

Assembly Meeting (#8): Tuesday, April 5th, 2022

Assembly is called to order at 7:04 pm, EST.

Motion #1 –Approval of Agenda

Moved by: Incoming Governance Officer Caitlin Sankaran-Wee

Seconded by: Incoming President Yara Hussein

Questions: None

Vote: Motion carries

Motion #2 – Approval of the Minutes

Incoming Governance Officer Caitlin Sankaran-Wee

Seconded by: Incoming President Yara Hussein

Questions: None

Vote: Motion carries

Speaker's Business

Incoming Governance Officer Caitlin Sankaran-Wee: To start off, I would like to formally begin with a land acknowledgment. We are currently situated on the traditional lands of the Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee peoples. I recognize that this privilege comes only from a history of colonialism in which these lands were stolen from the Indigenous Peoples who first inhabited them. As a settler, it is important to me to acknowledge the privilege that I have to be able to learn, live and meet today on this land here at Queen's. Welcome to ASUS Assembly, this is our first in-person in about three years which is fun. My name is Caitlin, I use she/her pronouns and I am the incoming Governance Officer. I was hired last week, and so thank you Yara, Emma, and Aloka for the support and thank you Kristin especially. As we continue to the rest of the formal procedures, there are helpful pointers on the backside of the placards in front of you, and a reminder that incoming council members are nonvoting, but the incoming executives can vote. There are also a few non-regular Assembly members joining so hello to them as well.

New Business

Motion 3: That ASUS Assembly formally close the 2022 ASUS Orientation budget, as seen in *Appendix A: 2022 ASUS Orientation Budget Closing*.

Moved by: 2021-2022 Vice President Brandon Aldworth

Seconded by: Incoming Vice-President Operations Aloka Wijesundara

Vice-President Brandon Aldworth: The next four motions are going to be mine. Welcome to last year's head Gael and we're on call with the current head Gael. The visual on the screen is the budget which is identical to what's in the agenda. The first one was the ASUS orientation last summer.

2021 Head Gael Eric Sikich: It's nice to see everyone. The past orientation week went really well, it was a challenging year with Covid-19 and the mix between lightning restrictions and as such we had a pretty flexible budget. Brandon did a great job keeping that on track, so in terms of that it was a great success. Overall, there was a boost in engagement with in-person activities and a lot of individuals came up during and after to say thanks for those. This year we're looking forward to more in-person activities. I think last year went great, a few blunders but students enjoyed it.

Vice-President Aldworth: Just a quick chat about the revenues and their components. When revenues are properly justified, there's no need to concern ourselves with the expenditure. So in revenue we saw not a lot of shortcomings and so that makes sense with the engagement. No significant remarks except for coveralls fell short. The ASUS orientation fee collected almost entirely what was planned with no significant variation. In terms of expenditures, nothing above expected and very few that approached it. Operations were close to the budget but no other budget lines exceeded. OC's took on a lot of extra work and so exceeded a bit but that was necessary to make the hybrid events possible. Compensation was also slightly over due to the implementation of Chair salaries. Overall, orientation was on par with what was expected. Also we did amazing with fundraising efforts, and were able to donate almost all of the surplus, around 40,000.

Questions: None

Vote: Motion carries

Motion 4: That ASUS Assembly formally close the 2022 ASUS Camps budget, as seen in *Appendix A: 2022 ASUS Camps Budget Closing.*

Moved by: Vice President 2021-2022 Brandon Aldworth

Seconded by: Incoming Vice-President Operations Aloka Wijesundara

Vice-President Aldworth: So this is the same thing, but surrounding the ASUS Camps budget. We are fortunate to have the business director available to answer any questions. Camps last summer were an interesting structure due to being the first time returning to a significant mode of delivery. The summer before has no asynchronous as a result of March 2020. Last summer Julia and Georgia were able to deliver programming each day with asynchronous and synchronous and so were able to do this with a small financial deficit. Revenues were significant to years prior but on par with the budget presented due to the virtual nature of camps there is not expected to be in need of many supplies. Overall using the funding ASUS camps will be able to run with a modest deficit and we are already planning for the mitigation of this loss in the long term.

