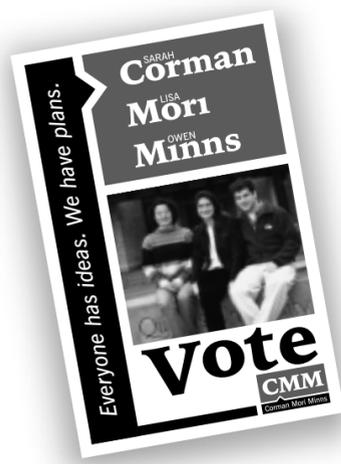




On February 10 and February 11, 1999, the members of the Alma Mater Society elected the team of Corman·Mori·Minns to be their leaders for the 1999-2000 year.

What happened to the campaign promises? What has this team done for you? Read on and find out.



As the next Executive Election approaches, we are working through the final four months of our term, and we would like to show you what we have done and share our plans for the coming term. Of course, none of this would have happened without all our co-workers!

Our campaign platform contained 'bottom line' goals, presented again here. Some we have accomplished as planned, some remain to be accomplished in the coming months, and others have evolved into different (improved!) plans to meet the same need.

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"Reduce your cost of living outside of tuition costs"

The AMS offered all students the *What's Next* day planner for free this year, rather than just frosh. You may be one of the thousands of students benefiting from the new low-cost AMS Student Dental Plan. The AMS Foodbank has expanded its service to be able to help more students this year and the AMS is producing a helpful resource guide for students living on low incomes. This term we are investigating a possible mini-pharmacy for the JDUC to offer savings on prescription costs.

On a more distant horizon, we are making basic plans to eventually eliminate the AMS Student Activity Fee. We are also working to ensure that the University provides adequate housing options for the increasing number of students so that rent costs do not skyrocket in the village. Unfortunately, even as we implement these savings and plan new ones, other costs are increasing. Students face many costs related to being a student; we have helped in some areas, but we realize that there is much to be done.

"Expand the P&CC to improve service and product quality"

After a summer of planning and construction, the Publishing and Copy Centre was expanded and improved for the return of students in September. The quality and availability of P&CC-produced course materials has been greatly improved this year, and new computer systems have improved other areas of customer service.

New technology in the 'backshop' has also expanded the capability of the store to produce the variety of materials that students demand, both for their school work and for their personal projects. The P&CC is now able to service the Queen's Community more efficiently and provide a broader range of services in a nicer atmosphere.

"Make hospitality tents a regular occurrence at events"

If you were at any Golden Gaels Football game this autumn, you would have seen these in action, and if you are of age, you may have even had a drink or two. In addition, several Queen's Entertainment Agency productions, both in the fall and those planned for this semester, include a licensed area. Alumni and students alike have appreciated the expansion of this service in the 1999-2000 year.

"Lobby the university to commit to a student aid program that meets all financial need, to outline in advance how additional student fees will be used to improve the quality of education, and to set tuition to allow predictability and financial planning."

The AMS has lobbied the University in all of these areas. We lobbied for a long-term commitment to achieving a needs-blind admission policy whereby any student admitted would be provided with an assistance package that would enable attendance at Queen's regardless of financial resources. We lobbied for improved Quality Improvement Plans to demonstrate to the entire University community the specific improvement students will see as a result of their increased tuition dollars. We also lobbied for a multi-year tuition fee schedule that would allow students to plan of the entire cost of their degree and would protect in-program students from unexpected increases.

"Actively work with student governments from other universities"

The AMS has established successful partnerships and coalitions with student governments across the country. The President is currently representing all of the Undergraduate students in the province on the Council of Ontario Universities Task Force on Student Financial Assistance; the Vice-president (Operations) is a part of the Board of Directors of the Canadian Campus Business Consortium, developing business opportunities on campus that are of benefit to students; the Vice-president (University Affairs) is meeting with KCVI students, easing local tensions.

During the summer, the AMS and other student governments joined together to raise awareness about post-secondary education during the provincial election. We are also working with other campuses to recover lost assets related to Travel CUTS. The Executive and other AMS leaders have participated in regional, provincial, and national initiatives, meetings and conferences on behalf of AMS members.

"Build relationships outside of Queen's to bring greater funding"

Efforts to increase outside support of on-campus student activities have not yielded as much benefit as hoped. Some projects, such as an ASUS Orientation Week CD-ROM that will be available early in 2000, have benefited from new funding, but other projects have not received desired levels of support.

