

Assembly Meeting (#4): Tuesday, November 30th, 2021

Assembly is called to order at 7:03 pm, EST.

Motion #1 –Approval of Agenda

Motion to omnibus Motions 8-14

Motion to Call a Closed Session

Moved by: Kristen Sutherland

Seconded by: Alyth Roos

Vice-President Brandon Aldworth: Thank you all, I'm just motioning to omnibus motions eight through fourteen. They're all the ones relating to grants being given and so I'd like to just omnibus them in interest of time.

President Alyth Roos: I'm also adding a motion to call a closed session following this meeting. I am cognizant of time but it is for updates and sort of going over the semantics of the next Assembly in January.

Governance Officer Kristen Sutherland: For anyone who doesn't know, in a closed session only voting members of assembly will be there. So when we motion to adjourn, if you aren't a voting member you can leave and you don't have to return to the meeting. Everyone who has a vote will stay on the call with Brandon and Alyth.

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: Thank you so much for the music Kristen, it was lovely. I think we can say that it's now safe to play Christmas music. But yeah thank you everyone and welcome back to the last meeting of the term. I'll start us off with a 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. 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. We recognize that ASUS as an institution, in addition to assembly, have been colonial spaces in the past, and we recognize the importance of using our roles to engage in indigenization and reflection. I'll point to the Four Directions Indigenous Centre as a great resource on campus to assist with informing us all alongside assisting in educating us all. I'd also like to especially encourage people to visit the Four Directions Indigenous Centre and take some time to learn what it means to become an active participant and active part of reconciliation. Alright so hello again everyone. It's crazy that this is our last meeting before the winter break. I'm excited and I hope all of you are too. I know exams are starting soon and so I hope everyone's ready and prepared for that, we'll try to keep it pretty quick moving today. I'm sure everyone has assignments to get back to alongside the closed session.

Breakout Rooms Commence and Conclude

Speaker Robertson: So we'll begin the discussion period, Kristen I believe you're presenting this one.

Discussion Period

In-Person Assembly Meetings

Governance Officer Sutherland: So this is an open floor for a discussion regarding moving to in person meetings next semester. Obviously this will depend on the logistics and the actual number of people we can have in a group inside. But yeah, looking onwards I've talked with Anika who's the Commissioner of Campus Affairs with the AMS to ask a few of the logistical questions. I'm still waiting on a response but when I get one you all will be first informed. But yeah I wanted to open the floor and sort of gauge interest and see if anyone felt strongly one way or the other. If there's concerns about maybe not physically being in Kingston next term feel free to let me know, I'll be monitoring my chat so if there's something you want to add but don't feel comfortable saying out loud that's open to you.

ASUS Representative to the AMS Dante Caloia: I don't mind in person meetings, but I will say it's very nice to be able to eat dinner and be in pajamas during meetings. Like after classes it's nice to be able to sit at home after class but also being in person would be nice too.

Equity Commissioner Yara Hussein: As someone who did sit in at in person meetings I will say it's much more exciting and a bit more formal too. I do appreciate the vibe Brandon and Alyth have created for online where it's a bit more informal. I will say that if possible, for folks uncomfortable with attending the in person meetings if there could be a zoom call open for anyone who wanted to participate. Sort of a hybrid assembly.

President Roos: I think a benefit of having assembly in person is sort of the getting to engage informally with people beforehand as well. It's much easier to have conversations and get to know people better, I think zoom is a little harder to engage even with conversations during meetings.

CESA Representative Lexie Ingoldsby: I will say for CESA we've been having meetings in person since the end of October and that's been fun to get back into. I think discussions have been a lot better and people are more engaged because they're able to talk it out easier. I see a lot of benefits but I do also definitely understand the other points mentioned.

Governance Officer Sutherland: Thank you all for the input, some great considerations there. It is contingent on what the AMS says and of course the COVID climate. But I am glad to hear lots of positive things and when we get an update you all will be the first to know.

