

ASUS Assembly Minutes

Wednesday, January 18, 2017

Speaker Phelan: Okay. Welcome, everybody. This is our first meeting of the 2017 year. I'm calling this meeting to order at 7:03 pm. Welcome, everybody. Thankfully we could all get together. Sorry about last week; it was a scheduling nightmare for a lot of people. Let me find the Google Doc and we will get going.

Motion #1 - That ASUS Assembly approve the Agenda of the January 18th Assembly

Moved by: **Officer Kennelly**

Seconded by: **Pres. Baga**

Speaker Phelan: Okay, so the first item on the Agenda is the approval of the Agenda. Officer Kennelly, you do have an amendment of the Agenda.

Officer Kennelly: I want to add *Review Committees* to Discussion Period. It shouldn't take longer than 10 minutes.

Seconded by: **Pres. Baga**

In favor: **All**

Opposed: **None**

Abstentions: **N/A**

Amendment adopted

Speaker Phelan: Any other amendments to the Agenda? Seeing none.

Motion #1 - Approval of the Agenda

Moved by: **Officer Kennelly**

Seconded by: **Pres. Baga**

In favor: **All**

Opposed: **None**

Abstentions: **N/A**

Motion #1 - That ASUS Assembly approve the Agenda of the January 18th Assembly

Moved by: **Officer Kennelly**

Seconded by: **Pres. Baga**

Motion passes

Motion #2 - That ASUS Assembly Approve the Minutes of the November 24th ASUS Assembly

Moved by: **Officer Kennelly**

Seconded by: **Pres. Baga**

Speaker Phelan: Are there any amendments to the Minutes? Seeing none.

Motion #2 - That ASUS Assembly Approve the Minutes of the November 24th ASUS Assembly

Moved by: **Officer Kennelly**

Seconded by: **Pres. Baga**

In favor: **All**

Opposed: **None**

Abstentions: **N/A**

Motion #2 - That ASUS Assembly Approve the Minutes of the November 24th ASUS Assembly

Moved by: **Officer Kennelly**

Seconded by: **Pres. Baga**

Motion passes

Speaker's Business

Land Recognition Statement

Speaker Phelan: I will keep this short and brief. Welcome to all. I see a lot of familiar and new faces. To those who are new, welcome. What an awesome place to be on a Wednesday night. I will remind everyone about rules and orders as necessary. I hope everybody had a good break. Welcome back. Now, onto the Land Recognition Statement: *The Arts and Science Undergraduate Society recognizes and respects the ancestral and traditional Indigenous territories of the Metis, Anishnaabe, and Haudenosaunee on whose territory we live, study, work, and meet here today.*

Guest Speaker

ASUS Executive - Mid-Year Strategic Plan Update

Pres. Baga: So the document should be on the Facebook group. Welcome back. Hope you had a restful break. It was short but we're happy to have you back. There are many updates from last semester. I'm just going to give an overall explanation of what we've been up to during the year and go over each part with respect to our portfolios.

Career Projects

Pres. Baga: The goal is to oversee Majors Night and look at new ways to ensure that Artsci students are getting the best of Career and Professional Services. There have been many problems - 1) having to supervise. **The Career Manager has to do my job and other things... we can reevaluate expectations and move forward with Career Services and myself.** 2) Move beyond Majors Night. The previous manager has really picked up on this. This was a thing to change. We want to revitalize the digital Society.

Digital Presence

Pres. Baga: ASUS is an exciting and cool place to work. We've garnered a lot of new interest. 56,123 page views and 15,014 unique visitors. There are 10,500 constituents in Arts and Science. Maybe we attract Engineering and Commerce people too!

Speaker Phelan: What is a unique visitor?

Pres. Baga: Visitor on a unique device. Essentially, it is means different IP address. We increased online accessibility to grants. Brian can speak about the take-up of those initiatives.

