

## Assembly Meeting (#3): Tuesday, November 9th, 2021

*Assembly is called to order at 7:04 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:** Alright so I'll begin this meeting 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. Now I would like to welcome everyone to the third meeting of ASUS for this school year. It's great to see so many people, we have two whole pages on Zoom which is quite nice. In terms of this week's meeting we have a couple of great discussions and a great agenda as well, a bit lighter than normal but that's fine by me honestly. It's always helpful to relax in these few weeks prior to exam season starting.

### **Breakout Rooms Commence and Conclude**

**Speaker Robertson:** I'll now start off our discussion period with the topic of the new ASUS mandate. Alyth I believe you are presenting this one if you'd like to go ahead.

## Discussion Period

### Asus Mandate

**President Alyth Roos:** So in light of ASUS's upcoming 131<sup>st</sup>, we've been looking to revamp a bit. Specifically, we're looking at the current mandate and sort of considering how we want to update it to better reflect the current goals of ASUS. The current one is pretty academic and doesn't fully speak to the opportunities that ASUS can provide and so we wanted to create a new one that is focused more on community and the friends you can make within ASUS. So we've drafted an updated version of it, and that's what's going to be presented today, this is a constitutional change and so this will be the first reading of it as a chance to discuss and build on what we've put so far. I'm happy to paste it in chat as well, but I'll read it right now. 'ASUS provides opportunities for students to learn, grow, and pursue their passions. We strive to foster meaningful connections, opportunities and create a sense of community both on and off Queen's campus. ASUS also sees the importance in uplifting student voices, advocating for our peers, and increasing representation across our commissions/offices to enrich the Arts & Science student experience.' The goal of this new mandate is to sort of being as overarching as possible and to capture the different elements of what being in ArtSci is like and what ASUS can do. I'll open the floor now if people have any changes they would like to see, any concerns, or if you just want to say that you love it.

**Academic Representative Mathie Smith:** I'll just say that the wording of it is really good. All I have really is positive feedback, but yeah I like it and think it's a really good change.

**Commissioner Yara Hussein:** I'm just going to say that I see the word opportunities repeated twice. So maybe if that could be changed to a different word in the second sentence. Otherwise, I think it's a fantastic change, and really emphasizes a more holistic image for ASUS.

**President Roos:** Sorry Callum for just jumping in here, but yeah fun fact the second "opportunities" is a quite recent addition so we can definitely keep it just in the first sentence. If that's everything, I'd like to say that voting to consider this is something very exciting. Tonight it's on the motion sheet as motion six. Because this is a constitutional change it'll take two votes to pass, but yeah it's exciting to have a potential new mandate.

### Asus Platforms (OnQ, ASUS Website)

**President Roos:** So onto the topic of the ASUS website and our new OnQ page that will be going up soon. Overall, we're looking to engage with students more and really focus on making it easy and digestible for them to engage with and interact with ASUS. The two main things we're looking to work on are the ASUS website and the creation of the OnQ page. So on the website, we're looking to make it clear and outline the positions of people more, and I'll open the floor for changes to make the website more engaging for students to get involved with ASUS. As well, in very exciting news, we're launching an OnQ page in honour of ASUS's 131<sup>st</sup>. So this is going to be an open call for what resources, content, and opportunities you guys either have or think should be there and accessible to all ArtSci students right off the bat. So the floor is open for thoughts and feedback if you guys have any.

**Senator Kallista Jones:** So I think mainly for the OnQ part, I remember when I was a first-year a huge barrier was in how to get involved with ASUS. Sort of what role I'd be fit for, the initial steps, all that, I think on the OnQ if there could be a sort of How To tab that would be great. I don't know if that's already in the works but something like that would be great.

**Deputy Caitlin Hayes:** I think another thing for the OnQ page, would be if when volunteer positions are created if a notification could be sent out? I don't know if that's already something that happens, but I think it would help a lot with hiring.

