**Arts Undergraduate Society of McGill University**

**Legislative Council**

**February 24th, 2016, 6 PM**

**AGENDA**

1. Call to order at 6:09PM
   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: ASSA, BASiC, CSUS, NASSA, SLUM, SUMS
   2. Came late: PSA
   3. Left early:
3. Approval of Minutes from February 10th 2016 Council
   1. No amendments
   2. All those in favour? All. None against
   3. Minutes are approved
4. Approval of Agenda
   1. VP Comms: “February” is misspelled incorrectly – sorry for that minor detail. Agenda is amended.
   2. All those in favour? All. None against
   3. Agenda is approved
5. Announcements
   1. AUS President Jacob: If you haven’t voted yet in AUS elections, the ballot is open until 5pm tomorrow – go vote, tell other people to vote.
   2. VP External Becky: Can also vote to ratify the motion passed at SSMU GA.
   3. RSUS: As of today, Grad Ball tickets for dinner part are officially sold out, putting another 150 out tomorrow. This is last chance to get dinner tickets, dance tickets still live on website and Facebook page.
6. New Business
   1. Motion Regarding McGill Barbados Field Study Program Fee Increase
      1. President: This is similar to what we saw for summer studies in Greece last semester. It’s an extra fee charged to do this program. Under Quebec law, AUS council has to approve this fee increase.
      2. It’s an increase of $2100. This figure is because of the depreciation of Canadian currency.
      3. No points of discussion.
      4. Voting: All those in favour? Majority. 3 abstentions. Motion is approved.
   2. Motion to Create Bylaws for the International Student Affairs Commission
      1. VP External Becky: I don’t know if a lot of you are familiar with this commission, but we have one of the people sitting on it in this room. ISAC was supposedly created in 2014, though first we knew of it was in 2015. Was passed to me from former Arts Rep, thought it fit nicely in the External portfolio. I wrote up some bylaws, as it as a committee and a service.
      2. In partnership, there’s another question after this to approve this motion of externalizing it under this portfolio.
      3. Supposed to meet the needs of international students in Arts. There are a lot of papers to write and it’s hard to navigate language policy. And there are a lot of international kids who don’t speak English as first language. This is a place for advocacy.
      4. Arts Rep Templer: For 3.1.5 are you friendly to changing word “chair” to “oversee?” Response: Yes, that is friendly and consistent with the constitution.
      5. No points of discussion
      6. Voting: All those in favour? Majority. 1 Abstention. Motion is approved.
   3. Motion to Approve Question Regarding FEARC Expansion
      1. FEARC: As we were going through the constitution, we found when you spell out FEARC it’s inconsistent throughout constitution. Proper way is in 10.1(e). Want to amend the constitution to correct that.
      2. But it is correct in the French version of the constitution.
      3. No points of discussion
      4. Voting: All those in favour? All. Motion is approved.
   4. Motion to Approve the Question Regarding the Amendment of the AUS Executive Assistant Hiring Regulations in the AUS Constitution
      1. President: This is a very small constitution amendment, but pretty meaningful. Small in fact that we’re getting rid of one point, but replacing it with two. Rational behind this is that in winter 2013, AUS decided to hire a full-time assistant, like what engineering society does.
      2. More flexible for Execs to decide whether they want a full-time assistant. Maybe replace this with part-time staff?
      3. Basically at point in budget, VP Finance can also speak to this, where to increase salary of Exec Assistant, we’d have to increase student fee. We don’t think this is a good option.
      4. So this is making it possible to choose full-time or part-time assistants, which AUS had until 2013.
      5. No points of discussion
      6. Voting: All those in favour? All. Motion is approved.
   5. Motion to Amend VP Social and VP External Constitutional Mandates
      1. VP External Becky: As I just mentioned with the bylaws, I wanted this commission under this portfolio.
      2. Also, VP Social’s constitution formally outlined coordination with Arts alumni students. Decided to take that out of her portfolio and add it to mine. Sort of an umbrella liaison for alum relations.
      3. VP Social Christine: With mine, never mentioned any planning for orientation week, Grad Ball, or BDA. So wanted to add that into the constitution.
      4. No points of discussion
      5. Voting: All those in favour? All. Motion is approved.
   6. Motion to Amend the AUS Financial Bylaws for Debit Card Use
      1. VP Finance: This is a small change to bylaws. Currently we can’t use a debit card or credit card. Article says we “can” use a debit card for expensive purchases, but we can’t use this for companies that don’t accept checks. So only change we’re making is instead of “large expenses” we’re making it that it applies to expenses that can’t be paid by check. For example, Ikea.
      2. FEARC: There’s no hyphen between “Vice” and “President.” Friendly to amendment? Response: Yes. Motion is amended.
      3. No points of discussion