Executive reports:

President Report

President Roos: So I'll try to keep this nice and short, I do recognize it's week 12. In the past month it's been great to see the ASUS 131 birthday come together. The open house on Monday was great, and it was wonderful to see the engagement from people and have that little social time. In other news, with regards to advocacy, the SVPR and task force engaged in a lot of conversations regarding next semester and advocacy work we'll be doing. Especially in regards to wellness with faculties and professors providing content warnings more consistently. They've been really productive conversations and we also officially had the first QNSA consult. It's been wonderful to get the ball rolling on quite a few projects. As well, ASUS gives back is happening over the next month where we'll be giving to charities and the community so keep an eye out throughout December. The OnQ page will be launching in the new year so the big launch will be in January which is very exciting. We'll also be launching the reflection room with it's first art piece by Portia Chapman. Finally I just wanted to say thank you all for the help this semester. I'm always a big fan of Assembly and it's wonderful to have a platform to be able to create change. Take care over these next few weeks and I hope you all enjoy your holidays.

Vice-President Report

Vice-President Aldworth: I do hate to take away from the energy from Alyth and I do hope to keep this pretty short. A key thing is the end of semester tidying and cleaning as we approach break and ASUS shuts down for that. We were able to fully clean out the reflection room and are excited to have it usable

in the new year. As well, the ASUS office has been going through some cleaning and fixing up so we'll get that nice and safe and secure for over the break. Some other end of the semester stuff is that I've been working with Sean and Danielle to sort of wrap things up and put them into nice packages. The assorted granting has been on my radar and we'll get into that more later one. The accounting director Danielle has been really helpful in getting the honorariums sorted so I'd like to thank her for all her help. With the online store Isobel has been good alongside the Front Desk staff and Yara in getting everything set up for a January launch. The sustainability director Helen has an essay contest coming out tomorrow about reflecting on sustainability as a student in Kingston and what you can do, so I'll recommend applying. The prizes are pretty cool. I'll also thank the sponsorship director Katelin who's been amazing and I'm looking forward to further resource management and streamlining the approach to giving out sponsorships. A big thing taking up time has been the IT migration so a big thanks to Sean for his help. I know there's been a few hiccups as we move out of the AMS reach and there's been a lot of technical terms even I don't understand but it's great that we'll have control over our own emails soon. The governance team has also been doing a great job plugging the elections, but I'll just add that if any of you have friends or know people interested feel free to spread the word for that. Alyth and I's roles are both up as well as the new VP position alongside some of the representative positions. Thank you all and I hope you all have safe and restful holidays.

Society Reports

Business of the ASUS Council

Academics Commissioner Tiffany Yung: I'll just quickly be chatting about the journals. So the Undergrad Review is accepting any artwork you all have made, including poems and stuff like that. QJERS is accepting any essays written on Indigenous rights and that's about all I have to highlight for my report.

Dan School Undergraduate Society Report

Vice-President of Operations Hamish Hutchison-Poyntz: This isn't a change or addition to my report but I would just like to quickly introduce myself. I've been stuck with dress rehearsal for a bit but it's lovely to see you all.

Other Reports

Business of the Senate

Senator Kallista Jones: So we just had the Senate meeting today, I think we got off the call about an hour ago. I wrote down the main takeaways to share with you all. First is that fall term break is going to be a full week next year as well so the four days after Thanksgiving will remain. As well, a few things were approved for masters programs. A main thing was that for Commerce it was passed that if you were on academic probation and got removed, it would get removed from your transcript. It took a while because there was a bit of a debate about why that wasn't getting applied to every faculty which caused a bit of pushback. There should be more coming soon for the other faculties just not right away, I think

Commerce has been working on this for a while which is why they got it now. We also had a bit of a discussion on COVID protocols, it was very much a circular conversation and we didn't get a lot of straight answers. We pushed for it to become mandatory for professors to record classes, because we know a few don't do that or even have an OnQ set up which is bad because there's just no accommodations for students. As well, they talked to us about how exams are going to work, and essentially Public Health doesn't think that Queen's is a transmission risk, we're sort of a vaccinated bubble and the cases we have aren't a huge issue in regards to transmission. So they aren't going to give resources for dealing with that unless it becomes a larger issue.

Statements by Members [None]

Question Period [None]

Old Business

That ASUS Assembly formally end consideration of the new Arts and Science Undergraduate Society Mandate, as seen in Appendix A: ASUS Gets a New Mandate.

Moved by: Alyth Roos

Seconded by: Brandon Aldworth

President Roos: This is a followup to last time, we got to put out the new mandate on social media and we got a lot of positive feedback and people seemed to like that it's more modern. So this vote is pretty much to solidify it into policy. Yeah, ASUS gets a new mandate!

Questions: None

Vote: Motion carries

New Business:

Motion 4: That ASUS Assembly formally approve the changes to the Alzheimer's Outreach budget, as seen in Appendix B: Alzheimer's Outreach Budget Changes.

