**Smith Commerce Society General Assembly**

**Sunday, February 21st, 2021**

Queen’s University is situated on the unceded traditional lands of the Anishinaabe, and following a forced relocation, the Haudenosaunee, peoples. To this day, it continues to be the home of the Anishinaabe and the Haudenosaunee peoples, as well as for a significant Métis community and First Peoples from other Nations across Turtle Island. In 1783, this land was colonized through the deed known as the “Crawford Purchase”. In return for this large, broad, and vague claim to territory, the Crown made a disproportionate payment in the form of blankets, clothing, guns, and ammunition.

As Commerce students, we urge you to think about how the success of Canada’s economy is directly dependent on the oppression and violent colonization of Indigenous peoples. Canada’s abundant natural resources have traditionally been stewarded and protected by Indigenous Nations since time immemorial. On the land we find ourselves on today, the Indigenous peoples protected the harvesting of land and water, along with four-legged and winged animals, with a treaty belt called One Dish One Spoon. Through the many attempts to challenge Indigenous peoples’ sovereignty over their lands and forcibly assimilate their cultures, we recognize the actions of the Canadian government as being a cultural genocide – and its effects are ongoing. As the incoming generation of young workers, it is your duty to learn about the territories you occupy, to learn about the peoples’ lands you are on, and to work towards a relationship that fosters reconciliation between all nations.

To acknowledge this traditional territory is to recognize its longer history, one predating the establishment of the earliest European contact. It is also to acknowledge this territory’s significance for the Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee peoples who lived and continue to live upon it; people whose practices and spiritualities are tied to the land and continue to develop in relationship to the territory and its other inhabitants today.

We are grateful to be able to live, learn, and play upon these lands.

This acknowledgement is only one contribution to each individual’s personal reconciliation; for what happens on and to these lands carries greater weight. Recognizing that we must make reconciliation a priority, ComSoc Assembly will work relentlessly to develop initiatives and policy to give all Commerce student a strong understanding of the importance of Indigeneity. To us, reconciliation means using our privilege to call for greater accountability amongst ourselves and our institutions, and to call for greater action to uphold Their lands and culture’s integrity.

**AGENDA**

1. **Approval of the Agenda**
2. **Approval of Minutes**
3. **Statements by Members**
	* Sebastian Monsalve – President
	* Michelle Kong – Vice President Student Affairs
	* William Van Vliet - Vice President of Operations
	* Kayvon Mihan – Advisory Board Chair
	* Victoria Macerola – COMM’22 President
	* Aryamaan Ghosal – COMM’23 President
	* Mahir Hamid – COMM ’24 President
4. **Presentation:** Meena Waseem – Equity Based Case Interview Question

The Details:

1. Equity and inclusion scenario-based questions
2. All co-chairs encouraged to implement in interviews
3. Candidates provided with resources
4. Purpose is to educate and normalize equity-based leadership
5. **Motions**
	* Claire Zhou – QEIC Ratification
	* Aryamaan Ghosal & Sam Hollinrake – International Student Relations Officers
	* Dante Aralihalli & Emily Prpic– Ranked Ballot Motion
	* Roya Shidfar & Victoria Macerola – SVF Motion
6. **Discussion Items**
	* Julien Curlier – Commission System Discussion
7. Is the Commission system effective, and could it be restructured?
8. Would removing the Commission system create more challenges/make it easier?
9. How many Club Liaisons would be appropriate and what should their role entail?
10. Do we need to replace Commissioners in AB Reviews and Co-Chair hiring, and if so, what are some solutions? Should roles like EDIIOs be more involved?
11. Any other thoughts/questions on this idea?

Meena: Just a clarification point. Are we talking about Commissioner roles between different areas?

Julien: When we talk about the role, it is the role they are holding right now and if that is the most effective way

Dante: I was just curious about the effect this would have on the student affairs portfolio. I could be wrong, but I think 8/12 roles are commissioners. What would this portfolio look like with these changes?

Julien: I haven’t given too much thought, which is why we are having this discussion. This is very important to understand so we can mitigate.

Tara: I was just going to jump in on point 4. I think there is definitely room to develop the portfolio like TSOs for hiring.

Seby: Could you clarify the difference between a liaison and commissioner

Julien: There are still questions that will need to be answered by co-chairs. This club liaison would act as a connecting point for questions you don’t know how to direct.

Tara: Just speaking on behalf of the incoming exec. We were looking at changing the commissioner role. Really appreciate you bringing this discussion forward.