VP MacKay: **General growth - combination of marketing strategy and general word of mouth increased growth. Everything for this has increased - we do need to accommodate through online applications.**

Pres. Baga: Also, just by **reorganizing... >2,000 dollars so we can expand upon our virtual...**

Internship Program

Pres. Baga: We advertised heavily this year. We have received high quality applicants out of high school. There is a lot of interest - 69 applicants for 8 positions. Just as a comparison, **AMS has 60 applicants for 8 positions.** We want to expand projects our interns have. **The largest project is the Chair Fair...** taking place in Victoria Hall lobby. We will also review policy to ensure that there are first year designations to committee members. Specific committees didn't denote first year members, and as a result, first years thought they were not meant for them. Engineering and Commerce specifically clarify that, but we don't. So we will make it more streamlined. We will also build a sense of community within internships through socials, as well as increased weekly hours for time commitment. I don't think that's an issue, as in high school they've been devoting 10+ hours/week to student council positions.

IT Director

Pres. Baga: The IT Director helps us with our new website, information management, and new equipment. We really looked at ways to improve data management as well as including website management tasks. We have individual websites to work on. Also, we will implement internal cloud organization to further maintain our institutional memory. We will market this position to Computing students in the future - it is a computing-oriented role.

Sibling Society Engagement

Pres. Baga: In previous years, ASUS hasn't reached out to Sibling Societies as they've focused on their internal affairs. It's difficult to be engaged with every Sibling Society. We encouraged commissioners to communicate regularly with their Sibling Society counterparts to establish new ways of collaborating. **ASUS fee - ASUS camps, etc. Employment opportunities and grants.** Engage with COMPSA and CESA

to make sure that their offices are in conjunction with the ASUS office upon relocation into the JDUC.

BHAGs - Grading Transparency

Pres. Baga: This was a bit challenging. We did approach this project with a bit of naiveté. We should continue to engage with faculty. We did an environmental scan with other universities and they don't emphasize having your grades before exams. This is a barrier because Queen's is a bit hesitant on new projects. In July, we negotiated with faculty to discuss hard rules - because of the large number of courses and large number of people, it'll be a profound achievement. We now believe that this project should be holistic and generalized. We have done some research on how students can receive feedback before exams - **syllabi, academic drop deadlines...** The Undergraduate Chair highlighted a couple issues. For example, for English, there are a couple of essays that can't be all graded before the drop deadline, which is 8th week. This month, we are working on data collection surveys to see if we should give students the status of their assignments before the final exam to ensure grading transparency. While we would love to have all our grades before the break, it will be hard if we don't have hard data. I've been talking to the **Dean of ____** to ensure that this is significant.

BHAGs - Office Relocation

VP MacKay: The current ASUS Office is inaccessible. We received two solutions - 1) invest capital into what we currently have and renovate; 2) **relocate... 100,000 dollars is not accessible to renovate.** So relocation is the feasible option. We will also incorporate space for COMPSA and CESA. Through our consultation with the AMS, we did a bit of research. Their current plan is to revitalize the space. We will strike a memorandum that any renovation in the JDUC will be reserved for the ASUS Office, which is very exciting. We will look at the feasibility of the funding for the project to happen.

BHAGs - Red Room Revitalization

Pres. Baga: Red Room Revitalization. Work in the PPS has been complicated and we weren't able to finish it by Winter Break. **Challenges, security concerns...** In the summer, we couldn't do much as we would've liked to. **Improve efficiency...** so it could be used when the room is completed. September: new carpets, walls, soundproof casings, fixing the pipes... PPS paid for that in full. October: look for funding. November: **procured funding of...** this month (January): we submitted the renovation requests and will seek more opportunities for future funding and space improvement with the Facilities Director, procuring more funding to sustain longevity of the room. I talked to PPS today. They said renovation will be completed by March 1, 2017.

BHAGs - Undergraduate Research Hub

Pres. Baga: Undergraduate Research Hub. I worked with the Associate VP of Research and the Associate Dean of Research in the Faculty of Arts and Science to come up with ideas to better put forward undergraduate research. Summer: we drafted a proposal to streamline applications in procuring a research position. **How to gather funds...** In August, I worked with Dr. Remenda to come up with a definition for "research inquiry" that's yet to be revealed to me. We also worked with Lindsey fair to bypass bureaucracy. In November, we obtained buy-in with Lindsey, building upon the undergraduate research website to incorporate students. We met with Lindsey this month to quote the project. We will procure research portfolios of various students and upload them to the research panel. It'll be branded directly with the Faculty of Arts and Science. **It is associated directly with the Faculty of Arts and Science...** We're adding an availability list of who's interested in taking on students in the summer for an 8-month term. We will work with IT to make sure it'll be completed by the end of March. **It's a pilot project for other faculties within Queen's...**

Moving Forward - ASUS Camps

VP MacKay: ASUS Camps. We managed to get 6 positions under the summer work positions covered. We saved up 40,000 dollars on salary. We will be able to provide high quality programs without sacrificing any cost. High quality programs include air conditioning in Kingston Hall and compensation for staff.

