

**Arts  
and  
Science  
Undergraduate  
Society —  
Assembly**

Meeting #3 Minutes

## Duc Mentem Ad Libertatem

*Assembly is called to order at 7:01pm EST.*

### MOTION 1 - Approval of Agenda

Moved by: Piper

Seconded by: Amaiya

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Questions: None

Vote: Motion passes

### MOTION 2 - Approval the Minutes

Moved by: Piper

Seconded by: Amaiya

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Questions: None

Vote: Motion passes

### SPEAKER'S BUSINESS

**Piper:** I would like to welcome you all to our second Assembly. I would like to welcome Megan, who has recently been hired as Assembly Speaker. With that, we will move onto motion 3: That ASUS Assembly formally approves Megab Di Muzio as ASUS Assembly speaker. Does anyone have any questions for Megan?

**Piper:** What is your favourite ice cream flavour?

**Megan:** I am going to have to go with cookie dough. It is always a classic.

What is your favourite part about Queen's?

**Megan:** My favourite part is the sense of community. This past year I worked as an Orientation Coordinator and I had the pleasure of working with the best people. I was also fortunate enough to meet a lot of incoming first years and work with a wonderful team.

## EXECUTIVE REPORTS

### PRESIDENT REPORT

Presented by **Amaiya Walters**, President

Dear ASUS Assembly,

Hello everyone! For those who left Kingston for the fall term reading break, welcome back to campus!

Wherever you were last week, I hope your break was restful and enjoyable. I am grateful to be here with you all today and am looking forward to sharing some exciting updates.

Direct Reports:

Professional Development

Life After ArtSci is scheduled for Thursday October 26th which is coming up quickly! Director Carrington has been hard at work planning this event alongside the Office of Advancement. Her two coordinators have been hired and they have been great help in the final planning stages for the 26th. Tickets are on sale as we speak, and I urge you all to attend and encourage your peers to come as well! We are touring McKinsey and Company, Crestview, and one other location that has yet to be determined! There will also be a dinner alumni mixer event at the Art Gallery of Ontario to finish the day off before we all head back to Kingston.

Student Affairs Research

Director Ranaweera has finished his survey on international student housing and food experiences, and it is now posted to the ASUS website! As he waits for the data from these surveys, he is planning focus groups with a few students in order to better understand their individual experiences.

Sexual Violence Prevention and Response

Director Jekic has planned a Home Coming safety event. This will be taking place on October 21st from 10am – 2pm and will consist of painting bed sheets with positive messages surrounding consent. There will also be resources being distributed. Please stop by if you can!

ArtSci Cup Charity Basketball Game

I would like to formally introduce Christian Luchin and Phoebe Schneider as the ArtSci Cup Co-Chairs! The date has been set for February 11th and it will be located in the ARC Main Gym again. Christian and Phoebe have finished the hiring for their team and planning for tryouts is well underway. The charity of the year has not been decided on yet, so stay tuned for this!

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Orientation Head Gael hiring officially closed as of late last week! The Head Gael committee will be reviewing applications and we should have the next Head Gael hired for November's Assembly. First Year Intern Program We have had great engagement with our first-year intern program. Therese, Preston, and I have started the interview process and will have all interns hired by the end of the month.

### ASURF

The Arts and Science Undergraduate Research Fund opened last week and is set to close at the end of the month. We have over \$40,000 to distribute this semester, so please consider applying if it sounds like something you would be interested in.

### Liaison Positions

October will be the first month we are reaching out to Indigenous and Black student groups to fill the liaison positions. We are hoping to have a consultation with both students by the end of this month.

Thank you so much for taking the time to read my October 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](mailto:president@asus.queensu.ca) or by coming by the ASUS Offices during my office hours.

Respectfully submitted,  
 Amaiya Walters  
 ASUS President  
[President@asus.queensu.ca](mailto:President@asus.queensu.ca)

# VICE PRESIDENT OF SOCIETY AFFAIRS REPORT

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

Dear ASUS Assembly

I sent out an email on October 3rd to all presidents and vice presidents to foster better relations within the society. I hope that you all can respond to the email so we can begin the process of sharing resources and successful frameworks. This will also provide the opportunity for each member to share initiatives and advocacy work that we (ASUS + sibling Societies) can provide our support for and discuss further steps. Again, the focus of this is to connect and create better relationships, so please respond to those emails.

Direct reports

Sustainability

Director Prusha Bala is in the works to reorganize and take inventory of the ASUS Decorations closet. The closet aims to reduce waste, reuse materials, and recycle props

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and decorative items, fostering a more sustainable approach to event planning, the closet will continue to encourage as we plan to implement a system to catalog and track decoration items, making it easier to identify and reuse items for future events. Another step to reducing our carbon footprint, and sustainability is beginning a curated Costumes initiative, a costume recycling program to encourage participants to return costumes for reuse in future events. We are actively promoting eco-friendly materials and production processes for our costumes, aiming to reduce our carbon footprint and contribute to sustainable fashion trends.

