

**Arts  
and  
Science  
Undergraduate  
Society —  
Assembly**

Meeting 7 Minutes

*Assembly is called to order at 7:02 PM EST*

## **GUEST SPEAKER**

Dr. Barbara Crow, Dean of Arts and Science

Hello everyone! Thank you very much for having me here. To begin, I would like to say I had such a good time at the press conference for the ArtSci Cup basketball game. Student governance is not always about rules and regulations. School spirit is still very important.

ASUS has been a really important venue for finding places where we can work together. I promise to work closer with the student government to improve any and all aspects of student life.

Participating in student government is something that employers value and recognize because of the many highly translatable skills that you will acquire. For instance, having a strong grasp on empathy, understanding hierarchies, bureaucracy, etc. You will have a sense as to why certain decisions get made and the rationale behind them.

I was active in student government in High School. I really enjoyed that opportunity because I learned a lot and was proud to represent my school.

Lastly, I really enjoy the students at Queen's. They care so much about the place that they study. However, I believe there is much work to be done. The scope of my job allows me to focus on everything from building infrastructure to finance.

*Question Period***Is there anything that we can do better?**

We really have to take into account our scale when making decisions for the faculty. Arts and Sci makes up 60% of the university and has over 540 faculty members. Therefore, we must think about how when we scale up aspects of the student experience may get lost or forgotten about.

I believe that regular meetings with ASUS leadership will be extremely beneficial. Furthermore, we must ensure that our student governance quality continues to be excellent. Queen's is the only university in the country that has such high student government participation and it is essential that this reputation is maintained.

Lastly, we must acknowledge any barriers that exist for our students. Students on each committee should be able to sit at the table where decisions are made in order to bring a student perspective.

**What kinds of things could improve on campus?**

We do not have very good classrooms. They are outdated technology wise and we are falling behind other universities.

There is little attention given to the physics department. The university simply does not have the adequate physical infrastructure at this point.

Our staffing model is largely inappropriate. Staffing of the departments is done in a particular way and we should overhaul that system. We need different staff that can support neglected fields.

We are having real budget issues which forces us to have to think differently about how we are going to use the staff that are currently here. There has been a real shift in equity diversity. We made a lot of steps in some places but not in others. Over 170 new faculty members were hired during COVID and that adjustment to in-person work is still undergoing.

**Are there any other student initiatives you would like to see?**

Black Studies and Indigenous Studies should be given more attention and further awareness to these courses would be beneficial for the student population.

Research in Canada has shown that 5% of International Students have a Canadian friend. A lot of International students come here to have a Canadian experience. For some reason, we are unable to see that the global is on campus. We must figure out how to make sure domestic students realise that the global is happening on campus.

Another priority is gender inclusivity. We must make sure there are spaces where people can go and feel welcome and included in the student body.

Lastly, we must address sustainability through our curriculum. In addition, all new courses have to address decolonization. No prior guidelines for these exist.

**What are some ways to promote international culture on campus?**

I think it would be beneficial if our curriculum had a more global perspective. It is incumbent upon us as scholars to learn more about the world.

The strongest concentration of international students are majoring in economics and film and media so we could start with those programs first.

**Are there more support services?**

International students have organised around getting more support for students.

**What made BFA unsustainable?**

There is a clause in senate regulations to suspend admissions temporarily. The university has all of its programs assessed every 7 years. BFA recommendations have not moved forward or progressed. The consultation was to see what level of commitment to the visual arts the university currently had. One of the considerations allows for us to have 2 years to prepare for the cyclical program review.

**Is there a drive to reevaluate how language accommodations work?**

The expectation at Queen's is that English is our primary language. The assumption that we make when you come here is that you have competency in English. However, the level of accommodations available comes down to the instructor and the pedagogy. For instance, a professor at York U accepts assignments from the students in their first language.

There are different strategies that we can use around secondary languages. We have got to get out of the individual nature and create a more inclusive pedagogy.