**Commissioner Hussein:** Also I will say that a resource hub is a work in progress right now and we're working on fixing that on the website. I think a good change is if we could have that directly on the OnQ page instead of a link.

**Year Representative Celina Lovisotto:** This may be a little redundant because I've already discussed this with Alyth, but I'd still like to bring it up. We've discussed sort of in terms of hiring and how that can be revamped on the website itself. So right now, what happens is we'll get a large pool of applicants and obviously we can't hire everyone, and so instead we'd like to make it so that people can strategically plan to apply to more than one position easier and make the portal allow you to apply to multiple positions at once so that we can get more people hired and more positions filled. As well, for volunteer work, we'd like to change the portal a bit so that people can apply to sort of be a general volunteer which could be helpful if someone's not entirely sure of how they want to volunteer and can apply for other positions and be spread out so everyone can have a space to volunteer.

**President Roos:** Thank you all so much. If anyone has any thoughts that come up after the fact please reach out to me. I've been taking notes on all this feedback and it's helped a lot in fleshing out our plans. So keep your eyes peeled for the changes to the website and the launch of the OnQ page.

### Return to Campus Engagement

**President Roos:** So to keep you all looped in, we're going to be able to return to more in-person events soon. Of course, adhering to provincial and federal restrictions in regards to 25 people indoors and masks but that's the transition we're starting to see. The AMS has started sanctioning for all events, and so I did want to put out an open call for everyone here to start making those events and work on moving back to in-person events. Yeah, this is an open call for what kind of engagement you guys want to see, for the year representatives what events pertaining to your guy's years you want. Things are going to be prioritized based on necessity, and I know that there's not a lot of time left in this semester and only a few weeks to plan for March and April events. But yeah, what things do you all want to see for the remainder of the year.

**CESA Representative Lexie Ingoldsby:** I don't know if this is already in the works, but I represent the Concurrent Education Student Association, and last weekend we have a second-year orientation and got some really positive feedback from that. We have our coveralls, and sort of participated in and taught some of the Queen's traditions, not all of them sadly but definitely the coveralls. I didn't really realize

how much it meant for the second years and just thought it was really wholesome and the feedback we got was really kind. So if there's a way to do that for more second-year students, and sort of help them get that in-person orientation week experience.

**Year Representative Alicia Parker:** I also think that's a great idea. Celina and I have chatted about the class of 2024 and helping them experience the traditions. I know we can't do all of them but Celina and I have been sort of bouncing around what traditions are salient to Queen's. So if anyone would like to share what made them remember Queen's O-Week in particular?

**Governance Officer Kristen Sutherland:** I'm happy to speak to that, I was even talking about it yesterday. I think the Tamming ceremony was something that was really special and important for me. I'm a sentimental person, and so getting tammed in Grant Hall where I'll graduate was really cool just in terms of going full circle. I do also agree that coveralls are a Queen's rite of passage.

**Senator Robert Hughes:** I think a fun tradition to teach could be the 'Oil Thigh'. Especially for people who go to football games or even are just familiar with the traditions.

**Commissioner Emily Armstrong:** I like that we're focusing on the class of '22 and making sure that they get their Queen's moments. I really agree with what everyone has said so far. I know that in past years, pre-Covid obviously, there has been a decline in engagement. With students who have less time to get involved and participate and are less familiar with how. So I think as we move back to in-person people will be eager to get involved but just are unsure. Especially with starting in-person events, just in terms of what is going to be online versus in-person, what's happening and what's allowed to happen. I think we should figure out how to get out the message of what's happening and where it's happening.

**Year Representative Parker:** This may not be very applicable because clubs are under the AMS, but I know there were a few meetings in the last week that people just didn't attend outside of the organizers. So I feel like people are in clubs and they organize the events but never really attend others. So I'm kind of wondering if we could help ArtSci students who are in clubs and help them sort of understand in-person events and what's allowed. I know a fair few people attend but just making sure more people go.