Moving Forward - Facilities Director

Pres. Baga: Air conditioning seems frivolous, but with 13 4-year-olds, it's caused other camps to shut down. Facilities Director. We are hiring people for the position. It's not the best looking position, but it will provide students with the necessary experience. We need to make sure the the Red Room is up to date and well-maintained. We will leverage this position so that DSC study space is improved upon. **A lot of DSC spaces don't look great... improve student study space...**

Moving Forward - Institutional Memory

Pres. Baga: Institutional memory. All commissioners can store data on the main computer. We will also develop a main cloud. All archives will be available digitally. We are considering a bi-annual "data dump" between Queen's archives to make sure institutional memory is covered going forward.

Moving Forward - Upcoming Events

VP MacKay: Artsci Formal - it's great; it's huge. Major's Night is coming up. We see significant value in this. First years will feel out what different majors are like to make sure what first years want is met by us. Orientation Week - we are meeting with Head Gael and interns to create dialogue with first years, putting emphasis on financial

Pres. Baga: Throughout our years as OCs, we hear repeatedly that Orientation Week is only for first years, yet I've never once interacted with first years. We will make

sure the First Year Interns are included in Orientation Week so they can identify problems with their events on a year-to-year basis.

Moving Forward - Website Cohesion

Pres. Baga: Website cohesion. We don't have much of that. QCLC, QEC... QSURJ, Politcus, Data... bring those under one portfolio. To help see... we should be focusing on our website management. As valuable as video and photography are, they're not helpful if people are not looking at them.

Speaker Phelan: Any questions? Sen. Jamieson?

Sen. Jamieson: Could you tell me a little bit more about the ASUS Formal and why it's off-campus?

VP MacKay: It's off-campus because we talked to previous attendees and first years, and that's what they want. Registration will be through Tilt. Tickets will be going live within the next few weeks. It'll be a dinner followed by a dance. Transportations will also be provided. I've been in touch with Head StuCon to make sure security measures are taken care of. It's March 31st.

Sen. Jamieson: Can you tell me more about air conditioning in Kingston Hall?

VP MacKay: It's actually an air cooler. You put water through it and cool air blows air out of it. In the short term, we want to have portable cooling units.

Speaker Phelan: Any other questions? Rep. Counter?

Rep. Counter: You said that you're scaling down a number of counselors to ensure the financial sustainability of camp. If you're getting more money, how does that work?

VP MacKay: The money we're saving could not be saved up by increased registration numbers. We decrease the staff to improve the quality of programs.

Speaker Phelan: Any other questions? Seeing none.

Mid-Year Financial Update

VP MacKay: Thank you. Starting last year, Darrean and I liked to have mid-year reviews. Assembly never receives information on how the ASUS Financial Assistance Fund works. Orientation Week has ended and Camps have ended. We know how we've been doing. Within these various camps, the mandatory student ASUS fee only goes to the general finances section. Everything else is derived from self-sustaining finances. To start, I would like to say that ASUS financially is doing very well. We've seen incremental changes but the operations are very stable. There are threats, but we can mitigate them effectively. \$25.90 is the ASUS fee and it is the lowest compared to all other societies. We think it is necessary without any extra. It changes from year to year and depends on referendum. We have fundraisers to make sure we're not sustained entirely by the fee. **Due from Orientation Week and grants for large projects...** As it currently stands, ASUS has two opt-outable fees: Good Times Diner and Shinerama for Cystic Fibrosis, Research fund and jackets. Over the past few years, jackets have seen fluctuations. We made 105,000 dollars. We have to increase cost for increased supplier cost. Cost will be progressively more inaccessible as they are expensive. We can decrease our profit margins or increase bursary. Number jackets sold is in the 300/400 range. I'll get a more specific number next Assembly. Orientation Week. This year, Orientation Week as a whole has seen some significant financial improvements. Historically it's been independent so it's resulted in financial mismanagement purely due to the nature of operation because people don't have time to manage the money. We thought you really need to have the money to make Orientation Week happen. This year we established that the VP is the financial support. Over time we want to make it stay that way. Right now we are projecting a small deficit. It's common due to the number of projected registrants as they tend to be lower. The budget is being overhauled by myself. In February you will see a more reflective budget. ASUS Camps has been the biggest threat due to the salary. But this year we're secured by SWEP. Government of Canada covered a portion of salaries. It's not very significant - about 5,000 dollars. **It will be presented to Assembly this year...** in short, camps this year did well and moving forward I can see it offering a significant benefit to the community. DSC - currently they are