Questions: None

Vote: Motion carries

Motion 5: That ASUS Assembly formally open the 2023 ASUS Orientation budget, as seen in *Appendix B: 2023 ASUS Orientation Budget Opening.*

Moved by: Vice President 2021-2022 Brandon Aldworth

Seconded by: 2023 Head Gael Kate Mccuaig

2023 Head Gael Kate Mccuaig: It's been an incredible process to go through this. We're moving towards hopefully an in-person orientation week. We looked at the last in-person budget and referenced inflation rates in order to build this one. So this budget is a combination of multiple people and reflects the values of orientation and accessibility.

Vice-President Aldworth: Orientation has been very diligent, they colour-coded the budgets. In terms of revenues, we're looking at what will be a very low registration cost, only 150 dollars which is on par with last year despite being in-person. We are also anticipating the collection of the mandatory orientation fee. Something to highlight to Assmelby is the difficulty we are having in planning for the orientation roundtable lines, the other large groups on campus haven't been able to provide us with a number and so the numbers presented are subject to change as we get more information. There are no significant changes for activities and orientation is planning contingency of around 26,000 which will allow for fluctuations for things. The care portfolio is currently separate due to fundraising fees but will be under head Gael Kate. Orientation will be able to run in a financial manner from Kate and Aloka and will be active the moment this motion gets passed.

Questions:

Incoming President Yara Hussein: I just want to know what the contingency plans are for if orientation has to move online or to a more hybrid model.

Vice-President Aldworth: That's definitely something to chat about. We've been taking the average between what it costs in-person and during the virtual years to look for a middle ground. If there is a need for a quick pivot or change, costs should be no greater.

Vote: Motion carries

Motion 6: That ASUS Assembly formally open the 2023 ASUS Camps budget, as seen in *Appendix B: 2023 ASUS Camps Budget Opening.*

Moved by: Vice President 2021-2022 Brandon Aldworth

Seconded by: 2023 Camps Director (Operations) Caroline Jarrett

2023 Director of ASUS Camps Caroline Jarrett: The past six weeks have been spent working our way through the ASUS Camps budget. This is the first summer to return to fully in-person programming. So we looked at previous numbers to see how they influenced each other and each week dove into a different section of the budget. I'm proud of what we came up with, especially in terms of programming expenditures. We're not looking to spend any extra money on supplies as well.

Vice-President Aldworth: In terms of revenues the Camps structure is easy to follow with planning extrapolating throughout the summer. The first budget line has the funding from the Canadian Government. There is a projection between seventy-nine and seventy-six thousand. However, we are only budgeting on 30% of that just because we don't have the metrics on what funding has looked like historically. If we get the additional funding it will be used to hire new staff. The estimates for camps are conservative in nature due to capacity is around 64 campers and we are likely to blow numbers out of the water. Registration has been really successful already with around 35,000 collected in revenue. Another line is that of the bursary programs, we're endeavouring to take on more than before in terms of aid. With materials we're looking at spending nothing, there is a contingency line but otherwise looking to reuse from previous years.

Questions: None

Vote: Motion carries

Motion 7: That ASUS Assembly formally move the Wellness Director role from the President Policy Manual into the Vice President of Society Affairs Policy Manual as seen in *Appendix C: Wellness Director Policy Changes*.

Moved by: Incoming President Yara Hussein

Seconded by: Incoming Vice President Of Society Affairs Emma Farrell

Incoming President Hussein: First of all, hello everyone it's nice to see the backs of laptops again. The wellness director role currently resides under the President portfolio but with the new Wellness Director role it feels more intrinsic to the internal works in the society.

Questions: None

Vote: Motion carries

Motion 8: That ASUS Assembly formally approve the changes to the Academics Policy Manual as seen in *Appendix D: ASUS Review Policy Changes*.

Moved by: 2021-2022 Academics Commissioner Tiffany Yung

Seconded by: Incoming Academics Commissioner Alicia Parker

Academics Commissioner Tiffany Yung: Hi everyone, my name is Tiffany, I'm the outgoing Academics Commissioner. So this is a revision to make to ASUS review which is a review session to a number of different courses in a financially accessible manner. So we want to work with professors to provide academic integrity. It's only been around for two years and this is the first fully run course. So we want to improve those types of sessions and speak to the protection of the ArtSci undergrad students. The second line pertains to the commissioner, this is common practice in all the journals and DSC's in terms of the Academics Commissioner having the full rights to intervene when necessary.

