem Anwar

Seconded by: John Whittaker

Vote:

For: 15

Against: 1

Abstain: 0

Motion passed

Director Morphy: On page 32 of the minutes for the assembly of February 28th, 2013 it says "People should know that there are victims who have been sexually assaulted" and it should say "People should know that there are victims who have been sexually assaulted that are in this room and who were unwilling to come tonight"

Motion 2: "That ASUS Assembly approve the minutes for the February 28th, 2013 Assembly"

Moved by: Zaeem Anwar

Seconded by: John Whittaker

Vote:

For: 19

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion passed

President Whittaker:

- ASUS was founded with its ultimate mandate of being to serve and represent the best interest of its constituents
- This assembly has been called to call into question the issues of equity of such comments made
- We abhor Member Prescott's comments that some onus lies on the victim
- Member Prescott may aspose that we are interpreting his comments differently than he meant them
- Any argument that insinuates some amount of blame on a victim of sexual assault is inappropriate
- We must exhibit discretion in a world where sexual predators exist
- As a democratic institution, we must be a leader of social change
- The stigma associated with victims of sexual assault cannot be undone
- We must be a proactive force for change on these issues
- I hope that you will support my motion
- For those who do not feel a formal censure does not go far enough, I ask you to reconsider our purpose of ASUS
- Our stance is perfectly clear: A motion for removal does not fall within our purview. A removal from office would be similarly alienating as were some comments
- We feel that it would be inappropriate to make a judgement call on Member Prescott's ability to represent, as we cannot understand the diverse range of students
- That is why we are committed to censuring member prescott today, on the grounds that we read his comment
- We do owe Member Prescott the privelege of substantiating his comments

Officer Lopez:

- To again state, there are resources and pamphlets, as tonight's assembly topic may be triggering
- I apologise for the way that assembly proceeded last week
- This was jeopardized when some members of assembly had to leave
- I hope that it will be free of ridiculous theatrics

- As an elected representative to this body, Member Prescott's views have received complaints from the student body
- Last week there was a lack of knowledge regarding the severity of last week's comments
- These comments were a step backward. It makes this society a place where victims cannot come forth in a safe environment
- People shouldn't rape. It isn't about power, or a fancy watch, or a short skirt
- This motion is a way to show that victim blaming is not something that we approve of in this society

Representative Lively: Point of information: I want to know where in policy or in the constitution is the authority invested in us to actually put a censure on Member Prescott for his remarks?

Officer Lopez: Point of information: any member can come forth with any motion, and that's the democratic nature of the body

Member at large: Point of information: What would such a censure mean? Is it a reprimand? Disallowing the member to speak? A suspension?

President Whittaker:

- There is no policy on how we censure, so this was a decision that we came to as an executive
- The idea is that it is a formal reprimand, not condoning their actions, and removing the approval as a society from those comments
- An official, formal slap on the wrist that says we do not and will not support these statements made

Member at large: Point of information: Can members of this assembly suggest alternate methods? Equity training, or suspension?

President Whittaker:

- There could be an amendment to the motion to add additional content or commentary, which would be decided by me to be friendly or non-friendly. If I deemed it non-friendly, it would go to a 50%+ vote for assembly

Year Society '13 President Galloway: Point of personal privilege: I have to go teach a fitness class

Member Draeger has replaced Year Society '13 President Galloway

Representative Allan:

- Representative Prescott's comments made me feel uncomfortable
- The comment is still not down as of 1 o' clock today
- I do not agree with the assembly's strategy and I don't believe it to be severe enough
- While his statement is regrettable, it is more regrettable how Representative Prescott has managed the situation in the face of criticism
- The comments still remain visible and alienate the body that voted for him
- I am disturbed by his lack of response to this assembly

Representative Rottman:

- The only precedent for censure in the last 4 years was in AMS assembly in November 2010 for comments made by Nick Day in an official capacity as Rector of Queen's at a Remembrance Day assembly that offended students

Representative Franey:

- The comments made by rep prescott are very concerning
- I will respond as though my interpretations are correct
- Everyone has the right to go where they want, dress, and behave how they want, without the fear of being attacked or raped
- These rights should not be stripped from a person just because of how they dress
- The onus is never on the victim
- What I will not respect is when these beliefs are shown off in a way that makes other people uncomfortable
- The motion may not do the despicable acts justice, I recognize that an impeachment would not serve to represent the members of this assembly fairly
- I know that rep prescott and I do not see eye to eye, but I do know that he cares about this university
- I urge you to issue a formal apology to those you have hurt because of your comments

Representative Palia:

- ASUS did ask Alexander Prescott to make a formal apology for the joke that was made earlier with QTV and we did not get an apology
- In lieu of that, I don't think that a censureship is enough
- We have already tried asking him to take back his comments and apologize and he has not

Representative Basilio:

- Direct question to the executive and the human rights officer: have you consulted other services at Queen's?

