

**Arts
and
Science
Undergraduate
Society—
Assembly**

Meeting #2 Minutes

Assembly is called to order at 7:06 pm, EST

MOTION 1 - Approval of Agenda

Moved by: Officer Sankaran-Wee

Seconded by: President Hussein

Questions: None

Vote: *Motion carries*

MOTION 2 - Approval of the Minutes

Moved by: Officer Sankaran-Wee

Seconded by: President Hussein

Questions: None

Vote: *Motion carries*

SPEAKER'S BUSINESS

Officer Sankaran-Wee: 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, work and meet with you today on this land here at Queen's.

DISCUSSION PERIOD

Queen's-Kingston Relationship

President Hussein: We are always trying to improve that relationship, especially with the municipal election coming up. These are conversations we are trying to have earlier on, especially with the media during Homecoming and St. Paddy's. We'd like to see what they would like to see what we could do to connect with more journals and push more activities in journals.

Vice President (Society Affairs) Farrell: For the ASUS city meeting program, we have met with representatives in city hall. We have involved 8 individual volunteers to hopefully reach more students to become more engaged. We have been talking about working with the city's communication's department to really market this program to students and residents alike. Something we didn't really do last year was showing student's projects. We are going to work on catering to not only students but also Kingston residents, as they use different platforms. So, if anyone does have any projects or thoughts that you would like to highlight to the city, please let me know and how this could improve community relations.

Academic Representative Tordoff: I live in a residential area with more families, and I do hear how students would like to be more involved in the community. Many people don't know how they can be involved.. With big parties, we should work on educating the student body on what is considered a nuisance party and establishing that respect for this community. For some people, Kingston is their whole home.

Commissioner Haddad: I agree with Colleen that students need to respect the community; There needs to be more respect on both parts. There is a large police presence at events like Hoco and St. Paddy's. Being more realistic with expectations, students are going to drink, they are going to be disrespectful. It is not only students but also people who just want to celebrate the end of covid. During Hoco weekend, police were walking around and letting people know that they can ask questions. Police stated that she was the first person to ask him a question in an hour. It is important to be realistic and acknowledge that there is tension between the student-Kingston community and having a more realistic plan based on what it is like to be a student in a small university town. Understanding how much the university gives back to the city and outlining what

the city wants to see from the students without jumping ahead and getting excited about jumping the students off at queens

Commissioner McHarg: Within these two parties, I agree with everything you say, another idea Sean and I discussed in the summer is highlighting the initiatives that students do in the community. Reaching out to different Kingston media platforms and having a conversation with them from equity, governance marketing, etc. it would be a great way to ease the tension from student parties and misunderstandings that happen. Another thing, I had a conversation with people at Chalmers United Church and they do something called Benevolent Fund where they provide support to people in need with confidentiality. Maybe one thing is to have a connection with organizations in Kingston that do these great initiatives

Academic Representative Chicoski: I grew up in the Kingston area. Kingston, in my experience, has always been a more conservative area. I would say to an extent, that the negative relationship is based on the partying aspect. It seems to be the whole partying aspect, which is an image issue. Not even just among the old people in Kingston, but also high school students about Queens. I think the relationship Queens has with highschool students is something to consider. I did know a lot of people who went to highschool who went to St. Patrick parades and university parties. There is a relationship there that is not always healthy. To generalize, you may say that some locals are angry that their kids are going to parties

Commissioner Parker: There is a lot of amazing work that Queens is doing, but we need to amplify the activities that we are impacting the Kingston community. We do need to be realistic about how we can't stop the partying. We should be more direct about partying and police response and the tensions that arise from partying. Even as we come up with new solutions and new collaborations to improve relations, we are trying to take accountability as the impact that students have.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS

PRESIDENT REPORT

Presented by Yara Hussein, President

President Hussein: It is lovely to see everyone, welcome to everyone back on campus. We are so excited to see everyone drop by the office. Most of my reports and updates reflect the portfolio, pertaining to orientation and academic advocacy items. Reference the summer reports to see what we were working on over the summer. We just started our bi-weekly council meetings. One thing we are working on is Day of Truth and Reconciliation and what our team will be doing and what we will be sharing with other art and science students as well. Professional development is planning the Life after Artsci event. We will be taking students to Toronto and showcasing organizations where alumni are employed. We encourage you to share this with your peers and come on this journey with us. Next up is the student fairs research portfolio. Some of our research topics this year are perception of Queens from alumni and seeing how they fund student organizations. In addition to that we are doing comparative analysis of policies compared to some provincial universities. The sexual violence response director is compiling a video that will be circulating soon. There is talk of a coalition to unite task forces together and we will be looking for student representation on this. Orientation had a very successful orientation experience. We got a chance to do Orientation events and show our supports and resources. Lots of students have come by to ask for resources. There is a focus on feedback and reform related to orientation and we have started discussion with different groups, to see how the accountability and sustenance of this organization runs and to see how we can support incoming students. We are working with sibling organizations and seeing how to integrate them into the ASUS community more. Many students are less inclined to participate in ASUS and we aim to educate them more on what benefits are available from the fees. A lot of conversations have come up about accommodation services and a new service called Ventus. Please let us know feedback about the user-friendly side of it.

VICE PRESIDENT OF SOCIETY AFFAIRS REPORT

Presented by **Emma Farrell**, Vice President of Society Affairs

Vice President of Society Affairs Farrell: First, the main point is hiring. Hiring is still going on. Many positions close tomorrow. We have hundreds of positions currently open and we are working with all of our commissions and offices and getting the positions out to students. We have been able to get the word out through Queens in the Park, the sidewalk sale, and university orientation in the summer. There are increased members and engagement in hiring positions such as the first year intern program. Hopefully the trend increases upwards as the year continues. With all these volunteers, we will be doing training and it is set to happen October 1st. We are trying to give volunteers the most fulfilling training. Concerning ACEP, We are finding ways to develop more feedback mechanisms for the program and improve it from the pilot year last year. The ASUS garden has made many donations to the AMS food bank and another harvest is coming up. ASUS camps wrapped up on August 26 and we are working to close the budget now. We were able to deliver the program to many campers and people in the Kingston community. We had so many field trips and campers really enjoyed their experience. We incurred a lot of positive feedback from that as well. We gave out approximately 6000 dollars in bursaries to make it more accessible. We did some overhauls to the website. We are planning more pages to add to the current website. We welcome two auditors to the team to audit internal events and make suggestions. We are working on student wellness week and collaborating with student wellness services. The deputy office is being planned and some meetings are being set. We are fostering the internal cohesion of this society. Lastly, it has been incredible getting to know the volunteers and meeting the community outreach co-chairs and it has been a really fulfilling experience. I am working on getting to know more volunteers and people in the community.

VICE PRESIDENT OF OPERATIONS REPORT

Presented by **Aloka Wijesundara**, Vice President of Operations

Vice President of Operations Wijesundara: The end of the summer was focused on providing the orientation team with a lot of logistical support. Returning to in person meant lots of memory gaps and troubleshooting. This included distributing bursaries to the incoming students and orientation leaders. The distribution of bursaries will continue to give first year students more support and make it more accessible to students, which will continue until next week. Another thing was about the executives, we were really happy to be present and engage in events. How present we are can really dictate how students get involved throughout the year and the next four years. I think our team did a great job and really understood it. We helped three booths during the sidewalk sale. Another thing we have been working on is the ASUS bbq, which is happening tomorrow from 12-2pm and is possible from our partners at M&M and Freshco. My focus during the next couple months will be on the project planning and equipping the direct reports to be independent in their role as they finish the transition process. The fall is quite important as getting plans underway; we are closing off the discussion of possibly dissolving the Services Commission; we are finishing the discussion and will be making a formal recommendation to next year's team. We are taking a two-fold plan to make bursaries more accessible. There are thousands of dollars every year that students don't claim. One aspect is increasing budget lines for financial support and making a bank of information for students. We are in conversation with the faculty on that.

