

Minutes for ASUS Assembly on January 23rd, 2014

Starting Time: 7:03pm

Speaker Bourne will henceforth be known as Speaker

Speaker:

I am not Trevor, I am Ben!

Trevor is taking a leave of absence, so I'm taking over for tonight.

Feel free to shout out any flaws

Motion 1: "That ASUS Assembly approve the agenda for the January 23rd, 2014 Assembly"

Moved by: Benjamin Bourne

Seconded by: Irfan Tahiri

Scribe:

The following headers should not exist in the agenda:

- 6. Council Reports
- 7. I, II, III, IV (1-4 Society Reports)
- 7. VI (6 - Undergraduate Student Trustee
- 7. VII (7 - Rector)
- 7. VIII (8 - CESA)
- 7. IX (9 - COMPSA)
- 7. X (10 - Academic Representatives)
- 7. XII (12 - International Student Representative)
- 7. XIII (13 - Board of Directors)

The only people who should have verbal reports are:

Exec (one each)

AMS Representatives (one)

Senate (one)

Speaker:

I will take care of that

Vice-President Tahiri:

Add a discussion topic about ASUS Funds and Grants. Do people have a better way to organize it?

Speaker:

Everyone who is here to speak as a candidate who is not team WRL or Laura Stemp, please stand up?

Motion to add team SMH to guest speaker

Seconded by Irfan Tahiri

Vote:

For: 20

Against: 0

Motion passes

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

Moved by: Benjamin Bourne

Seconded by: Irfan Tahiri

Vote:

For: 20

Against: 0

Motion passes

Speaker's Business

Speaker:

Thanks for coming! Especially the candidates in the gallery

This is the first year we've had quorum during elections season!

I'll be keeping question period short for the candidates

Guest Speaker

AMS Executive Candidates – Allison Williams, Justin Reekie, & Philip Lloyd:

Allison Williams:

I am the presidential candidate!

Justin Reekie:

I'm the VP Ops candidate!

Philip Lloyd:

I'm the VP UA candidate!

Allison Williams:

I'm currently the academic commissioner with AMS

Justin Reekie:

I worked at Co Gro as a sandwich maker. When I got involved, I found my love for the AMS. I'm currently the Hospitality and Services commissioner

Philip Lloyd:

Last year I was the CESA/Con-Ed President!

I've worked on different subcommittees within AMS.

Allison Williams:

We had similar hopes for the society as a whole, which relate to being student driven.

It's important to work with faculty societies like ASUS.

It's its own pillar in our platform – the engagement pillar.

We want to make sure that the executive are the primary servants of all students

We've consulted with all faculty societies, many clubs, and others

Philip Lloyd:

Hopefully we are appealing to a wide array of students, whether they're athletic, academic, or artistic

Discounted via rail tickets, queen's specific fitness app
We believe that it is feasible, we've consulted with the appropriate bodies, and are excited to get going

Vice-President Tahiri:

Next year if a motion came forward saying that the speaker of the AMS is not allowed to run in faculty society elections, what position would you take?

Allison Williams:

The executive's role is to facilitate that discussion.
Assembly members should be able to interact with this.
It should also be brought to council.
This was an issue that was discussed this year.
It should be up to the elected officials and the executives.

Senator Duchaine:

I have a question about page 33 of your platform (Establishment of courses without prerequisites)

I am co-chair of the politics DSC.

How will you, as AMS executive plan to convince specific departments for this?

Allison Williams:

There are many courses right now that are upper year and do not have prerequisites.
They don't require the specific learning outcomes of other classes
Biology-350 is evolution in human affairs. It's not as technical in evolution as a concept, but more how its influenced society today, and us as human beings.
We need to note the reasons why this is attractive to the university.
By having prerequisites, it was a way to attract new faculty members.
There was a time when this budget model was introduced, where prerequisites were added unnecessarily.
We are now trying to attract people from other faculties into their classes.

Senator Duchaine:

My question was specifically about how you as AMS executive would be doing this

Allison Williams:

This is something that needs a lot of work with specific faculties
We'll be bringing this to faculty board and curriculum committee.

Philip Lloyd:

When we're approaching this, we don't see it as completely traditional
When we talked with the vice provost, we looked at more experimental classes. Maybe condensed over a two-week period.
If they are topical, then it can be integrated better

Senator Chishti:

Based on the nature of the AMS, it attracts a lot of Arts and Science students.
Because of the nature of Arts and Science, it ends up being too broad.
Where do you think the role of the AMS Academic Commission should stop and where it

should be moved back into faculties, and when it should be moved back into ASUS

Philip Lloyd:

The AMS is supposed to be a resource for all faculties.

The specific faculties do know better what their students want.

The role of the AMS is to utilize their connections

Academic Caucus is another area where we can see this relationship, where academic commissions come together and the AMS is able to provide certain insight to the issues

It would involve recognizing that we are a resource for lobbying, and partnering to figure out the best course of action

COMPSA Vice-President Bannerman:

Recently there's been COMPSA and CESA's relation with ASUS.

On the level of the AMS, what is your opinion of smaller faculty societies like COMPSA?

Philip Lloyd:

One of my main goals is to bring them out, and make sure they're involved in the discussions and debates happening at the AMS.

ASUS President's Caucus was introduced last year, which would allow PHEKSA/CESA/COMPSA to discuss their relationship with ASUS.

Eril has done a great job this year of making sure smaller faculties can be a part of what is going on

We need to advertise opportunities within the AMS to those smaller faculties.

Tell them how the AMS can be beneficial to them

Senator Stanley:

What's the biggest area of weakness for the AMS, and what does your platform do to address it? And specifically within your roles, what will you do?

