**Arts Undergraduate Society of McGill University**

**Legislative Council**

**January 13th, 2016, 6 PM**

**AGENDA**

1. Call to order at 6:04PM
	1. Territorial Acknowledgment: AUS would like to acknowledge that McGill University is situated on the traditional territory of the Kanien’kehá:ka, a place which has long served as a site of meeting and exchange amongst nations. AUS recognizes and respects the Kanien’kehá:ka as the traditional custodians of the lands and water on which we meet today.
2. Roll Call
	1. Absent: VP Internal, VP Finance, Environmental Council, MESSA, MPSA, RUSS, SSA, WSSA
	2. Came late: PSA
	3. Left early: DESA
3. Approval of Minutes from December 2nd 2015 Council
	1. No amendments
	2. All those in favour? All. None against
	3. Minutes are approved
4. Approval of Agenda
	1. No amendments
	2. All those in favour? All. None against
	3. Agenda is approved
5. Motion to approve Photography from the Daily
	1. All those in favour? All. None against
6. Announcements
	1. Arts Rep. Michaud: Going forward you will be notified if it’s your turn to go. Remember that you don’t need to be longer than three sentences.
	2. Deadline for university affairs coming up, will post the link and let you know.
	3. President: AUS Work Your BA and how you can find a career with your degree is from the 18th to 29th. If you’re interested in helping, send email.
	4. VP Academic Gabriel: Arts Undergraduate Research event is Monday the 18th in the afternoon. Need volunteers to help advertise and put posters in the lobby. Come talk to me or send email.
	5. Senator Hennessy: SSMU releasing research on study they did, ask for further info.
7. New Business
	1. Motion Regarding AUS Executive Work Study Program Compensation for Council
		1. This motion is being brought up after the last two councils where we discussed different aspects of AUS compensation for attending council. Motion was delayed to ensure everyone has time to review the original motion that was passed and consider all the discussion that has happened. Being an AUS executive is such a large time commitment that it is hard to maintain a second job while being an AUS executive. Last year, the work-study program said that people would get compensation for activities as AUS executives. Decision on whether being on AUS council falls under this duty.
		2. Would like to remind everybody of the information package that was released last week. Link was posted on the AUS Facebook page. Last council, the movers said the interpretation of original motion what that compensation is critical for AUS council hours – after was straw poll, majority of council agreed with this interpretation.
		3. This summary is just an update if everyone wasn’t aware, or absent. Please check the original package. Trying to avoid having the same discussion and problems with the AUS compensation package in future years.
		4. Clarification: Jacob is here to answer questions about work-study because VP Finance is absent.
		5. No points of discussion.
		6. Voting: All those in favour? All. 5 abstentions. Motion is approved.
	2. Discussion on VP Finance Candidates Screening Criteria and Committee Composition
		1. Clarification: AUS President is here instead of VP Finance who would normally be leading discussion, but he’s not here right now. He’s out of the country, so I’ll try to answer questions. However, this isn’t the final lookover of this, although it’s a pretty thorough proposal. We will vote on the amendment next council, it’s still in the consultation phase. Changes will happen for this election period in February.
		2. The screening will have three categories of questions, the first are experience-based questions. Will have one question on financial structure of AUS, one on audits, one on taxes, one on accounting software.
		3. Section two has more specific accounting questions that are going to be cross-referenced with an accountant, TBD. Will be 3-5 questions based on daily tasks of VP finance.
		4. Third part is availability for the summer. AUS budget and frosh budget is much better when the exec. is in the city during the summer. Only other exec. for which this is mandatory is VP social. Important because AUS audit is in May.
		5. Second half is committee composition to screen those running for VP finance. If considering I run for re-election, there’s up to two members of FMC that want to run, and SNAX manager who has a deep knowledge of accounting in AUS. Final person is accounting professor or McGill Admin. staff who will look over audits – someone who is completely separate from AUS and just looking after technical accounting stuff. Committee chaired by CRO who has no vote.
		6. Accounting questions are more of yes/no. Scoring will depend on each committee member. Each person on the committee will get a question sheet for each person. Score of 50% is needed to pass. If the candidate appeals to AUS, the question sheet then becomes public.
		7. Question Arts Rep. Templer: About wording of document. Is this going to be altered year to year, or will Mirza always be involved? Response: This is not the exact wording going into bylaws, up to incumbent VP finance.