President Whittaker:

- Stephanie Simpson was there
- She reinforced that his argument was inappropriate and indecent
- It's out of her purview to tell us how to operate

Member at large:

- Being a representative brings forth with it a responsibility to speak on the behalf of others
- This motion of censureship is a product of comments made by member prescott
- I am here to talk about my support of this motion
- These people are not victims, they are survivors. To treat them as anything but is abhorrent
- You give power to the perpetrators, you give them a justification they do not deserve
- How another person chooses to interpret the choices of dress of others is up to them
- Shouldn't the message be "Don't rape", and not "How not to get raped"?
- Walking home alone is not inherently dangerous. What has made it dangerous is how we have socialized as dangerous for a woman and an opportunity for a man
- When I was sexually assaulted, it wasn't about what I was wearing, or where we were
- His choice on how to treat me, and for that, he chose how to treat me, and I will not be ashamed, silenced, or blamed
- I am here to tell you that you are accountable for what you say and how it affects people
- Everyone must think about the consequences of how they act
- This is not that a way of thinking has marginalized a group of people, and it will not be the last
- It is time to change the values of the society that we live in
- If it has not become clear in the past two minutes, as a proud member of the arts and science

faculty, these views are not only reprehensible but do not reflect my own views.

- I urge the members of this assembly to move forward with the censure

Member at large:

- I believe that the only response to Representative Prescott's victim-blaming comments is impeachment
- Censure of these comments is the bare minimum given his actions
- Representative Prescott has proven himself unfit to represent the faculty of Arts and Science, and Queen's in general
- A person who takes a victim-blaming stance will not vote on safety issues in a way that will protect students
- Representative Prescott has also made this an unsafe place for students
- He has perpetrated rape culture in our school
- This is a failure of the society as a whole.
- Seeing as how society has ruled impeachment unconstitutional, censure is the least that we can do

Member at large:

- Member Prescott's comments perpetuates rape culture and promotes a misogynistic culture that I do not condone
- This feeds into a culture where rape is expected
- Member Prescott's comments fail to consider or take into account those who have been raped regardless of how they are dressed
- Instead of condemning rape, it should be rapists themselves who are condemned
- There is a reason that many victims who are raped do not speak out
- Society shames victims, rather than rapists themselves
- Member Prescott cannot claim to have the best interest of students in mind when he perpetuates, and normalizes rape
- Because of this, I think censure is inadequate for Member Prescott's comments

Representative Lively:

- Again, as I did last assembly, I'm not going to comment on what Member Prescott said, other than that I believe it was inappropriate
- I would like to dispel the notion that we could impeach him
- "The constitution shall be interpreted in a manner in line with the charter of rights and freedoms"
- The only way to impeach him would be through "just cause", which is against the right to free speech
- I don't believe that this assembly has the legal or the moral authority to impeach Member Prescott
- Although censure distances us from Member Prescott, it does not bind him to not make further comments and could cause him to make further comments
- The society's distancing itself from the society already. I have not heard one person speaking in favour of Member Prescott
- I've never been a victim of anything like this, so I cannot truly comprehend how people feel about these comments, but in trying stopping member prescott from saying anything, we do not accomplish anything
- To quote Voltaire as I did last assembly: "I may not agree with what you have to say, but I will fight to the death your right to do so"

Member Young:

- Speaking to the right to say your own opinion, I do believe in this right, but I do not believe that as a representative, representing many students, you do not have the right.
- When you say something that clearly makes so many people uncomfortable, they are waiving their right to say whatever they want

Member at large:

- I'd like to propose an ammendment to the motion.
- Propose: Furthermore, that ASUS Assembly also consider through debate and, if approved, adopt alternate measures for disciplining Representative Prescott including a formal apology, suspension, equity training, etc

President Whittaker:

- I won't consider that friendly, just because that is the way that the discussion period is going to be headed anyways
- The only reason I say unfriendly is that I don't want to dilute the strong message of the censuring message itself, but we will hopefully have more concrete measures for that

Member at large:

- When I originally heard Member Prescott's comments, I was hurt, outraged, and wanted impeachment
- When I thought about it, I realized I have many friends who think the same way Member Prescott does. This is wrong
- Sending a message of impeachment is a strong one. I want Member Prescott to learn why what he said is wrong
- Furthermore, President Whittaker, you described a censure as a slap on the wrist
- I feel as though it is a slap on the wrist, and is not strong enough
- Having been involved in ASUS before, I'd rather get things done faster

Comissioner Anwar:

- Point of information: As soon as you get a seconder for the ammendment, we will only be discussing the ammendment, the wording for it, the pros and cons, and there will be a vote for the ammendment
- Once we have for/against the ammendment, it will be added back to the motion, and then that is what we will go back to

Member at large:

Motion to ammend the motion to include: "Furthermore, that ASUS Assembly also consider through debate and, if approved, adopt alternate measures for disciplining rep prescott including a formal apology, suspension, equity training, etc"

Seconded by Representative Palia

Representative Prescott:

- One thing I'd like to speak towards regarding this ammendment is that I figure it would be a good point to clarify my position in this matter, then we can speak about the proper course of action for recourse, as it were
- Where I would begin saying this is that I've heard many calls this evening for me to be impeached
- I've heard many calls this evening for me to have my head on a plaque, this evening
- I will not stand for that, as a sitting member of this assembly
- I recognize that there are students who share the views in that we are not victim blamers
- I do not condone rape at all.

- It is a violation of one's liberty in society
- I am a firm believer in liberty
- I fight for liberty every day
- My father comes here to a great country and works his butt off to get where he is
- I will fight for that liberty and that opportunity every day, to better themselves
- I recognize that in our society are evil people
- We can hope, we can pray, we can wonder and guess, perhaps, that these people do not exist
- But we need to make sure that we protect ourselves from them
- Any act against one's liberty should never ever be condoned, and it is never the victim's fault for any of those actions ever.
- I've heard comments about me comparing it to a golden watch being stolen
- I'll make that comparison insofar as is that it is a violation of one's liberty
- I know you can't treat them exactly the same, but under law, it is founded to protect one's liberty in society
- Otherwise, we'd have a utopia where we didn't have any of these issues, and we wouldn't have law
- That is why law exists, to protect ourselves.
- The principle remains the same, whether it is rape or theft
- In either case, it is never the victim's fault
- I cannot speak as to how my statements have been misconstrued
- The intention was never to blame a victim, but to emphasize the notion that although we would love to live in a society where one can walk blindfolded, naked, and drunk down the street, and not have anything happen to them, we do not live in that society
- Disseminating that kind of message of hear no evil, see no evil, speak no evil, does nothing to protect people from being raped later on

Member at large:

- Point of order: He is speaking about the entirety of the discipline that is against him, and not the amendment I have brought forth
- His points, while he is able to make them, are not directly about the amendment

Representative Prescott:

- I feel, and I urge the members of assembly today, to realize that the spirit of what I was bringing was to better ourselves in society by providing a more realistic sense
- To slap on any kind of punishment to those words is a way of suppressing that voice that I would say injects a little bit of realism into the debate
- If we are going to send that message to the greater student body, then those people who share the views that with liberty comes responsibility will not be represented

Representative Palia:

- Point of order: None of the comments in any way said that Alexander Prescott's comments condoned rape

Representative Lively:

- Point of personal privilege: I was just surfing through twitter to see what people were saying about assembly
- Addressing Officer Lopez: "Stop quoting dead philosophers about victim blaming"
- I notice that multiple members of assembly have retweeted or favoured this tweet
- I'd like to confirm my stance that I am not justifying victim blaming
- Member Prescott was not condoning victim blaming

- I urge all of you to address this directly to my face and not over social media, as that is the issue here

Speaker: Please delete the tweet, Officer Lopez

Officer Lopez:

- I took issue to that in the case that the way in which that quote was used was to justify freedom of expression who are real victims of rape and sexual assault
- I thought it was worth pointing out, and the fact that it gained so much traction on twitter within that hashtag, that other people do feel the quote was misused

Representative Rottman:

- Can you clarify your stance on clapping in special assemblies?

Comissioner Anwar:

- Clapping is only reserved for motions that are passed unanimously
- This is to maintain a fair playing field for everyone to make their statements

Representative Prescott:

- Point of information: Can I move to censure Equity Officer Lopez?