Allison Williams:

The cost pressures that come into the society.

This ties into recruitment. If we don't have the resources to accommodate that, that's an issue.

Full-time AMS staff have less buying power.

Many students will have to pay back OSAP in their term.

We want to recognize that the AMS does rely on student dollars.

We don't want to put that pressure on the shoulders of students.

Queen's Model Parliament has had increasing difficulty getting people out to their events

Vice-President Tahiri:

I asked this last night, and neither team answered it properly.

Equity issues from ASUS are make-it or break-it for voters.

If we're at assembly, and an ASUS VP writes "lol taliban girls" to a picture of two girls with towels on their head

The AMS executive had only one goal – to remove this executive

Would you censure? Impeach? Do nothing and wait for it?

This will show where your values are.

Allison Williams:

The AMS provides learning opportunities for students.

We need to look at this as a learning opportunity.

We talked about making a complaint to the non-academic discipline system.

The AMS does administer peer-on-peer discipline

The second part is recognizing that they are a student representative, and that they have a voice for many people.

What we would do is look towards a censure, but not an impeachment

That being said, Mr. Mason brought up a very good point, which is the safety of the individual.

This is meant to be an educational initiative, rather than anything else.

Representative Pang:

What are your policies on minority groups, like international students?

How will you make sure that their voice is heard in AMS assembly?

Do you think adding an international student representative in AMS is a good idea?

Philip Lloyd:

It'd be difficult to implement such a position in AMS.

It would categorize a lot of different people into one.

As an AMS executive, when we make a decision, we need to think about how it affects all students, including minority students.

Whether the groups be cultural or religious, we need to address it.

We need to make sure that all students have an opportunity to engage, learn, and celebrate the diversity on campus

Representative Zarzour:

One of the things we talked about at DSC is the student enrolment increase in the coming years.

What is your position on the increase?

What will you do to help it along, or slow it down?

What's your strategy for protecting the interest of our students?

Allison Williams:

Growth in and of itself is not a bad thing

Is there room to accommodate it?

If we look at our university right now, there is not room.

The funding structure from the province does incentivize it.

To make money, they want to enroll more students.

We do not have the classrooms, the faculties, staff at HCDS, etc

We would need to make large expenditures in many areas.

Bringing in students would bring in money, but not enough.

The entire province will see less of this in the coming years.

CESA Vice-President Ferguson:

Many first-year students live on west campus.

How can you make west campus more appealing?

Philip Lloyd:

That's something that's being looked into in the campus master plan

We don't want just athletics or the education faculty there.
The addition of an educational counsellor over there is good
We need to maximize that space; what resources can be added?
I know that Justin will be looking at the new negotiation with Kingston Transit to make sure buses are efficient as possible
Some students do have class there late at night; make sure Walkhome can come to them

Senator Chishti:

This is for VP Operations Justin Reekie
You guys have a platform point about tricolour outlet, where you want to introduce Gael merchandise
I know you're a little concerned that tricolour outlet had a huge surplus last year, but that's only two years.
The journal is in a deficit, underground isn't doing well.
Do you believe that each individual service should budget towards 0?
Do you think it's okay to have some at surplus to make up for the ones at a deficit?

Justin Reekie:

It's hard to predict what will happen every year with the service.
You should always budget to 0. We are not for profit with a double underline.
It would look disingenuous to budget things above or below 0.
It would balance out deficits, but it's a responsibility that tricolour outlet, along with the director can use more of the money to benefit students.
The reason why I was really excited about this new product line is because it's 7%.

Senator Smolej:

My question is regarding a Facebook group known as the Queen's Alma Nacho Society.
To my knowledge, you guys have not made a statement regarding this movement.
Would that signify a lack of understanding as to what students desire?

Justin Reekie:

We don't know what this nacho thing is.
If the question is why we don't have them before 8pm, but we have an answer
Queen's Pub is one of the smallest kitchens, but one of the busiest.
Nachos take one of the industrial microwaves, and we only have two.
It's for the dinner rush.
We want to make it very clear how our operations work, so it starts at 8pm

AMS Executive Team – Scott Mason, Mark Asfar, Hasina Daya

Scott Mason:

I'm the presidential candidate

Mark Asfar:

I'm the operations candidate

Scott Mason:

I'm the current ASUS president, so I've gotten to prowl around with you folk
I'm passionate about student advocacy, which is why I'm running

Mark Asfar:

I've fallen in love with this University.
My Facebook has way too many photos of me in tricolour
As an AMS tour guide, I keep telling people that it's a great place to be

Scott Mason:

We would give you the propaganda spiel, but I'm sure you guys are all into the platforms
Let's get straight to the questions!

Senator Chishti:

Where do you think the role of AMS academic advocacy stops?

Scott Mason:

That's a difficult question to answer.
AMS academic advocacy goes as far as the entire student university.
Faculty societies are however a little more plugged in. They know what students' needs are.
That's why we have academic caucus, to discuss different issues

Vice-President Tahiri:

There is an assembly member, and there is a picture of two girls with towels on their head,
and the comment made is "lol taliban girls".
Equity issues do tend to arise.

Scott Mason:

I'm going to talk about the more political aspect.
Mark was the equity officer on QDE.
The direct answer is censure.
To impeach someone over a comment is a serious thing to do.
Members of the university should be upset that an elected member made a comment like
that.
They should face a censure from their faculty society.
A censure is a way to say "what you did is wrong"
However, I do think that impeachment is unnecessary. But it is not off the table
If this is an individual that continues the poor representation of students, that's something
that can be brought up

Mark Asfar:

I served as Equity Officer for the Queen's 169th Debate team
A censure should happen.
Unequitable actions should never happen
The censure should be in the interest of teaching
We don't want destructive responses

COMPSA Vice-President Bannerman:

What are your opinions on the relations between the AMS and the smaller faculty societies

Scott Mason:

As ASUS President, I got to serve on President's Caucus.
This is a place where faculty society presidents can come and talk about issues that their

society is facing.

