



## Report of the AUS VP Academic – September 3, 2014



Hi everyone! My name is Erin, and I'll be your VP Academic this year. I'm a U2 student in History, East Asian Studies and Classics, with interests in arts and cultural administration, museums and policy. I also enjoy being a night owl, biking fast, and watching/ reading Game of Thrones.

My portfolio is focused on overseeing the academic resources of the AUS; coordinating and leading AUS representation to the faculty and other McGill units; and chairing a number of relevant committees (see below). It really comes down to improving the educational experience of Arts students, and a lot of emails and meetings.

I'm incredibly excited to hear your ideas and work with you this year. Please get in touch with me anytime—shoot me an email, send me a Facebook message, or find me during my office hours/BdA!

### Summer Recap:

I was fortunate to spend my summer travelling, interning with a contemporary art centre in Edmonton, and making plans for the year. While I was a bit limited by not being in Montreal, I did a lot of thinking about my AUS projects and will be catching up on meetings in the coming weeks.

### Orientation Week:

Have thoughts on the new-and-improved Discover McGill? Send them to the fantastic ASAP Orientation Coordinators at [jacob.greenspon@mail.mcgill.ca](mailto:jacob.greenspon@mail.mcgill.ca) and [roma.nadeem@mail.mcgill.ca](mailto:roma.nadeem@mail.mcgill.ca).

### Essay Centre:

The AUS Essay Centre will be open for drop-in hours from 2:30-3:30pm weekdays starting September 29<sup>th</sup>. I will be meeting with the Coordinators, Brett Clapperton & Steph Butera, this week to go over some details. Expect a callout for tutors in the next listserv or two.

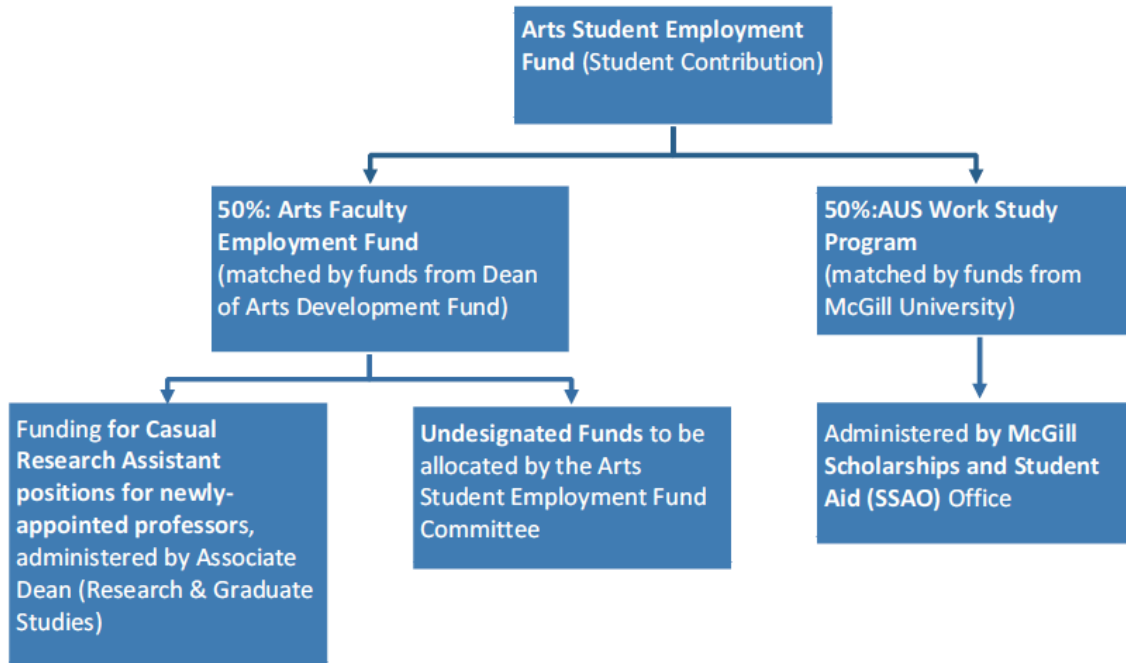
### Peer Tutoring:

There is an allocation in my budget dedicated entirely towards departmental peer tutoring programs. This was NOT used up last year. Get your VP Academics to contact me ASAP about starting up or receiving funding for your programs (pay your tutors, we have the budget!).