Will: I’m just wondering, given the new separation of clubs and businesses, what the new relationship be with finance and the Commerce Office

Julien: I still think in this system we can maintain this by clubs financially dependent and independent.

Will: Currently, with our conferences, they are able to get the tax rebate of 10%. Would this relationship still exist because right now it is still a grey area.

Julien: I’m not an expert on it, but I do this it would still satisfy.

Michelle: I think this is a must needed change. However, I don’t know if it is justified to say that the complete system is flawed.

Julien: Another solution is potentially looking at clubs providing all their info in interviews. There are a whole bunch of solutions there and I’m interested to hear people’s thoughts.

Bill: We have a minute left. Cool. This brings us to the end of discussion

1. **Close of Assembly**
2. **SEO – Family Feud!**

Bill Le

Speaker of the Assembly

Smith Commerce Society

**ASSEMBLY REPORT**

**Name: Seby Monsalve**

**Position:** President

**Reporting Date:** Sunday, February 21st, 2021

**ITEMS TO REPORT? Yes**

Hi Assembly,

I hope week 4 is treating everyone well! A friendly reminder to change your Zoom name to include your pronouns and ComSoc position, additionally if you have the capacity to do so we would greatly invite you to join with cameras on. Below are a couple of updates and highlights from the Presidential Portfolio.

**Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Indigenization**

Meena and Kelly have held hiring consultations with a number of executives to discuss increasing accessibility, diversity, and equity-based skills in the hiring process. Kelly with the support of a broader working group is planning an Art Therapy Night with an Indigenous Art Therapist on March 6th, 2021. Additionally, Kelly is working on a panel series centring Indigenous voices on February 27th, March 13th and March 27th. This series will feature three different panels: Indigenous law and legal practices, Indigenous economic practices, and Indigenous medical practices.

**External Student Relations**

The ESRO Twitter Contest is in full force! Sam and Amanda have seen plenty of new followers on the account as an $100 giftcard is on the line to win. Be sure to enter before Monday Feb. 22nd, as the contest ends then. Sam and Amanda have also been working with the whole March Madness team to put together this awesome event for March Hiring. One of the initiatives they've done so far is creating a booklet featuring many different AMS clubs and teams that they will share with our commerce community.

**Academics**

Jordana has published the results to the Commerce Society Student Feedback Survey: EDII & Curriculum. The analysis represents responses from about 15-20 percent of the student

undergraduate population at Smith. The overarching mission of publishing this data stems from

our goal of transparency and accountability. This report is released to offer candid findings among a variety of different areas such as curriculum reform, mental health support and socioeconomic barriers.

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5f00c434050efa066045bd8f/t/60269ae3c21f05468c2d1c6e/1613142758312/ComSoc-EDII-Curriculum-Survey.pdf>

**Environment**

Libby is working with the AMS Environmental coalition on the Sustainable Student campaign. ComSoc will be hosting a second round of Cooking with Krish with a sustainable twist on February 24th at 6 pm as part of the campaign.

**Ombudsperson**

Claire delivered 40 wellness packages to students that registered for a care package during wellness week – thank you to Will, Kira and Kayvon for your labour in assembling the packages. Claire is bringing forth a motion for the ratification if Queen’s Entrepreneurship and Innovation Conference – this ratification aligns with MKVs vision of ensuring ComSoc is keeping pace with trends in the business landscape. Claire is also supporting two new student groups with the ratification process, Smith Corporate Social Responsibility and Queen’s University Indigenous Business Association.

**Talent Strategy**

The Talent Strategy team is working on finalizing Co-Chair hiring – with the support of the Student Affairs portfolio Co-Chair interviews were conducted during reading week and onboarding and training will begin the week of February 22nd. Sanuree and Sargun are supporting the Talent Strategy team with coordinating and implementing hiring equity training for all Co-Chair and leadership equivalents involved in March Hiring.

**Coffee Chat Initiative**

If you haven’t done so already, please reach out to your second coffee chat partner. If you haven’t been able to get a hold of your first coffee chat partner, please let MKV know as soon as possible. Everyone will be receiving their gift card to either Starbucks or Tim Hortons by Sunday March 21st.

**Data Privacy Policy**

Over the past 3 months, Sargun has been working on developing a new Data Infrastructure Policy for ComSoc. With all of the new data that we collect through the shop, agreements with the registrar, and in general, it is important that we legislate best practices and our policies. He has refreshed our outdated Website Usage Policy into a new ComSoc Privacy Policy that he will be presenting.