self-sustaining. They have their own bank accounts that have financial oversight through ASUS. The actual spending is loosely overseen by myself and the Academics Commissioner. However, their deficit is absorbed by ASUS - that's a risk. We've been overseeing their budget and so far no DSC has had a deficit. We also want to make sure the ASUS doesn't interfere with DSCs. Potential threats: 1) Formal - they've consistently run a deficit. Formal is a very valuable service so it's okay to run a bit of a deficit. But this year we are projected to break even. But with Formal, QEL, QCLC, and Camps, they're scary because you're contractually bound to these, and if people don't register, you have to go along with it. Honoraria - it does have to have a formal place as to how much each person gets compensated every year, except for the Executive deciding how much they get paid. It is subjected to yearly review. Camps - salaries are increasing as well as the people signing up. Unsustainable growth - we are more ambitious and are making sure everyone's not stretching ourselves too thin. Contractual arrangements - the Executive for the strategic plan may require upward payment, those things need to be carried forward for the budget, which limits the capacity for future years. Through the online application system, it is good but it's a US company and taxes change from year to year. Anything involving a contract needs to be critically analyzed by all members. Moving forward - as I said ASUS is doing very well financially. You can find that on the website. I welcome any questions.

Speaker Phelan: Are there any questions?

Rep. Aronoff: I have a question regarding the camps. If they pose such a financial threat to ASUS, what is the advantage to having them associated with ASUS? Why are they not their own separate entity?

VP MacKay: Camps is entirely educational. Artsci students get experience from that. If it was its own then planning would be hard. VP works with financials when the Business Manager cannot be there. I can't say it's that much of a risk to warrant it being a completely separate entity.

Speaker Phelan: Any other questions? Seeing none. Thank you, Mr. Vice President, for that illuminating presentation.

Executive Reports

President

Speaker Phelan: Is there anything to add to your written report and your presentation?

Pres. Baga: Nothing to add.

Vice President

VP MacKay: Nothing to add.

Society Reports

Business of the Senate

Sen. Jamieson: Nothing to add.

Business of the Alma Mater Society

Rep. Counter: Nothing to report.

Statements by Members

Speaker Phelan: For those of you who are new, this is your chance to make any one-minute statement, advertising an event you're running or talk about anything that's going on in the community... or tell us what your favorite color is.

Comm. Ewing: My favorite color is pink. The ASUS Silent Auction is a lovely event that promotes Almost Home. It's for families with children who are treated in Kingston hospitals. Items for bidding are online and the Silent Auction closes on Friday. Trevstock - it is a concert at Clark Hall Pub on Friday. Tickets are on Tilt.

Speaker Phelan: Any other statements by members? Comm. Thibault?

Comm. Thibault: QCLC is happening on February 3 and 4. Registration is on Friday. It's going to be an exciting weekend.

Speaker Phelan: Rep. Counter?

Rep. Counter: On the same weekend as QCLC, QNSA is hosting a conference. We have a phenomenal line of speakers. Registration is open. It's expensive but there are bursaries open. All sorts of cool stuff are happening.

Speaker Phelan: Any other statements by members? Officer Kennelly?

Officer Kennelly: Elections are happening. Tomorrow is the verification period and all-candidate meeting. From the 25th is the debate - 6:30 - 8:30 is the general debate; 9:30 - 11:00 is the executive debate. Keep an eye out for it. Voting is 30th and 31st. It should be exciting. We have a lot of people running for a lot of positions.