This is a good place for dialogue, because with everyone in the room, I think the president of each faculty society has a pretty good understanding of what's going on

The big question there is what would really improve relations?

What Eril did this year is to make President's Caucus a sounding board for faculty society issues.

I was not there a few years ago, but I heard that it used to be an AMS sounding board.

In the most basic sense, it means that I can add the COMSOC president on Facebook. I can get peoples' phone numbers.

There isn't much more that can be done other than a meeting like that for meaningful change

Senator Stanley:

In your platform, you mention in the municipal election, you are going to endorse students running for election or mayor?

Why is that a good thing? Why not? Why do you choose to support this?

Mark Asfar:

We formed this idea together as a group.

We don't think that the situation in town-gown relations is ideal.

We created this platform because the AMS has had to spend 10s of thousands of dollars

We are paying hundreds of thousands of dollars for policing which is all coming from bad public relations

We want mayoral candidates to think of students as part of their constituency

Scott Mason:

The AMS usually deals with the big political actors on big issues.

Big issues like the one-bag garbage policy, or the OMB appeal

We as a society have not given these political actors a reason to take these issues seriously.

The goal is to endorse all candidates so that they all have student issues.

We haven't given the candidates a reason to put student issues in their platforms

Senator Smolej:

You opened up this discussion with your unbounded love for Queen's.

Do you think that this isolates members of Queen's who do not feel this way?

My reason for getting involved was because there were many things that I disliked.

When people said they loved Queen's, I felt unable to speak up because it would stigmatize me as an outsider

Scott Mason:

That's a very philosophical question

We don't have anything specific in our platform about culture at Queen's.

One thing that Hasina said is that when she gets a Gael wrap or a gael burger, she can't consume these things; there is bacon in them.

She felt non-included in these as a part of Queen's

I too have felt sometimes that Queen's culture is not too great.

Throughout this campaign, my identity has been stolen to establish websites. I've been attacked by anonymous bloggers.

It's sad to say that at the end of the day, the engineers wear purple jackets, the artscis wear

red jackets, but it's not a huge difference.

Representative Pang:

What's your policy on minority groups? Especially international students. Do you think that a position for international students on AMS assembly would be helpful?

Scott Mason:

I spoke to the university registrar about compiling a list of international students.

At this time, we don't have the power to do this, so logistically it is tricky to hold this election.

I think the AMS has always been focused on itself. What it could do better is to expand its institutional capacity to assisting private initiatives.

We have the clubs initiative. We want to reevaluate all clubs

If you're Athletes in Action, or a religious or minority group, if you're an AMS-ratified club, we can provide more funding.

Senator Duchaine:

What are your thoughts on tuition increase?

Scott Mason:

Tuition is already too high.

The university is bound by the provincial funding model.

If I was in charge of negotiations, I would say that we need to be realistic about our goals

CESA Vice-President Ferguson:

Many first-year students live on west campus, many students take classes there. How can you make it more appealing?

Mark Asfar:

I was a guy who grew up on central. I wish I had lived on West. As a tour guide, I've gotten to engage there.

It's an optical cultural problem that we have.

WRL touches on this, but we need to get better bussing to and from west campus

I don't want students to have to traverse the ice to get home, or to class.

West is a solid place, and there are services there.

The cafeteria has been improved; the food is better.

Having more events out there will also help out.

I want people to realize that it's a good place to be ahead of time

Senator Chishti:

This is about the homecoming beer tent?

As someone who does not drink, I would not go.

According to statistics, over 1 in 4 students do not drink or do not drink regularly

How helpful do you think it is for town-gown relations?

Scott Mason:

We had the pleasure of meeting with Principal Woolf today.

He thought that this idea is completely feasible.

I think that everyone agrees that there should be student programming to bring alumni and

students together.

Students are going to drink, and we should provide them a safe place to do it

Mark Asfar:

Students want to spend time with alumni.

They want to swap stories from 20 hours or 20 years ago.

For students who do drink, it's a safe environment, and a place the university endorses.

You do not have to drink at this place. It's also not aberdeen.

When I went out for homecoming this year, I did not have any drinks.

I had to go to the middle of aberdeen to meet with alumni.

This will be a safe environment for all. The $\frac{1}{4}$ who don't drink, and the $\frac{3}{4}$ who do.

2015 Year Society President Stemp:

As a student currently dealing with a short-term ability issue, do you feel that our campus is accessible, and what do you think you can do to improve accessibility on campus? Specifically physical.

Mark Asfar:

I'm very acutely aware of accessibility as a tour guide.

Yes there are issues, but it is hard to address them.

Many buildings were not addressed with accessibility in mind.

The SMH website is designed with accessibility modules activated.

Working with accessibility policies on campus is good.

We can directly influence the way the JDUC and Student Life are accessible.

I want to address these things. There should be more physically accessible areas

The AMS has control over some spaces, but we will lobby with the university for others

Adam and Blake for ASUS Executive

Blake Butler:

I'm running to be the ASUS vice-presidential candidate

Adam Grotsky:

I'm running to be the ASUS presidential candidate

Blake Butler:

Orientation coordinator this year

Every day I learn more and more about arts and science.

I'm hoping that throughout the next few weeks, months, and if elected next year, I can learn more.

Adam Grotsky:

I'm the academic commissioner for this society!