		8. Templer: I want to clarify some points. With fourth person not approved, all of the others besides VP Finance are hired by VP Finance himself. This detracts from committee’s ability to be independent, is the only source of contact for info – people can be easily swayed. Want to have someone from council added. Also didn’t specify how members of committee are picked, besides how they’re from the financial community. Jacob Response: Open to having 2 or 3 counsellors on this as well. Can add this in before next council. And in terms of your second point – that will also be covered in bylaws, committee will be approved at next council when we approve the structure of the committee and the members before it meets. Templer: Since committees are struck next council, will people submit blurbs, since that’s what we do for other committee elections? Jacob agrees.
		9. ASA Question: So they have to be here in the summer? Is it a mandatory thing to pass election the process? Response: Not the whole summer, but May and August since that’s when the audit happens. It’s impossible otherwise because there needs to be someone in the office. Maybe Christine can add in, because Jacob wasn’t here when frosh was being planned. When VP Finance wasn’t involved, lead to $30k deficit.
		10. Christine VP Social: Agree to have VP Finance here to assist budget in the summer. If they know the base, most of the budget can be done via email. A lot of cheques need to be written in the summer, some of those expenses in the summer are tens of thousands of dollars. In the summer I was working 40-50 hour, it’s super key to be here.
		11. FEARC Question: What if nobody passes the test? What’s the backup plan? Response: Given that they’re still being ranked on a percentage basis, good is 70% or more on screening process – maybe make more flexible. Maybe pick from the top half candidates.
		12. Senator Sobat: Need to be clear where that hard line is, or if May and August are mandatory, maybe other months don’t need to be. Point of clarification: is there actual vetting for the candidate? What’s the process? Response: experience based questions are going to be interview, and for the senates it’s more interview style, and for finance it’s more written. Sobat Response: Want it to be more about hard experience, think it would be good to have a hard copy application first and then interview after. Jacob: Agreed, a great VP finance isn’t just good at a face interview.
		13. FEARC Question: There is not a lot of time in the election period, is this happening pre-nomination or pre-election period? There’s one council meeting between this. Response: Might move up nomination period, not sure when we’re collecting signatures. Since we’re hopefully approving on January 27th, it’ll be in that two-week window before next council.
		14. ASA Question: If candidate is available for the summer but then gets an internship or job, do they then become ineligible to serve? Jacob: You can’t get rid of them, although it’s not an ideal situation – but it’s not in constitution to kick them out. Maybe sit down with them and bring them to an understanding that it would be hard to do the job at that point.
		15. Discussion:
			1. ASA: To stick with the summer theme, do not think it should be a part of the criteria because parts one and two of interview are about competency, where part three is more who “fits,” that’s not what the purpose of screening them is. Arts Senator Hennessy: If you’re looking at this from the perspective of a job, time period is workable. Wouldn’t work in another context. There needs to be this specificity.
			2. Senator Sobat: So should the summer be a constitutional requirement based on whether they can be elected? Jacob: There are a lot of things that fall outside realm of AUS constitution, it’s more an aspirational document, the time frame now is not conducive to it.
			3. VP Social Christine: Having VP Finance here is crucial for frosh – we did not have great accounting last year. Luckily we were okay with that, but AUS has had 30k deficit twice. Frosh is biggest and most expensive event in AUS. Mostly the VP Social job to plan it, but VP Finance needs to be here to help as it affects everyone else’s portfolio. VP Finance works on frosh second most out of all execs.
			4. Arts Senator Sobat: Need more specificity of docs – in appendix to financial bylaws, it’s less formal right now. You wouldn’t normally put questions in there. Jacob: Sample questions in here wouldn’t go in the bylaws. But, if executive were on work-study they’d have to be in Montreal because the bylaws say they need to be – something to add this to discussion.
			5. Senator Sobat – Need to be easier to council to see how and when they’re nominating or approving specific members.
		16. No more points of discussion.
8. Reports of the Executive Officers
	1. Report of the President
		1. Human resources review committee meeting this week or next, lots of ongoing projects and have an organization chart that’s almost completed. Completely renovating the application process, from elections AUS to Speaker of Council – all in March. Want to have centralized application form on the site, there’s pre-screening chart on there. Makes it easier for us and students to find a job.
