



***Q&A: How to Write a Motion
and Referendum Question***

What is a Motion?

- A piece of business requiring approval (budgetary, hires, etc.)
- A mandate for the AUS to fulfill
- A stance on a certain issue

General Assembly & AUS Council

Whereas Clauses: for background information as you see fit. Each whereas clause should add a new piece of information.

Whereas, the administration banned cell phone usage on campus, effective Winter 2014,

Whereas, it is one of the mandates of the AUS to represent Arts students,

Whereas, Arts students require the usage of cell phones to communicate with other students on projects, clubs, etc.

Whereas, cell phones contain important features such as calendars and other organizational tools to help students,

Whereas, cell phones are important for safety.

Resolved Clauses: these are not informational, but rather the specific mandates based on the information in the whereas clauses

Think: “Action Items”

Features of “good” resolved clauses:

- Confer and define responsibility (to a specific executive, committee?)
- Define ownership (the AUS, AUS Council, the AUS Executive...)
- Set goals that can be reasonably achieved – deadlines?
- Targets for measuring progress
- Clarity!

Be it resolved, that the AUS take a stance against the cell phone ban,

Be it further resolved, that the AUS VP Academic form a working group to lobby the administration to overturn the cell phone policy

Be it further resolved, that the AUS Executive write a public letter to the Associate Vice Deputy-Provost of Campus Technologies denouncing this decision and submit this letter to campus media for publication,

Be it further resolved, that the activities of the working group be reported to AUS Council by the second-to-last Council session of the Winter semester

What is a Referendum?

- Amending the AUS Constitution
- Anything FEE related
- A question to be addressed by all AUS members

Online vote open to ALL AUS members.

Ask your question!

- *“Do you agree...” “Do you support...” Are great ways to start.*
- Ex: Do you agree to renew the \$0.75 fee per semester (for full-time and part-time students) to fund the Sexual Assault Centre of McGill Student Society (Fall 2010 through Winter 2013)?
- **Be very specific with the wording of your question – do not allow for multiple interpretations!!!**

Getting a Referendum Question on the Ballot

- *A referendum may be brought to Council by AUS Councillors and ratified by a majority, 21 days prior to polling*

OR

- *150 students may sign a petition-based referendum and bring it Elections AUS, 21 days prior to polling (**REFERENDUM KIT**)*

DEADLINE: OCTOBER 30

Forming a “Yes” or “No” Committee

- ***AUS Councilors** may form a “Yes” or “No” Committee through a regular motion of Council*
- *A chairperson for the committee shall be appointed in the same motion*
- *Arts students can also form “Yes” or “No” Committees by gathering signatures*
- *There may only be one of each committee*

Other Details

- Each referendum question must be in both French and English – the AUS can translate questions for you
- Before gathering signatures, you may want to discuss your question with the AUS President, president.aus@mail.mcgill.ca
- Fee related questions must be submitted to the DPSLL office for approval!

IMPORTANT DATES

Submission Period – Now until Oct. 30, 5 PM (or approved at Council that evening)

Campaign Period – November 18, 9 AM – November 26, 5 PM

Polling Period – November 21, 9 AM – November 26, 5 PM

For more information see the Electoral Bylaws on the AUS Website, or contact the CRO (elections.aus@mail.mcgill.ca).

<http://ausmcgill.com/en/constitution-and-bylaws/>