### Wellness

Director Jillian is creating arrangements to have a book club, collaborations with student wellness and other yoga clubs on campus. Book clubs are important to have as they encourage self-reflection and mindfulness through the exploration of wellness-related literature. While fostering a sense of belonging and support through book discussions, it provides opportunities for personal growth and development. Although there are a few opportunities for yoga in the Kingston community, we want to further promote the holistic benefits of yoga, including relaxation, flexibility and stress reduction. Therefore, ASUS is open to collaborations with other physical well-being clubs that encourage positive health. In addition, ASUS is in the work of establishing a working relationship with Student Wellness to offer a complete range of resources for students. Using the ASUS platform to encourage awareness and mental health initiatives. We will continue to monitor, adapt, and expand these initiatives as needed to ensure they meet the evolving wellness needs of our community.

Thank you for your time, as many teams are still hiring with the hope of being completed by the end of the month, 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](mailto:vpsa@asus.queens.ca) or by coming by the ASUS Offices during my office hours.

Sincerely,  
Preston Harrison  
ASUS VPSA  
[Vpsa@asus.queensu.ca](mailto:Vpsa@asus.queensu.ca)

## **VICE PRESIDENT OF OPERATIONS**

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

Dear Members of the Assembly,

I hope you've all had a restful reading week and well-deserved breaks!

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Recent Updates: ASUS Executive and Council have been keeping busy with new projects and routines. The operations side of ASUS has now hired an entire team as we welcome our fourth accounting director to assist with financial matters. Additionally, we've made some changes to our operational procedures by using live documents for all accounting directors, the ASUS General Manager, and me to track and fulfill reimbursements more efficiently. We have also used this method to ensure that the GOB on our website accurately depicts our live spending of student funds. Myself and our Budget Accounting Director will update the General Operating Budget daily.

I have also made a new effort to schedule meetings with each council member/executive direct report monthly to ensure all categories of the GOB post accurate totals and aid each officer, commissioner, or director in viewing how their budget funds are spent.

### Financial Assistance:

With great help from our General Manager, we have wrapped up the last of our reimbursement requests, financial aid submissions, and payouts for Gaels and Orientation Coordinators. With hiring also now open for the new Head Gael, we will continue plans to set aside financial assistance for students involved with orientation events as this will be reflected in the orientation budget made collaboratively with the head Gael for the following academic year.

Requests for general financial assistance are still open for fall distribution. Requests are made anonymously and reviewed with the help of the Advisory Board frequently, and we will continue to work on plans to accommodate student requests more efficiently. ASUS has also opened fall grants and is working on updating the forms on the ASUS website.

### General Operating Budget:

The GOB is up-to-date on our live spending and available on the ASUS website. Council members have access to this document and can make updates wherever necessary. We have also added proposed numbers into empty budgets so funds are readily available for such as DSCs without a Co-President right now, special projects, etc. Budget updates will be made each business day.

### Direct Reports:

I am amazed by all the hard work and dedication put into ASUS Services by our Services Commissioner, Cole Olidis. It has been a pleasure to work with him directly and see such a successful start to the various services the Arts and Science Undergraduate Society offers. While I mainly assist Cole with services financially, we also hold weekly meetings to go over updates, operational procedures, and plan events. It has been nothing but a pleasure thus far!

As for other direct reports, our IT Director has made updates to the ASUS user guide found [here](#).

Sylvie has also worked on our Technology Lending Library Computers with Microsoft IT to have better control over this service. The tech library computers will be available after the fall reading week.

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Lastly, our store manager has several projects lined up to keep track of inventory and put ASUS products and event tickets on the online store. This will be more apparent later in the year as we will make sales more frequently throughout the year. The ASUS Store Manager, Accounting Directors, and I will work on plans to distribute financial assistance and review Shopify reports together as transactions come in. We can predict a hectic next few months for the operations team!

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to all the members of the Assembly for your dedication and commitment to ASUS. Everyone's contributions have played a crucial role in our recent updates and progress. I look forward to a collaborative semester as we work together to enhance student experiences at Queen's. Your dedication is truly appreciated, and I'm confident our collective efforts will yield great results. Once again, my door is always open to chat!

Sincerely,

Therese de Rivera (she/her/hers)

Vice President of Operations/CFO [vpops@asus.queensu.ca](mailto:vpops@asus.queensu.ca)

### OTHER REPORTS

No reports.

### STATEMENT BY MEMBERS

No reports.

### QUESTION PERIOD

No reports.

### OLD BUSINESS

### MOTION 4-12

**Piper:** All strategic plans have been formatted consistently (title page and documented formatted). There were no major comments from the previous Assembly so no major amendments were made. As such, all strategic plans are ready to be approved. They will

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be used as a guiding document for the Advisory Board to use to help Council and Executive members reach their goals and targets.

