

**Arts  
and  
Science  
Undergraduate  
Society —  
Assembly**

Meeting #4 Minutes

## Duc Mentem Ad Libertatem

*Assembly is called to order at 5:47pm 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

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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

**Speaker:** To start off, I would like to formally begin with a land acknowledgment. We are currently situated on the traditional lands of the Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee peoples. I recognize that this privilege comes only from a history of colonialism in which these lands were stolen from the Indigenous Peoples who first inhabited them. As a settler, it is important to me to acknowledge the privilege that I have to be able to learn, live and meet today on this land here at Queen's with respect, gratitude and compassion. Good evening everyone and thank you so much for coming tonight. I know I was introduced briefly at our last Assembly but just in case you weren't here or forgot, my name is Megan and I am your new Assembly speaker. I am so excited to work with all of you! We do have a bit more business to take care of in today's agenda, so I

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thank you in advance for your patience and cooperation. Please feel free to help yourself to some pizza, hot chocolate or timbits! Thanks again everyone.

### PRESENTATION

**Lakith Ranaweera:** This year's research project is designed to understand International Student Residential Experiences and Food Accessibility.

Looking for connections in the community.

### EXECUTIVE REPORTS

### PRESIDENT REPORT

Presented by **Amaiya Walters**, President

I hope you are all doing well and enjoying the semester. I am excited to be here with you all today and share my portfolio updates.

#### Direct Reports

##### *Professional Development*

Life After ArtSci was a huge success and we had around twenty student tour McKinsey and Company, Crestview Strategy and Queen's Park. Director Carrington has hired the Alumni Connections Coordinator and is in the process of hiring the Industry Relations Coordinator at which point, the PD team will be complete! Director Carrington has already started planning the next Life After Artsci that will take place in the winter semester, so stay tuned!

##### *Student Affairs Research*

Director Ranaweera has been getting great responses to his survey on international student housing and food experiences. He is doing focused outreach to ensure he reaches as many international students as possible. He will begin focus groups next semester to get more detailed responses to specific questions.

##### *Sexual Violence Prevention and Response*

The Home Coming safety event that Director Jekic held on October 21<sup>st</sup> went well and she had several students drop by the house to collect materials and contribute to the bedsheet mural. She has been working on promotional

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material and now sits on the Interfaculty Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Task Force run through the AMS.

### *ArtSci Cup Charity Basketball Game*

Co-Chairs Schneider and Luchin have secured a date for the ArtSci Cup, which will be revealed soon! They are hosting tryouts for both arts and science students on the evening of Saturday November 25<sup>th</sup>. They have hired an advisor and are currently looking for coaches for both teams! The charity of the year will be Martha's Table, and more information regarding this collaboration will be released on the ArtSci Cup Instagram Account in the weeks to come.

### *Orientation*

The 2024-2025 Head Gael has been hired! I would love to introduce you all to Emma Capstick! Chair hiring has now officially closed, and Emma will be conducting interviews in the coming days. Orientation Coordinator applications have now opened and I encourage all who are interested to apply! More information regarding the role will be discussed during the "So You Wanna Be an OC" event at the end of this month.

### *QNSA x ASUS*

After meeting with the Queen's Native Students' Association, we have decided to revamp the Reflection Room! This will involve some structural changes as well as a campaign, so keep your eye out for this.

### *Grants*

The Committee Grant, DSC Grant, Professional Development Grant, Sibling Society Grant, and the Student Initiative Grant are now open. Applications 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](mailto: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 everyone is doing well, and holding strong as we begin the last stretch of the semester. As we near the end of the year, I hope everyone is well-adjusted in rhyme in their respective positions. I am happy to announce that the wheels on the bus are beginning to be in the works, hoping to be in full effect for next semester. The purpose of wheels on the bus is to transport students via bus to FreshCo to do their grocery shopping and be transported back to campus. Ideally, there will be two spots on the route, one on the main campus and one on An Clachan. This initiative is primarily to help international students get their groceries, as FreshCo has a wide selection of international foods. Although the initiative's primary goal is to help international it will be available to all students on campus. Additionally, on the bus, there will be a reusable bag station for students to have bags readily available instead of continuously buying new ones whenever they forget their home. I am excited to see this initiative become something that can really help students get to a grocery store at cheaper prices.

I am developing relations with the varsity student council to bring a more inclusive representation of the student body. I hope to create a relation where student athletes can get more involved in their respected student faculties. ASUS x Sibling Societies is setting up a meeting to discuss events and initiatives and share how to better support each other and create a solid relationship with all respective bodies to foster relationship practices.