**What is your vision for undergrad research?**

ArtSci and ASUS have partnered around research grants to create a number of research internships. Research labs are also currently hiring undergraduates.

Smith and Eng pay more tuition than we do, which results in the higher touch when it comes to research.

Current staff need to help with experiential learning. From my perspective what we do here is learning. The emphasis on research is a shift that has happened in the last 30 years.

In the future, we have to rank in the top 250 universities in the world to be part of the global university apparatus. To accomplish this, we must focus on what our research strengths are at the university.

## MOTION 1 - Approval of Agenda

**Moved by:** Governance Officer Caitlin Sankaran-Wee

**Seconded by:** President Yara Hussein

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**Questions:** None

**Vote:** *Motion carries*

## MOTION 2 - Strike a Constitution Review Committee

**Moved by:** Governance Officer Caitlin Sankaran-Wee

**Seconded by:** President Yara Hussein

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**Questions:** None

**Vote:** *Motion carries*

## MOTION 3 - Approval of the Minutes

**Moved by:** Governance Officer Caitlin Sankaran-Wee

**Seconded by:** President Yara Hussein

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**Questions:** None

**Vote:** *Motion carries*

## SPEAKER'S BUSINESS

### **Speaker Christian Luchin:** Speech

I think we should get started since we have a lot to cover today. I would like to personally welcome the Dean of Arts and Science today. We have already had lots of good questions and I expect more to come up later in the assembly.



## Discussion Break

## EXECUTIVE REPORTS

### PRESIDENT REPORT

Presented by **Yara Hussein**, President

#### **President Yara Hussein:** Speech

I apologise for not submitting a report but I have been very busy lately. The main aspects of my report today will be added to the website at a later date. Lots of things have been happening in ASUS overall. Firstly, I would like to formally welcome the new ASUS executives and I am excited to ratify today in assembly.

A big congratulations to the student government for running student elections. The orientation team has also begun hiring their gael for the Class of 2027. Internal hiring for OC's has also taken place.

There have been internal conversations about consent based work. They will get final additional training by Sean before reading week.

I would like to give a thank you to Vice President Aloka for all her work with the many events currently underway. Candy Gram donations occurred today and there has been lots of advocacy in terms of orientation dates.

Now for a quick update on the ArtSci Cup basketball game. I am proud of the hard work that ASUS Council has done for planning and organising the event. Hopefully it is an event that will stand in ASUS for many years to come.

Hard work has been done on awards and grants as well. The research fund will open for the winter term. Furthermore, the Mark R. Wilson award will be opening this week and closing in mid March. It is given to ArtSci students who have demonstrated exceptional leadership.

I have also been involved with the DSC as of late and have been supporting the DSC Director. I will be submitting a written report on the food insecurity survey. I am also putting together a networking event for current student leadership.

As always, keep an eye out for the ASUS newsletter. Thank you everyone for listening to my report and I am happy to accept any questions.

# VICE PRESIDENT OF SOCIETY AFFAIRS REPORT

Presented by **Emma Farrell**, Vice President of Society Affairs

## **Vice-President of Society Affairs Emma Farrell: Speech**

I just wanted to start my report by saying I hope all of you are well. I know Midterms are coming up so it might be a stressful time for some of you.

Our new ASUS camp hires are here and I am very excited to work with all three of them. I would like to thank both Aloka and Jacob for their help with this process. Camp counsellor hiring has begun and we will open registration for campers shortly.

I had the opportunity to go to City Hall for a meeting with ASAP volunteers. City workers want to know how to retain students for the summer. Job fairs for the City are occurring soon with lots of opportunities available. There are very specific and skilled jobs available, more than just cutting grass during the summer.

I have been working with Adam King, the Off-Campus Living Advisor, for ways we can improve sustainability at the wide-scale university level.

The Feed All Four initiative has been a success. Our social media campaign has brought lots of engagement and interest from students of all faculties.

The wellness guide and portfolio will be released shortly and available to all current students.

