

Assembly Meeting (#7): Tuesday, March 8th, 2022

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

Motion #1 –Approval of Agenda

Moved by: Kristen Sutherland

Seconded by: Alyth Roos

Questions: None

Vote: Motion carries

Motion #2 – Approval of the Minutes

Moved by: Kristen Sutherland

Seconded by: Alyth Roos

Questions: None

Vote: Motion carries

Speaker's Business

Speaker Callum Robertson: Hello everyone and welcome back. We'll start off with the land acknowledgement. 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. I ask that everyone both in this call and in ASUS overall think about what it means to live and learn while participating in a colonial institution like ASUS. Now, we don't have that many meetings left for me, also happy International Women's Day. It seems like a shorter assembly today so I'll try to keep it to a minimum on this end. On that note, Yara mentioned that we have the student experience survey as really our only discussion topic today, it should be in the chat so if people can open the Agenda and click the link to at least skim it a bit before.

Breakout Rooms Commence and Conclude

Discussion Period

The Student Experience Survey

Equity Commissioner Yara Hussein: If you've gotten a chance to look at the survey or if you've heard

about it in passing with friends or coworkers. I just wanted to bring it up so that we can have a conversation about the data in it, and so that when I have my next conversation with the faculty I can bring up how students feel about the actual data in it. I do also have some questions to prompt a discussion if that's needed. The first one is pretty simple, what are your initial impressions with the data especially about marginalised groups. I think the survey highlighted things pretty well with the racial diversity section and the sexual violence section. Answers don't have to be super revolutionary but any input is welcome.

Year Representative Alicia Parker: I think the number one thing is that there's still a lot of work to be done. I think the one I'm most disappointed by is the one where it compared how welcome students feel by other students versus faculty, and it was a bit lower for the student welcome. We are a student organisation and so I think it's both relevant and quite unfortunate that so many students feel unwelcome by their peers.

President Alyth Roos: The statistics in the survey are always the biggest shock to me. The data indicates a problem and so I think the focus has to be on what we are doing to fix it and provide solutions, it's something that is a big reference point for faculty meetings. Something that really shocked me this time was the 17% of people who have experienced harassment, that's almost 1 in 5 especially in comparison with the essentially 1 in 20 who actually report it. I think a lot of the issues become clearer when you start comparing numbers and we can see that there are issues with the formal mechanism. That or there is a lack of trust from students towards the organisations and so we need to focus on how we can build that trust up.

Equity Commissioner Hussein: I do have one more question for everyone. First thank you Alicia and Alyth for all your points. Second, what does a safer campus climate look like to all of you? Sort of what do you hope to leave Queen's with for the incoming classes. I know it's a big question but there's no pressure for a big answer. Anything is good.

Services Commissioner Tina Hu: That's a pretty big question and an important one to tackle I think. I think what ASUS does is great, we get to support passion projects and help students have a pulse with what's happening in their community. I think to help more, continuing to fund those projects and work on getting people in the room with the right people and adults who have a larger reach and make sure that we're helping empower the students. I know that it's kind of simple and we say it a lot but that's the crux of student government and I think a big way to help people.

President Roos: Adding to that aspect, I do think that there's a lot of amazing projects and students to support on campus. I also was asked this past week how I see Queen's campus and if the university adapts to the students or if students have to adapt to Queen's. I think that it's something that's at the root of a lot of issues we have is that at the end of the day students have to adapt to the university to feel welcome. As a student government who oversees orientation I was wondering if you guys had anything to add to that or if you agree or not.

Academics Commissioner Tiffany Yung: For me I think one of the biggest things, speaking to the racialized aspect, is that a lot of my fears and insecurities are tied to racial identity. We are such a minority on campus and it's something my friend made a comment that I do seek out people of colour for friendship. But I think it's a thing of resonance and being able to speak about shared experiences and how it impacts us. Speaking of Queen's culture, I've definitely had to adapt. There's a lot of prominent features with socialising and the drinking culture that I think are things that a lot of people learn to adapt to. The issue is more that there are lots of individuals who we aren't thinking of. I know Queen's Women of Colour Collective started to help women of colour find people to talk to and bond with so having that has been great.

Community Outreach Commissioner Emily Armstrong: I fully agree with what Tiffany said. I think even looking at the results of the survey it's been echoed in the data. In every question it's everyone in racialized or minority groups who are feeling like they don't belong. I do think it's important to identify that. With regards to Alyth's question, I think students more have to adapt to Queen's because for a lot of people it's something that is so far out from their culture. So something is to make sure to make spaces for people to be safe and for them to feel safe in.

Equity Commissioner Hussein: Just to wrap stuff up. I know it's a large question, it's something I can't really give a full answer to. But I think that we do need to be more inclusive and adaptable for students and have that take precedence over student's having to change their lives. We need to support the students in fulfilling their academic and social lives. Thank you everyone, I'll take these points to Student Experience, hopefully we get to see this change in the coming years.