## Direct Reports

Jilian has been working diligently as she finished hiring her Wellness team. Jillian will begin to Coordinate her plans among her team to organize and events and initiative she has planned thus far in the semester. Jillian has established relations with Student Wellness Services to collaborate on an event. If any other government has a Wellness event or initiative, they want to collaborate with please feel free to reach Jillian Wood at [Wellness@asus.queensu.ca](mailto:Wellness@asus.queensu.ca). Stay tuned to the Wellness Instagram @asuswellness as team rollout will be happening this month.

## **Duc Mentem Ad Libertatem**

Prusha has also been working hard to complete her team with one position left open, Auditor. Prusha has been boothing at the Sustainability Hub at Grant Hall. She has been collecting batteries and old Brita filters to recycle, she will be the Grant Hall again at the end of the month on Nov 29<sup>th</sup>. Prusha and I recently had a Bin giveaway for the students to encourage proper recycling practices. We gave out blue bins, grey bins, Green Compost bins, Kitchen Compost bins. Prusha continues to work hard fostering better sustainable practices around campus is always open to collaborative work you can email Prusha Balaratnam [@sustainability@asus.queensu.ca](mailto:@sustainability@asus.queensu.ca).

## VICE PRESIDENT OF OPERATIONS

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

I hope you've all been enjoying these beautiful fall months as we quickly approach exam season. ASUS executive and council have been working hard to stay on top of tasks alongside coursework as we wrap up our goals before the end of this term.

### **Recent Updates:**

The operations side of ASUS has been relatively busy as we have been working on summarizing the financials of each commission/office and their subcommittees. I have been working directly with Colleen, our Deputy of Finances in Academics, to support our growth of events being planned and run by our Department Student Councils (DSC). These finances are reflected on the ASUS website and may be viewed under **Financials > Live Spending Updates**. Similarly, we have been actively handling an influx of financial matters under the ASUS Services Commission as we continue to run Good Times Diner, Exchange Buddies, Semi-Formal, etc., and create financial reports for them. With our largest event being Semi-Formal at the moment, we have continued plans to market and promote sales until the end of this week.

Additionally, I have also been meeting with my volunteer direct reports to discuss smaller projects to wrap up before the end of this fall term. The ASUS store has a bright future ahead as myself and the store manager are strategizing new ways to make the product submission form and ASUS store front more user-friendly. We will also be doing a sweep of all the ASUS textbooks and merchandise to ensure that all inventory is accurate and up to day. Finally, the ASUS IT Director has set up our Technology Lending Library platform with minor changes to policy, which we hope to open officially following this ASUS Assembly.

### **Grants:**

In other financial news, several of our ASUS grants are now open and will be reviewed alongside the advisory board this term as per policy guidelines. Distributions for these grants are set for the month of December following their fall term closure. More information about ASUS grants may be found on the

ASUS website.

**Orientation:**

ASUS is excited to officially welcome our new Head Gael for the 2024/2025 academic year! While there is much planning to do, ASUS executives will ensure that our incoming orientation team feels prepared to take on their new roles. The VPOPS will work directly with the incoming Head Gael to create an Orientation budget for the following year. With our Head Gael now hired, I have secured time to go over financial planning with both them and the ASUS General Manager to ensure things run smoothly next year. This budget will be passed at a later assembly date around the time of the 2023/2024 GOB closure.

**Final Note:**

The updates on my end are brief, though the operations side of ASUS is always busy! As always, please do not hesitate to come by and chat during my office hours. I am always happy to lend my support and discuss any goals throughout the year!



## OTHER REPORTS

### Business of the Senate - Leo Yang:

- University passed a new policy on academic integrity
- University doing orientation format review
  - As part of this process, consulting with student leaders and other stakeholders on campus
- Exchange process
  - Student group proposes we should talk with someone from the university to change the whole process as it can be an overwhelming and time consuming process
- University facing major deficit
  - Provost is open to suggestions/looking for solution
- Undergrad research student caucus

On a more personal note, QIAA will be hosting a speaker event later this semester, please sign up if you are able to make it.

## STATEMENT BY MEMBERS

### Amber Mifkovic:

- The student body requests a town hall with the provost of academics
  - Their inquiry comes after the faculty board
    - They believed the answers received to be inadequate, and unhelpful in soothing their fears over budget and class cuts to smaller departments
    - They want to get concrete answers, have their voices be heard
    - Changes take place in the next fall, imperative that this occurs January OR February
  - Problems cited
    - Classes less than 10 get cut
    - Department budgets are shortened in favour of increasing TA accounts
    - Environmental scan

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- Looking at what other universities have and making our curriculum identical
      - Bad because what is unique will be cut, no incentives
  - Predatory model of targeting international students
    - Increasing their tuition but decreasing specialties at Queens, paying for nothing special
    - Not focusing on students at home
- Departments cited as being affected so far, the number does grow daily (students within brought forth concerns to me)
  - Classics and Archaeology
  - English
  - Gender Studies
  - Religion
  - Art History
  - Fine Arts
  - History
  - Spanish and Latin American Studies
  - French
  - Italian

### QUESTION PERIOD

No reports.