We have selected our charity for the ArtSci Cup basketball game. The Canadian Cancer Trials Group will receive all of the funds. The group is a part of the Canadian Cancer Society. I am excited to see some or all of you there. Thanks for listening to my report.

# VICE PRESIDENT OF OPERATIONS REPORT

Presented by **Aloka Wijesundara**, Vice President of Operations

## **Vice-President of Operations Aloka Wijesundara: Speech**

It is nice to see all of you and I hope everyone is doing well. The ArtSci Cup is going to be very exciting and will undoubtedly be better than the Super Bowl. I did want to mention that tickets are still available and prices are half off.

Services has been busy with over 130 jacket applications. I want to thank Jacob and the Advisory Board for their assistance throughout this process. Financial assistance fund applications have begun and more than 40 have been delivered.

ArtSci formal tickets are coming up. I have been busy throughout the past couple months with event planning and I am gearing up to do end of year formals. I am happy to talk about budgeting with you so feel free to reach out.

Direct reports have been busy and hardworking with the transition from Gmail to Outlook. Our 3 accounting directors have been processing too many budgets to account for. We are trying to do monthly budget updates till the end of year.

I have been working with the respective operations transition as well as the director for camp budget. We have been having conversations on how we can include sustainability in our operations.

My final note will be on services disillusion. We are finalising our recommendation to continue the structure into next year. We will also implement a lot more changes to ensure our volunteers are compensated fairly.

## STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

### ACS Commissioner

Presented by **Alicia Parker**, ACS Commissioner

#### ACS Commissioner Parker:

A huge thank you to Yara for her assistance with ACS. The ASUS Resource Centre did host a successful workshop in January. Politicus has also published their special issue which is available to read now.

Majors night occurred yesterday and was a great success. It was a very exciting project and it was the first time it happened since 2020. We had lots of interest from the first years. However, there is still room for improvement.

### MarComms Officer

Presented by **Monica Szalajko**, MarComms Officer

#### MarComms Officer Szalajko:

I would like to apologise for my late report as the ArtSci Cup has taken a lot of my time. We launched ArtSci headshots which have received lots of positive engagement. ArtSci students have typically had little opportunities to get headshots due to the sheer size of the student population. More headshots will take place in the following months.

We are promoting council hiring with lots of hiring content being spread on social media. Some website changes have been made as well. A simpler look was achieved and all of the information can be found on a singular tab.

More work has been done on market research. We are releasing a really great report with stats and graphs. The report will be out next month.

Lastly, more ArtSci merch has been created and will be unveiled shortly. Lots of behind the scenes content has been made as well (taking pictures, making videos, etc).

## Services Commissioner

Presented by **Kana Ogawa**, Services Commissioner

### Services Commissioner Ogawa:

Happy Week 5 of the Winter Term everyone! The ArtSci Cup will be happening on February 11th. There will be many other unique experiences to benefit the student committee.

The Exchange Buddies banquet took place on January 26th. It was the first ever international student banquet and over 75 students attended. I would like to thank everyone for their support. This event was a vision of Dean Crow and we hope it continues into the future.

Good Times Diner has increased their meal production. Over 140 nutritious meals have been given out to the Queen's Community. I would like to give a huge shout out to the Good Times Diner Directors for their help.

Our Queen's First Aid food drive was a success. We got a big recycling bin full of food donations.

The ASUS formal date has been secured. It will take place on April 1st and 2nd. The event will be held at Four Points. I would also like to thank Phoebe for her assistance in planning the event.

## VP Int. (CESA)

Presented by **Hannah Slowikowska**, VP Int. (CESA)

### **VP Int. (CESA) Slowikowska:**

Hello everyone! It is nice to be back. My first report is about the Queen's conference on education. It was the first time since the COVID pandemic that the conference occurred. It was very successful given the circumstances. The conference was run by a 4 person team instead of 6, nevertheless, it ran smoothly.

I am in the process of hiring a new QCE director. We also had a Q Sports Fest recently with participation from ASUS. It was very nice to do in person again. We won the spirit award!