Sen. Jamieson: Regarding your timetables for debates, can you move the executive debate to an earlier, higher-traffic time

Officer Kennelly: In the JDUC, it is the earliest. From 6:30 onwards, it is not in the JDUC.

Speaker Phelan: Just a reminder to please stand when addressing Assembly and direct your questions to the Speaker. Any other statements by members? Seeing none.

Question Period

Speaker Phelan: This is similar to Statements by Members, except you get to ask a question. Usually it is a Commissioner to the Executive about an event or a presentation. Or if you have any other questions about the Agenda or whatever, ask away. Any questions? Seeing none.

Old Business

Speaker Phelan: There is none.

New Business

Motion #3 - That ASUS Assembly formally strike the Financial Assistance Fund Granting Committee, consisting of the ASUS Vice President, and two (2) members of Assembly

Moved by: **VP MacKay**

Seconded by: **Pres. Baga**

Speaker Phelan: I will tell the VP to tell us what the committee is, time commitment, when hiring is, etc.

VP MacKay: This is an opportunity to review all financial assistance through this community. It is a monthly commitment. The goal is to help out students who apply. The

time commitment 3 to 5 hours a week depending on the availability of members of committee.

Rep. Counter: Officer Kennelly, can you compare the time commitment between this one and the Review Committee?

Officer Kennelly: Time commitment is going to be relatively short. There is one meeting next week to lay out what we're going to be doing in the realm of the constitution. Following that is a one-week break, and then 2 meetings afterwards, which are slightly heavier.

Speaker Phelan: Any nominations for the FAFGC?

Nominee: **Rep. Siedlec**

Nominated by: **Rep. Counter**

Seconded by: **VP MacKay**

Nomination declined by: **Rep. Siedlec**

Nominee: **Rep. Counter**

Nominated by: **Rep. S. Chapman**

Seconded by: **Sen. Lockridge**

Nomination declined by: **Rep. Counter**

Nominee: **Rep. Lavigne**

Nominated by: **VP MacKay**

Seconded by: **Rep. Counter**

Nomination accepted by: **Rep. Lavigne**

Nominee: **Rep. Go**

Nominated by: **VP MacKay**

Seconded by: **Sen. Lockridge**

Nomination accepted by: **Rep. Go**

Sen. Giordano: Motion to close nominations.

Seconded by: **VP MacKay**

In favor: **All**

Opposed: **None**

Abstentions: **N/A**

Speaker Phelan: Nominations closed. Now we have to vote. The two nominees, if you could come up. I will give you each 30 seconds as to why you ought to sit on this committee. After that we will ratify you.

Rep. Go: This would be my first committee if I do get voted for this. It is a good experience and funding for people is obviously good because people can't always afford things such as me.

Rep. Lavigne: I sat on the other committee a couple months ago. This would be another cool experience.

Speaker Phelan: Step outside the room and we will vote.

Rep. Go: OK

Rep. Lavigne: OK

Speaker Phelan: Both decisions were unanimous, so we can clap. Congratulations. We now have to strike the committee.

Motion #3 - That ASUS Assembly formally strike the Financial Assistance Fund Granting Committee, consisting of the ASUS Vice President, and two (2) members of Assembly

Moved by: **VP MacKay**

Seconded by: **Pres. Baga**

In favor: **All**

Opposed: **None**

Abstentions: **Rep. Go, Rep. Lavigne**

Motion passes

Motion #4 - That ASUS Assembly approve the changes to section H-6 of the ASUS Policy Manual as seen in Appendix A: DSC Grant

Moved by: **VP MacKay**

Seconded by: **Pres. Baga**

Speaker Phelan: Mr. Vice President, if you will.

VP MacKay: This is part of an ongoing project to evaluate DSCs in ASUS. We see that they really benefit student life. A new project faces a lot of financial barriers. Formal and clothing sales usually break even. Risks for a new project can be large however. We do allocate funds to DSCs every year, but **the new funding form does reduce that**. So we don't have much wiggle room to allocate amounts for new ideas. But for new ideas to improve student life, we believe there are things we can do. We want to contribute to DSCs in some ways. Other universities have a college system similar to how ASUS currently operates with their DSC model, although not as formal. So I think a grant would be very beneficial.