		2. Meeting with AUS lawyer, CAPS and legal clinic to get advice on hiring.
		3. MAO meeting in February. Received formal offer from McGill, there’s temporary agreement for 18-month period, but that’s a little unclear. We can sell sandwiches with health and safety inspections, new point of sale system, etc. If all goes well, it’ll shift to MOA, the one-year timeline shifting to five years. Be meeting with MOA again next week. Also want to mention that it’ll be presented to AUS before we sign.
		4. Constitution By-law Review Committee meeting next week, working this semester on by-laws for AUS council, AOII Advisory Committee, and HR Policy bylaws.
		5. Accountability committee meeting in next month to look at work-study timesheets.
		6. Dean of Arts Selection Advisory Committee done, finished during exam period. But we don’t find out who new Arts Dean is until February.
		7. Winter general election period happens in February – by end of February there will be next year’s executives. If you’re interested in running, approach the AUS with questions.
		8. Work Your BA is from January 18th to 30th – details on AUS site, recommend looking.
		9. Office hours for execs haven’t been finalized, but will be at the end of add-drop, if you want to meet with an exec before, shoot them an email.
		10. VP External: Motion to put reports of VP Finance and VP Internal ahead. Seconded. Majority in favour. Motion is approved.
	2. Report of the VP Academic
		1. First thing is the Valedictorian and Teaching Awards Committee. Looking for three members at large from Council and student body to select valedictorian and TAs, professors, or advisors to give awards to. Following previous VP Academic’s advice, there have always been a couple people being shortlisted or same people getting the award. So want to show support for different people. If you’re interested, feel free to send an email. Time commitment is 5-7 hours in March.
		2. Peer tutoring funding went well last semester, changed couple things in application process for this year – for example, amount requested around $500, because some departments asked for thousands last year. But there’s a little rollover, so if you did it last semester and want to do it again, the deadline is February, and please reply to email before the deadline. If you want advice on how to set up your own peer tutoring system, email too.
		3. For AUS Essay Writing Centre, one coordinator is out right now, but launching as usual in late January. Settled on same hours as last semester, that’s to be reconfirmed next week. But callout will be included in next Monday’s listserv, so if you want to tutor, contact now.
		4. Also sent out callout for Peer to Peer Research Symposium applications next week, and already received some back. Tentative dates are February 7th to 9th. Was four days last year, this year will be three days. Will have panels with different Profs, depending on types of applications we’re getting. There will be all-encompassing panels.
		5. Arts Student Employment Fund is looking for one student member and one committee member. Will start a bit sooner than February because it is already getting emails.
		6. AUS Library Partnership Committee is meeting this Friday, more on this next council session. Focus on floor landings, looking at different furniture – for example, some that would serve as charging stations or can move around.
		7. Academic Affairs Committee meeting next week. Trying to give FEARC a bigger role because they’re on committee and super motivated. Meeting with team this week.
		8. Coming committee dates, reporting after we meet. Will be academic roundtable meeting in next two weeks, reporting about it at next council.
	3. Report of the VP Communications
		1. Committee Updates: Did a lot of things this week and during break. Fine Arts Council working out details for Nuit Blanche on March 18th from 8pm to midnight. Also working on room booking for SSMU, shoot FAC an email if you know acts to be showcased.
		2. Fine Arts Council Dance Representative leading a workshop this month. Posted the event on the AUS Council FB page, so if you’re interested click attending.
		3. Francophone Commission has received applications for two new commissioners. Interviewing them and hiring by the end of this week. Will post dates for circles after add/drop. Also working with AUS graphic designer for francophone Commission.
		4. Marketing Committee meeting this week. Doing AUS Services week on first week of February to highlight different things the AUS offers. Also doing coffee in Ferrier event because last one was successful.
		5. Professor Hans Beck featured next week. On lookout for new professor to speak in February, but have three Profs who are interested, so may have two events for February.
		6. Marketing people helping Technology Coords for AUS services week, or whoever is capable of facilitating workshops for students.
		7. MISC. Updates: AUS Lounge Meeting happened, met with Jackie Gregory to talk about renovations to AUS lounge. Will work with Becky this semester too. Also reaching out to us this semester because it’s for us – survey out pretty soon. Is a space with potential.