Thank you, everyone, for your labour and care towards improving and enhancing the student experience for our peers!

Seby

**INCLUDED IN STATEMENT BY MEMBERS?** Yes

**MOTIONS TO PRESENT? No**

**DISCUSSION ITEMS TO RAISE? No**

**ASSEMBLY REPORT**

**Name: Michelle Kong**

**Position: Vice** President of Student Affairs

**Reporting Date:** Sunday, February 21st, 2021

**ITEMS TO REPORT:**

Hi lovely people! Hope you everyone had a nice reading week!

**March Hiring Madness Week |** This coming week ComSoc will be putting on a full week of events geared at helping first years become informed about execs that interest them. Shout out to the amazing working group: Ethan, Vic, Annabelle, Jenny, Mahir, TS Team and ESROs! Events:

• Interviewing Workshop - Tuesday, February 23rd @ 5:30pm

• Exec Networking Fair - Thursday, February 25th @ 5:30pm

Please click going on the event and invite your lower year friends:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/911727822897101>

**Career Mash-up |** Mel and Kira, the Interns and CROs, alongside the CAC are planning Career Mash-up, a networking event geared towards exploring careers in different industries in a stress-free environment. NEW DATE: March 3rd @ 5:30pm! We have a panel of amazing alumni moderated by Paul Bowman followed by time to ask questions of upper years pursuing careers in various industries!

Commissioners | This past week the commissioners sat in on Co-Chair interviews, all executives executed the hiring cycle smoothly and we look forward to welcoming all the new co-chairs!

**Society Events |** Lots of great events to close out the month of February: QWIL Intersectionality in the Workplace Fireside Chat (Feb 25th), QPCG Investing & the Pandemic Panel (February 25th), QCLA Mock Trial (Feb 27th-28th). We also have QCEI running their annual conference February 26th and 27th!

**INCLUDED IN STATEMENT BY MEMBERS: Yes**

**MOTIONS TO PRESENT: No**

**DISCUSSION ITEMS TO RAISE: No**

**ASSEMBLY REPORT**

**Name: Will Van Vliet**

**Position:** Vice President of Operations

**Reporting Date:** Sunday, February 21st, 2021

**ITEMS TO REPORT:**

Hey everyone! I hope you all had a wonderful reading week and that you were able to find time to take a break from the hectic semester.

**Policy & Elections:**Once again, massive shoutout to Emily who curated a fantastic election process this past month. Running our first contested election in four years is no small feat, and Emily was also able to increase voter turnout two-fold, despite the virtual environment. Major props to Taylor, as well, for her responsiveness in running marketing for the elections and to Dante for hosting the pre-election forum. This has undoubtedly been an exceptional year for elections and policy.

**Special Events:**Marla and Elyssa have been working diligently on rounding out this year’s social events. Tonight, after assembly, they have organized a game of Family Feud (wooo) and are also planning ComSoc Appreciation Week and the Co-Chair Appreciation Gala. Huge thanks to these two for all the work they do, despite the pressure that COVID puts on their role.

**Technology:**Claire, Riya and Lauren are working together to build infrastructure for a ComSoc Teams profile to streamline and formalize internal communication. While we likely will not adopt the program this year, our CTOs and Business Administrator are laying the groundwork so that Teams will be functional for next year’s team.

**Marketing**: Taylor and Grace are publishing the final iteration of our brand guide equipped with all the fonts, logos, sample graphics and restrictions of ComSoc’s rebrand. As such, should you need access to the rebrand guidelines, please refer to the website resources!

Thanks so much everyone – looking forward to a great assembly!

**INCLUDED IN STATEMENT BY MEMBERS: Yes**

**MOTIONS TO PRESENT: No**

**DISCUSSION ITEMS TO RAISE: No**

**ASSEMBLY REPORT**

**Name: Kayvon Mihan**

**Position:** Advisory Board Chair

**Reporting Date:** Sunday, February 21st, 2021

**ITEMS TO REPORT?**

**FILL OUT THE POLICY OVERHAUL SURVEY AND SHARE IT WITH YOUR FRIENDS PLEASE!!!!!!!!!!**

https://survey.smith.queensu.ca/jfe/form/SV\_2hNh2UC4wU5FHhQ

**MKV 360 Degree**

**-** Jane is working on the aggregation of the review for the executive and will share the results with the team within the next week

**Ratifications**

- AB is continuing to support OBuddy Claire with the ratification pipeline, and we are excited to see

**AB Hiring**

- Chair Applications closed Friday the 19th! We are aiming to turn this over by early this week and proceed directly into AB Director hiring.