Speaker Phelan: Any questions?

Rep. S. Chapman: As DSC executives, can we vote on this?

Speaker Phelan: You can ask questions. Any other questions?

Rep. S. Chapman: How will the applications work for the student councils? A list of things this would be used for?

VP MacKay: Primarily dependent on criteria set by the committee. Look at full spectrum what the DSC does and then DSC decides what they're looking for. And then we can have a list as to what we can and cannot grant for. As much as it says "new," that's just a guiding principle.

Rep. Counter: Is there an inherent conflict of interest with COMPSA and CESA on this panel?

VP MacKay: It's the same committee that grants the Sibling Societies. They were already there. The only thing to add is the Academic Representatives.

Speaker Phelan: Any other debate? Seeing none.

Motion #4 - That ASUS Assembly approve the changes to section H-6 of the ASUS Policy Manual as seen in Appendix A: DSC Grant

Moved by: **VP MacKay**

Seconded by: **Pres. Baga**

In favor: **All**

Opposed: **None**

Abstentions: **None**

Motion passes

Motion #5 - That ASUS Assembly approve the addition to the ASUS Policy Manual, as seen in Appendix B: ASURF

Moved by: **VP MacKay**

Seconded by: **Pres. Baga**

Speaker Phelan: Again, Mr. Vice President.

VP MacKay: So I had the opportunity to run this by Assembly a few months ago. This is a project Darrean and I have been working for a while to address undergraduate research at Queen's. It does need to be met with funding. To grow the number of applications, we do need funding in some way. The mandate of ASUS is to enrich the academic experience of undergraduate students within the Faculty of Arts and Science. Research is the best way to grow your academic experience within Artsci. We offer research grants where students benefit from, but in every year **there's no... we can increase the cap but...** McGill had the best model, which currently has the highest opt-out fee. It is \$5.00/semester for undergraduate employment. It could be anything, but for us, we think it should be primarily research-focused. We collect the opt-out fee and **throughout the year...** at the end, we then have the capacity to make a contribution with the Faculty of Arts and Science to start larger research projects - infrastructure for labs or stuff like that that requires a fairly large amount of capital. If this passes, it doesn't mean that it comes to fruition. We are just trying to put it into referendum. If that passes, we will have guidelines in moving forward. I welcome any questions.

Speaker Phelan: Sen. Jamieson?

Sen. Jamieson: **Section c1.02.02 - students sending their dollars to their office...**

VP MacKay: We posed that exact same question - should Artsci students give funds to faculty for student initiatives? After speaking to the Dean, this fund is not just a dump of money. They're still overseen by the committee. In order for these things to happen, we do need a bit of faculty buy-in, making sure that there is a joint responsibility in growing research. It would be problematic if it was any other aspect, however, for research, we need to make sure that we are in collaboration with them. In case the faculty says we have a project and if the committee doesn't agree, they can simply to say no. I welcome follow-ups.

Speaker Phelan: Any other debate on the motion? Seeing none.

Motion #5 - That ASUS Assembly approve the addition to the ASUS Policy Manual, as seen in Appendix B: ASURF

Moved by: **VP MacKay**

Seconded by: **Pres. Baga**

In favor: **All**

Opposed: **Sen. Jamieson**

Abstentions: **None**

Motion passes

Motion #6 - That ASUS Assembly approve the following question to the 2017 ASUS Winter Referendum: Do you agree to the establishment of a \$3.75 fee (subject to individual opt-out) to support the Arts & Science Undergraduate Research Fund?"

Moved by: **VP MacKay**

Seconded by: **Pres. Baga**

Speaker Phelan: Again, the floor is yours, VP MacKay.

VP MacKay: As per ASUS policy, Assembly does have jurisdiction on anything put on the referendum ballot. This is not imposing the fee, but rather getting your OK to let students to vote on the slate of fees.

Rep. Counter: Would this have a mouse-over as to what ASURF is? This is a lot of money and people have never seen it before.

VP MacKay: Absolutely. If you scroll down to Appendix B, that is the background for ASURF. All the information will be there.

Speaker Phelan: Any other debate on the motion? Seeing none.

