

**Arts
and
Science
Undergraduate
Society —
Assembly**

Meeting #5 Minutes

Duc Mentem Ad Libertatem

Assembly is called to order at 7:02pm EST.

Speaker: For those new to assembly, there is a sheet on the back of your placard which shows when you are able to intervene, if and when you would like to.

MOTION 1 - Approval of Agenda

Moved by: Piper

Seconded by: Amaiya

Piper: Omnibus motion 3-6

Vote: Motion passes

MOTION 2 - Approval the Minutes

Moved by: Piper

Seconded by: Amaiya

Questions: None

Vote: Motion passes

SPEAKER'S BUSINESS

Speaker: Welcome, happy new year, hope semester is going well. My name is Megan and I am the assembly speaker for ASUS. Looking forward to working with you. Not a lot of business to get to, lengthier discussion period.

PRESENTATION

No presentation.

DISCUSSION PERIOD

Speaker:

Before the discussion period begins, I want to go over some etiquette for the discussion period:

- Dean provost is here to respond to questions: 7:15 to 7:45. I would also like to welcome Donna, Vice Principal of Finance and Admin.
- This is a tough topic to be discussed and the goal for this period is to be informative, productive and respectful conversation.
- If you have a question for the provost, go to the far right side of the room (empty table) to start a queue for who would like to ask questions
- Be respectful and conscious of time
- I will tell all attendees when the discussion is wrapping up

Amaiya: Well start with an online question first: What plans are there for more income in other departments that don't rely on student enrollment or tuition?

Provost: Quite tough considering we are a university and our main business is education

- Upping our game on international student (involves teaching students)
- Raise revenue without teaching students → Donations from many donors, but most donations are given for a specific person
 1. Such as the large donation to engineering to transform the education
 2. We get them for buildings, for scholarships, never really to underpin the operational costs
 - a. These are relied on by tuition by students

Akash Singh: How do you plan to bring international students if our rankings are falling due to cuts?

Provost: Drop in enrolment is one of the reasons why we are in this financial position (because they have higher tuition) Why do they come to Queen's? To do their degrees that will set them up for careers for the rest of their lives. Some pay attention to rankings, which are very important in many places (like in China). So, we need to address rankings, Whether it's the only thing that's important I'm not sure, we need many reasons to attract international students

Zhao: Will the tuition for international students increase drastically given the budget deficit?

Provost: Definitely looking at the fee, but i would suggest at the moment in arts and science is gonna be high already. I would be surprised if the fee would go up for arts

Duc Mentem Ad Libertatem

and science, I thought the conversation would be more about going up. Hoping it will be compensated for by having a larger number of people coming.

Amber: Some of us are afraid of our degrees being seen as whether they make profit or not. How do you plan to support these degrees, showing that their degrees matter just as much as degrees that have more funding?

Provost : Not really a question of whether departments are profitable or not. We need to make changes across the whole university. How do we get to the point that we can save money we need to save while preserving the student experience and research related to the university? (tightrope we have to walk). No one wants to remove programs, but we have to think about how much we have to spend on them because somehow we have to save money. There are lots of ways to do this, like being efficient in the support activities towards different departments. In the end, we will have to find ways of cross subsidizing activities in this faculty with other faculties. Most of our money comes from tuition, so we fund all of the rest of it by taking money that is coming in through teaching activity in other faculties. So we will have to work out a way (next year probably) to bring in money that would have been elsewhere (health sciences, eng) to these departments, alongside how do we cut costs and increase revenue.

Online question: Will I be able to complete my program in full? What will my degree/classes look like at queen's?

Provost : No doubt about it, students come in and we have a commitment to them, for their entire time at queen's. Second part is an individual by individual answer, impossible for me to answer with any degree of actual accuracy.

Follow up : What kinds of changes will we see in class size, TAs, etc?