**OVERFLO:** Congratulations to QCMHA and Roya for securing full funding from the commerce office for the administration and subscription to Overflo for the winter semester trial!

As always, please reach out if you have any questions or would like to collaborate on an idea with AB. We are very open to any ideas that assembly and commerce students have to offer to help better ComSoc!

**INCLUDED IN STATEMENT BY MEMBERS?**

**Yes**

**MOTIONS TO PRESENT?**

**Yes  (1. Ranked ballot motion)**

**DISCUSSION ITEMS TO RAISE?**

**Yes (1. Commission system discussion)**

**ASSEMBLY REPORT**

**Name: Calvin Schilstra & Mac Dean**

**Position:** Senators

**Reporting Date:** Sunday, February 21st, 2021

**ITEMS TO REPORT: N/A**

**INCLUDED IN STATEMENT BY MEMBERS:**No

**MOTIONS TO PRESENT:**No

**DISCUSSION ITEMS TO RAISE:**No

**ASSEMBLY REPORT**

**Name: Angie Tang**

**Position:** Upper AMS Representative

**Reporting Date:** Sunday, February 21st, 2021

**ITEMS TO REPORT:** None

**INCLUDED IN STATEMENT BY MEMBERS:** No

**MOTIONS TO PRESENT:** None

**DISCUSSION ITEMS TO RAISE:** None

**ASSEMBLY REPORT**

**Name: Joshua Cheung**

**Position:** Upper AMS Representative

**Reporting Date:** Sunday, February 21st, 2021

**ITEMS TO REPORT: NA**

**INCLUDED IN STATEMENT BY MEMBERS:** Yes

**MOTIONS TO PRESENT:** None

**DISCUSSION ITEMS TO RAISE:** None

**ASSEMBLY REPORT**

**Name: Georgia Rae**

**Position:** Comm ’21 President

**Reporting Date:** Sunday, February 21st, 2021

**ITEMS TO REPORT: None**

**INCLUDED IN STATEMENT BY MEMBERS: No**

**MOTIONS TO PRESENT: No**

**DISCUSSION ITEMS TO RAISE: No**

**ASSEMBLY REPORT**

**Name: Victoria Macerola**

**Position:** Comm ’22 President

**Reporting Date:** Sunday, February 21st, 2021

**ITEMS TO REPORT:**

Hi everyone! One really exciting item to report on my end:

- Secured a guest speaker for Commerce students

 - Mark Tewksbury:

Mark Tewksbury first came to prominence as a record-breaking backstroke swimmer. His sixteen-year athletic career included 21 national titles, 7 world records, Olympics gold, silver and bronze medals, numerous awards and a cover appearance on TIME magazine. When he publicly came out in 1998, Mark was one of the first openly gay Olympic champions in the world and has been a leader with the  global LGBTQI2S+ movement ever since. In 2015, he was one of three pioneers featured in the Canadian Museum for Human Rights exhibit recognizing human rights trailblazers in sport. In 2019, Mark was awarded a Muhammad Ali Humanitarian Award for his work in gender inclusion and sexual diversity. Most recently, Mark was appointed Companion of the Order of Canada, the nation’s highest civilian honour. At any given time, there is a limit of 165 Canadians that carry this distinction and honour.”

 - Decided to open it up to everyone

 - Sign up basis

 - March 25th from 5-6pm EST

**INCLUDED IN STATEMENT BY MEMBERS:**

Yes

**MOTIONS TO PRESENT:**

None

**DISCUSSION ITEMS TO RAISE:**

None

**ASSEMBLY REPORT**

**Name: Aryamaan Ghosal**

**Position:** COMM '23 President

**Reporting Date:** Sunday, February 21st, 2021

**End Paper Cups Project**

In accordance with the project timeline, the proposal has been refined and will be sent out to Queen's Hospitality by the end of next week to review and get feedback. Looking forward to meeting with Hospitality by the end of month to discuss the implementation of the project.