**Academic Representative Flynn Eves-Welch:** I think a good idea might be to increase advertising for club and ASUS events. So if people are volunteering, whether in person or virtual, just focus on getting in front of students. I know a lot of students receive emails but a lot of smaller initiatives don't get sent around to every student like not everyone gets put on those mailing lists.

**President Roos:** Just a quick question. We do send out a monthly newsletter, I heard some students don't get it but it's where we put all the events. So please let me know by Friday if there are events you wanted to be added to that or if you aren't getting it, because it is an issue of concern if it's not getting released to every student.

**Senator Hughes:** I just was going to add onto Flynn's point. This year with clubs, the only real way people knew about them was if they specifically looked into it. Usually, we have the whole street booked out and so that made it a lot harder for most people. I think Flynn's point is really good in terms of trying to make it easy for people to get information.

**President Roos:** Thank you all for this great insight! We'll be figuring out the orientation for next year

and I really appreciate the insight on implementing stuff for the class of '22. Thank you all also for the great insight on encouraging students to get involved more, especially with how to let people know.

## **Executive reports:**

### **President Report**

**President Roos:** I don't have much to add to my report, I think it's pretty well summed up. The only things I'd like to flag is that the orientation chairs got hired last weekend, so we'll be ratifying them today. So welcome to the new chairs and our new Head Gael. As well, Life After Artsci is this weekend, on Saturday from 10-2, it's a free event so feel free to come as long as you want and whenever you want. There will be alum from STEM, the Sciences, and PoliSci there. As well, the Director of Research surveys are coming out soon and they want the perspective of Queen's from both Kingston residents as well as students, so fill that out when you see it. The transparency campaign will be launching next week that's being spearheaded by Yara. ASUS 131 is quickly approaching and we're creating a marketing video, so shoutout to the team for that, as well there's a 'Then and Now' campaign that will be reaching out to alumni to get a cool comparison going. Again we're very excited for the launch of the OnQ and to get more student input on stuff like that. There will be an Open House at the ASUS house on November 29<sup>th</sup> in celebration of the ASUS birthday, so students can see ASUS like it hasn't been seen in the last two years if ever. As well, we're excited for the new elections as we're going to have the three executive structure for the first time. Finally, I'd like to say that none of this would be possible without the workers, volunteers, and ASUS council. It's been a very exciting past nine weeks thanks to you all, so take care and make sure to rest up before exams.

### **Vice-President Report**

**Vice-President Brandon Aldworth:** Hi everyone, Hello assembly. So I'll quickly reiterate Alyth's last points, everyone's involvement in Assembly means a lot and the discussion so far tonight has been great so thank you all for all the work. Make sure to take care of yourselves approaching exams. I'd also like to flag six things right now. First, an update on the financial assistance that I talked about the last meeting, we were able to distribute around 20,000 dollars to people for jackets alone, this is the most we've ever been able to distribute which is really exciting. I'll drop the link in chat but we have a new part of the website for financial transparency as a sort of one-stop shop for every financial process in and for ASUS. This was part of the platform Alyth and I ran on, so I'm really excited to start implementing this. We've successfully distributed food credits to most people and to more volunteers than before. Good Times Diner has also been approved to run services twice a week so feel free to stop by for the next few weeks and then hopefully it'll be running full force next term. Finally, to reiterate the last thing that Alyth brought up in regards to the elections, there will be a three executive structure which is exciting. The Winter Elections are fast approaching and so we'll be approving the timeline for that, but yeah spread the word that those are coming up. If anyone has questions I'll remind you that my office is open and Alyth and I are willing to answer any questions either about the elections or anything else really.