Provost: Decisions are for the faculty, not me. My job is to run the budget, a very decentralized system at queens. Each faculty has agency over the money they bring in and the money they spend. Most is, at the end of the day, on salaries. TA's, profs, admin teams, all these salaries add up to about two thirds of the total amount of money spent on the university. All those decisions are made by the faculty leaders, not the provost. I do not impose a certain solution on any faculties, you would have to address that question to a dean or an associate dean.

Audience question

Duc Mentem Ad Libertatem

Provost: Closure of admission for Dean - Dean will deal with faculty level issues at a subsequent meeting, question needs to be reserved for another meeting

Follow up question: All decisions are being made at a faculty level, mandate to cut courses below 10 students, did they come from faculty or you?

Provost: This faculty has had a rule limiting min enrolment of students at 10 for about 15 years. That rule was instituted by this faculty. Last July, my predecessor reminded all deans they should be restricting enrollment. All other faculties have already done so, ARTSCI is returning their stance on this decision to the previous stance for the next academic year.

Follow up question: Mechanism for the dean to grant exemptions, does that mean that the fact that "all students will then be able to finish their degree" will take precedence over the exemption?

Provost: Exemption is granted by the dean. You answered your own question. The courses that a student signs up for will be there.

Mifkovic: Students feel like they have been kept out of the loop, this question is about transparency. Do you have any plans to increase transparency so that students know what is happening (council meetings that we are not allowed in)? We are worried about the quality of our education.

Provost: Things behind closed doors. Always possible for anyone to communicate more. There are no secret meetings happening behind closed doors. Board of trustees has a director and students sitting. Student representative is a student. The chair of AMS reports to every board meeting. They are in regular contact with the board. Same can be said of the governing of the university. These meetings have student representatives, there are no other government meetings that students might be on. We can try to be more communicative, I acknowledge that, the budget situation was put out in an article. These are the things that get out.

Follow-up question from Mifkovic: Even then, there are a small number of students being kept in the loop. Are there any things to make more students come (published, recorded?) to hear word of mouth

Provost: We have 28k students in university. That's why we have representatives. Director is the student rep. You need some way of producing representatives when you are bringing representatives, it's not simply possible to talk to every student. I am open

to talk to student representatives, that's why I am here. I have been trying to talk to AMS leadership since I've been here.

Follow-up question from Mifkovic: Recordings? Reproduction of meetings

Provost: We have problems with recordings. They will end up on youtube and be put around the world, do we want that to happen? I would rather have a frank conversation with student reps and hope they pass it on to students.

Robertson: One of the reasons we are in this budget issue is because of tuition raises from in province students. How are we increasing out of province students to compensate for this change?

Provost: Student affairs has regular outreach to diff parts of Canada to attract out of province students. Happens weekly. Increased interest in students coming from out of province. Quebec province changed their own tuition for anglophone students, and should increase students coming from quebec. We have drawn students from BC and AB, those numbers have gone up again. We would all have to recognize that it will come at the expense of Ontario students. You take more from Alberta, you take less from Ontario. Put them at disadvantage.

Akash Singh: Computing enrollment has doubled, we bring in significant revenue, what cuts can we make?

Provost: School of computing is in the faculty, and provides part of the overall revenue stream for the faculty. Specific recommendations for a school like that, keep doing the things that you're doing very well. Computing is one of our best subjects, something we're very proud of, we want them to carry out what they're doing.

Follow up Akash Singh: Some convos with the director of computing from a student perspective show there's a slight gap in our feelings about how school of computing is. We need better ratios for students to profs, and our budget has not increased, student numbers have increased, lots of pressure.

Provost: I manage the budget to the faculty, the faculty decides how those numbers are. You manage the "doubling" of money. I would be surprised in reality if that is actually what happens (missed the first part here).

Stemp: When would opportunities be to speak to the Deans?

Duc Mentem Ad Libertatem

Piper Veloso: The Dean of Arts and Science will be attending a future assembly to answer questions pertaining to FAS. We are going to be in communication with her office to sort out those details.

Audience question: At town hall it was mentioned that you didn't reject any applications for the hiring freeze for profs.

