



Report of the President, AUS Council Sept 9th 2015

Hello and welcome to AUS Council! My name is Jacob and I will be serving as your President this year. I'm in my fourth year at McGill studying Political Science and Economics and this year is my third on AUS Council. I'm very excited to get started working together with all of you to make this a great year for all Arts and ArtSci students! Also I apologize in advance for the long report—there has been a lot going on in the past 4 months...

Summertime

Unfortunately I was not in Montreal for most of the summer, which made it more difficult to keep up with AUS stuff than if I had been here. Instead I worked remotely and had several meetings over Skype while I was out of town. Most of what I did over the summer is elsewhere in the report but there are a few things that happened in the summer to point out specifically:

- Re-negotiated and re-signed the grad photo contract we have with Lassman Studios
- Spoke at Discover McGill Faculty of Arts orientation presentation(s) on Sept 1
- Housekeeping: annual declaration of incorporation, re-signed contract with CopieNova
- Office and Lounge cleaning, reconfiguring, and equipment replacing. Cleaned couches!!!
- Construction in Arts and Leacock: Leacock basement washrooms renovations should be done soon, but no update yet on when the restoration of Arts façade will be finished...
- There are still some kinks to be worked out with the new AUS website, but the new design looks great (at least in my opinion) and more new sections are in development!

Committees and Working Groups (* means committee is open to join—email me if interested!)

- * Equity Commission: Equity Commissioners have lots of great ideas for this year which are discussed more in their report. I'm excited to be overseeing AUS equity for the first year it is in the President portfolio and excited to see all the great work still to come!
- * Ad-Hoc Human Resources Review Committee: hoping to continue this committee's great work on the AUS HR Policy, recruitment guidelines, and AUS positions review
- * MOA Working Group: will meet regularly while negotiations are ongoing to discuss strategy, how proposed changes may affect the AUS, and other topics around the MOA.
- * Constitutional and By-Law Review Committee: lots of interesting projects planned for this year such as Accountability Bylaws, Council Bylaws, and Constitutional reviews
- * Arts Computer Lab Fund Committee and Info Tech Committee: looking to appoint a student to both these committees to focus on technology improvement in the Faculty of Arts. Lots of interesting projects on the horizon and lots of money to distribute!
- * Arts Internship Office Advisory Committee: Met with the AIO on Sept 8th with Gabriel to discuss our collaboration generally and this new committee specifically (oral report)
- SSMU Presidents' Roundtable: met on July 30 and discussed grad photography contract and a few other topics. Meeting on Sept 16 to discuss get out the vote project and more
- McGill Alumni-Student Engagement Council: still waiting to receive the meeting dates

Memorandum of Agreement Negotiations and SNAX

- Met with Deputy Provost's office and Student Housing and Hospitality Services on Aug 25. McGill offered to allow SNAX to sell sandwiches...but with several concessions from the AUS. These include: 1) SHHS approval of food suppliers; 2) semi-annual health and safety inspections; 3) new Point of Sale system linked to Revenu Quebec (good to do anyway for accounting purposes); 4) adherence to university-wide supplier contract agreements; and 5) agreeing to sell SNAX products at "fair market price" as determined by a formula in the MOA. We are now studying the impact these potential changes would have on the AUS and SNAX and waiting for a meeting date with McGill.
- Formed an MOA working group of past negotiators, SNAX employees, AUS Executives, and anyone else interested! We met Aug 30 to go over McGill's most recent MOA offer and the working group will meet again before we meet with McGill to respond to offer