Comissioner Anwar:

- Point of information: We are still on the debate about the ammendment to motion 3, so we can do so after

Representative Palia:

- You are saying that by clapping we are marginalizing those, but that's exactly what the comments are doing

Representative Prescott:

- The clapping and Twitter that is going on is creating an unsafe space for me, and for other members who may share my views
- I urge those on Twitter to reconsider their thoughts and to talk here
- Not once have I slurred anyone's character in this debate
- Noone has approached me with any reason, or with any reasonable arguments
- I ask those who are on Twitter that they stop their cowardice

Speaker:

- What we said in regards to clapping is to keep everything equal for all members in assembly

Member Young:

- Point of information: To keep the atmosphere in here a safe space, I feel as though we should remove anger from clapping
- Especially those who do not know the rules, it was to show support for those who are sharing their stories
- To get angry at that only causes more turmoil in the room

Representative Prescott:

- Point of information: Is there any way to monitor any of the social networking/tweeting that is going on, and any character slurs that may be going on, some of which that may perpetuate unsafe spaces?

Comissioner Anwar:

- We can't monitor that
- According to policy, only the scribe should have access to the internet
- The only thing you are allowed to do at assembly is passing non-obstructive notes, but I do ask that all assembly members please log off of Facebook and Twitter

Member Mason:

- I believe debate has stalled, I'm motioning to move forward with the vote

Seconded by Commissioner Ghavami

Member at large: The ammendment reads: "Furthermore, that ASUS Assembly also consider through debate and, if approved, adopt alternate measures for disciplining rep prescott including a formal apology, suspension, equity training, etc"

Ammendment vote:

For: 10

Against: 8

Abstain: 0

Motion passed

Speaker: Back to the original motion. I would like to reiterate that if you have already spoken on the motion before, you cannot speak again

Member at large:

- Would it be possible for everyone to speak more loudly and clearly?

Member at large:

- First, I acknowledge that I am not a law student, but I have consulted lawyers that I know
- Canada has no freedom of speech
- Everyone has the right to freedom of thought and expression
- Guarantees the rights and freedoms only to such reasonable limits as is reasonable by law
- 1 in 4 college students have experienced a sexual assault
- There is a pressing need in combatting rape culture
- The means must also be proportional
- There must be minimal impairments of rights
- The inconvenience to Member Prescott must be less than the total damage done by his comments
- As a member of the faculty of Arts and Science and a victim of sexual assault, the statement in question has made me feel unsafe in this room, on campus, and in my life
- I feel as though censure is the bare minimum
- I urge any members to keep this in mind

Member at large:

- Words can be extremely triggering, particularly for such a heinous crime as rape
- Knowing that someone is representing me in ASUS who thinks that I am a victim is awful
- So often when we talk about rape, we think about it as a stranger in the darkness
- The majority of rapists are strangers and friends
- It is attitudes like Member Prescott's that perpetuate rape culture
- When I was sexually assaulted, I thought I would try to ruin my rapists life by being as

public as possible

- I was called a liar, a slut, and asked what I was wearing when it happened
- Censure is the minimum that you can do

Representative Rottman:

- Obviously everyone here is touchy. There are a lot of people who are upset
- I want to speak on a personal side
- I don't want to speak specifically to the topic at hand, but more about what we're doing here in terms of censuring and the context
- Firstly: It's censure, not censor.
- I've been, at times, when browsing Facebook, personally offended and uncomfortable because of things I've seen
- I recognize that members will feel differently than me on this, but I did not feel as though it was my place to take action against these members
- That is because they were making these comments in a personal fashion, and not in a professional capacity
- There have been times when my identity or values have been violated
- I think that everyone uses social media in some sense
- Everyone has made an opinion that could be construed as insulting or offensive to someone else
- I'm worried about a state where I could not talk about anything on Facebook for fear of it offending someone else, whether it be a minor or major magnitude
- When I post things as Alex Rottman on Facebook, I'm posting as the person, and not the representative. I'm representing my own opinions
- At times, my own opinions do not reflect the values that I hold as a representative
- On social media, I'm Alex Rottman. I don't know if you want a whole room full of people accountable for what they say on social media
- I don't think this is a slope that we want to be going down on
- I'm not going to talk about the comments that rep prescott made
- They weren't made from a page titled "Alex Prescott, ASUS Representative to the AMS"
- They were made by an account titled "Alex Prescott"
- I think there is a difference in what I do in my position and how I represent students, and what I do in my private life
- Sometimes, what I do in my private life is not how I conduct myself up here
- I just want everyone to keep that in mind, and for assembly to take that into account in terms of what has happened on social media
- Social media is public, and not private
- The same thing could be said for a conversation between friends