## Society Reports:

### Natural and Physical Sciences report:

**Natural and Physical Sciences President Mathie Smith:** All is going according to plan for us here. We've got a couple of DSC events for the end of November that are oriented around grad options for people in programs and sort of helping people figure out the different paths they can take. That's been the big theme across our DSCs. Everyone's really excited for winter and turnout is up for people signing up for in-person events, so we're hopeful that'll help with engagement. We've gotten some feedback from professors as well who are happy and looking forward to in-person events. I think they might be anticipating them more than the students, especially Drinks with Professors. So yeah, it's been really good to see the engagement with professors and students.

### Business of the ASUS Council

**Commissioner Tiffany Yung:** I'd like to quickly plug that both Politicus and the Undergrad Review are accepting essays. So if any of you have recently written politics essays on securitization or immigration feel free to submit them, we're happy to take any and all. The Undergrad Review is accepting anything Arts related, pretty much as many as they can get. So I just wanted to plug those really quickly, submissions are going to continue for the next couple of months. It doesn't have to be very formal, just submit what you have, it'll go through a double-blind review before being published.

**Commissioner Hussein:** One thing I'd like to plug is the event taking place next Tuesday. So pretty much every elected leader in ASUS will be in a town hall environment, and that's everyone elected excluding Senators so including Sibling Societies, and it will be to hold everyone responsible for equity work. I highly suggest everyone register and attend to ask questions.

## Other Reports

### Business of the Senate

**Senator Sahiba Gulati:** So this is an update from the Fall Term break task force. The results from the survey we sent out show that the priority for the break days was given to the break, followed by study days, filled by orientation days. The task force majority voted for the school to start the Tuesday after Labour Day and for the break to be the days after Thanksgiving Monday. The report is being brought to the next senate meeting to determine if it will be approved. We've also begun talking about the different faculty orientations events and ArtSci hasn't been discussed yet so that will be in the next report. We've also found some information about student engagement with the orientation events, and they found that online events that are informational versus informational events that were in-person number-wise. So those have been planned to be online for the future.

**Senator Hughes:** A few things stood out for me, so the first thing we were discussing was the Hoco and Foco partygoers and the disruption. Something that we brought up to the school was that without clubs reopening, partying has been the alternative way to socialize. Like for frosh the only legal way for them to socialize with others in different years is to leave campus, and so the priority is being given to clubs

reopening but it was unclear what the plan was. As well, we brought up the huge sum of money given to the City for policing, and the school told us that it was directly for policing but to offset deficits in the budget caused by Hoco, which is essentially policing and just them getting around the issue. The academic integrity policy is being entirely overhauled so we discussed that a bit, it hasn't passed because it's gone back to the committee over concerns on if the professors or the faculty should be in charge of investigations. Some say that the faculty is too intimidating for the investigations especially for frosh, but it's also a lot of work to put on professors. They're also planning on adding courage as a sixth pillar and so we asked what that would look like. Essentially it would include standing up to peer pressure or bullying in regards to cheating. What we didn't particularly enjoy was that the paper implied punishment for being bullied, so when it comes back to the Senate we'll be pushing for more clarification.

### **Business of Other Members (Academic Representatives, ASUS Reps. to the AMS)**

**Year Representative Parker:** I'd like to quickly highlight something from Celina and mine's report. There's going to be a booth outside the ASUS house soon, of course, weather dependant. We're hoping to increase the connection between ASUS and the class of 2024. I'll preface this saying to the council to email me with any resources or opportunities you'd want us to promote. If anyone has any other questions please reach out.

### **Statements by Members [None]**

### **Question Period [None]**

### **Old Business [None]**

### **New Business:**

**Motion 3: That ASUS Assembly formally ratify the 2021-2022 Standing Committees, selected by the Assembly Nominating Committee, as seen in Appendix A: "ASUS Standing Committees".**

Moved by: Kristen Sutherland

Seconded by: Alyth Roos

**Governance Officer Sutherland:** So from the last meeting when we formed the nomination committee with Kallista, Lexie, and Flynn. They all very kindly met following that meeting to pair everyone with a committee. As far as I know, everyone got either their first or second choice which is great. If you haven't been reached to yet, from who will be heading your committee you can also shoot them an email, the appendix has the makeup of every committee in it. So this motion is essentially just to ratify the makeup of the different committees.