Questions: None

Vote: Motion carries

Motion 9: That ASUS Assembly formally approve the changes to the Academics Policy Manual as seen in *Appendix E: DSC Policy Changes*.

Moved by: 2021-2022 Academics Commissioner Tiffany Yung

Seconded by: Incoming Academics Commissioner Alicia Parker

Academics Commissioner Yung: This is pertaining to the DSC financial policy. Only recently passed and so we recognize that the DSC's make their own profits outside of what's given to them by ASUS. As such we want to establish a financial policy to reward them for all their profits.

Questions: None

Vote: Motion carries

Discussion Period

Engagement with Second and Third Year Students

Incoming Vice-President Society Affairs Emma Farrell: So we wanted to start off with a topic that has been discussed before but that we feel is still very important. I wanted to bring attention to the low engagement with on-campus groups, especially with first and second year students. I think we saw a lot with hiring last spring. But I wanted to start this discussion to see which ways we can increase engagement with orientation or other avenues, especially as we welcome the class of 2026 and go into summer planning.

Natural and Physical Sciences Academic Representative Colleen Tordoff: As a second year student I can talk to this quite a bit. In my experience with a virtual first year and then semi-hybrid second year, it's hard for students to feel as though they are part of the program and the university. In my faculty especially it can be hard to connect with other students who may have similar interests and when disconnected it's easier to stay in your own home community. I think a lot of students feel like there's a lack of connection with Queen's as a campus and community and who don't know anyone in their section or program. I think if there's an increase in non-social media ways of connecting with students that could be really beneficial, a lot of people tend to only check OnQ pages or will look there for content over social media. Especially because people might not know what pages to follow or it gets lost in the email trains otherwise.

Humanities Academic Representative Dillon Chicoski: I agree with what Colleen has said. I'll also add that as people get back on campus, that helps a lot in just being on campus. A lot of people have described the experience as sort of being dumped in the deep end with a sink or swim mentality, and so some people will sink with that.

Incoming Vice-President of Operations Aloka Wijesundara: I agree with a lot of the points made. A lot of the avenues for usual communication didn't really happen this past few years. Residence was at a 50% capacity for example. Going forward I think this is an opportunity to look at new avenues and especially to connect with sibling societies to bring in and connect with students. Now I think a constant is the classroom and so working with the faculty and sibling societies to do outreach would be really good.

Social Sciences Academic Representative Nicholas McIlmoyle: I think I can give another perspective just with being a castle kid in my first year, and then followed by a virtual year and all that, so I really didn't

know anything. I think the best option might be the most accessible one as well just because some kids don't have internet access. So putting up signage through campus, at Stauffer, or major student hubs to include both first and upper year students. I know in the Mitchell Starbucks, if you put a sign there people will have to look at it long enough to where they're more likely to show up.

Incoming Vice-President Society Affairs Farrell: These are some great points everyone. I think this is an ongoing conversation and not something that will end soon unfortunately.

Student Activism

Incoming President Hussein: Something I remember in my first year was that international students shared their grievances and so I wanted to know from you guys what you think we could be doing to create those spaces where people can share grievances openly, which is something that has been lacking in the past few years. I wanted to start the conversation, especially because it goes hand in hand with the conversation about engagement.

Incoming Vice-President Operations Wijesundara: I just wanted to add that something with student advocacy is that often student government is equated with administration even though we are distinct. On the student side, I feel like a part of it is to open up the invitation and make it accessible. To do that first we need to communicate that we are an advocacy body for students and to communicate that role of ASUS and hopefully it'll have the trickle down effect of students feeling more welcome.

Humanities Academic Representative Chicoski: Part of what was mentioned earlier was with people who are active in the classroom and so, linking back to the engagement piece, I think promoting this Assembly itself in classrooms would be good for both engagement and for activism for people to see it as an avenue.