Motion #6 - That ASUS Assembly approve the following question to the 2017 ASUS Winter Referendum: Do you agree to the establishment of a \$3.75 fee (subject to individual opt-out) to support the Arts & Science Undergraduate Research Fund?"

Moved by: **VP MacKay**

Seconded by: **Pres. Baga**

In favor: **All**

Opposed: **None**

Abstentions: **None**

Motion passes

Motion #7 - That ASUS formally strike the Governing Documents Review Committee, consisting of the Governance Officer, ASUS President, ASUS Vice President, Equity Commissioner, one (1) ASUS Senator, one (1) ASUS Representative to the AMS, one (1) Academic Representative, and one (1) Year Representative

Moved by: **Officer Kennelly**

Seconded by: **Pres. Baga**

Speaker Phelan: Officer Kennelly, give us the details.

Officer Kennelly: I've been talking about this for the entire year. This is about the BHAG I've been talking about. I think we found a way to maneuver around not having Assembly last week. Phase 1 will be looking through the constitution. The meeting next week on the 22nd will go over what we've done so far in the Governance Offices. PERCs reviewed it. I've looked at it. My interns looked at it. Everybody had things as to how we can update the constitution. You will have access to any changes made along the way in case you have questions. There will be 2 to 3 meetings from the 6th to the 10th. If we need more meetings, we will have more meetings in the week of the 13th to 17th. At first we wanted to have everything passed by Assembly by February 9th. The first time the constitution will go

to Assembly now will be March 9th. Phase 2 is that right after we review the constitution, the last meeting in talking about the constitution, I'll show everything done to the policy manual. It won't be as vigorous as the constitution - just what we've moved from constitution to policy manual. Any numbers and excess dialogue will be removed. You will be able to read it, and it's better to add it in one single policy manual. It's up to the committee to decide what the final versions of these meetings will be. Meeting will take place from the 27th of February to the 3rd of March. Everything should be submitted by March 9th. Everything will be discussed on the last Assembly, which won't be us but next year's.

Sen. Giordano: About work of the committee, will this be reformatting existing rules or is it writing new provisions?

Officer Kennelly: I'd like to say it's a little bit of both. Most of the cleaning up was done by PERC and myself. A lot of it has been done. There are things that need to be added to make the direction the Society's headed more specific. A tad of both.

Sen. Giordano: Members of committee would need information and mull it over within just a week?

Officer Kennelly: Specific dates are negotiable but yes, that's the relative timeline.

Speaker Phelan: Any other questions? Seeing none. I will open up the floor to nominations now.

ASUS Senator

Nominee: **Sen. Giordano**

Nominated by: **Rep. Counter**

Seconded by: **Sen. Lockridge**

Nomination accepted by: **Sen. Giordano**

Nominee: **Sen. Jamieson**

Nominated by: **Sen. Giordano**

Seconded by: **Sen. Lockridge**

Nomination declined by: **Sen. Giordano**

ASUS Representative to the AMS

Nominee: **Rep. Evans**

Nominated by: **Sen. Jamieson**

Seconded by: **Rep. Counter**

Nomination declined by: **Rep. Evans**

Nominee: **Rep. Counter**

Nominated by: **Sen. Lockridge**

Seconded by: **Sen. Giordano**

Nomination accepted: **Rep. Counter**

Academic Representative

Nominee: **Rep. Harbinson**

Nominated by: **Rep. Counter**

Seconded by: **Sen. Giordano**

Nomination declined by: **Rep. Harbinson**

Nominee: **Rep. Aronoff**

Nominated by: **VP MacKay**

Seconded by: **Sen. Lockridge**

Nomination declined by: **Rep. Aronoff**

Speaker Phelan: Rep. Chapman, would you accept the nomination if one were to come your way?

Rep. S. Chapman: Is there some way we can split the time commitment? Because I think we all already have something to do on those dates.

Speaker Phelan: I think it's just the amount of time in total.

Officer Kennelly: It can just be one member of Assembly. That will be an amendment.