Member Emrigh:

- In the objectives for ASUS constituoin "the Arts and Science faculty shall strive to represent students from a diverse group of bodies
- AMS' operating statement: "AMS shall be non-racist, non-homophobic, and otherwise nonjudgemental"
- I do have something to say about your presence on Facebook
- I am not Facebook friends with Representative Prescott or the friend who had that status
- When you post something on the internet, it can be screencapped and sent around
- I utterly fail to see how even though the words "victim blaming" were not put in, how this is representative of students today, or how it is for the betterment of those in the Kingston community

- They do not uphold the interest of both constitutions
- You are not just a representative when you are here at assembly
- You are always a representative
- When you see someone making these types of alienating comments, it doesn't matter in what setting you're saying them, as they're still attached to your name
- With these comments, Representative Prescott has contributed to a society that silences those who have been victims of sexual assault or rape
- I'm happy with the ammendment made, and I do feel that censureship is the bare minimum
- From what I've seen from previous jokes made on the QTV interview, I don't know if that will do anything
- I hope that Mr. Prescott will take this opportunity to learn

Speaker:

- We've been talking for awhile
- I will take 4 more speakers on the list, and then close the discussion

Member Young:

- As an Arts and Science student, I was uncomfortable with the opinion itself, but I understand that people do make mistakes
- What i'm more uncomfortable with is how it can be seen by other students
- Yes, having an opinion that makes so many people feel makes me feel uncomfortable, but Representative Prescott has not shown any remorse or awareness that this can hurt other people, and that he has shown no apology has made me more regretful
- Regardless of the position you are holding, you have to be very careful about what you say when you are in a position as it is always tied to you
- It is not just the opinion itself, but how the opinion was dealt with

Member at large:

- I'd like to speak about what victim blaming is
- We're having a bit of a problem understanding that in this assembly
- If someone says "I am not blaming victims", but then writes that "some of the onus lies with the victim", then there is a confusion of syntax
- If not, I believe like Member Young said, nobody is asking for a firing
- We're asking for Representative Prescott to show compassion
- There are people in this room who have been traumatized by rape; people who are visibly upset by it
- Regardless of how one feels in this assembly, I would like to remind Representative Prescott that being criticized for a comment, It's not something to take the defensive and go on the warpath; it is an opportunity to learn
- I would like to see rep prescott learn why he was wrong
- In a society where most rapists are not brought to justice
- It's not like saying "I like the red sox", it's perpetuating a culture of pain and depression that is overwhelmingly sexist and gendered
- I fail to grasp how in this assembly, there are people who are talking about semantics and syntax and not recognizing those who have been hurt
- There is no need to fight each other, and I'd like to remind my fellow ASUS assembly members, of which I was once a part, that this is what we try to do. We try to make the school a better place
- We try to do this through the tools that we have
- What I ask is that you consider these tools, use these tools.

- I am not asking for Representative Prescott to go to jail, but to learn

Member Jella:

- Comments have been made multiple times about the representation that rep prescott holds
- With that in mind, anyone who assumes any form of leadership role should lead by example
- If our goal is for representative prescott to apologize, or learn and try to improve himself, I think that just by doing that, we are encouraging other students to do that as well
- The overall goal is to make the school a better place
- We've made a lot of comments on what has been posted on social media
- I'm wondering if ASUS assembly would be willing to add something about social media and networking

President Whittaker:

- I think that's a fantastic thing to talk about

Representative Allan:

- What I believe we are getting away from and something I'd like to clarify is that the comment remains on Facebook. It is probably still up on Facebook
- When the comment got the attention of the student body and those who are no longer at Queen's, it transformed from alex prescott to rep prescott
- It garnered that attention because he retained his position

Representative Laidlaw:

- Speaking to Representative Rottman's point
- I am personally a representative to a small student body, ~300 people
- I consider myself iconic to these people, even on social media sites
- I hold some opinions that may be against the general opinion and may make some uncomfortable
- I choose not to make these comments on social media websites, because I know I am representative

Representative Prescott:

- There's the notion that I have victim-blamed; never once have I said that it was the victim's fault
- I said some of the onus, and by onus I mean responsibility may be placed on those who have had issues happen to them, whereby they have put themselves in risky situations
- When I hear about comparing a woman's body to a golden watch, it is important to recognize that I believe in the notion that everything we have is our own property. We own our labour, we own our bodies, our material wealth
- Thus, anything that damages that property, whatever it may be, is a violation of our liberty
- It is important that we return to that
- I feel that people have misrepresented me grievously
- I did not ever intend to condone rape in any way, nor did I mean to condone victims

Year Society '15 President Stemp:

- Point of information: Does The Speaker agree that Representative Prescott is using body language that may be hurtful to others

Speaker: Yes, Member Prescott please reduce the body language.