We are here to talk about what we can do for you guys, and what we can do for the society

Have you guys read our platform? Or do you want a few points to start the process

We'll give you the greatest hits

My personal favourite is: Life after artsci.

It's a partnership with career services. We want to provide you with the tools and resources

that you need to graduate.

This will include skill workshops such as public speaking, professional social media, resume events, networking sessions with alumni, improving the arts and science career fairs

Blake Butler:

You all access the ASUS website to get your assembly packages

It is a skeleton website.

We'd like to offer more.

We all engage with each other, online

It only makes sense to engage with the assembly.

We need an interactive events calendar!

Having it, you'd be able to see what happens, and when.

Online applications just make everything so much easier for everyone.

We also want to offer e-commerce things such as formal tickets

Adam Grotsky:

Academic advocacy!

The idea is departmental feedback sessions. Regardless of which department you are in, you are likely having some kind of problem. TAs, professors, course load, etc.

We will have a feedback session with the DSCs in a friendly, student-only environment.

Member Mason:

ASUS had its very first financial review in 123 years.

As the future president/vice-president elect, you will be transferring in with the ASUS executive.

Later on, there will be a conversation on whether or not this should continue happening

What do you think?

Adam Grotsky:

We should continue these reviews. They are important for financial accountability.

Short and simple: Yes.

Member Chinniah:

I have a question specifically for Blake.

With regards to ASUS formal, it will be at quite a deficit this year. Since it is always high in demand, in order to cover the deficit, would you rule out an increase in ticket prices?

When you are elected, will you commit to stopping Adam from wearing a horrendous suit?

Adam Grotsky:

Am I correct in saying there is always a deficit with formal?

Vice-President Tahiri:

Yes

Blake Butler:

I haven't seen how formal works up close.

In regards to Adam's dresswear, all I can say is that I'll do my best about screening him beforehand.

Adam Grotsky:

I don't think that it's an issue that we run at a deficit.
We want to offer students a chance to have fun.
It wouldn't be fair to the students to increase the ticket price

Member-at-large:

In the case of a zombie apocalypse, what would you do?

Adam Grotsky:

The ASUS Core is pretty much a fortress.

Blake Butler:

If everyone's on the third floor, there's no way any zombie could get up there

Adam Grotsky:

I would sacrifice my life for the students. I'd die with honour and pride.

Senator Duchaine:

I was wondering if each of you could comment on the division of powers between the two of you. Are the roles working out?

Blake Butler:

As the vice-president, they are put in the CFO and the chief operating officer roles.
They review finances, put out the budget monthly online
As well, you do work very closely with the services and community outreach commissions

Adam Grotsky:

The president is the external voice and vision for society.
You're also the head academic advocate, so you deal very closely with the academic commission for any issues affecting the student body.
There are also the council meetings
There is a joint portfolio for ASUS camps, funding committee, etc

Representative Zarzour:

What specific strategies do you intend to use to mobilize the academic council, as you are the closest to the vast majority of students in ASUS.

Adam Grotsky:

If you don't know, academic council is the academic commissioner, deputy commissioner, and the four academic representatives.
Traditionally, this body is for discussion of academic issues at a smaller scope than DSC assembly.
We will work together as a group to address those interests and concerns.

Representative Lumsden:

What about the uncertain job market?
There are people who do not have exact job applicability.
What is ASUS' role in facilitating services for people on this?
Should it be distinct to each department?

Adam Grotsky:

This brings us back to our Life After Art/Sci platform point.

This is why we're running the workshops, to put the students in the best possible position after graduation.

Blake Butler:

This idea very much came out of what you just spoke to.

I'm in history, and I'm not sure what I'd like to do once I graduate. I'm not sure that the option is there to me.

What is available to students out there?

Commissioner Liu:

This addresses your e-commerce plan.

AMS has tried to establish an e-commerce system for tricolour.

It was hard to do and very expensive.

How are you sure you will implement this? Have you done any research?

Adam Grotsky:

The reason we're different from tricolour is that they need to have a lot of stock on hand.

Jackets, you place the order and then you order it afterwards.

With formal tickets, we have a set number of tickets.

We've talked to COMPSA as well as other faculties about the ideas.

Tom Jacobs set up an e-commerce type system when he was the Vice-President.

Commissioner Liu:

For jackets, how would you get for sizing?

People want to try it on, get the length, etc

Adam Grotsky:

If you wanted to try it on, then you could go to the core or the bookstore.

This is good for people who are getting them as gifts.

It's in the preliminary stages, but still very feasible

Senator Chishti:

My question is specifically with respect to faculty board

I didn't know until much after I was elected that senators have seats at faculty board.

1/3-1/2 of faculty board is made up of students.

I was disappointed this past week to not see any ASUS representatives, and only 4 students

What do you think is the role of faculty board, and how do we get people there?

Adam Grotsky:

This week is definitely an anomaly.

Unfortunately, I cannot attend it right now.

We should have a caucus meeting beforehand. Talk about the issues and agenda.

We get people coming and increase the interest that way.

Senator Chishti:

It was just about general academic advocacy.

Where does AMS advocacy stop and ASUS advocacy begin?

Adam Grotsky:

A better relationship with the senators themselves.

As an academic representative, I don't consult much with the senators. I think that should change.

On a separate note, I'd like to in a general advocacy sense have some sort of joint effort between not just the senators and the commissioner, but the president who is ultimately the chief academic advocate for the society.

Vice-President Tahiri:

A lot of reasons people don't get their platform points done is because they are unrealistic with the amount of time that they have.

Workshop series, networking sessions, ASUS trips, online jackets, DSC feedback session, academic appeal cost, video committee, mental health, etc. These are all great initiatives.