Our orientation team is entirely hired and has transitioned into their new roles. There are 63 of them in total and they have all applied to be a gael for the upcoming school year.

We recently had our school supplies drive. It was cut short last year because of the Omnicron variant. Lots of supplies were left over which means we have more to donate and give to those in need.

Our elections are happening right now. They are running a little bit later than ASUS but have been going great so far. CESA student grants have been approved and it was built off of sibling societies.

Robert J. Hill Award will be given out to 1 or 2 students. The award recognizes an outstanding ConEd student. The Education Outreach Award will also be given out shortly.

More policy changes are coming up soon regarding compensation. Currently only executives get compensated but we will change this policy for next year so volunteers will be compensated as well.

All of you are invited to our meeting on Sunday and it will take place in Mac-Correy Room B-201!



## COMPSA Representative

Presented by **Catie Austin**, COMPSA Representative

### COMPSA Representative Austin:

I will try to keep my report as short as possible. I was able to take a petition regarding funding for school computing to Associate Dean Jen Stevenson.

I was able to have discussions with students in computing where we discussed possible concerns for the future. More talks with computing faculty will likely take place where we can gain some insight into how school computing currently operates.

Our 2023 orientation prep is well underway. We have recently closed tech hiring and we had over 45 applicants. Another round of hiring will likely open shortly. Head over to our COMPSA Instagram for more information.

The exec team applications for COMPSA have closed last week. I am excited to see all the candidates run. The computing formal will be held March 30th at Grant Hall. If you would like to attend there are more details on social media.

## Natural and Physical Sciences Academic Representation

Presented by **Colleen Tordoff**, Academic Representative

### Natural and Physical Sciences Academic Representative Tordoff:

Progress has been slow for the science fair. There is lots to plan and organise. We are hoping students will come around and see what you can do with a science degree. There is more than just going into the medical field.

The fair will be later than anticipated and will likely occur at the end of March.

## QUESTION PERIOD

*Will online ArtSci students have to pay the ASUS fee?*

**President Yara Hussein:**

If you were hired you will be asked if you have paid your ASUS fee. The ArtSci online community is still under the faculty of ArtSci. HealthSci has an online student representative that relays online information so that is something that we might adopt.

We will have a conversation about if online students have to opt into the AMS dental and health insurance plan. There has been some advocacy from HealthSci regarding that process.

AMS insurance plans are for all ArtSci students so online students will be included. I will open the floor for any further questions.

*Are these students located in Kingston and how would the insurance policies cover them?*

**ACS Commissioner Alicia Parker:**

Over 3000 online students live near the Kingston area. They may have chosen to be online for greater flexibility. If they live in Ontario then they should be able to access the insurance plan.

**Equity Commissioner Layla Haddard:**

I think everyone should have access to the health and dental plan. Furthermore, the option to opt in or out is a great idea as it does not exclude anyone from joining ASUS. The insurance plan is something every student should have access to.

*To what extent are ArtSci online students part of the faculty?*

**President Yara Hussein:**

They have a reporting system to Dean Crow. However, they do act like their own subject that reports to the higher faculty. They are still under the umbrella of the faculty of ArtSci.

We are trying to get them more involved in the ArtSci community overall so they do not feel excluded. We are researching ways to make them further implemented.

*For DSCs what would it mean?*

**President Yara Hussein:**

We are trying to figure out if an online ArtSci student would be able to run in the first place. We might open some online specific positions for those who are passionate about the advocacy side of it but couldn't physically make it to Kingston. This topic will be further discussed at the departmental level.

**ACS Commissioner Alicia Parker:**

We could do a better job of integrating online students in. However, there is a question of how involved they could get. There are certain limitations that online positions have. Therefore, we need to make sure those positions are accessible.

We should explore whether online students need to be paying the student fee. When those limitations are placed it seems to force people away. At some level we need to look at that model. Students will be less keen to work volunteer positions if it means they can't move up.

**Equity Commissioner Layla Haddard:**

We could bring this to the online ArtSci community and ask them if they still want to be part of ASUS. We will lay out everything like Alicia and see if there is still interest. We must be transparent as to why there's certain limitations.