Representative Prescott:

- When we start touching on these things that could adversely affect my life for years to come, and take away my liberty by going to jail, I won't speak so kindly
- Regarding what I had written on Facebook, I have placed a disclaimer on my personal page
- I have waived my responsibility, as it were, that they were my personal opinions and not one as a representative of this body
- As such, I hope people will recognize that going forward
- The original issue I think is that people have misconstrued my opinions terrible.
- I never condoned victim blaming or rape
- I find it terribly disconcerting that whenever somebody does open up a dialogue on this, that we get gang-tackled
- There's no safe environment to open up any dialogue on these issues
- If we ever want to change that culture that we're hearing about
- I see that sadly, this is one issue that we cannot talk about, even though we can talk about murder, theft, etc
- We must mitigate all violations of rights in our society
- I think it's important that we keep a safe space
- Otherwise we will continue to live in our hear no evil, see no evil, speak no evil, and hope that the rapists go away, that the thieves go away, that the murderers go away. That won't happen
- I want people to be protected from the ignorant thoughts that the society is fine and nobody can get harmed
- I want to see a world in which we don't need that, but we can only do so if we have realistic views

Member at large:

- Does ASUS require that member prescott abstain from the vote, as he is directly involved?

Comissioner Anwar:

- We will ask Member Prescott to leave the room before the vote

Representative Rottman:

- Point of order: I'd like to request a secret ballot

Speaker:

- For the secret ballot, please put a "Y" if you are for the motion, an "N" if you are not for the motion, and an "A" if you are abstaining

Member at Large:

- I recommend that we remain silent regarding the decision of this vote.

Motion 3: "That ASUS Assembly formally censure member Prescott for his comments made on Facebook on February 25th, 2013. The comment's assumption of onus on a victim of sexual assault is one that the Arts & Science Undergraduate Society does not support or condone Furthermore, that ASUS Assembly also consider through debate and, if approved, adopt alternate measures for disciplining rep prescott including a formal apology, suspension, equity training, etc"

Moved by: John Whittaker

Seconded by: Nikolas Lopez

Vote:

For: 17

Against: 5
Abstain: 0
Motion passed

Representative Basilio:

- Point of information: To everyone in the room, I hereby tender my resignation as ASUS Representative to the AMS
- The comments made by Representative Prescott have made it imposisble for me to hold it
- I moved for an impeachment, but ASUS assembly has chosen to move forward with a censure
- With member prescott's unwillingness to resign, I must do so
- I apologize to the constituents who voted me in, but i feel as this is the only recourse I have

Representative Prescott:

- Point of personal privelege: First of all, good riddance to Daniel Basilio if he says I condone rape

Representative Prescott and Speaker talk over each other for roughly ~15 seconds

Speaker:

- Mr. Prescott, I have warned you many times to stop. Please leave assembly

Representative Lively:

- Point of order, I'd like to make a movement to remove people from this assembly who made comments to Member Prescott on his way out
- It is unfortunate that Representative Prescott made those comments, however I would like for those who made comments to Representative Prescott on his way out to also leave this assembly

Motion seconded by Year Society '13 Vice-President Geyer

Motion passes

Member at large:

- I'd like to mention that Slutwalk is happening this weekend

Speaker:

- Members who did say comments to Representative Prescott, please leave

Year Society '13 President Galloway:

- I am against the slutwalk and that comment personally offended me

Member at large:

- He yelled at survivors on the way out

President Whittaker:

- Please respect Kasraee, as he is the speaker

Year Society '13 President Galloway's Proxy Member Draeger:

- Point of information: I want to know what your actions will be in response to this
- Point of personal privelege: May I suggest campus security?

Speaker:

- I do not think that's a good idea
- Out of respect for democracy, please leave the assembly everyone who made those comments

Too many people are talking over each other to discern a conversation

President Whittaker: Motion to end assembly

Motion approved

Ending Time: 9:06pm