Executive Reports

President Report

President Roos: To start off, happy week 8. I can't believe that this is the last assembly that's not the AGM or the transition meeting. Happy International Women's Day as well. I'm glad to be back on campus and from what I hear and see so is everyone. With that, in ASUS we're trying to wrap up this year strong and making sure that the next years are even stronger and have learnt from this pandemic. I've been meeting with Wendy about the thought exchange and the major words are accessibility and education. So we're planning on making sure those lessons are carried over to the next few years. The sexual violence response task force had a chance to chat and they are implementing a new director role to help focus on several projects. We're also working on returning to a lot of our regular planning and programming. I don't feel comfortable leaving my position without organising something for the Class of 2024. We have the chat with alumni event that will be held in the Rose Innovation room which is a great chance to mingle and network with peers. In terms of other things, especially equity and wellness, we're making sure to do a lot of outreach and we have a few projects and are working on overall ASUS engagement. That's pretty much where we're at. There's a lot of great events that we're planning and none of these projects or commissions would have happened without everyone involved. I hope to see most if not all of you at the formal and thank you all again.

Vice-President Report

Vice-President Brandon Aldworth: Good evening everyone and thank you Alyth. Congratulations on week 8 everyone, I do apologise for the brief report tonight. I'm trying to stay on top of week 8 but as always my door and email are open. Some highlights are that the executive transition has been going great, it's been wonderful to work with team YEA and they have officially elected their new council which is very exciting. As well for our return to campus we've been working on mask distribution and have rapid antigen tests at the office. Feel free to stop by if you have not already received yours. ASUS camps are also going great, we are opening registration soon and there's lots of excited parents. As well, ASUS grants are open and many members should have received an email, they close on Friday. Feel free to get that information to your teams and spread the word. I know this is very succinct but thanks to Alyth, the council, Sean, and the volunteers. I'm looking forward to closing on a high note.

Society Reports

Services Commissioner Hu: A small addition to my report. As Brandon and Alyth have alluded to, the formal prep has been underway. The early bird tickets sold out within half an hour and within 24 hours the full venue sold out. Due to that we've added a second night on Friday April 8th, those tickets go live tomorrow morning. We could not be more ecstatic to celebrate the graduating and 4th year students.

Dan School Undergraduate Society Report

Dan Vice-President Hamish Hutchison-Poyntz: A quick verbal report. In general the DSUS is back up and running. We have a lot of performing arts projects that are up and running. The Dan expedition series is coming up either this weekend or the next which I highly recommend checking out. We're also looking at organising a Dan School formal which could be happening in the next few weeks.

Other Reports

Business of the Senate

Senator Sahiba Gulati: I think I'm in a similar boat with not having a written report. Firstly we had a lot of discussions surrounding the maintenance of academic integrity. This year has been really heavy in breaches of academic integrity and we as Senators believe that it's due to the lack of accommodations as the cause. As well the Senate has been trying to change the time for the Senate Assembly for minority groups to better be able to attend. The Senate orientation has also started a few new working groups to work on policy that will take place for the class of 2027. Finally we had a large discussion about the topic of honorary degrees and if they should be taken away from dead figures who have committed infractions in the past. The vote result was 50/50 for that so we will bring it back for the next Assembly.

Natural and Physical Sciences Society

Natural and Physical Sciences Representative Mathie Smith: I'll a bit like a broken record about week 8 so here's a quick verbal update. A lot of DSC's are going ahead with remaining online for the rest of the semester and a few are dedicated to going back in person and have been going through the motions of setting everything up for in person events. We've been setting up formals with some going alone and a few DSC's teaming up with others in a cluster. All in all, it's been good to be back and everyone's happy about it.

Statements by Members [None]

Question Period

Dan Vice-President Hutchison-Poyntz: I have a quick question for either Alyth or Brandon. I know there's the rapid tests at the office and I was wondering if performing arts students could take advantage of that as well? I know quite a few people that would benefit from it.

Vice-President Aldworth: It's definitely an important question, we can't make them fully available due to having a limited quantity but Hamish if you or members of your team need them then feel free to stop by. From my understanding the AMS has a larger capacity and I've been able to pick up a few at the Metro this evening.

General Manager Sean Thompson: I have a quick question for Hamish. I have, through my 90 year old mother, some sheet music dating back to 1930. I was wondering if anyone would be interested in getting their hands on some old sheet music that you know of?

Dan Vice-President Hutchison-Poyntz: I don't know off the top of my head but I can definitely follow up with some people and there will definitely be someone interested.

Old Business

Motion 3: That ASUS Assembly formally approve the changes to the ASUS Constitution first presented on February 15th, 2022, as seen in Appendix A: Changes to the ASUS Constitution.