### Arts Student Employment Fund (ASEF):

Much of my summer was spent thinking about this fund and how it can be used to create more employment opportunities for Arts students on campus. After some conversations with the Dean and the Finance Office, there will be an added application cycle in the Fall for undesignated funds. I will report on the details orally so as not to confuse things too much (I hope). For more information, check out the updated page and FAQ at <http://ausmcgill.com/en/asef/>.



### Faculty Committees:

I am still looking for students to sit on several committees of the Faculty of Arts, particularly the Faculty of Arts Council and the following program review committees:

- African Studies
- Quebec Studies
- History & Philosophy of Science
- Industrial Relations
- Latin American & Caribbean Studies
- Women's Studies
- Indigenous Studies

If you are interested, please let me know ASAP! These are all departments/programs who have not yet responded to my email of 2 weeks ago (I apologize if I missed any of you). I will also include a callout in the upcoming departmental and AUS listservs.



### **Portfolio Committees:**

I will be looking for Councillors for my portfolio committees shortly. These include:

- Academic Affairs Committee (AAC)
- AUS-Library Partnership Committee (AUS-LPC)
- Arts Student Employment Fund Committee (ASEFC)

I will have more information for next council, but feel free to get in touch with me about any of these in the meantime.

### **Departmental Academic Roundtable (DART):**

Similar to last year, I hope to hold an academic roundtable with the different VP Academics/equivalents from each department. This will provide an opportunity for everyone to meet each other, go over some basic aspects of Faculty representation and advocacy, get up to speed on AUS academic resources, and brainstorm about academic issues facing departments this year. Expect something for late September!

### **“20 Years of AUS” Research Project:**

This project was started under the Presidential portfolio last Winter, but unfortunately could not be completed by the end of the term. I have decided to continue it under my portfolio for the Fall, and have re-hired Sean Remz as a researcher to finish things up. My goal is to have a digital archive and executive list for our records, as well as a final report and timeline for the website and other AUS materials (e.g. the agenda and first-year handbook).

### **Portfolio Budget:**

I have a completed budget for the year. I just need to meet with our VP Finance to go over it.

### **Blog:**

I made one post this summer. Admittedly, I have no idea what I'm doing with this, but if you have any ideas for my posts (such as some aspect of the university or administration you'd like me to elaborate on), please let me know.

### **Community Engagement Day:**

The AUS will be sponsoring several CED projects on Thursday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> (see Lola's report for details). I will also be facilitating a project with a community organization called Stella, which you are welcome to sign up for, and SEDE is still looking for project facilitators. Email [ced.sede@mcgill.ca](mailto:ced.sede@mcgill.ca) or talk to Lola or myself for more details.

### **Campus Life & Engagement Student Leader Meet & Greet**

As part of CL&E's Leadership Workshop Series, they will be holding student leader meet-and-greets after their workshops in September and October. I will be attending the receptions on September 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and October 8<sup>th</sup> to talk to new students and get the AUS “out there” a bit.



**Conflict of Interest Mitigation:**

I want to inform you all that this year I will also be employed by SSMU as their Library Improvement Fund Coordinator. However, while I work with the library in my capacities with both AUS and SSMU, it is at different levels (McLennan-Redpath vs. campus-wide), and in both cases I see myself as responsible to a committee (the AUS-LPC and the Library Improvement Fund Committee). In addition, the project proposal drafted by the LPC will be submitted to the Arts Undergraduate Improvement Fund Committee for further consideration.

I will announce any other potential conflicts as they arise. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact myself or the AUS President at [president.aus@mail.mcgill.ca](mailto:president.aus@mail.mcgill.ca).

**Upcoming Meetings:**

- OASIS (Advising)
- Institute of the Public Life of Arts & Ideas (IPLAI)
- History Project Researcher
- Essay Center Coordinators
- Arts Internship Office (AIO)
- Deputy Provost (SLL)'s Office
- Humanities & Social Sciences Library (HSSL)

**Contact:**

- Email: [academic.aus@mail.mcgill.ca](mailto:academic.aus@mail.mcgill.ca)
- Office Phone: 514-398-1993
- Office Hours: TBA by next week (Arts Lounge, Leacock B-12)
- Facebook, BdA, or wherever else you see me!

I'm looking forward to an incredible year.

Respectfully Submitted,

Erin Sobat  
AUS VP Academic