		8. Met with Erik and Webmaster on Sunday to have security improvements for AUS website, which is why it was down Sunday. But super secure now.
		9. Arts Rep. Templer Question: Do you know the topic of Hans Beck’s talk? Response: It will be on the Facebook event by the end of the week, do not know presently.
	4. Report of the VP External
		1. ACE looking for new members, tabled at activities night. Also looking to get an organization to work with us for EmbrACE in March. ACE also holding Sexual Trivia on February 11th at Gerts. Teams of four, and will be prizes – tote bags and sex toys.
		2. Careers Committee working hard on Work Your BA. Also working with Jean from CAPS to go over what happened at Grad Fair. Didn’t meet earlier because she was on medical leave before.
		3. First SSMU meeting. At last meeting last semester didn’t get to hear all reports because it ran too late and people left and lost quorum. But there was a service review passed which hadn’t been done in five years. SSMU Community Engagement meeting this week too, with groups specifically around Montreal, kind of like a local NGO fair. Also brainstormed how to improve SSSMU electoral process. Adam elected chair of that committee. All four of us sit on that committee, so please ask questions.
		4. Meeting with MASEC soon, trying to generate donations from McGill alumni. Going to be asking students about what they liked or didn’t like at McGill for campaign for alumni to pick someone they support.
		5. Senator Hennessy Question: What is the reasoning behind all four Counsellor seats as Arts representatives? Lack of diversity. Response: Only Arts representatives have wanted to be on that committee.
	5. Report of the VP Finance
		1. Jacob President: Biggest thing to highlight is Arts Undergraduate Improvement Fund. If we want new couches, locks, more benches in building – things that will be durable and are capital improvement. Please apply, application is on AUS website. Committee is meeting on February 2nd. There’s lots of money in this committee, lots of good things done in the past,
		2. We’re halfway through the year and have a 20k surplus from last semester. But don’t want too much of a surplus, so need to decide how to spend the money this semester.
		3. SNAX have been breaking even.
	6. Report of the VP Internal
		1. President: Book your room bookings ASAP, some delays with approvals at McGill. So send them to VP Internal to get permits for your wine and cheeses, meetings, etc. There are pre-booked dates all throughout the semester.
		2. If you want to book a theatre screening room, there’s one on Peel that we have dates for, contact VP Internal.
		3. Still have keys for AHCSSA, EASSA, MIRA, CLASHSA, and MESSA. Come by AUS office to pick up.
		4. FEARC going to Quebec City at beginning of February.
		5. VP Academic Question: Is it necessary to have FEARC included in this report since they have their own report? VP External Becky: Committees will still report to execs and not their own if they’re mentioned in exec’s report, so yes.
	7. Report of the VP Social
		1. Report short because none of my committees have met yet, or some confirmed until after submitted report.
		2. BEA is up and running for the semester, theme right now is onesies. Haven’t figured out showcase for the semester yet, so please send an email if you have ideas.
		3. Met with Jackie Gregory to talk about what has or hasn’t been working well to have a bar running in the Leacock basement. Jackie respects us for respecting janitor’s requests, like when we told them we were concerned that carnival was happening, and we take overflow from 4à7. So they gave us reflective vests for BDA staff to wear, sort of like security. So happy we have a good relationship with McGill administration. Once new VP Social is elected in February, we will bring them into meetings with Jackie so transition will be smooth.
		4. Co-Chair brought forward suggestion to push BDA forward by half-hour, so opens at 5:30pm instead of 5pm, ends at 8:30pm instead of 8pm. Idea that we would see more business, since BDA runs a deficit, and we’d have last call earlier. Would have twenty minutes to finish their last drink instead of fifteen minutes before. Jackie was receptive to this, may have a trial run.
		5. EPIC had first meeting Friday, new co-chair Ryan. If you have events you’re interested in having this semester, please email.
		6. Grad Ball Committee had first meeting this Friday. Will be joint effort between AUS and SUS, total of 12-person committee. Budget for ticket prices need to be raised, and timeline figured out.
		7. Meeting this Sunday with SSMU VP Finance about distribution of sponsorship of Celene Beer contract. Trying to get a hold of contract, SSMU VP Finance has volume of sales by faculty for last year. Will keep council updated.