Moved by: Emily Armstrong

Seconded by: Brandon Aldworth

Commissioner Emily Armstrong: So this is a few changes. The total amount of money allotted will be the same, it's more a change in how it's being used. The first event was planned to be in person but then got moved online. So this is essentially redistributing the money to different areas to ensure as much support as possible. If anyone has any questions or concerns feel free to let me know.

Questions: None

Vote: Motion carries

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

Moved by: Tiffany Yung

Seconded by: Alicia Parker

Academics Commissioner Yung: This is a little change to Politicus policy to ensure that no team member can submit to the journal in the same year they hold a position. It's a peer led journal and so we want to ensure no favouritism or non favouritism in journal selections.

Questions: None

Vote: Motion carries

Motion 6: That ASUS Assembly formally approve the amendments to the Politics Department Student Council (DSC) Budget, as seen in Appendix D: Politics DSC Budget Amendments.

Moved by: Tiffany Yung

Seconded by: Brandon Aldworth

Commissioner Yung: So this is a budget expansion of sorts. The Politics DSC held a few events with grad students and professors to engage a lot more with their undergrad students and wanted to give back to the department. The undergrad chair also helped a lot and so we want to recognize everyone's efforts and sustain the positive relationship.

Questions: None

Vote: Motion carries

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

Moved by: Kristen Sutherland

Seconded by: Caitlin Hayes

Governance Officer Sutherland: My policy changes were the ones taking up pages in the agenda so apologies for that. As Brandon mentioned, we have the elections in January with all the new positions getting filled. This change is to remove the parts of the policy that were no longer relevant or to add things that were common practice but not reflected in policy or not written down. Essentially it'll make the procedure more standardized and that's about it. If there's any questions I'm happy to answer them or to set up a call if anyone has general questions about the elections.

Questions: None

Vote: Motion carries

Motion 8-14 (Omnibus): That ASUS Assembly formally approve the changes to the Financial Policy Manual (FIN), Section 9.01.04, as seen in Appendix F: Financial Policy Manual Change

Moved by: Brandon Aldworth

Seconded by: Kristen Sutherland

Vice-President Aldworth: This is essentially the most concise way to move through all of these. Motion 8 is a modification to make the committee grant associated with the group grant instead of the student one. We felt it's much more consistent with policy to have it that way. Motion 9 is a reallocation of funding as there were no applications to report. For the next round we'll be doing more advertising and working with communications to get the word out more. But that funding has been moved to the Student Initiative. Motion 10 is for distribution, no allocation so it's just a procedural one. All allocations are in purview of the budget for transparency's sake. We have some guests tonight to speak about what they're hoping to achieve with this funding, starting with the Student Initiative. If the recipient of the grants could speak as to what they hope to achieve, albeit a little quickly that would be great. I'd also finally like to thank Stuart, Sahabi, and Alicia for their help.

Student Initiative Representative Georgia Bermingham: Essentially I'm going to use this money to create a more functional clothing rental for students. Formal and semi-formal clothing can be hard to obtain and so I want to break down those barriers and help more people access it.

Kits For Kids Co-Chair Nicole Coman: What we do at Kits For Kids is supporting the pediatric floor at the Kingston Hospital. The funding we've been given will help us in building activity packs and help us a lot in being able to support more children.

Art History Co-President Taylor Macri: We'll be using the money for our usual semi formal. Focusing on getting younger students more involved and getting everyone hyped for post COVID activities.

Global Development Studies Representative Meg Hewitt: We're using this funding for our conference that's focused on sustainability. The money will be going towards venue rental and helping local businesses through donating and we're hoping to get some great speakers this time.

English Student Government Co-President Larissa Zhong: The grant we got will be going towards our English Night and the representatives. Everyone is of course welcome to it and it's a great space to learn, although it is catered towards first and second years.

Equity Outreach Representative Lexie Ingoldsby: The money will be going to our event we have, where we are going to be buying bubble tea from local businesses and selling that to students at a discounted price. Then the money earned from that will be focused on getting a speaker for EDII.

Winter Adapted Games Co-Chair Eunice Pang: Our organization has a twofold purpose. The first is to provide kids and adults with disabilities the opportunity to have fitness and the second is to have Queen's students get more involved and aware of others. The grant will be going towards renting out the ARC and some field space for us to run the event.