OTHER REPORTS

PHYSICAL AND HEALTH EDUCATION AND KINESIOLOGY STUDENTS ASSOCIATION (PHEKSA) REPORT

Presented by **Natalie Pryor**, Vice President of Operations

Vice President of Operations Pryor: Engagement is a lot higher than what everyone was expecting. Everyone had a great time getting back and seeing all of the traditions coming back to life. It was a really big hit and from the engagement in O-week we are hoping for high engagement throughout the entire year. Next is hiring and elections; we are currently in the middle of hiring and elections. The campaign period will be next year and we are hoping first years will get involved. Hopefully in two weeks we will have our first full meeting. We are hoping to plan some events with our sibling societies.

NATURAL & PHYSICAL SCIENCES REPORT

Presented by **Colleen Tordoff**,
Natural and Physical Sciences Academic Representative

Academic Representative Colleen Tordoff: There have been a lot of welcoming back events. We have had a lot of engagement with students. I am looking at planning more interactive events to increase engagement and let students know about their opportunities and what is available. Working towards a graduate research fair in the winter.

INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Presented by **Yuxuan Zhao**, International Representative

International Representative Zhao: There are questions about international house insurance, but everything is fine. I will be sending out posts on Friday about how everyone is doing. I am looking forward to hosting some movie nights and other events. Part of my job is to know other international student associations at Queens and letting them know if there are any concerns.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

NONE

QUESTION PERIOD

NONE

NEW BUSINESS

MOTION 3

That ASUS Assembly formally close the 2021 - 2022 General Operating Budget as seen in Appendix A: 2021 - 2022 General Operating Budget Closing.

Moved by: Vice President of Operations Wijesundara

Seconded by: President Hussein

Questions: None

Vote: *Motion carries*

MOTION 4

That ASUS Assembly formally approve the ASUS Fall Election Timeline as seen in Appendix B: ASUS Governance 2022 Fall Election Timeline.

Moved by: Officer Sankaran-Wee

Seconded by: President Hussein

Questions: None

Vote: *Motion carries*

MOTION 5

That ASUS Assembly formally open the 2022 - 2023 General Operating Budget as seen in Appendix C: 2022 - 2023 General Operating Budget Opening.

Moved by: Vice President of Operations Wijesundara

Seconded by: President Hussein

Questions: None

Vote: *Motion carries*

MOTIONS 6 - 13

That ASUS Assembly formally begin considering the 2022 - 2023 ASUS Executive and Council Strategic Plans as seen in the [linked OneDrive here](#).

Moved by: President Hussein

Seconded by: Vice President of Society Affairs Farrell

President Hussein: In the plans, you can see the specific projects and the amount of effort and work behind planning these initiatives. The strategic plans will be our guiding documents for the coming year. Please check them out. I would like to emphasize the advisory board; they will hold us accountable to many things

Questions: None

Vote: *Motion carries*

MOTION 14

Moved by: Commissioner Parker

Seconded by: President Hussein

Commissioner Parker: Three changes are reflected. First, the changes that were suggested by the equity director last year; there was change in deputy structure, we now have three deputies; the asus repeals resources center was moved into the academic commission.

Questions: None

Vote: *Motion carries*

MOTION 15

Moved by: Commissioner Parker

Seconded by: President Hussein

Alessia: This is to combat a decrease in student engagement. There are 6 student councils that are not filled with co-presidents. Now students pursuing a certificate can run for DSC positions.

Questions: None

Vote: *Motion carries*

SPEAKER'S LAST WORD

Officer Sankaran-Wee: It was great to connect with you today. It was a heavy agenda as it is our first meeting of the school year. However, it was certainly productive and I look forward to next month's meeting. Get home safely and take care.

MOTION 16 - Adjournment

Moved by: President Hussein

Seconded by: Vice President of Operations Farrell

Vote: *Motion carries*