Questions: None

*Vote: Motion carries*

**Motion 4: That ASUS Assembly formally approve the ASUS Elections Winter Timeline, as seen in Appendix B: “ASUS Winter Election Timeline”.**

Moved by: Kristen Sutherland

Seconded by: Alyth Roos

**Governance Officer Sutherland:** So as Brandon briefly mentioned, Winter Elections are right around the corner and so this is the ratification of the timeline for that. Election season would be starting off on the first day back after the break, so January 10<sup>th</sup> and would run for around four days. The election voting period is planned to run until February 2<sup>nd</sup> which is when votes will be all in. It’s going to be for the new ASUS executives and any new elected officials for the following year. If there are any questions I can take them now, or my inbox is always open.

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 - Separating ASUS Review and ASUS Peer Tutoring”.**

Moved by: Tiffany Yung

Seconded by: Alicia Parker

**Commissioner Yung:** This is a bit of a formality motion. We’re not very sure if previous commissioners just amalgamated the ASUS Review and ASUS Peer Tutoring but they are separate services. So this motion is just to rectify that and have them fully not running in conjunction.

Questions: None

*Vote: Motion carries*

**Motion 6: That ASUS Assembly formally consider the adoption of the updated ASUS Mandate within the ASUS Constitution, as discussed and revised during Discussion Period.**

Moved by: Alyth Roos

Seconded by: Brandon Aldworth

**President Roos:** Basically because this is a constitutional change this will require two readings. This motion is just to approve the second reading of it which gives up the opportunity to formally pass it into policy on November 30<sup>th</sup>.

Questions: None



*Vote: Motion carries*

**Motion 7: That ASUS Assembly formally ratify Riley Geisler as the Head Gael for Orientation of 2022.**

Moved by: Alyth Roos

Seconded by: Brandon Aldworth

**President Roos:** So just to speak to the hiring process, we formed the committee last meeting with 5 people on the panel and we went through the interview process. We're excited to be welcoming Riley Geisler as the Head Gael! The Class of 2026 is in good hands, and we're looking forward to getting started and jumping in.

Questions:

**Governance Officer Sutherland:** Just to start of the questions, what would you say is your favourite O-Week memory?

**Head Gael Riley Geisler:** That's a good one. In retrospect sort of looking back, my favourite is probably the first we got to, as an O-Week Coord, kick off the first hybrid and first in-person events since my first year at Queen's.

**Commissioner Hussein:** My question is a bit more serious, what ice cream flavour would you be if you had to be one?

**Head Gael Geisler:** Definitely mint chip.

**Academic Representative Eves-Welch:** I was just wondering what made you apply to do this. It's a big opportunity, but yeah I'm just curious.

**Head Gael Geisler:** When I was in first year and sort of looking at the Head Gael then, just the energy and Queen's spirit made the transition so much easier for me and really helped in getting into a sense of community. So when I saw the position open this year, it was just such an opportunity for me and through being a Gael and Coord in the past I saw some things I'd like to change and being Head Gael allows me to work towards those changes and ensure that the Class of 2026 has the best transition in O-Week.

**Year Representative Lovisotto:** I just wanted to ask what your favourite event is at O-Week?

**Head Gael Geisler:** I was an Operations OC and so we did a lot of event takedown and setup. So ASUS and Beyond was a cool event and nice to set up and deal with, and now with being a lot more involved there's the potential to grow an event that's relatively new. I also really like the traditions of the town crier and the Tamming ceremony are very unique to Queen's. So those would be my favourite that aren't heavily biased.