We have, however, been involved in developing the new partnership between Queen's and Coca-Cola; this arrangement will yield more than \$5 million to support student priorities. At this time, renewed vigour is needed on the part of the AMS and the winter term will see continued work on existing projects and a greater focus on development of improved structures for the 2000-2001 year and beyond.

"Evaluate the effectiveness of the University Advisor on Equity position"

Throughout the summer, we consulted a broad range of individuals throughout the university community about the evolution of Queen's equity structures. Subsequently, we drafted a proposal suggesting several modifications be made to our current structures. This term, we will be working with the Equity Advisor and the Dean of Student Affairs' Office to develop an improved system for supporting the equity needs of students.

"Reduce class sizes with a feasible reallocation of resources to faculty"

This has proved to be trickier than we first thought. We have consistently lobbied for increased attention to class sizes and the hiring of more faculty. We have focussed on these things especially in relation to discussions about the possibility of increasing enrolment.

We have recently received the Report on the 1999-2000 Annual Budget and will pick through that document and the audited 1998-1999 financial statements to determine the possibility of an effective reallocation of resources.

"Provide concrete service quality guarantees"

Every time a student pays any money to the AMS, they should be demanding the best possible product or service. The development of a new 'secret shopper' program, improved training for service management, and the development of improved service-specific employee expectations have made some headway towards improving customer service, but we have still not arrived at a monolithic codification of sweeping guarantees in our operations. Our commitment to effective and responsible management has had positive effects, but can still be improved upon. This remains an area of development for the winter term.

"Force the issue of post-secondary education to the forefront of election debates"

The AMS did a number of things in preparation for the provincial election. In conjunction with Queen's Staff and Faculty Associations an all-candidates meeting was organized on campus. A bulk-delivered email was distributed to Queen's students encouraging them to vote and providing them with information via a website created to educate student voters. We worked with our counterparts across the province to raise public awareness through a co-ordinated radio-ad campaign and the mass distribution of informative flyers.

"Implement and enforce a TA evaluation and training system"

The development of a system of evaluating TAs will remain a long term objective of the AMS that will benefit from co-operation with the SGPS. Work has begun on the implementation of a voluntary system for TAs interested in receiving an evaluation, however we have yet to implement a mandatory system.

The training of TAs is already mandatory. We have lobbied departments to comply with the requirement for training and have widely distributed a report on Teaching Assistants. In addition, a new recognition award for TAs has been created to promote excellence in Teaching Assistance.

"Establish a mandatory IDC professor assessment system"

Despite our work to date, this has proved to be something that we must work toward as a long term objective. In the mean time, the Academic Affairs Commission has devised a Mid-Year Review system in which interested professors can request a team of trained students to observe their class and provide feedback to improve teaching quality.

"Increase the innovation in programs in classes"

Although this is a difficult objective to measure, we have worked to investigate the concept of innovation in our classrooms. We employed a summer researcher who conducted a comparative study of some of Queen's programs with those of other universities across the country. We now have some useful information about opportunities for innovation that Queen's might like to explore and need to present it to various Departments this term. Otherwise, Queen's moved up from 5th to 3rd the Maclean's "Most Innovative" ranking this year. We are sure it is somehow entirely our doing!

"Improve Safety in Victoria Park"

The issue of safety in Kingston parks remains a priority. Initially we proposed the installation of a blue light in Victoria Park, but after much consultation with Campus Security and the Kingston Police we have found that there are more feasible and effective solutions. A better lit, straight line path through the park has been proposed and we are currently pursuing the option with the City of Kingston and the Kingston Police.

"Expand the Skylight Lounge into the Upper Ceilidh"

Along with the proposed expansion of the JDUC into the space above the Queen's Pub, this project will be a focus of the winter term. We would like to rejuvenate the Upper Ceilidh to create a more useful space that can be more useful to student, like the Skylight Lounge; for meeting, studying, hanging out, working or whatever.

Before you elect your next AMS executive, examine their ideas and plans. And if you have ideas, plans, or criticisms of your own, get involved. The AMS will be hiring new directors, commissioners, officers, managers, assistant managers, deputy commissioners, committee chairs, staff and volunteers in the upcoming months. A lot more can be done with your help than without. Application information will appear in the Journal or contact the AMS at 533 · 2725.