Governance Officer Kristen Sutherland: I think that's a great point, if I could pick your brain a bit more. We do have an ASUS governance Instagram and Facebook page where we promote where to join Assembly meetings alongside the Agenda. If you feel comfortable speaking again to the Assembly, what others say do you think we could promote?

Humanities Academic Representative Chicoski: I think typically most people get their information from OnQ and their professors. That was my advice for the DSC presidents. I think most people get their information from OnQ just because they're forced to be on there like everyday.

Incoming Equity Commissioner Layla Haddad: I think what everyone has brought is great. Something I wanted to address within my portfolio is that while Instagram and OnQ are great, I think just talking to students directly is really helpful. I know a lot of first years don't really listen to their professors and so just going on campus and outside of the context of ASUS would be the best for re-engaging students post the virtual years. I think if we go in front of the JDUC or wherever there's a lot of student traffic in general and tell them to come to ASUS Assembly and get that messaging out there in person. A lot of

people tend to scroll and skip stuff on social media and so in person allows for more direct interactions.

Incoming Academics Commissioner Alicia Parker: Similar to Layla honestly. I think ASUS has two main facets, student government and the services. I do think the latter is more accessible just because you can see it through just showing up to an event. I love Assembly but it can be intimidating to talk in a formal setting. I think especially with in-person orientation and making sure services target first years and focus second and third years which I think are admittedly a missed mark. I hope the advocacy piece will follow with the association with ASUS and make us more visible on campus.

Social Sciences Academic Representative McIlmoyle: I think if it was possible to have somewhere on campus a comment box that could be beneficial. Sometimes students just can't make it here. But with a comment box that makes it easier, if we have something that designates faculty, major, year so that we can break it down. As well if we make this room more accessible, it's on the second floor of a building that's very old. I didn't see an elevator or wheelchair ramp at all and there's a lot of other more accessible buildings and rooms on campus.

Incoming Community Outreach Commissioner Elisabeth McHarg: Building on Kristen's point of more available information, there's the monthly emails so I think if there was some way to promote Assembly in there that would be helpful.

Incoming President Hussein: Thank you all for participating, I took a lot of notes.

The Future of ASUS Assembly

Incoming President Hussein: So for the future of the ASUS Assembly, there's the external aspect of inviting students into Assembly. Also more on an internal focus in terms of formality and attendance in the virtual years. It looks a much more different way of communicating and engaging with everyone's ideas in both the formal aspects of traditions and how everyone feels more comfortable in the more informal side of things. With the fall term, you all will get more training from Caitlin on how things happen, but yeah thoughts on the future.

Incoming Equity Commissioner Haddad: I haven't attended many Assemblies. I did want to ask if there are notes and recordings of meetings. I know there are the written minutes, but having an audio or video recording would make Assembly a lot more accessible. Just as a resource to listen to passively while doing work and so that way people could engage with ideas that they want to instead of having to read either the minutes or the Agenda because they can both be pretty hefty documents. I know that Kristen said that Assembly is promoted on the Governance social media, but I think it could also be promoted in residence buildings and through the AMS if possible.

Incoming Academics Commissioner Parker: I think these have been some great points. I also thought that the breakout rooms we had last year were great for engagements. There are a lot of faces in this room that I don't know and unfamiliar faces can feel scary. So I think those more informal aspects are really fun. But yeah, motions and procedures need to be followed but stuff like discussion periods are my favourite part of Assembly and so I think advertising that more could be helpful. I know last year with breakout rooms was also great for helping people feel more comfortable.

Academics Commissioner Yung: Speaking to the DSC Assemblies, in previous years we've been able to invite speakers and so that could be a beneficial thing for ASUS to implement.

Humanities Academic Representative Chicoski: Tiffany's point is really interesting. I think in regards to the formality question, most people don't want to be here for essentially senate watch. I think to get more people to engage with Assembly it has to be less formal, just in terms of the restrictions can be a turn off for people.

Incoming Community Outreach Commissioner McHarg: I think Tiffany brought up a great point with guest speakers. It's not always shown to students advocating for them and can skew perspectives that show that we are advocating for need and pushing for students' needs and wants.