*Vote: Motion carries\**

**Motion 8: That ASUS Assembly formally ratify Michelle Hudson as the C.A.R.E. Chair for Orientation of 2022.**

Moved by: Alyth Roos

Seconded by: Brandon Aldworth

**President Roos:** So just to speak quickly to the hiring process for the chairs, we had two rounds of interviews, the first an individual one and the second one in a group. The group interview lasted for a while for situational cases and navigating things that could occur while they were chairs. So all four of these chairs are amazing and we're so excited to have them on board. Speaking to Michelle, she's very kind and compassionate and we are so excited to have her!

Questions:

**Commissioner Hussein:** If you could change the national anthem to any song which one and why?

**Chair Michelle Hudson:** Great question. I'd probably go for 'Mr. Brightside', it's a huge crowd pleaser and it's a song that is always in my music.

*Vote: Motion carries\**

**Motion 9: That ASUS Assembly formally ratify Victoria Mills as the Operations Chair for Orientation of 2022.**

Moved by: Alyth Roos

Seconded by: Brandon Aldworth

**President Roos:** Victoria stood out for us as just being very competent and a strong leader. Definitely, a very independent and driven leader that we're excited to welcome.

Questions:

**Commissioner Yung:** Here's a quick one, what's your favourite go-to dance move?

**Chair Victoria Mills:** I've got to admit, pop culture references are always going to be the funniest ones for me so I'd dive back probably to 2014 for what's cool. I don't know what will happen next year, I kinda live under a rock, but probably the four corners one, just something that anyone can know and jump into.

**Senator Hughes:** Which is the better song, 'Old Town Road' or 'Gangnam Style'?

**Chair Mills:** Definitely 'Gangnam Style', it brings back so many good memories of 2012 which were really better times. That might be a hot take

*Vote: Motion carries\**

**Motion 10: That ASUS Assembly formally ratify Callum Fraser as the Socio-Cultural Chair for Orientation of 2022.**

Moved by: Alyth Roos

Seconded by: Brandon Aldworth

**President Roos:** So again the same hiring, Callum stood out especially for his amazing ideas and the kindness for his leadership style.

Questions:

**Commissioner Armstrong:** What are you most looking forward to for O-Week?

**Chair Callum Fraser:** This year I'm most looking to getting to see both the online and in-person events unfold, sort of meet new people and make a lot of new memories.

**ASUS Representative to the AMS Dante Caloia:** This doesn't have anything to do with the job and I'm kind of stealing this from socials, but what are you going to most miss from being in Covid?

**Chair Fraser:** Honestly being able to like, skip out on lectures, as bad as that sounds. But sort of being able to do them at your own pace and like sleep in until they start.

*Vote: Motion carries\**

**Motion 11: That ASUS Assembly formally ratify Kate McCuaig as the Academics Chair for Orientation of 2022.**

Moved by: Alyth Roos

Seconded by: Brandon Aldworth

**President Roos:** Finally a couple of nice words about Kate. She had just an incredible amount of new and innovative ideas and has such bubbly energy.

Questions:

**Senator Gulati:** If you were stuck on an island and allowed only one item, what would you bring.

**Chair Kate McCuaig:** Honestly I'd go for something fun and useful. I'd bring my emotional support water bottle, I bring her everywhere already and so I'd definitely need her on the island.

*Vote: Motion carries\**

*\*ASUS members who were on the orientation hiring panel abstained from voting.*

## **Speakers Last Word**

**Speaker Robertson:** Thank you Alyth and welcome chairs. A fun thing for me is that last year I had a bit of a rain sound when I didn't have my headphones in and I got a new webcam with a microphone, so now I can not have my headphones in while I speak and the sound won't happen which is fun! But yeah, thank you all for showing up, and good luck to the new orientation members. I'm hopeful to see you all next meeting

## **Motion: To adjourn the meeting**

Moved by Kristen Sutherland

Seconded By Brandon Aldworth

Vote: *Motion carries*