Provost: True

Audience question: Does your office look for specific things in an application that would support you to approve or deny it? What I mean is is there anything you have told the faculties you are looking for in an application or is it up to the faculties to decide whether to forward an application

Provost: It's up to the faculties if they want me to provide an exemption for a position, I need to do that. But, no one has come to me with a case.

Emma Capstick: How are you working to support the faculty of Arts and Science, I know it is your job to do budgets not allocation, how do you work together?

Provost: I am meeting with the Dean tomorrow, I meet with all sorts of different groups to make it all work out. One of these things I said when I arrived, Queen's is a university, it is more than just a simple collection of faculties, we need to work together to fix this problem. One example of a problem is the issue of international student enrolment The dean of student affairs reports to me, we have been working to understand what we have been doing wrong and right with international student recruitment, ensuring we have programs for international students to convince them to come take them Marketing is by student affairs, but the programs themselves originate in faculties. We need high quality programs that international students will want to do, which means faculties may have to look at to see whether they are a good fit for international students. Student affairs takes that and tries to "sell" that. Example of collaborative effort.

Audience: We've heard about faculty cuts, but i am wondering what other cuts we have made and where else we have looked for money?

Provost: We've looked wherever we can find. It's not just this faculty, it's also shared services, whereas faculties have been given until 2025-2026 to look at their books. Shared services were given until 2024-2025 to look at their budget and have had to bring in savings. Money has to come wherever the university can find it.

Audience: Cutting Upper level administrative costs?

Provost: All levels have been exposed to the requirement to save costs

Mifkovic: What is the administration doing for these cuts, I know for Artsci they may even cut their office supplies. What are individual admins doing?

Provost: Every single office has had cuts. We have all had to come in line with these cuts, we have all contributed to the deficit mitigation fund, looking to cross subsidize this faculty. The biggest difference you may see: each faculty is its own unit. The scale of the cuts in each faculty depends on the nature of the faculty and the deficit.

Mifkovic: Deficit mitigation fund, how are you contributing to that?

Provost: Every single office has been contributing to it.

Megan: 5 more min left in the discussion!

Yang: You have been portrayed as the villain in this conflict. Do you have a plan to rebrand your image in this deficit, for global news and CBC (other news), do you plan to put some effort into rebranding for incoming students?

Provost: I leave my enormous snake at home, that's how I rebrand. Do I need to do a rebrand? I don't know. My job here is to try and make this university as good as possible, to get it through this difficult period of time, and I arrived in august and inherited this situation that had been created previously. My job is to look at the situation and work on it. Universities are old organizations. Queen's is about 170 years old, and that's quite a long time but it's a short time in comparison. Universities have survived difficult times, so has Queen's. Two world wars. This university is still here. We will survive this, go forward from this, learn from mistakes, pull together, and my job is to help it through that process, not to worry about my own personal image. I know people are saying bad things behind my back, but does it really matter?

Donna Janiec: We need to reinforce resilience. It is never easy to get through budget cuts, we have to make choices no one wants to. Queen's has done it before, we come out stronger in the end, and I know that will happen. Arts and Sci will not be left on its own. Arts and science is lucky to have had increased budgets with increased international students before covid, Arts and Science was supported by other faculties in the past, at present some of these difficult decisions must be made so we can be

Duc Mentem Ad Libertatem

stronger at the end as we look at increasing revenue and looking at donations. In terms of being open and transparent (addressing Amber), this is a great example. Please send us questions, because nothing is secret. It's that positive message that we will come out of it, even if there are tough times.

Sean: Has there been outreach to Arts and science alumni outlining the scenario, we care about future students, (we're not all Smiths), if it was done the right way and many little contributions could perhaps solve the problem. No solutions are being talked about, only the problem. Has that outreach happened? Perhaps it could

Provost: We are proud of our alumni and grateful for their support. I don't know if there's been an outreach to the Arts and Science alumni base, we constantly communicate with donors though. I think we are, centrally, but I can't answer the question fully.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS

PRESIDENT REPORT

Presented by **Amaiya Walters**, President

I hope you all had a restful break and a terrific start to 2024 and your winter semester!