**International Student Initiatives**

* International Student Relations Officer (ISRO): Sam and I have worked tirelessly to shape and bring forward a new position on ComSoc, aiming to create a Smith Commerce Society, which strives to advocate for the unique needs of international students, and contribute to closing this gap
* I am working with QUIC and ORT Director to reshape orientation week to cater unique needs of international students
* I am working with the AMS on various initiatives to help reduce the financial burdens for international students
* I will be meeting with Lori, Mofi, Mandy, and Amr to discuss initiatives that will catalyze actionable change at Smith to creating an environment where international students do not feel left out
* I have been appointed to sit on the exec team of a new International Student Caucus to discuss and drive initiatives
* I am working with ASUS to conduct a university wide analysis on what Queen’s does for international students in comparison to other universities in Ontario

**INCLUDED IN STATEMENT BY MEMBERS:**Yes

**MOTIONS TO PRESENT:**Yes**–**International Student Relations Officer

**DISCUSSION ITEMS TO RAISE:**No

**ASSEMBLY REPORT**

**Name: Mahir Hamid**

**Position:** COMM ’24 President

**Reporting Date:** Sunday, February 21st, 2021

**ITEMS TO REPORT:**

**Policy Change – Electoral Reform**

* Working to make elected positions more contested
* Consulted with all the year presidents and elected members
* Putting forth a motion today with Dante, Ranked choice voting
* Having elected members showcase their campaigns
* First year President position needs mentorship!

**March Hiring Madness Week**

* Working with the TSC team and VPSA team to host March Hiring Madness week!
* Interview prep event
* Exec networking night event

**INCLUDED IN STATEMENT BY MEMBERS: Yes**

**MOTIONS TO PRESENT: No**

**DISCUSSION ITEMS TO RAISE: No**

**ASSEMBLY MOTION**

**Being put forth by: Claire Zhou**

**Being put forth on:** Sunday, February 21st, 2021

**WHEREAS**ComSoc ’s mission is to provide executive clubs that reflect the business environment.

**AND**Queen’s Entrepreneurship and Innovation Committee (QEIC) is an executive that offers experience in the Entrepreneurship and Innovation space

**BIRT**Queen’s Commerce Leadership Summit (QCLS) be rebranded to Smith Leadership in Business Conference (SLBC) as per Section 5.5 of Operations Policy.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Key Definitions:

Ratification: The process used to add a club to the Society, effective immediately

**Resources:**

Society Composition Policy – Society Ratification

**Context:**

Queen’s Entrepreneurship and Innovation Committee has rebranded over the past couple of years and have become a successful club that provides valuable experience in  the Entrepreneurship and Innovation space.

**Rationale:**

The ratification of QEIC is part of the process to provide clubs that reflect the business environment. Entrepreneurship and innovation is an essential part of the business experience, which is currently not represented in ComSoc’s club offerings.

Akshay: Thanks so much Claire. We are so excited to be discussing the potential relationship between QEIC and Comsoc.

Emily: We could sit here and tell you how amazing QEIC, but we thought you might want to hear it from our friend Mark Cuba

Akshay: One common question we get is why leave AMS. This comes down to 3 reasons.

* 1. Lack of available resources
	2. Minimum financial support (QEIC does not collect student fees)
	3. No advisory board to offer QEIC recommendations

We strive to educate, inspire, and connect. All 3 of these key aspects really tie together to support our mandate.

Emily: We do start-up series, flagship conference, panel events, and now membership events. For the start-up series, we host this evening event that allows students to network and hear from experienced entrepreneurs in trendy setting.

Akshay: The next event is our flagship conference. This is a full day conference over the past 2 years. The day is filled with keynote speakers, a start-up fair, a case competition and catered meals. This past year, QEIC hosted a virtual 3-hour summit open to all students across Canada

Emily: Historically, QEIC has done 2 panel events. These events help showcase the innovation and entrepreneurial spirit in preexisting companies and within every industry. These events also work to strengthen our relationship with Comsoc and AMS clubs

Akshay: The last event I am so proud to introduce is membership events. This program aims to connect students and inspire growth, providing young entrepreneurs with the tools, resources, and connections they need to start or grow a successful venture

Emily: Over the last 3 years, we have had over 230 total delegates. We really pride ourselves in bringing in other people from other programs.

Akshay: So, QEIC is cash flow positive with a couple thousand dollars in RBC. That being said, we are flexible to move banks if necessary. All of our events have been net positive and have over $4000 in the bank.

Bill: Thanks guys, any questions. Libby

Libby: About leaving the AMS, I was just wondering if you considered a dual ratification. Because you said you have such a diverse group, it might be an opportunity to maintain the relationship and connection.