### NEW BUSINESS

### MOTION 13

Moved by: Sarah Eklove

Seconded by: Amaiya Walters

#### **II. Cause**

*QJERS* was founded with the mission of amplifying and elevating the voices of racialized students. This mandate cannot be fulfilled if racialised students' perspectives are restricted to the colloquial culture and experience of Queen's students; the experience with racism and colonialism as well as the resultant worldview of a Queen's student differs greatly from those of their peers at institutions like UBC or U of T. However, their experiences are no less valuable than those at Queen's.

There are currently no other undergraduate journals in Canada dedicated to academic discourse on race and ethnicity. Consequently, ASUS has the opportunity to spearhead undergraduate research on these topics if this amendment is allowed to pass; we can cultivate a reputation as a leading organisation in racial academics and justice in Canadian academia.

I have consulted with the other ASUS Journals' Editors-in-Chief (excepting QSURJ, as this position is unfilled), Academic Deputy of Journals (Reagan Feld), and the Academics Commissioner (Sarah Eklove). All parties have expressed their support for this policy amendment. Furthermore, this model has worked for other undergraduate journals at Queen's, namely *Living Histories: A Past Studies Journal*.

#### **III. Concerns**

In consultation with various parties, there are two concerns that have been expressed regarding this amendment. They are: (i) financial accountability; and (ii) unreasonable workload for non-participating journals. These points are addressed subsequently.

The purpose of the current policy is that ASUS represents Queen's students, is the prerogative thereof, and as such should exclusively publish works by undergraduate students at Queen's. The existing policy has thus been justified on the grounds of financial accountability; ASUS Journals should represent the students who fund us. However, this argument is untenable as Queen's students who do not pay slate fees to ASUS—students belonging to other faculties—may



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still submit. Furthermore, other journals at Queen's at both the undergraduate and graduate levels are also ultimately funded by students' tuition and nevertheless accept submissions from beyond its paying student body. Finally, the financial contribution of the individual student to *QJERS* (or any ASUS journal) is so miniscule that the financial argument is exceedingly legalistic as a justification for restricting contributions thereto.

In any case, the requirement that at least 50% of submissions come from Queen's students ensures that the journals' priorities remain with students at Queen's. I furthermore expect most submissions will come from Queen's as our presence is most established here.

The proposed amendment will not compel ASUS journals to accept external submissions at the expense of students at Queen's but will rather remove a restriction on the journals' ability to engage in dialogue with students beyond the Queen's community. Consequently, the journals will be able to decide for themselves whether they wish to accept external submissions. This point is of particular concern to *The Undergraduate Review*—which is designed specifically for Queen's students—but is also relevant to *Politicus* and *QSURJ* should they

To this end, I recommend ASUS journals include a field in their submission forms in which students submitting their work must select whether they are or are not a Queen's student. Having such a field in place will allow journals to distinguish between Queen's student submissions and external submissions even during the anonymized stage of the review process.

Additionally, as noted, the other Editors-in-Chief have expressed their support for this policy amendment.

### **IV. Closing**

As a constituent organisation of Queen's, ASUS should endeavour to commit to change-making in a global society beyond just the parochial context of our university campus. When it comes to academic excellence and dialogue—especially in the realm of racial justice and anti-colonialism—there should not be arbitrary limitations on avenues and platforms through which dialogues are created.

There benefits to the passing of this amendment vastly outweigh any downsides. I strongly encourage this amendment's consideration by ASUS Assembly.

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Questions:

Vote: Motion passes

**MOTION 14**

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Moved by: Sarah Eklove  
Seconded by: Amaiya Walters

Sarah: I would like to welcome the academic representatives from the four clusters. They are all hard working and have made an impact on their DSCs. I am excited to continue working with them as the year goes on.

### MOTION 15

Moved by: Nathaniel Dixon  
Seconded by: Amaiya Walters

Questions  
Motion passes

### MOTION 16

Moved by: Piper Veloso  
Seconded by: Amaiya Walters

**Piper:** The nominating committee which is made up of myself, Amaiya, Therese, Preston and Sheryn met to place everyone on their committees. The decision was based on the preference sheet I sent out in addition to policy requirements. Please let me know if you are unhappy with your committee(s) or if you are unable to make a commitment to the number of committees you've been placed on. Does anyone have questions?

Questions

**Kai:** If any changes are made to committee members, will they need to be approved at Assembly?

**Piper:** No we won't need to make changes. The positions that are left are based on policy requirements. I need will get in touch with the members who need to be assignment to feel those positions.

Motion passes

### SPEAKER'S LAST WORD

## **Duc Mentem Ad Libertatem**

I want to thank you all for coming in and sharing your motions. I know its a busy time for everyone. I appreciate the time you have put in. It was great seeing you and I look forward to next month's meeting. I hope you have a great rest of your night.

## **MOTION 19 - ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by: Leo Yang

Seconded by: Amaiya Walter

Vote: Motion passes