ASURF

The Arts and Science Undergraduate Research Fund for the fall semester has closed and the ASURF Committee has selected sixteen students to receive funding! Winter ASURF is opening in the coming weeks, so keep an eye out for that!

Orientation

Head Gael Capstick has hired all thirty-seven of her Orientation Coordinators! Keep your eye out for Gael applications, which are opening in the coming weeks.

QNSA x ASUS

ASUS Executive is in conversation with the Queen's Native Students Association regarding the Reflection Room and how to create a space that is more welcoming and usable for students.

Grants

The Committee Grant, DSC Grant, Professional Development Grant, Sibling Society Grant, and the Student Initiative Grant are open and will be reviewed on a rolling basis. The relevant information can be found on the ASUS Instagram under "Financials" and "Grants".

Thank you for taking the time to read my report. If you have any questions, concerns, or comments about anything in my report, please do not hesitate to reach out to me via email at president@asus.queensu.ca or by coming by the ASUS Office during my office hours.

VICE PRESIDENT OF SOCIETY AFFAIRS REPORT

Presented by **Preston Harrison**, Vice President of Society Affairs

I hope you all have had a good winter break and feel well rested, ready to take on the winter semester. ASUS Camps applications are beginning to make their rounds; ASUS Camps is a not-for-profit, student-run, community outreach organization to engage Kingston youth's imagination and creativity. We offer camp programming for children ages 4-8 to encourage interest in arts and science from an early age. Our camps run from July to August. Camps directors' positions are currently open, there are three director positions to be filled, Director of Operations, English and French. Operations manage the operational aspects of the camp, such as developing registration and payment processes while overseeing compliance and budgeting.

The Camps director position application will close at 11:59 on January 19, 2024. Stay updated to camp applications as the camp counsellor application open relatively after Camp Director applications close

Deputy Caucus will be returning on January 25, 5:00pm – 7:00pm; all deputies and direct reports are invited.

Varsity Leadership President, PHEKSA and ASUS will be releasing a Varsity Leadership President, PHEKSA and ASUS will be releasing a survey to gather information on what students want from their student reps. With this information, we will hold an event dedicated to including student-athletes in the student government while encouraging a more cohesive community for the student body. With this information we will hold an event dedicated to

Moreover, ASUS and Sibling Societies plan to hold an event for students to foster better relationships within the student body government. No tangible evidence that demonstrates ASUS and Sibling Societies working relationship besides dealing with funding and assembly. It is important that creating a working relationship and developing something together will benefit the student body as the planning committee represents all the Arts and Science student body.

Wheels on the bus have been changed to taste of home that provides service that will transport students to FreshCo to do grocery shopping and return them back to campus. FreshCo is one of the cheapest grocery stores in Kingston thus

Duc Mentem Ad Libertatem

providing students with more sustainable food as students will be able to save more money from grocery shopping.

Thank you for your time, stay updated to ASUS via Instagram @queensasus. Please continue to promote and share each other's graphics to have a greater reach on campus. If you have any questions, concerns, or comments about anything in my report, please do not hesitate to reach out to me via email at vpsa@asus.queens.ca or by coming by the ASUS Offices during my office hours.

VICE PRESIDENT OF OPERATIONS

Presented by **Therese de Rivera**, Vice President of Operations

Happy New Year! I hope you all enjoyed your holidays and had a restful winter break.

Society Finances

Since our last term, I've worked closely with our General Manager, Sean, over the holidays to finalize several accounting and budget matters before the new year. We have successfully paid out all the honorarium and food credits to ASUS volunteers, as well as our fall distributions for ASUS grants and ASURF with great help from our accounting team. We are now making strategic plans for our next honoraria and grant distributions that will be processed at the end of this winter term. Additionally, we have categorized all transactions within our accounting system and have updated the General Operating Budget (GOB) accordingly. I will continue to hold monthly budget meetings with the ASUS council to accurately keep track of society spendings.