		8. On Monday attending about reporting lines.
9. Reports of the Arts Representatives and Senators
	1. Report of the Arts Representatives to SSMU
		1. Mostly discussing events for the semester. Booked tables for the entire month, holding office hours, time TBD. Hoping for better turnout.
		2. Adam: Created application form to help with campaign for McGill Allied Against Sexual Harassment, released Monday.
		3. SSMU Health and Dental Committee appointed two members at large for VP Finance and Operations.
		4. SSMU Electoral Reform Committee will have its first meeting Monday, all four of us on it. Also approved member at large.
		5. Mover for SSMU Presidential Internal regulations and went over eighty-three amendments.
		6. Steering committee met on January 8th, Accountability Committee will meet shortly too.
		7. Adam moving on motion for SSMU campaign period. Wants special referendum on restricting SSMU exec portfolios and to increase SSMU base fee. There has been no increase since 2007, and that was $1. Looking to increase it to $5.50.
		8. Gabe: Student Engagement Committee, went to meeting on December 3rd. Idea of snapchat story to highlight SSMU’s main points.
		9. Student External Affairs Committee meeting shortly. Continuing to work on Accessible Education Policy.
		10. Equity Committee beginning project with TVM McGill to develop dialogue about equity issues, reaching out to McGill students.
		11. SSSMU has new General Manager, Ryan Hughes. Will be chairing nominating committee for us. SSMU also looking at hiring new Judicial Board Justice.
		12. Daycare Board has four meetings throughout the semester.
		13. Adam: Still working on campaign for Multi-Faith Dialogue. Kareem mentioned he would be looking into it too.
		14. Gabe: Looking into communication, meeting with departmental heads on how they’re approaching students.
		15. Adam: Looking to see how future Arts reps are as involved as they can be. For questions on restructuring portfolios, uploaded it to Facebook group.
	2. Report of the Arts Senators
		1. Website not finished yet, let you know when.
		2. Senate lined up with AUS council, pretty short. Went over question about divestment from fossil fuels. No new info from administration.
		3. Reports on Research and Innovation, Deputy Provost had lots of questions. Minutes for that will be up next month.
		4. Report from Board of Governors, pretty formulaic.
		5. Senate Caucus: Discussion on medical note policy changes. Meeting was on Monday.
		6. Senator Hennessy: Committee on Teaching and Learning was missed for a class. Will not happen in the future. Got feedback to Director of TLS.
		7. Committee for Reappointment of Dean of Students tomorrow morning.
		8. Student Services meeting postponed, TBD.
		9. Senate question was responded to, joined Working Group on Employment Equity. Angela Campbell to create Design Committee heavily geared toward professors and staff.
		10. Is the chair for Week 101, which is SSMU’s welcome back event. Will post the link to that as well. Is Degrassi themed.
		11. Over break, did MISC: emailed Chair of Political Science faculty for default period of course evaluations.
		12. Senate is tabling at activities night.
		13. Two draft versions of Senate questions: one on course outlines and the other on administration questions.
		14. Senator Sobat: Medical notes policy. Dean of Students office has suggested amendment on McGill’s policy on sick notes, coming directly from students pushing for changes. Currently, policy states that McGill students are asked for medical notes for exam deferrals, midterm accommodation, assignments, etc. What has been found is that a) huge burden on McGill services that provide this documentation and b) it is then mostly students looking for notes rather than appointments, especially during exam period. So policy change would be that the first deferral does not require that documentation. Lining up at the clinic isn’t ideal. If it’s a mental health issue, the system is too clogged up with students looking simply for notes. Second part is creating a standardized medical note. There is too much misinterpretation of notes depending on the professor. Has had a lot of pushback, but it’s something to continue working on.
		15. Sobat: Also sit on Principal’s Task Force for Royal Victoria Hospital site, which McGill is considering acquiring. Call for units who want to move to this site, but wouldn’t be until 2021 or so. But for student groups, want those who are academically associated, like the Engineering Association. So if you have ideas on new learning spaces, please let me know.
10. Reports of Committees and Departmental Associations (AGELF-WSSA)
	* 1. AGELF: Had our first meeting Tuesday and decided dates for 5à7s and date for end of term party.
		2. Started conferences, have doctoral student who gives hour-long conference in the student lounge. Very informal, students can asks questions. Went well.