Faculty of Arts Affairs and AUS-McGill Relations

- Arts got a new interim Dean, Prof. Hudson Meadwell (former Political Science Chair), over the summer as the former Dean Prof. Chris Manfredi was appointed McGill's Provost. Dean Meadwell will be speaking at AUS Council on Sept 9th.
- There will be a review of the new Arts Administrative Service Centres that were formed as a result of the People, Processes and Partnerships administrative reorganization
- I'm sitting on the Dean of Arts Selection Advisory Committee along with Arts Senator Erin Sobat. Unfortunately the meetings are confidential so I can only update you on the process, not the substance: we are currently going from a long list to a medium list, then to a short list, then to interviews in December. Aiming to have a new Dean selected by early Winter semester.
- I have been meeting over the past two weeks with several of members of the Faculty of Arts administration: Dean Meadwell (Sept 2nd), Associate Dean Student Affairs Lucy Lach (Aug 25th), Associate Dean Academic Administration and Oversight Gillian Lane-Mercier (Sept 2nd), Arts Internship Office Director Anne Turner (Sept 8th). These meetings have been mostly typical beginning of year intro meetings and/or have discussed issues detailed elsewhere in this report.
- AUS is sorting out some issues with McGill around 24/7 access to Leacock for AUS Execs. The problem is now temporarily solved, but larger issues remain to be resolved and I will be meeting with the Deputy Provost and Faculty of Arts admin soon to discuss these.

AUS Governance

- Unfortunately Arts Rep Samiha Sharif had to resign for personal reasons. We will be discussing the replacement process and selecting an interim Arts Rep this meeting.
- Working with Elections AUS and CBRC on review of departmental association constitutions. We are looking at two areas in particular: whether there are sufficiently extensive rules around departmental general assemblies, and the definition of membership in the departmental association. I will be in contact with departmental associations very soon on both these points and whether your constitution may be need

to be revised. A reminder that all departmental association constitutions—and changes to them—must be approved by AUS Council and also tend to be reviewed by the Constitutional and Bylaw Review Committee before going to Council.

- Reviewing or creating several AUS bylaws throughout this year: Accountability Bylaws, Council Bylaws, Financial Bylaws, and more
- Hoping to better train AUS Council so it can be a more effective and efficient body
- Starting to plan referenda. Considering submitting Constitutional amendments related to the method executives are selected. Will definitely need to ask questions relating to renewing three student fees that are set to expire after Winter 2016: Arts Undergraduate Improvement Fund (AUIF), Arts Undergraduate Theatre Society Fund (AUTS), and Arts Computer Lab Fund (ARCL). Although there is still lots to figure out with the finances, latter is most interesting because we're considering reducing the ARCL fee.
- AUS Executive Retreat is September 18th -- 20th! Destination is still TBD

Human Resources

- Have been meeting with several new AUS employees for intros and training sessions
- Have hired most positions for the year and are now advertising other opportunities within the AUS (with more to come later). Check out the Listserv sent on Sept 4th and the (coming soon) 'Opportunities' section of the AUS website to see what's available!
- Continuing the HR Review started last year through Ad-Hoc HR Review Committee, but now with a greater focus on implementation of HR Policy and position/salary changes

Other Projects, Programs and Services

- Met with Ferrier Lab Director Sunny Galiza to discuss the Laptop lending program. We will start lending after add/drop period after creating a new reservation webform. Also discussed creating set of free computer skills (eg. Photoshop, InDesign, video editing, etc.) workshops as well as possibly an expanded camera lending program.
- Expecting to get the cost estimates for the Leacock Space Project by third week of September, after which I will meet with Campus Space and Planning to discuss our next options. Given financial situation we may not have as much money to work with as previously thought, however this may not be true depending on the type of space project we pick: eg. Arts Computer Lab Fund can be used for some tech related projects
- SSMU is looking to create a Student Executives Code of Conduct Policy. The first meeting was cancelled and I am still waiting to hear when the next meeting will be
- Added new sections to the departmental guidebook on academic rights and AUS Council
- Considering AUS investment fund, but need to decide if worth it given financial situation
- More project ideas: participatory budgeting, AUS global survey, scholarships database, centralized involvement applications on website, new furniture for Arts Lounge, more!

Respectfully Submitted,

Jacob Greenspon
President