



Report of the AUS President – January 29, 2014



This semester has been off to a busy start, and the nature of my work is quite a bit different from summer and first semester (more events and engagement, and less organizational and bureaucratic work). With that said, I feel like I have been “out there” more and working with more students—so that’s exciting. I continue to be impressed with the ongoing new initiatives taking place this year in the different portfolios. Winter is always an exciting time here, despite the fridity!

← **Tubing during AUS Executive In-City Retreat was such a rush (literally)!**

AUS Inc.

- Audit – draft statement received! This is historic for AUS. See Sam’s report for more details.
- AUS Insurance has been renewed, effective until January 31, 2015. ☺
- **Safety first:** The AUS Execs will be getting fire extinguisher training, and following an insurance inspection, we will be having additional fire extinguishers installed in the Lounge & office.

Work Your B.A.

- Work Your B.A. has been going so well – great attendance at events so far! This week we have the NGO Fair, debate on unpaid internships, speaker from HR at the UN, grad school panel, and Social Science Research Symposium/ wine & cheese. Please continue to spread the word.

Computer Labs & Laptop Lending

- ACLFC student members have been appointed; we met last week to discuss projects for the year. This week I’ll be meeting with the manager of the Education lab about their laptop lending program as well. Soon we will be able to purchase our equipment pending approval.

ASEF Bylaws

- Work Study Bylaws submitted for ratification tonight, as per mandate passed at Nov. 27 Council to update these bylaws. This has been approved by the Work Study Administrator.
- Referendum question on Work Study payment for AUS Execs will be up to vote soon. Exciting!

Library Partnership Committee

- We will be meeting next week to finalize our proposal before the upcoming AUIF meeting.
- Then, we will be looking into institutionalizing the AUS LPC into the AUIF Bylaws... this will be part of the larger AUIF overhaul that Sam is planning.



Faculty Affairs

- **People, Processes, & Partnerships:** Town Hall took place Wednesday, January 22. We had a good mix of students, professors, and administrative staff, though I must say I was a bit disappointed with the student turnout. Special thank you to the Councillors who did attend the Town Hall and helped spread the word. It was a good opportunity for constructive dialogue.
 - I attended SSMU Council last Thursday to speak against a motion brought up about the PPP. My reason for going was because I thought it would set a bad precedent for SSMU to take a stance on an issue that is specific to the Faculty of Arts.
- Faculty of Arts meeting Tuesday, January 28 – will report orally.
- “McGill for Humanities”: a great new initiative on the importance of humanities at McGill – I encourage you to attend the upcoming sessions! www.mcgillforhumanities.com

Elections

- DROs have been hired; hiring up for approval tonight.
- **Interested in Running for AUS? Info Session**, Tuesday, Feb. 10 at 6pm in the Lounge – nominations open on Feb. 14 (what better way to celebrate Valentine’s Day than to collect signatures?), so if you’re interested in learning more about the AUS, come talk to one of us!
- **Departmental elections:** If your department wants to hold elections through the AUS, please get in touch with me and Sophie (elections.aus@mail.mcgill.ca) ASAP! An email will follow...

“EmbrACE”

- Looking into dates and venues for keynote speaker & alumni mixer.

Miscellaneous and Upcoming

- Meeting this Wednesday to discuss a very exciting new idea for Arts Academic Orientation. I’ll keep it under wraps for now.
- This weekend was AUS Executive In-City Retreat... we had a great time at the Fête des Neiges!
- Succession planning: “Intro to AUS” guide is in progress; encouraging writing exit reports early.
- 20 Years Researchers have been hired (2 hired, original stipend will be equally divided)
- Meeting with Teaching and Learning Services (TLS) on “teaching and learning issues” last week: Jacob and I brought up a bunch of issues, including but not limited to:
 - Professors not using MyCourses to their fullest extent
 - Issues with grade transparency; the difference between number and letter grades...for instance, an A on a paper could count numerically as an 85 or 100: can this be clarified?
 - The importance of multiple sources of evaluation and learning formats (& discussion!!)
- I am working with the SEDE office on finding more sustainable sources of funding
- SSMU GA is February 5, luckily our events do not conflict this time around ☺
- Arts Undergraduate Research Event (hosted by Arts Internship Office) on February 6

Respectfully Submitted,

Justin Fletcher
AUS President