How will you get all of this done?

Adam Grotsky:

It's definitely daunting at first glance.

It's not directly the executive that will be doing all of these issues.

We do not want to pressure the commissioners into doing things they don't want to, but we can utilize them.

Life after art sci would be a summer project, but the workshop series would not be.

When you break it down into commissions, it's not as scary

Senator Smolej:

My question relates to something that we were recently made aware of.

This has to do with The Tartan.

Where do you see this portfolio evolving, if it in fact does, and how do we make it realistic to see its potential and physical presence on this campus?

Adam Grotsky:

We need to go back and look at the original purpose and mandate of the Tartan.

There was a lack of publication this year, and the executive did not have a lot of say in that.

It does look poorly on the society that very little was published.

We will discuss it with the past editors in chief, determine whether or not we have a hiring for a new editor(s) in chief, and our plans moving forward

Member Wallace:

While I think that your online application process is fantastic for positions such as an OC, how would it work for a gael that may have a multimedia application?

Adam Grotsky:

That would depend on the capabilities of the online application system. The idea was modelled after the AMS system. If it does not support multimedia, that's something to look into.

If that's not an option, then you can hand it in in person

Blake Butler:

If you knew that the application was going to be due on Tuesday, hand-in the non-online version on Sunday and send in the online stuff before Tuesday.

Representative Goodman:

Vice-President Tahiri has been taking care of this issue for the last two ones.
How would you guys deal with the same issue that Vice-President Tahiri brought up earlier?

A member of the society making unequitable comments in person or online?
What do you think the faculty society's position should be on these issues?

Adam Grotsky:

Just a general thought on our philosophy is that everyone has the right to free speech, so long as it doesn't infringe on anybody else's rights.

Once you are in a position of leadership, your public comments are not just your own anymore.

If it happened within ASUS assembly, our first process would be to censure the individual

Blake Butler:

After censuring, the next step is education.

As an OC, I trained others on issues of equity. Accessibility, mental health, anti-oppression training

Education is very important, and we'd like to sit down with that member.

Perhaps the person does not understand why the comment is inappropriate

Adam Grotsky:

We also want to maintain the safety of that individual during this process

Representative Lumsden:

Within the equity commission, not only devising a plan that will have directors be aware of equity issues, but mental health issues as well.

Could you elaborate on what you mean by mental health, as well as how ASUS can be the first line of defense and help a student going through a mental health issue where they would not go to a peer first.

Blake Butler:

The training we're giving to individuals does not mean that people will understand everything. It will give them the tools at hand, and the resources we have (Like HCDS)

If an individual came up to me, being able to recognize those and redirect them to the right resources so that they can lead a very healthy and successful life

Representative Zarzour:

Both SMH and your policy on equity are focusing on the commenter

For people on the receiving end of the comment, sure you censure the comment, educate the person, but if the victim feels like they can no longer sit on the committee because of this, is that an outcome you are okay with happening?

Blake Butler:

In some form or another, there needs to be a followup

It's one thing to speak to the individual who made the comment, but you want to ensure that

both parties do feel safe and respected.

Director Ismail-Tera:

You have a lot of cool initiatives, but where are you going to get the funding?
Increasing the fee? Finding other resources on campus?

Adam Grotsky:

ASUS will be entering with a surplus of at least \$18'000 next year.
That money should be going somewhere, as we are not-for-profit.
We want to budget for 0 for next year, which will free up a lot of money for the society.
Commissioners look at the last year's budget and not at their budget
Lorenzo sees that the promotions committee was given 1000\$ last year, so they'll do it up
for this year.
If he needs to buy pencils, he will call and find out. Not write down last year's number
Our fiscal accountability will address a few ways to save ASUS money.

Blake Butler:

We don't want students to feel like we're wasting their money.
When you already have tuition, residence, cost of food, 24\$ is a lot

Adam Grotsky:

The ASUS App cost 2000\$ this year. There is not much being put on the app.
Is there content or a purpose for it moving forward? If not, we will scrap it.
Currently, the ASUS movie theatre is not doing very well. People are going online
We will reevaluate whether or not that needs to be there

Senator Chishti:

Up until 2011, an "alpine tower fee" went towards ASUS eventually opening its own
service.

A referendum was put out and the students voted to have a creperie in the red room, and the
idea was eventually to have an opening on the side.

I believe that money is still there for an eventual service.
Do you have any plans for ASUS having its own service?

Adam Grotsky:

Are you referring to the now board discretionary fund?

Senator Chishti:

Yes

Adam Grotsky:

There is 87'000\$ in that fund
.
We have a suggestion forum on the website for this fund.
We want to look at what these ideas are, and implement them if they're good for the
society.

2015 Year Society Executive Candidates – Laura Stemp & Rosemary Ly:

Laura Stemp:

I'm running for re-election!

I have three platform points, and then we'll do questions.

This position is important for all four years, not just third years.

The reason I wasn't at debates is because of my sprain. I couldn't come to the candidate debates

I'm a third year student, and I've been here since second year.

I've worked with the AMS in volunteer capacities. I'm the deputy communications officer currently.

I'm a highland dancer in Queen's bands. Next year I'll be in my fourth year of bands.

We think that the graduating class for next year will be helped by our platform.

Our new initiative is an e-newsletter. The feedback we received from students is that they can't accessibly find information regarding events for their specific year.

We will give a recap as to what has happened at assembly, what we've been doing as the year society on a monthly basis.

The Year Society's goal is to represent the needs and diversity of the class.

What Kat and I have done is to implement a committee of 6 students that meet every other week.

We implement strategies to run fundraisers and events.