		3. Three of us met to start on our honours symposium.
		4. ASA: Working on McGill Anthropology clothing that we will sell. One crewneck sweater.
		5. Went to activities night and will have first meeting at 8pm.
		6. Stole Political Science’s idea of having a Facebook group for each class.
		7. Movie night TBD, and Wine and Cheese event on the 5th.
		8. Want to revamp website and include mini blog on what’s happening in AUS and student politics since people don’t know what we do. Also working on getting our journal ready.
		9. VP Communications Question: What is the name of your journal? Response: Fields Terrains.
		10. BASiC: Had equity training session on Monday, first Arts assembly meeting yesterday.
		11. Arts and Science trip selling tickets. Combining Cultures conference is at Waterloo on January 29th, if interested shoot an email.
		12. Samosa sale on Monday.
		13. Collaborating with MBSU for Darwin Day on February 12th.
		14. Our VP Communications wants the AUS VP Communications to send the resources they use for their student guide.
11. Question Period
	* 1. Arts Rep. Templer: A few updates that weren’t in reports. Last SSMU meeting there was question and SSMU speaker was removed from that committee on council. New speaker will be selected. Further, there are six members at large on Electoral Reform Committee. Important because Services Review, which hasn’t happened in five years, and SSMU Elections failed that review. Working with Services Review Committee on their recommendations. And please share the MASH, the sexual harassment form, for those interested.
		2. Senator Hennessy: Why SSMU failed elections review? Response: Doesn’t know. Senator Erin Response: Part of Service Review looked at whether SSMU met definitions of a service. Was not fulfilling its role, but only by definition. Needs to create different status for SSMU, which true for a few other groups as well.
12. Next Meeting Time and Date (**January 27th, 2016 at** **6:00pm in LEA 232**)
13. Adjournment at 7:26PM

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Name** | **Present?** | **Late / leave early?** |
| **AUS President** | Jacob Greenspon | Yes |  |
| **AUS VP Communications** | Elaine Patterson | Yes |  |
| **AUS VP Internal** | Maria Vedeshkina | No | excused |
| **AUS VP Social** | Christine Koppenaal | Yes |  |
| **AUS VP Academic** | Gabriel Gilling | Yes |  |
| **AUS VP Finance** | Mirza Ali Shakir | No | excused |
| **AUS VP External** | Becky Goldberg | Yes |  |
| **Arts Representative to SSMU** | Adam Templer | Yes |  |
| **Arts Representative to SSMU** | Lexi Michaud | Yes |  |
| **Arts Representative to SSMU** | Gabriel Ning | Yes |  |
| **Arts Senator** | Erin Sobat | Yes |  |
| **Arts Senator** | Alex Kpeglo-Hennessy | Yes |  |
| **FEARC** | Erik Partridge | Yes |  |
| **AUS Environmental Council** |  | No |  |
| **AUS Equity Committee** |  | Yes |  |
| **EPIC** |  | Yes |  |
| **AGELF** |  | Yes |  |
| **AHCSSA** |  | Yes |  |
| **ASA** |  | Yes |  |
| **ASSA** |  | Yes |  |
| **BASiC** |  | Yes |  |
| **CLASHSA** |  | Yes |  |
| **CSA** |  | Yes |  |
| **CSAUS** |  | Yes |  |
| **CSUS** |  | Yes |  |
| **DESA** |  | Yes | Left early |
| **EASSA** |  | Yes |  |
| **ESA** |  | Yes |  |
| **GSA** |  | Yes |  |
| **HSA**  |  | Yes |  |
| **IDSSA** |  | Yes |  |
| **MESS** |  | Yes |  |
| **MESSA** |  | No |  |
| **MIRA** |  | No |  |
| **MPSA** |  | No | excused |
| **MUGS** |  | Yes |  |
| **NASSA** |  | Yes |  |
| **PSA** |  | Yes | late |
| **PSSA** |  | Yes |  |
| **RSUS** |  | Yes |  |
| **RUSS** |  | No |  |
| **SLUM** |  | Yes |  |
| **SSA** |  | No |  |
| **SUMS** |  | Yes |  |
| **WSSA** |  | No |  |
| **Speaker of Council** | Priya Dube |  |  |
| **Recording Secretary** | Amylea Doiron |  |  |