Akshay: Great question. We have given thought to this. However, AMS does not offer any value add at this point. Since students outside of Commerce can still sign in to Comsoc shop and register, we think this could be a good change for QEIC.

Bill: Mark, go ahead.

Mark: thanks for coming and chatting about this. I was just wondering what your rationale for the

Emily: After thorough discussion with MKV and AB, we found it to be best placed under the internal committee, rather than external. Does that answer your question?

Mark: Yes, sorry I forgot I was still muted.

Bill: Any other questions? Ok motion to move to discussion? Motion passed. Libby, go ahead.

Libby: I’m not sure how many people were around the last time this was proposed. I think they have changed a lot in a good way. There is a gap for entrepreneurship, and I encourage all voting members to vote inf avor

Seby: MKV is fully in favor. I think entrepreneurship is wildly important and not currently in place.

Kayvon: Just want to thank Claire for bringing this forward. We had a meeting with them, and we were very impressed. That being said, AB is fully in favor.

Bill: Motion to move to a vote? Motion passed

Motion passed (100% favor)

**ASSEMBLY MOTION**

**Being put forth by: Aryamaan Ghosal & Sam Hollinrake**

**Being put forth on:** February 21st, 2021

**WHEREAS**there is significant under-representation of International Students within the Commerce Society

**AND**this contributes to the disconnect between our International and Domestic Student Communities leading to a greater negative impact on international student experience at Smith

**BIRT**the creation of two International Student Relations Officer positions on the Smith Commerce Society to advocate for international student needs in assembly and other key discussion forums, would contribute to closing this gap.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

**Key Definitions:**

**ISRO:**International Student Relations Officer

**International Student:**A Smith Commerce student who is currently registered as an international student at Queen’s University (ie, is paying international tuition)

**IS:** International Student

**DS:**Domestic Student

**Resources:** Slide Deck

**Context:**

Upon the establishment of the ‘internationalatqueens’ Instagram platform and multiple student stories being submitted regarding international student inaccessibility to opportunities within the Commerce Society during the previous 2020-2021 March Hiring cycle as well as other negative experiences that international students continue to face during virtual learning, this revealed an overall bigger consideration for the lack of representation of international students within the Commerce Society and its affiliates.

**Rationale:**

By creating a position designated for International Students to chair allows for more IS representation within the Commerce Society, opportunity for international students' concerns to be voiced and considered during key decision making periods and allows for the growth of accessibility as well as encouragement from the entire international student community to increase their involvement within the Commerce Society.

Aryamaan: Sam and I have been working very hard on developing this position.

Sam: Before we begin, I want you to look around at the Comsoc members and identify how many international students we have. As you can see, this is less than the amount of fingers on your hands.

Aryamaan: Currently, there is a huge under-representation of International students within the Commerce Society, contributing to a greater picture disconnect between our International and Domestic students.

Sam: We were able to consult with a variety of people to get a better sense of the need for this role

Aryamaan: This individual will act as a liaison between Comsoc and the International Student Centre

Sam: Some of the criteria is:

Must be an international student

Ability to communicate with the greater International Students community and be wary of diverse needs

Strong understanding of changing international students

Ability to work under less supervision

Ability to initiate Comsoc projects

Aryamaan: Our vision over the next couple of years is to create a Smith Commerce Society, which strives to advocate for unique needs of international students, and foster an environment open to all

Sam: In the immediate term, we want to see this individual establishing relationships with stakeholders and be included in all future decision making from position acquisition.

Aryamaan: In identifying the role, we have been able to analyze the risks and potential mitigation strategies. These are tokenism, defining an is, and if a DS applies.

Bill: Thanks guys

Mahir: Awesome presentation. I have seen that a lot of the responsibilities pertain to. Why didn’t you make this an elected position?

Aryamaan: We wanted to give them autonomy and the ability to facilitate different projects

Emily: From a policy standpoint, I would like to see this put into composition policy. On that note, I don’t know if you have any thoughts about getting it written down.

Sam: If the conversation goes positively today, we definitely will look into this.

Meena: My one concern is that if we haven integrated this position into a team, this seems like a lot of problem solving and decision making. Have you considered creating this under a team?

Sam: I definitely see where you’re coming from. I think this impacts the individual we can hire. If we see them a lot more involved with one team or another, we can look into integrating them into this. We just want to give them as much freedom to look at potential similarities and cross-collaboration.