We will also be doing the ThankQ project

We will be creating a subcommittee for ThankQ because it's such a huge part of the year society's goal

We also want to vote for which organization we will be fundraising for

This semester, we're looking into donating some money to Kingston organizations.

We want to focus on one organization, get the class behind that goal.

We will poll the class in our first newsletter.

Vice-President Tahiri:

Why should the year society executives remain on ASUS assembly, specifically with a voting seat?

Laura Stemp:

I think that it's really important to have a specific year representative on ASUS. Otherwise you can't ensure that there is a member from each year on ASUS assembly.

Besides that, it's important to have members of assembly who have more of an outside perspective. Maybe they aren't in the Core all the time, but they are still active members.

It's important to have people on assembly who aren't as internal as commissioners and other elected members.

Senator Chishti:

My question is with regards to the fact that next year is a graduating year.

Have you thought about the fact that you will have more students with different interests?

Do you think there needs to be something special to advocate for those students?

Laura Stemp:

Within ASUS, creating a new position would be a bit much.

However, people staying more than the 4 traditional years at Queen's need more representation.

The e-newsletter will be a great way to connect with those students.

We can try to get specific representation on our committee.

We have biology, history, art history, lots of different kinds of students on the committee.

I do agree that we need to represent those students, which is tricky because they don't have their own representative.

Executive Reports

President Mason:

Not available

Vice-President Tahiri:

Holding down the fort, not much to add to my report

If you are in fourth year or up, let your friends our housemates know that we are selling tickets for that group of students BEFORE reading week.

Let them know, because after that it's open to everyone.

Elections and debate night went very well. Every candidate who came out looked good.

Tell your friends and housemates to vote!

It's on the 28th/29th, they have an e-mail, it's online.

ASUS Camps is hiring for coordinators! If you have energetic, loving friends who like working with kids, and who want to get paid over the summer, the coordinator works for 16 weeks, the counsellor work for 10 weeks.

ASUS doesn't have an investment policy. But now we do!

One big change for future executives is that they will have significantly less money from the board discretionary fund

I spoke with Tom and Jon and the co-editors have resigned. They've agreed to try to transition the next people coming in. They'll be doing class talks.

I said pick the biggest classes in first year. See who's interested.

Not a single student dollar has been spent on The Tartan. They received 1000\$ from the Dean, 600\$ of which was spent on the site

I know we want to get out of here quickly, but the discussion topic will not be super long.

There were questions as to why the committees were asking for money

Society Reports

Business of the Senate:

Senator Duchaine:

We had senate on Tuesday. It was a really great discussion!

Ombudsperson for Ontario is an individual who oversees complaints and questions about government services. However, they do not have any control with universities.

If there was an issue about something like ancillary fees, I can't go to the ombudsperson for Ontario because it is outside of their purview.

It would be cool if we had an advocate on the provincial level, but the University is quite against it (gee, I wonder why!)

There would be an ombudsperson at Queen's, and we could take any issues to them, and they would take it to the administration.

The issue then would be if there was any overlap. Like with the Rector, the ASUS president, AMS president.

I'd hate to see a scenario where I've got a complaint about an issue, and we get to the dean, and then they say "first you should talk to the ombudsperson"

The office of dispute mechanism is currently overseen by Harry Smith. Under the proposal presented by the principal, he would become the ombudsperson.

We were very vocal about this issue at Senate.

It was a very productive senate, and they were surprised that we picked up on this issue.

We've had a lot of support from the Faculty Union too. They asked questions because we did!

It's very uncommon to be proactive about something, so it's good that we are doing so

Senator Chishti:

Senators are only 1/3 of the people at senate.

This is the first time that these two senators have asked questions, so now they are part of the group of people who always ask questions.

There's a new graduate program in economics.

It's not important because it's graduate, but it is important because there's a current professor who teaches 4th year economics who will now only be teaching graduate economics.

The department is now offering fewer undergraduate courses to offer these graduate courses.

There is an equity gap, which is done for every program in the university. There is a list of people. How many people identify as male, female, aboriginal

Senator Smolej:

Out of the 214 pages, one of these pages referred to this document we've never seen before. It was about ethnicity, gender, and aboriginal status. Listed the number of faculty for each demographic. There was also a "gap column", which we read as deficits.

Our initial feeling is that everybody knows about this but is not willing to discuss

Senator Chishti:

We asked them if they did quotas but just didn't tell the students. They said no, but I think so

This was an equity gap for faculty.

It said "Confidential – Only for the eyes of the dean"

Business of the AMS

Representative Rubin:

Nothing really important happened at AMS assembly pertaining to us.

They talked about new fees going on the ballot.

Five student clubs lost their fee.

I commend Irfan and Scott for having ASUS accountability and finance. Kudos to you guys!

Make sure everyone votes! It was ~30% last year. We should get it to at least 50%.

Statements by Members

Representative Lumsden:

What was the number of students who voted in ASUS last year?

Vice-President Tahiri:

33%

COMPSA Vice-President Bannerman:

A bit of a follow-up from one of the discussion topics from last assembly, specifically the defederation of COMPSA and CESA.

The last COMPSA General Assembly was last Tuesday, and nobody seemed to have any intention of COMPSA defederating whatsoever

However, there is the very obvious problem that COMPSA is not receiving enough of the resources that ASUS or AMS can provide.

The onus is partially on us, and one of my initial ideas is for putting some sort of policy in my portfolio to try and make people aware of the services ASUS can provide for us.

Perhaps some of the other vice-presidents can also chime in on this.

If anybody has any ideas, come talk to me and let me know!

I just want to extend the portfolio

Senator Stanley:

Giving a big shout out to Mr. Tahiri because he is flying solo. He is running the entire show.