### OLD BUSINESS

No old business.

### NEW BUSINESS

## MOTION 3

**Piper Veloso:**

Per the findings of the previous Advisory Board Chair, Election policy is inconsistent and hard to understand. As such, the Election team and I have

worked to make comprehensive changes to the policy manual so that everyone working with this document can understand it easily and so that interpretation is a lot more consistent with both the CRO/CEO and the candidates interacting with it.

As such, there are four major changes to this document.

- Section 6- which is the violations and dispute resolution process
- Section 3- volunteers
- Paper balloting
- Executive structure

With these major changes, there have been some amendments in the language throughout the document that reflect these structural changes.

Section 6 is a table that outlines all the violations and penalties to be received. The table is very difficult to understand and can be confusing to read from a candidate's perspective. While the idea of violations/resolutions and penalties remain, we have put it in a format that is easier to understand. It has been simplified and streamlined to avoid confusion.

Similarly, section 3 is another table that highlights restrictions to candidates and volunteers within ASUS elections and AMS elections. It is difficult to understand and is redundant. We have simply changed the format so that the rules and regulations are more comprehensible and remove the redundancies.

We have taken out the option for paper balloting because we simply don't see a future where this is even an option. All voting happens through the simplyvoting system of the AMS and having this section only creates more confusion amongst candidates who want a revote- it is an outdated policy so we've have decided to take it out completely.

The last major change is that of the way the structure in the executive structure. Since the pandemic and the shift to an online format, the governance office has seen a major decline in engagement. Particularly when it comes to elections. In addition, in the past two years there has been a shift from a two person executive to a three 3. With that, we believe that the three person team structure poses a barrier to students running in executive elections. The three

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person structure means that if an individual wants to get involved but does not have people to run with them, there is a barrier to their participation. So, we have turned to how other clubs and faculty societies do their elections. Compsa, PHEKSA, CESA, EngSoc all do individual elections and have seen high engagement.

We represent the largest number of students on campus, and as a result of having individuals run, rather than teams, we have a higher likelihood of getting broader representation from across all students. Having a broader representation of students will also mean greater representation of interests and greater diversity of thought.

This will also help mitigate the risk that the team structure exposes. Elections will be based on individual merits alone and individuals will not be limited by their partners. As we saw in previous elections, the actions of one candidate required the whole team to withdraw.

This summarises the changes we are proposing to the election policy manual and I am open to any questions.

**No questions.**

**Vote:**

**Abstain: 1**

**Pass: 10**

**Motion passes**

## MOTION 4

**Piper Veloso:**

This is a continuation of the last policy change. There has been much confusion as to what election policy DSC co-president candidates should follow. In the process of updating the Election and Referenda policy manual, we found that a section in the DSC charter also pertained to similar content. As such, we simplified the process and have put all election policies for DSC's in the DSC Charter.

**No questions.**

**Vote: Motion passes**

## **MOTION 5**

Updates to the financial policy.

**No questions.**

**Vote: Motion passes**

## **MOTION 6**

Advisory Board.

**No questions.**

**Vote:**

**Abstain: 1**

**Pass: 10**

**Motion passes**

## **MOTION 7**

**No questions.**

**Vote: Motion passes**

## **MOTION 8**

**No questions.**

**Vote: Motion passes**

## **MOTION 9**

**No questions.**

**Vote: Motion passes**

## MOTION 10

**No questions.**

**Vote: Motion passes**

## MOTION 11

**Sean Thomsson:** I would just like to note that DSUS will become the DAN DSC once ratified.

**Vote: Motion passes**

## MOTION 12

**Amiaya Walters:** I am excited to welcome the incoming Head Gael, Emma Capstick. I look forward to working with her this upcoming semester.

**Questions:**

**What is your favourite part about orientation?**

The people you meet and the community you build.

**What is your favourite O-Week event?**

This year we ran Robinson's farm for the first time. I loved being a part of that. I also love the sidewalk sale and I love seeing the businesses.

**What are you most looking forward to this coming orientation?**

Based on the set of Gaels from this past year, I think they will make amazing orientation coordinators. I am also looking forward to looking at what went well and what didn't so that we are able to improve our orientation for the new incoming first years.

**No questions.**

**Vote: Motion passes**

## **SPEAKER'S LAST WORD**

Thank you all for your time, I know we had quite a few policies to pass today but I appreciate your engagement. This will be our last assembly for 2023, best of luck for the rest of the semester and your exams, we will move to adjourn ASUS assembly.

## **MOTION 19 - ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by: Amaiya Walter

Seconded by: Preston Harrison

Vote: Motion passes