Julien: I have 2 questions. One of the key staeholders you consulted with. I noticed there was not an international consultation listed and was wondering if you had consulted with one.

Aryamaan: I am an international student myself and by creating the Instagram, we have created a community where we can talk about opportunities such as this.

Julien: Awesome. My second question is how would this work with other organizations that are rebranding to fit a similar capacity?

ARyamaan: It’s hugely related to acting as a liaison. There are many chances for collaboration with these groups.

Seby: Thank you for your labor. In terms of logistics, where is this policy sitting?

Sam: This might’ve been a logistical mix-up on our end. With what Emily was saying, I think this is definitely something we need to look into.

Seby: Point of information for Bill. Is there a motion on hand we are passing?

Bill: So, this would require an amendment. What we can probably do is finish out Q and A and then consider tabling this until next assembly.

Seby: Alternatively, we can vote on the position itself and then have a clerical change afterward.

Bill: That could work too. For efficiency, I think we could do the vote and they have a separate conversation.

Seby: From my point of view, I’m not sure we can actually house this anywhere. Emily?

Emily: I don’t think this is just a clerical issue I can correct afterwards.

Bill: Libby

Libby: I don’t want to muddy the waters. Do students actually have the ability to fact check if candidates are international students?

Sam: I think it’s a self-declaration thing. We could consider looking at ways to mitigate this. However, I don’t see this as something someone would do.

Bill: Motion to table this until next assembly. Motion passed

**ASSEMBLY MOTION**

**Being put forth by:** Dante Aralihalli & Emily Prpic

**Being put forth on:** Sunday February 21, 2021

**WHEREAS** the current first-past-the-post electoral system leads to candidates winning contested elections with well-below majority support

**AND** the FPTP system has been identified as a barrier preventing more students from seeking these positions

**BIRT** that section 5 of Elections and Referenda policy be amended as outlined below.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

**Key Definitions:**

**First-Past-The-Post Voting: An electoral system in which the candidate with the most votes wins the election irrespective of vote share.**

**Ranked Choice Voting: An electoral system in which voters rank candidates in order of preference ensuring that the winner has the most widespread support among the voters.**

**Resources:** [Elections and Referenda Policy](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1wbgJY24Kg03H4y_AUzNeBsmYPILosaVE/view?usp=sharing)

**Context:** Based on the discussion from last assembly and the consultations completed by the Policy team, there seems to be strong consensus to implement ranked choice voting.

**Rationale:** Ranked Choice Voting will allow more candidates to feel comfortable seeking these positions, it will limit the negative intensity within the campaign period and allow candidates to win with a mandate from their class.

Elections and Referenda Policy

5.3 Voting will be done by plurality through a ranked choice voting system, where voters rank as many candidates as they desire, in their order of preference.

Dante: At the risk of repeating myself, I don’t want to reiterate what we talked about during last assembly. I felt comfortable after our last discussion bringing it forward as a motion. Essentially, this means that whoever gets the most vote wins. Given the first-year presidential election, we identified that it would be nice that, a winner of the election, have a mandate going into their position. The hope of this is to inspire more people to run. We have spoken to a lot of candidates that thought of running and didn’t end up doing it because of a relationship with another candidate running. Also, this is about turnout. Some of it has to do with marketing efforts, but the hope is that a lot less elections will be uncontested. The 4th point is ensuring that the candidate is elected with a mandate. The thinking is that the student body will actually be voting based on what the candidate’s mission is. That’s it, I’m happy to open it up to questions.

Bill: Thanks Dante. 10 minutes for Q and A.

Kayvon: I’m hoping to just ask a question about voting infrastructure. Do the current emails we receive support this form of voting?

Emily: Yes, assuming this gets passed, it won’t change anything.

Bill: Seby, go ahead.

Seby: Thanks for this. I’ll start with a question for you Dante. Has this been done at any other universities?

Dante: Not at Queen’s, however, I have looked at other undergraduate programs and found several have. We weren’t able to directly reach out to people in direct position s fof leadership. In terms of actual difference, the member who did respond to me, said there was really no negative impacts identified.

Seby: Did you speak to any other of the

Victoria: Have you thought about how this will be instructed to students?

Dante: Of course. The plan is to, if we get this passed, we ensure there is. Marketing push and we highlight these changes and make it clear how it works. We want to hammer and comb this message as part of the process.

Bill: Seby

Seby: In election policy, is there anything indicates that there are a certain number of votes that need to be placed to be a verified vote?