It's a really tough thing to do, to take over an organization for the most stressful two weeks of student politics. He's done it admirably and he deserves a round of applause for it.

Representative Goodman:

Just a reminder that we really should be using gender neutral language. Things like Mr., or a first name, can be too much

Adam Grotsky:

I want to commend the commissioners for the great job they're doing.

If anyone cares, in our platform, we have a few ways to improve relations with COMPSA and CESA. The first is improved collaboration with councils. Reinstating President's Caucus with just ASUS groups, as well as better promotion of our services to these people.

If you are in COMPSA, you can run for ASUS President/Vice-President.

We want to improve marketing and collaboration in that way.

Question Period**Senator Chishti:**

I've heard that all of the ballots would be on one thing.

ASUS had 33% participation, AMS had 41% participation

Speaker:

Part of the problem we ran into last semester was because ASUS voters got two ballots, one for senator representative and one for executive.

All students will receive only one ballot.

As for integrating that with the AMS, that's something that's been discussed for awhile. The feasibility is still being explored. Due to the touchy nature of votenet technology, it's a tricky beast to tame.

Once the new software comes in, we can try to do this better.

Senator Stanley:

My question is for the Vice-President of the society.

What can we expect to come out of the ASUS core this semester?

Vice-President Tahiri:

Big one this year is ASUS formal. I'm looking to cut lots of costs.

This is the biggest deficit event that we hold.

We are currently written as a partnership. If revenue Canada audited us, we could lose a lot of money. Technically, Scott and I could be personally sued.

We're working on solid, proper investment policies in.

We've never done it before, so everything we do in constitution will be entrenched.

Transitioning will be big with the executive and the new commissioners.

The Tartan is another one. We have to figure out something: what direction is it going in?

We will come back with another big plan! The plan as it currently stands is to go around to class talks.

International Representative Pang:

This is directed to whoever is in charge for the monthly ASUS newsletter.

Some students are not getting any newsletter from ASUS.

I haven't been getting any newsletters

Vice-President Tahiri:

That is a Scott question but I will answer it.

We are given a ListServ from the university. We quick send everything. I'll go to the registrar and see what's going on with that.

Lots of students are getting it, some are not.

Senator Smolej:

Quick question about that: Does this have any implications for the voting?

Speaker:

The short answer is no.

The long answer is that the e-mail ListServ issues that arise are different depending on whether or not they are because of the monthly newsletter or the voting system.

The voting issue is due to technical issues with votenet and migration phenomenon.

Senator Chishti:

I was wondering about ASUS formal. I know EngSoc does a big formal.

Do you know if any of the other ones run at a deficit?

Vice-President Tahiri:

I have no idea. Isabelle looks like she can answer!

I'm meeting with Qdesign. They have a monopoly on the decoration of Ban Right

They charge 800\$ for a one-night curtain rental.

They have to decorate it.

I'm not sure what I'm going to say to them, but I'll see what I can do

Senator Duchaine:

EngSoc loses a tonne of money when they do Sci Formal.

It's an issue of minor scandal when the parents of attendees will cover the costs.

Senator Chishti:

Every EngSoc service runs at a deficit.

CESA Vice-President Ferguson:

CESA holds a formal and we run 0\$ deficit.

COMPSA Vice-President Bannerman:

I do believe COMPSA doesn't have a deficit

International Representative Pang:

I heard there's nobody running for Year Society 2016/2017, right?
What's going to happen?

Speaker:

There actually is a secret 2017 society.

They thought that they were automatically on the ballot. They will not be candidates on the ballot.

No packages were filed for 2016.

An election will be held along with the one for Year Society 2018

Discussion Period

Vice-President Tahiri:

I'll put policy forward next time.

We have four grants and funds, 1000\$ each. Four different committees, each committee overseeing each grant.

ASUS Grant, student initiative fund, special project fund, equity and diversity fund.

The student initiative fund will NOT change.

The ASUS Grant is 1000\$, and is only given out to ASUS clubs.

Before I give out my suggestions, I want to hear people's opinions

Should we not have those? It could be good financially, but not pragmatically.

If lost cause says they want to do 100 more trips this year, they'll need extra gas money.

Should I include that in their structural budget every year? Or should they try it, see if it works, and then include it?

I want to take the equity and diversity grant and the special projects fund into one committee, and a 2000\$ fund. The spirit will be to allocate 1000\$ to equity, and 1000\$ to other special projects.

My idea is that we leave the student initiative fund as-is. Merge the equity and diversity and the special project fund.

Do we even want the ASUS Grant?

Chairs sitting in September budgeting do not know how much they need.

Come January they have great ideas, and the ASUS Grant can help facilitate that

Representative Lumsden:

Can you elaborate on the special project fund?

Vice-President Tahiri:

The ASUS Special Project Fund will be available to groups in the society

They realize they need additional money for ideas that they have throughout the year.

The budget is already past and gone. So the ASUS special project fund which is open in November, gives them the chance to do that.

Other people are just saying to tack it onto committee budgets.

The ASUS Grant is also 1000\$. It's open to all clubs on campus, including ASUS committees. The committees get a double-edge advantage. They can apply for the ASUS grant and the special project fund.

So we take the ASUS grant and the equity and diversity committee and merge them.

Then we say that the special project fund is only for ASUS committees, and that the merged fund should not be for committees.

Should we lump all three together and make it 3000\$ and one committee to decide?

We could also make it so that clubs and committees can come up to me and ask for special contingency funding

Adam Grotsky:

I had a comment to the first point about whether the money should go directly to the budget.

I would say that it should not, because it doesn't give any autonomy to the chairs.