Direct Reports

Before the break, I discussed the ideas of several projects with my direct reports for the new year. The ASUS Store Manager and I are currently working to address our large inventory of textbook donations to ASUS, and have made a variety of events plans throughout this term to offer such resources to students on campus.

Moreover, after meeting with the ASUS IT Director, we are working to bring new additions to the technology lending library. We're excited to introduce iPads as another available resource once they have been cleared for security by our IT Director. We hope to make further expansions on this project moving forward.

Finally, I have continued to hold meetings with the ASUS Accounting Co-Directors to efficiently manage reimbursements, credit transactions, and budgets throughout the term. We will begin discussions regarding volunteer distributions and student grants early on, and operations will continue to hold meetings with the ASUS advisory board regarding these deliberations.

Orientation:

This term, the Head Gael and I have discussed plans to work together on creating an Orientation budget for the 2024/25 academic year. This will be reviewed and passed at assembly in the coming months.

Final Note:

While I'm leaving this report off with only a few updates, I imagine everything in store for the new year will approach very quickly, and I am excited to see where it will take us. As always, please do not hesitate to come by the ASUS office to chat. I am always happy to lend my support!

OTHER REPORTS

Business of the senate:

Kai: Speaking on upcoming business for senate

- Wednesday: Senate's equivalent to today
- Student senate caucus on Friday convened to discuss strategy for semester and questions for Wednesday's meeting
- Bringing interests of ASUS and sister societies to that Wednesday meeting

STATEMENT BY MEMBERS

Amaiya: Thank you for your questions. Rest assured I'm having these convos and asking the same questions behind closed doors. It's difficult to disseminate information which is reflective of student feelings and things that are consistent. Difficult to put out messages when they are specific and also constantly shifting. I have the same impression as all of you, I understand how students are feeling and I feel the same way. Concerns you have are brought to meetings. It is partially student leader responsibility, but right now it is definitely a big responsibility for them because they have the most access. If you have any questions, let me know. Nothing I talk to with the provost or Dean are confidential.

QUESTION PERIOD

Amber Mifkovic: Is there a way for what is discussed with the Provost by the Senate to be distributed to senate

Yang: sure a social media page, we had a plan to make a social media page

Siallagan: Closed meeting, won't be recorded, not allowed for people to attend but we should be able to report

OLD BUSINESS

No old business.

NEW BUSINESS

MOTION 3-6

Speaker:

Omnibusing motions 3-6

Asus assembly formally ratified: Katriana, Carly, Vanessa and Miya.

Piper: What are you most excited for most in your role?

Miya:

- Connecting incoming class with resources
- Events are sidelined and deliverable was not digestible
- This year we are looking to rearrange how these events are being delivered to make them more effective

Carly:

- Passionate about fundraising, exciting to connect passion with showing incoming students their new home at queens

Katrina

- Socio cultural chair
- Larger events, excited to see first years create bonds through events

Vanessa:

- Get to see connections between chairs and , excited to see it all come to life

Georgia: What is your favorite memory or event from between orientation and now?

Vanessa:

- Artsci cup reveal was a great way to have our gaels and first years together for the last event of the week

Catrina:

- Being an OC and bringing to life our robinsons event (mud run)

Carly:

Duc Mentem Ad Libertatem

- Mud run
- Sidewalk sale

Miya

- Mud run, had to put on pause for a couple years but it was exciting bringing it back
- Being able to be part of the family and community built through orientation, working with these lovely people and more, building relationships and myself and building them

Speaker

- Motion passes.
- Congratulations to the 4 new orientation chairs

SPEAKER'S LAST WORD

Thank you for joining us tonight, I appreciate everyone's patience and cooperation and for creating a space for communicating. First assembly of 2024!

MOTION 19 - ADJOURNMENT

Moved by: Amaiya Walter

Seconded by: Leo Yang

Vote: Motion passes