*The suspension of BFA is due to complete negligence. What are your thoughts on the matter?*

**President Yara Hussein:**

There is immense frustration coming from both the faculty and student level. Lots of students are confused about the consultation process. Overall, the BFA program is extremely flawed and infrastructure is lacking.

We must hold the Dean's office accountable. However, the program does need to be on pause in order for the proper changes to be made. The Dean stated that she will have conversations with people on the senate. Therefore, we should also hold the senate accountable.

Lastly, this is a very big conversation as it impacts the future of all of our programs.

**ConEd Representative:**

ConEd executives have been dealing with extreme frustration as no straight answer regarding this matter has been given. There has been a distinct lack of information given at meetings. The Dean has also given little effort.

*If the BFA program is suspended what will happen?*

**BFA Representative:**

They are just suspending admissions outright. ConEd students also will not have a Fine Arts teachable opportunity. 7 years of neglect from the Dean's office is how we got to this point.

**DSC Representative:**

There is a growing sense of paranoia among history students because of what's been happening with BFA. There has even been some discussion of merging classics with history. If faculty members don't get ahead of that paranoia it will only grow.

**Vice-President of Operations Aloka Wijesundara:**

It is unfortunate that we have come to this point. We need clarification as to what is happening. Dean can't just get up and erase an entire department. We must dispel those myths in any way that we can.

**President Yara Hussein:**

We will meet with the Associate Dean to make it coming from an undergrad level. The fear with students is certainly not helping. We must also ensure that ArtSci professors are not fuelling any fires with any talk of programs being shut down. There are very long processes to go through before doing that.

## OLD BUSINESS

NONE

## NEW BUSINESS

### MOTION 3

That ASUS Assembly formally acknowledge the successful election of Team ATP (Amaiya Walters as President, Therese de Rivera as Vice-President Operations and Preston Harrison as Vice-President Society Affairs) as the 2023 - 2024 Arts and Science Undergraduate Society (ASUS) Executive.

**Moved by:** President Yara Hussein (2022 - 2023)

**Seconded by:** Vice-President of Society Affairs Emma Farrell (2022 - 2023)

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#### Questions:

*Why did you guys choose to run as executives?*

#### **President Amaiya Walters:**

I have been involved in equity work for a while now. Mostly online but back in person now. I care about the student body and I want to make Queen's a more equitable place. There is still lots of work left to do.

I dabbled in ASUS here and there but I wanted to get more involved. I believe my experience with the Queen's Equity Conference will aid me in my position.

#### **Vice-President Preston Harrison:**

As a Black person it is easy to be isolated in university. I wanted to give those people who feel isolated a voice. I want to make sure there is a better community with more inclusivity.

#### **Vice-President Operations Therese de Riveria:**

I have been involved with lots of clubs but wanted to participate further in student government. There are many problems with equity and diversity at Queen's that I hope to solve with my time at ASUS.

*If you could do anything in the world what would it be?*

**President Amaiya Walters:**

I believe in paying students for their labour, especially BIPOC labour. I will strive to compensate more students. The more the better.

**Vice-President Operations Therese de Riveria:**

Exactly the same thought as Amaiya.

**Vice-President Preston Harrison:**

I would like to give students a space where they can get to know each other. In my first year my floor's common room was turned into a 4 bedroom so I had nowhere to interact with my floormates. I will work hard to ensure that this does not happen again.

*What would your goal be to foster more engagement and integrate students?*

**President Amaiya Walters:**

There is a large gap in student leadership and I am worried about when this cohort leaves. My goal would be to have more second and third year programming. I will try to think of different events and initiatives for more specific outreach.

**Vice-President Operations Therese de Riveria:**

I will make sure that students are aware of the student government opportunities that are currently out there. Pushing the marketing will be essential for me to complete this task.

**Vice-President Preston Harrison:**

I would like to unionise all the different clubs in order for them to come together. I believe this would enhance club spirit. Different types of engagement would also be fun for students.