Emily: No

Seby: Thank you

Bill: Three more minutes on the timer. Any other questions? Motion to move to discussion. Motion passed.

Mahir: Personally, I think this would be extremely beneficial, especially with first years. With the presidential election, it was hard to pick one. I think this will help with turnout.

Kayvon: Just wanted to add some information about research. If you go to this website (I will post the link), it lists all the schools that do this voting system. At first, I did have a doubt of this type of voting structure. However, Dante helped clear that up.

Bill: Anyone else? Ok motion to move to vote. Motion passed.

Motion Passed (89% favor)

**ASSEMBLY MOTION**

**Being put forth by: Roya Shidfar and Victoria Macerola**

**Being put forth on:** February 17th, 2021

**WHEREAS** The Commerce Society student body could derive significant value from a keynote event hosted by renowned speaker Mark Tewksbury who will speak to topics related to grit, resilience, persistence, motivation, and adapting to change.

**AND** There is the opportunity to host an event accessible to Commerce students

**BIRT** the SVF is charged $1,500 to support the initiative

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

**Resources:**Monetary Policy Section 3

**Context:**

Mark Tewksbury first came to prominence as a record-breaking backstroke swimmer. His sixteen-year athletic career included 21 national titles, 7 world records, Olympics gold, silver and bronze medals, numerous awards and a cover appearance on TIME magazine. When he publicly came out in 1998, Mark was one of the first openly gay Olympic champions in the world and has been a leader with the global LGBTQI2S movement ever since. In 2015, he was one of three pioneers featured in the Canadian Museum for Human Rights exhibit recognizing human rights trailblazers in sport. In 2019, Mark was awarded a Muhammad Ali Humanitarian Award for his work in gender inclusion and sexual diversity. Most recently, Mark was appointed Companion of the Order of Canada, the nation’s highest civilian honour. At any given time, there is a limit of 165 Canadians that carry this distinction and honour.

Roya: Victoria approached me about this project about a week ago. I am super excited to be working alongside Victoria. If you have any questions, I will be here to answer.

Victoria: Good evening everyone. I will try to keep this as short as possible. My proposal is $1200 of SVF funds for a guest speaker for all Commerce students. So, Mark Tewksbury is a record-breaking backstroke swimmer. His sixteen-year athletic career included 21 national titles, 7 world records, Olympics gold, silver and bronze medals, numerous awards. I chose Mark because I think he speaks to topics that are important for those in the program. He has such an inspiring story and I think a lot of people could benefit from hearing it. There are 2 criterion for SVF funds. These are accessibility and benefit. In both cases, Mark hits the criteria. I really think that this would add value for students.

Bill: Meena, go ahead.

Meena: Just a quick question. Have you touched base with an equity-based groups? I think these groups would love to hear this.

Victoria: I have not, but I will definitely be doing that.

Bill: Calvin

Calvin: I was just wondering if there was an opportunity to record this. That way, students that have time zone issues could still access it.

Victoria: I definitely can ask

Dante: If this is an event for everyone, why are you using your year budget, as opposed to taking the full amount from SVF.

Victoria: Originally, I planned it for just COMM’22. Since I had the allocation, I chose to run with that.

Dante: It just seems like if it’s for everyone, I think the whole total should come out of SVF.

Victoria: I mean I don’t necessarily know the process to amend the amount. I’m not sure Bill

Bill: If you know the amount, we can amend it before voting on it.

Roya: That’s a decision you can make Victoria.

Victoria: I have no objection with the amendment.

Roya: So, it’s friendly? Ok

Mahir: If you’re thinking about opening it up to everyone, you could ask all the year presidents to contribute.

Roya: Are you suggesting the $1000 be split between the 4 presidents?

Mahir: Yes

Roya: Between the 2 options, I don’t know if there is quite a difference. Either way, it would be rectified.

Libby: For the sign-up, would you consider moving it to Comsoc Shop? Technically, if it is on Comsoc Shop, it is open to all students. Again, I don’t know if it is friendly to have it open.

Victoria: I think that is a good way for making the link accessible to everyone.

Bill: We will move to discussion.

Seby: It’s great to see senior leaders putting together events that go beyond their mandate.

Libby: It’s a great event and I have had the opportunity to see Mark speak and the energy he created was so great.

Bill: Anyone else? Ok, motion to move to a vote. Motion passed.

Motion Passed (100% favor)