Incoming President Hussein: Thank you all for sharing and participating. I really resonated with all of these and it helps for setting up future Assemblies.

Executive Reports

Presidents Report

Incoming President Hussein: First of all congrats to the incoming ASUS council and to being in-person again. Caitlin congratulations on the position, you are doing amazing. A quick update on the transition, it's been a privilege of transitioning with Alyth, she's been a great support and I'm feeling more confident going into the role. We've been talking about partnerships and what it looked like prior and all that which makes me very excited to get started. As well in the process with some issues of engagement we are opening up the extensions for hiring and hopefully the portfolios will be filled soon. A bit more looking ahead and thinking about the upcoming summer is that we are working on implementation of ideas and seeing how things can work out in the future.

Vice-President Operations

Incoming Vice-President Operations Wijesundara: Thank you all. I don't want to repeat too much of what Yara said. The transition process feels pretty surreal still but it has been wonderful. Thank you Alyth and Brandon for the help. I've been sitting in on meetings and taking notes to see how I can best implement plans and ideas. Shoutout to Sean, he's been amazing and I'm excited to work with him next year. In terms of hiring, enough congratulations cannot be said for the incoming team. As well, engagement has been a problem across the board and so we are working on solutions for that. We've been working on the training and the RBC transition and making sure that the ASUS values are upheld and followed.

Vice-President Society Affairs

Incoming Vice-President Society Affairs Farrell: It's so nice to spend this Tuesday evening with all of you. I'm excited to welcome Caitlin and the first in-person Assembly. For transition updates, it's been wonderful seeing the care put into the process. The meetings and hiring have also been so fun. As well

with the summer, I'm excited to work with ASUS Camps and the 2026 orientation. Good luck on exams everyone, have an amazing summer.

Society Reports

Marketing Office Report

Incoming Marketing Officer Monica Szalajko: I hope everyone's doing well and having an enjoyable transition. I'm looking forward to growing ASUS' presence on campus. We finished our last interview today and we're excited to start finalising hiring decisions. In terms of transition, Katie has been great, she's been so helpful and sitting in on meetings has been an incredible learning experience. Looking ahead one of my main goals is to establish engagement with the incoming first years and show them that the society can be a support system for them. I know not everything can be done but I'm optimistic and excited for the future.

Services Commission Report

Incoming Services Commissioner Kana Ogawa: I wanted to say I'm excited to be a part of this council and I hope wonderful things happen for us all. In terms of transition, Tina has been amazing and I can't thank her enough for all the support. This year has been amazing for student engagement with programs like good times diner and there has been substantial revenue generated by the jackets team. We're also hoping to run the poster sale with EngSoc next semester. I'm overall very excited to be working with you all.

Other Reports

Natural and Physical Sciences Society

Natural and Physical Sciences Representative Tordoff: Hello everyone, I'm the incoming president of the BioChem DSC and I'm currently a second year student at Queens. I'm excited to work here with you all and advocate as an Academic Representative. I know BioChem and LifeSci are not the largest cluster but I'm hopeful to make everyone feel as though their voices are heard. My focus is on making things more accessible and so many people feel as though they can speak to professors and to each other. As well, I'll be making the EDII body an official one in committee to make sure it is prominent.

Humanities Society

Humanities Society Representative Chicoski: I don't have a long report but I've been in touch with Tiffany for the transition. In terms of the other DSC's we all had the same table at training so it's been easy to get in contact with people. The goals for the future are generally quite practical over overarching ones, but we plan on having lots of events and trying to get everyone as engaged as possible.

International Student Representative Report

International Student Representative Yuxuan Zhao: Hello I'm the international representative and I just wanted to announce that goals are focused on student engagement and participation. A big thing for international students and so I want to collaborate with student associations in other countries to see if

we can work together and get more students interested and promote engagement.

Statements by Members [None]

Question Period [None]

Old Business [None]

Speakers Business

Incoming Governance Officer Sankaran-Wee: Thank you everyone for coming out today. I'm looking forward to working together in the upcoming year.

Motion: To adjourn the meeting

Moved by: Incoming President Yara Hussein

Seconded By: PHEKSA Vice-President Natalie Pyror

Vote: Motion carries