I'd like to see committees doing things that they want to do

Commissioner Liu:

I mentioned this earlier in first semester how I structured the budget for Lost Cause.

In the Summer, I asked for how much money they thought they'd need.

I structured the budget depending on that, as well as previous years' figures, and recommendations from the previous year's commissioner. I try to budget to make sure that they can make those 100 extra trips if they want to.

But if they come up with something they want to do partway through the year, that's great

Friends for Inclusion lowered or erased the costs for many of their events, which is why they applied for the grant.

Adam Grotsky:

The whole budgeting for 0\$ moving forward, the money should be requested directly from the Vice-President.

Senator Chishti:

I don't think we should have a committee for the special projects fund. I think it should be either just the Vice-President, or they should come to assembly.

The reason I'd advocate all of assembly is because assembly approves all of the budgets.

The vice-president knows the finances of the society best, so there are a lot more issues more pressing that can be discussed at assembly.

, I wouldn't advocate for the committee. My preference would be for it to go straight through the Vice-President.

Vice-President Tahiri:

Student initiative fund remains on its own, equity and ASUS grant merged into 2000\$ (non-ASUS committees cannot apply for it), and the special projects fund is administered directly by the Vice-President. That's the best idea I've heard. It's 4000\$ per semester for all of these grants.

Senator Stanley:

It is the case that the Vice-President and the commissioners know what's best for how to

move forward. Adding a committee to the mix adds a needless layer of bureaucracy. Committees should be able to request funds on an ad hoc basis.

We need to have trust in our vice-president and commissioners.

I don't even know if limiting it to 1000\$ is the best way to do it.

If a commissioner has an idea at some point during the year, and it's a sound idea, checks out, the numbers work, and the vice-president agrees; then they should just go for it. There's no need to hamstring ourselves to 1000\$ per semester.

Representative Lumsden:

I like the merging of the two grants.

I like the separation of the special projects fund.

One of the alternatives raised was to bring it to assembly. It's not about trusting the vice-president, but how much to allocate per special fund.

I don't think you can trust this to one specific person because of the limited viewpoint.

Senator Utioh:

I want to agree with the points made by Senator Chishti and Stanley.

I want to talk about the student initiative fund. I know you want to keep it as is

This year we passed 1000\$ for personal trips. One to Jordan, one to Peru.

ASUS money is meant to benefit ASUS. If we want to fund these student initiatives, we need to show how they benefit ASUS.

The fund should be redefined to show how it can benefit ASUS

Vice-President Tahiri:

This fund was actually started by the dean.

If you look at precedent, the way we spent it this past semester is how we usually spend it.

These people are not going on vacation.

It might not improve ASUS 100% of the time, but a lot of these people do meaningful work.

I think it's definitely fair to say that if this assembly feels we need a reevaluation of that, then I'm game for that.

I think ASUS should remain chill about this. The way it currently works is to give a student the chance to do these things.

It's not just to subsidize the trip, so if assembly members do want to change the spirit of what it's for, then we should.

Senator Utioh:

Is that money coming from ASUS or the dean now, then?

Vice-President Tahiri:

We pay for it, then we get the money back from the dean. We don't get a direct cheque, it's just put into other expenses.

Senator Duchaine:

Thank you for taking this project on!

If it's possible to have the draft version of the document circulated before the agenda, that would be good. Then we could address issues before assembly

Vice-President Tahiri:

It'll be up when the assembly package is e-mailed out.
The only problem is that Ben hears late from people.
If you do have a report, please send it by Tuesday evening.
This will be done by early next week, but I will put it up on the Facebook.
If you have questions, come speak to me!
The student initiative fund is on its own, but we will reassess the spirit
We will keep the 2000\$ ASUS Grants / Equity Diversity merged fund
The way the budget currently passes is I make it, and assembly approves it.
You wouldn't be doing anything that you wouldn't already have done.
These changes will save time.

Representative Lumsden:

My response is in the student initiative fund. I was a member of that fund.
I think that it is a very important thing because it addresses students who don't have the money to be able to do something that is acting advocatively as students of ASUS.
It's important to recognize that even though we are a large group of students, we are a group of individuals. Individuals represent Queen's, and the student initiative fund allows that to happen

Senator Smolej:

I think the student initiative fund does need some rejigging.
Maybe now is not the most appropriate time, but a few suggestions are:
What is the point of ratification? I know we've had this discussion at prior sessions.
I've had some questions, and one of the applicants started to cry. It made me uncomfortable because I wanted to constructively ask questions, but the assumption being made was that they were already getting the grant.
Where is the line between volunteering and voluntourism?
We can be more proactive in establishing a conversation beforehand

Senator Stanley:

As far as assembly goes with the decision on funding, if the commissioners and the vice-president have made this decision, then they have done so in the best interest of furthering the advocacy of the society.
No matter how desperate the opinions and beliefs of people on this society, at some point you have to yield to the experience and knowledge of others.
I am comfortable yielding my power of vote on that.

Vice-President Tahiri:

I will take all of this into consideration
I want to conclude what we have discussed:
Equity and diversity + ASUS grant = one new grant!
They have 2000\$, and only Non-ASUS clubs and committees can apply.
The special projects fund will be for only ASUS committees. It will be decided by the vice-president and the committee. The decision will be brought forth to assembly to ratify.
For the student initiative fund, what is the spirit that you hope to gain out of it?
Does it need rejigging? Sure! Send me ideas! Visit me before next Thursday.

Speaker's Last Words

None

Senator Stanley:

Motion to adjourn

Vote:

For: 21

Against: 1

Abstain: 0

Motion passes

Finishing Time: 9:25pm