Moved by: Alyth Roos

Seconded by: Brandon Aldworth

President Roos: So this was some constitution changes from the last Assembly that were pushed by our Equity Director. A lot of it pertains to stuff that we already do, especially in compensation of equity based labour, making sure the election requirements are accessible. It's essentially to make sure policy is reflective of what we are already doing. As well, it makes sure that the reflection room ties back to Indigenization. This is our second read through but any questions are of course welcome.

Questions: none

Vote: *motion carries*

New Business

Motion 4: That ASUS Assembly formally approve the changes to the Information, Technology and Privacy Policy Manual, as seen in Appendix B: Information, Technology and Privacy Policy Manual Changes.

Moved by: Kristen Sutherland

Seconded by: Caitlin Hayes

Governance Officer Kristen Sutherland: So this is something that's an ongoing trend as Caitlin and I go through policy manuals to make sure stuff is in proper order. This is mostly administrative changes, so things that are no longer applicable or removing stuff that's been redacted. That's pretty much all we did there, just making sure policy is in the proper order. If there are any questions I'm happy to answer them.

Questions: none

Vote: *motion carries*

Motion 5: That ASUS Assembly formally approve the changes to the Gifts and Awards Policy Manual, as seen in Appendix C: Gifts and Awards Policy Manual Changes.

Moved by: Kristen Sutherland

Seconded by: Caitlin Hayes

Governance Officer Sutherland: This is really the same thing and idea as the last motion. Just going through and making sure that sections that reference other policy manuals are correct and rewording a few to make more sense and make sure everything is still an enforceable piece of policy.

Questions: none

Vote: *motion carries*

Motion 6: That ASUS Assembly formally approve the changes to the Equity Policy Manual, as seen in Appendix D: Equity Policy Manual Changes.

Moved by: Yara Hussein

Seconded by: Brandon Aldworth

Equity Commissioner Hussein: So this is a very brief kind of edit. We just changed the name of the disability grant to the accessibility grant. We didn't like the connotations of the previous one and so wanted to make it have a more inclusive language. I'm happy to take questions.

Questions: none

Vote: *motion carries*

Motion 7: That ASUS Assembly formally approve the changes to the President Policy Manual, as seen in Appendix E: President Policy Manual Changes

Moved by: Alyth Roos

Seconded by: Yara Hussein

President Roos: So this is the implementation of a new role of the SVPR director. In light of COVID there are different resources and we wanted to restore the focus on sexual violence. A lot has been working with ASUS internal policies and doing outreach alongside the different student councils. So this role is to help in chairing a committee and to further amplify the voices of survivors and make different relationships with people. There's been a lot of moving parts this year and so we want to ensure a continuity of these projects. The creation of a new director role that will be under the presidential portfolio that will disperse the heading of the task force and outreach. If there are any questions I'm more than happy to answer.

Questions: none

Vote: *motion carries*

Motion 8: That ASUS Assembly formally approve the changes to the Human Resources Policy Manual (Internal) as seen in Appendix F: Human Resources Policy Manual (Internal) Changes

Moved by: Olivia Obonsawin

Seconded by: Brandon Aldworth

Human Resources Officer Olivia Obonsawin: A couple changes are coming to the HR manual. Some of them are structural and a few are clarifying policy. The first change is the change of titles between deputy and analytics and training. I see more future growth for the role of analyst and training and so having that be more consistent will be beneficial. As well, there is the addition of a workforce development director that is meant to help with and help as we hopefully grow exponentially. They'll be taking on responsibilities that currently don't have a home especially for more formal procedures. As well we are putting into policy the requirement of bystander training, it's something that is already there but we wanted to have it in policy as well.

Questions: none

Vote: *motion carries*

Motion 9: That ASUS Assembly formally approve the changes to the Vice President Operations Policy Manual as seen in Appendix G: Vice President Operations Policy Manual Changes

Moved by: Brandon Aldworth

Seconded by: Alyth Roos

Vice-President Aldworth: Thank you. This change is near and dear to my heart, I was hoping to have Danielle on call and she may be able to join, but in her absence I'll be doing this. We're adding some roles in the VP and Exec offices. The action of the financial officer and other roles to the finances team so that we can have more people and have roles that are important and appealing to students. There is

also a plan to have two more co-conductors with a different outline for their roles. They will be paid a 500 dollar honorarium which offsets the total cost for the team. The goal is to provide opportunities to students and add more hands in the financial team for Assembly and our sister societies.

Questions: none

Vote: *motion carries*

Speakers Last Word

Speaker Robertson: It is crazy how fast this year has flown by. The next assembly will be the General Assembly and then transition with a lot of new faces. Thank you everyone so much for these past few weeks and years. I have a rough idea what next year will look like and it's been wonderful to work with you all this year. Thank you all.

Motion: To adjourn the meeting

Moved by: Brandon Aldworth

Seconded by: Kristen Sutherland

Vote: *Motion carries*