Seconded by: **Rep. Counter**

Amendment found friendly and adopted

Year Representative

Nominee: **Rep. LeBlanc**

Nominated by: **VP MacKay**

Seconded by: **Sen. Giordano**

Nomination declined by: **Rep. LeBlanc**

Nominee: **Rep. Siedlec**

Nominated by: **Sen. Jamieson**

Seconded by: **Sen. Lockridge**

Nomination accepted by: **Rep. Siedlec**

General voting member of Assembly

Nominee: **Rep. Steenkamp**

Nominated by: Sen. Giordano

Seconded by: **Sen. Lockridge**

Nomination declined by: **Rep. Steenkamp**

Speaker Phelan: Who is available for the time commitment? Anybody to the nomination? Seeing none. My recommendation as Speaker is to strike the committee and come back next week if folks on the committee feel the need.

Sen. Giordano: Officer Kennelly, are you chair of the committee? Why don't we just say at the discretion of the chair, we can add another member?

Seconded by: **Rep. Counter**

Amendment found friendly and adopted

Speaker Phelan: All the nominees need to come up now. I will give each of the nominees a total of 30 seconds to tell us why they are suitable to be on this very important committee.

Sen. Giordano: I believe this is an important committee. I've had quite a bit of experience with ASUS with committees trying to reform rules. I want to bring all that experience and questions to flush this out and get out of it as much as we can. And hopefully we won't need to amend the constitution for a long time.

Rep. Counter: I want to learn more about policy writing. I'm vaguely familiar with ASUS and AMS policy. I want to learn to how to make it better and cleaner. I do hope we don't have to clean it for another 10 years.

Rep. Siedlec: This would be my first committee and I'd like to get more involved. This would be the first learning experience for me.

Speaker Phelan: I'd like you to step out of the room.

Sen. Giordano: OK

Rep. Counter: OK

Rep. Siedlec: OK

Speaker Phelan: Great. All were unanimous; we can clap. Congratulations, Representatives and Senators, etc.

Motion #7 - That ASUS formally strike the Governing Documents Review Committee, consisting of the Governance Officer, ASUS President, ASUS Vice President, Equity Commissioner, one (1) ASUS Senator, one (1) ASUS Representative to the AMS, one (1) Academic Representative, and one (1) Year Representative

Moved by: **Officer Kennelly**

Seconded by: **Pres. Baga**

In favor: **All**

Opposed: **None**

Abstentions: **Sen. Giordano, Rep. Counter, Rep. Siedlec**

Motion passes

Discussion Period

Review Committees

Speaker Phelan: I'll turn it over to Officer Kennelly. The Discussion Periods are to last for 30 minutes at maximum.

Officer Kennelly: I was just interested in Assembly's opinion on doing committees like what we just struck. **Go into the Governance Office and hoping Assembly accepts it.** Should this be a way of going forward by striking committees or should I just do them myself? They will be smaller in scale, but for things like rules of order and election rules, I think it should be done. Just wondering if we should do it internally or striking committees.

Rep. Harbinson: I think it would be a good idea to strike committees. I feel like it would be helpful going forward.

Rep. Counter: I do like the idea of striking committees, but sometimes if you have a committee with a complex unanimous opinion. But I want to make sure everyone keeps in mind nuance so it's not just a yes/no.

Sen. Giordano: In any case, what are these committees going to be used for? I see review and revision every year. I struggle to see what the benefit of doing that is. In running elections we have some level of consistency. Having participated in that, it shouldn't be a completely new roadmap every year. Not to necessarily shut down the capacity of Assembly if reform needs be, but I want something that's consistent over the years. I just want changes that are meaningful and have long-lasting outcomes. Maybe look at existing problems and so we can look for solutions to these problems and not having to deal with them every year.

Speaker Phelan: Any other debate or discussion? Officer Kennelly, was that helpful?

Officer Kennelly: Yes, thanks for the comments.

Speaker's Last Word

Speaker Phelan: *Obfuscation* - basically unnecessarily complex language usually designed to hide the true meaning of what's being said, often employed by politicians and bureaucrats. Thank you. This was very quick and productive. Thank you all for coming out.

We will be meeting here next week. Great. I hope you all can make it. Have a great semester. Can I get a motion to adjourn?

Moved by: **Rep. Counter**

Seconded by: **Rep. Steenkamp**

In favor: **All**

Opposed: **None**

Abstentions: **N/A**

Assembly adjourns