*What are ways that you guys like to relax?*

**President Amaiya Walters:**

I like to do yoga, the instructor is nice but the room is freezing. I also enjoy thrifting and making jewellery. Hanging out with peers and friends is also a good way to destress.

**Vice-President Preston Harrison:**

Playing basketball is one of my favourite hobbies. I have gotten to know some of my closest friends through basketball. Jigsaw puzzles have also become a new passion of mine. My mom got me some puzzles for Christmas. Word searches are also something that I enjoy.

**Vice-President Operations Therese de Riveria:**

I enjoy reading new books. There is lots of reading in my program so it is nice to read something that I actually enjoy myself. Online shopping is also one of my stress relievers.

*What do you expect in yourself this year? (1 or 2 words)*

**President Amaiya Walters:**

Broadened perspective.

**Vice-President Preston Harrison:**

New experiences.

**Vice-President Operations Therese de Riveria:**

Growth.

**Vote:** *Motion carries*

## MOTIONS 4 - 6 (OMNIBUSED)

That ASUS Assembly formally ratify Natalie Viebrock as the ASUS Camps Director (Operations) for ASUS Summer Camps of 2023.

That ASUS Assembly formally ratify Juno Radulovic as the ASUS Camps Director (English) for ASUS Summer Camps of 2023.

That ASUS Assembly formally ratify Alyssa Bonner as the ASUS Camps Director (French) for ASUS Summer Camps of 2023.

**Moved by:** Governance Officer Caitlin Sankaran-Wee

**Seconded by:** Vice-President of Society Affairs Emma Farrell

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### Questions:

*If you could pick any field trip destination and money is no object, what would it be?*

#### **ASUS Camps Director (French) Alyssa Bonner:**

The Museum of Science and Tech in Ottawa.

#### **ASUS Camps Director (English) Juno Radulovic:**

The ROM.

#### **ASUS Camps Director (Operations) Natalie Viebrock:**

The Screening Room.

*How would you as a team plan training for better accessibility?*

**ASUS Camps Director (French) Alyssa Bonner:**

Make unbreakable bonds with the campers. Sometimes it's hard to know how to meet the needs of different children. Therefore, connections are important.

**ASUS Camps Director (Operations) Natalie Viebrock:**

Pragmatically rely a lot upon previous experiences and knowledge.

**ASUS Camps Director (English) Juno Radulovic:**

A lot of changes on the fly is important. We do not know who is going to be there every week.

*What was your favourite memory from your childhood?*

**ASUS Camps Director (French) Alyssa Bonner:**

I would say meeting my best friend in first grade. We first bonded over barbies and we still watch barbie movies together to this day.

**ASUS Camps Director (Operations) Natalie Viebrock:**

Lots of road trips and wreaking havoc with my sister.

**ASUS Camps Director (English) Juno Radulovic:**

Probably going to the bookstore with my older brother. The shop owners started to know me after a while.

**Vote:** *Motion carries*

## MOTION 7

Revise the DSC Election Timeline

**Moved by:** Governance Officer Caitlin Sankaran-Wee

**Seconded by:** Vice-President of Society Affairs Emma Farrell

**Questions:** None

**Vote:** *Motion carries*

## MOTION 8

Strike the Constitution Review Committee

**Moved by:** Governance Officer Caitlin Sankaran-Wee

**Seconded by:** Vice-President of Society Affairs Emma Farrell

**Questions:** None

**Vote:** *Motion carries*

## SPEAKER'S LAST WORD

### **Speaker Christian Luchin:** Speech

Today was a great assembly! I will work on my pronunciation for the next assembly. I can't wait to see you guys back here after break. We all have our opportunity as leaders to represent the community. Showing up and showing how much you care about your peers, program, and legacy demonstrates how much this school means to you.

## MOTION 9: Adjournment

**Moved by:** Vice-President of Society Affairs Emma Farrell

**Seconded by:** Humanities Academic Representative Dillon Chicoski

**Vote:** *Motion carries*