Motion Ball Committee Co-Chair Marley Mullan: So we are a national organization that raises funds for the Special Olympics. It's a big event, sort of a marathon of sports. It's a great chance for varsity athletes and people in the community to get involved and have the opportunity to get engaged and learn. The application is for ARC fees especially with COVID many of our athletes are considered vulnerable and so the funds will be used to get a larger space for safety.

Heart and Stroke Committee Representative Emily Armstrong: I can speak for this. So the money will be used to run a different event than usual which is a hot chocolate sale in order to raise money for Heart and Stroke Kingston. The oven is already running on this so to speak and this money will help put more funds behind it and as such make more money.

Equity Conference Co-Chair Madison Farhood: Our conference is an interactive one that aims to teach individuals about equity and how it can impact people's lives and to help grow skills. The funding will be going towards paying speakers.

Partners in Education Representative Ethan Odlozinski: We've partnered with boys and girls and highschool who may be underprivileged and our goal is to make a dodgeball tournament. The funds will be used to upskale marketing and to get a larger gym and more supplies for the event.

Sibling Society CESA Emma Willoughby: The grant will go towards funding the community affairs dinner that is happening in partnership with Good Times Diner.

Vice-President Aldworth: So we're open for questions and happy to take any. I am glad that went smoothly.

Questions: None

Vote: Motions carries

Motion 15: That ASUS Assembly formally approve the change of the mandate and name of the “Queer Solidarity Alliance” to “Queer Space”, as seen in Appendix L: Changes to Name and Mandate of “Queer Solidarity Alliance”.

Moved by: Yara Hussein

Seconded by: Alyth Roos

Equity Commissioner Hussein: The next few motions are all equity based so I'll try to get through them quickly. The current mandate for the Queer Solidarity Alliance was made several years ago and then it was more an education tool for nonqueer folks to learn about queer issues. I've spoken to the new chair about what the projection of the committee will be and so we wanted to change the mandate to make it more a safe space over being an educational one. As well compared with other faculty societies we wanted to make it fit in a bit better.

Questions: None

Vote: Motion carries

Motion 16: That ASUS Assembly formally approve the addition of the ASUS Equity Grant, as seen in Appendix M: ASUS Equity Grant Addition.

Moved by: Yara Hussein

Seconded by: Brandon Aldworth

Equity Commissioner Hussein: The ASUS equity grant was built off of the Financial Aid Fund provided by ASUS and so a lot of the language is the same. However the equity grant is different because folks are more able to explain why they should be given it and it is focused more on equity deserving communities.

Questions: None

Vote: Motion carries

Motion 17: That ASUS Assembly formally approve the addition of the ASUS Disability Grant, as seen in Appendix N: ASUS Disability Grant Addition.

Moved by: Yara Hussein

Seconded by: Brandon Aldworth

Equity Commissioner Hussein: So this is the same thing pretty much as the ASUS equity grant where the language is the same and it's just a change in title. We wanted to distinguish it for clarification in terms of wording it specifically for disabilities. The deciding factor will be me and the core team and it will go through the advisory board. I consulted with Kristen and Brandon about the policy and I'm excited to see the new allocation of funds.

Questions: None

Vote: Motion carries

Point of Information

Vice-President Aldworth: Just a quick return to the granting, we have a representative who can speak for the DSC grant. So this is a motion to reopen the issue and have Tiffany speak on it.

Motion to Reopen: Motion 12: That ASUS Assembly formally approve the distribution of the ASUS Department Student Council Grant fall semester allocation, as seen in Appendix I: ASUS Department Student Council Grant Fall Semester Allocation.

Questions: None

Vote: Motion carries

Academic Commissioner Yung: My apologies, but yeah pertaining to Biology, we're looking to expand and enhance the current experiences such as chats with professors and grad students. As well, there will be two events called Are You Confused and Grad 101. Arts and Science degrees can be a bit ambiguous and so we want to be able to enhance the academic pursuit and showcase potential lives after the degree.

Speakers Last Word

Speaker Robertson: Thank you everyone for sitting through tonight. I know its a very busy time of year but it's important to finish the year strong and go into break having accomplished everything we wanted. Thank you all for joining us this semester, we'll be figuring out in person stuff soon and see you all very soon in the new year. Happy Holidays.

Motion: To adjourn the meeting

Moved by: Brandon Aldworth

Seconded By: Alyth Roos

Vote: Motion carries