      4. Voting: All those in favour? All. Motion is approved.
   7. Question Regarding the Renewal and Reduction of the Arts Computer Lab Fee
      1. Read background information on ARCLF – posted.
      2. President Jacob: Talked about this at council before, put together this background info document so when we’re voting by straw poll people are informed.
      3. Basically, since fee was created in 2010, it was collected nearly at $10 for full-time students, and half that for part-time and Art-Sci students. Half of fee goes to this fund, and is distributed each year.
      4. Meeting this March 30th to do that. Most of fund buys new software, pays salaries of people that work in this lab, etc. Bylaws that authorize how this is spent. But issue is that between 2010-2013, fee was being raised each year, and spending didn’t match up. 350k of build-up in this fund.
      5. Will allocate this to space projects like Ferrier and Arts lab, plus Leacock Space Project I talked about before. But there’s still 10-20k build-up. So think reviewing reset of fee is a good idea for reducing it.
      6. Looking at numbers of usage in computer labs in the last couple years, decreased each year since 2012. People have laptops now, the library has added more computers too. Doesn’t make sense to keep them?
      7. But we do have this space, and there’s lack of space for regular study. Something we’ve talked about is removing half computers in Arts computer lab and Ferrier computer lab. McGill is open to this too. So we’d only have to replace half the computers and then use extra study space.
      8. So looking at couple options: first, keeping the fee at $9.80? We spend as much as we take in and then use build-up for renovations? But still will be build-up each year, and there’s still a large number of fee opt-outs from people.
      9. Underestimated how much revenue comes in annually. To make it so that we’re taking in as much money as we’re spending, it makes sense to reduce the number of computers. Graph – two red lines show annual revenue, with opt-out rate at 6.5%. If you have lower fee, less people going to opt out. And orange line is surplus if we get rid of all computers, and blue line is revenue if we only replace half computers. To get closer to zero, we think 20-25% fee decrease.
      10. 25% decrease more risky as there’s a higher chance of running a deficit. But AUS not in dire straits right now, so we can adjust spending or fee and wouldn’t be a huge deal. So recommend 25% fee reduction, but taking nominations from people on the floor? And then have a straw poll on the options. And then once we decide on a level, we’ll move on to take motion to approve referendum question, approving this.
      11. Arts Rep Templer: No longer on table to reduce fee and add it to membership fee? Not losing money, but going to other initiatives. Jacob Response: Didn’t see huge reason to add to membership fee right now, we’re pretty good budget wise.
      12. No points of discussion.
      13. FEARC: I’d like to nominate 20% to be on the safer side of things.
      14. Jacob: So if it’s 20%, it’s cutting it by just under $2 for full-time, and just under $1 for part-time students. For 25% it’s $2.45 reduction.
      15. Arts Rep Templer: Maybe round it to $2.50, it’s hard to calculate these very small increments on large scale.
      16. Straw poll to decide fee reduction:
          1. Option A: 20% reduction for fee of $7.85 = 21 in favour
          2. Option B: 25% reduction for fee of $7.35 = 13 in favour
      17. Jacob: Every three years we have to renew fees, take this opportunity to reduce or increase fees. This is what we’re taking advantage of. Adding numbers to “x” variables in text.
      18. Final motion to approve referendum question:
          1. All those in favour? Majority. 1 abstention.
          2. Motion is approved.
7. Reports of the Executive Officers
   1. Report of the President
      1. Human Resources Review Committee meeting on Friday, wrapping up online AUS application forms. So when you apply for jobs, it’ll look fancier and be easier to access.
      2. Computer Lab Fund approved, meeting on March 30th. Use consultation from survey on Monday’s on listserv on how to allocate money. Maybe brainstorm session in Arts lounge featuring pizza after reading week? Look at what students want renovated in Arts computer lab.
      3. MOA signed, met on Feb. 12th. Still little things that need to be done, given that Letter of Permission expires in December. So need to make sure we have things wrapped up before December, admin can be slow and we want to plan ahead. So MOA isn’t fully done.
      4. Email AUS Elections if your department wants exemptions from timeline.
      5. Met with BASiC on Feb 18th to talk about issues of incorporation.
      6. Meeting with AUS auditor and VP Finance to talk about audit timeline. Learned a lot.
      7. Renovations done to outside of Arts Building. Maybe because UN Secretary-General was here, but that might be a conspiracy theory.
      8. No office hours during reading week, office only open this coming Monday and Friday.
      9. VP External Becky: Motion to put VP Internal report after VP Academic’s? Since Jacob is reporting both. Seconded. Motion is approved.
   2. Report of the VP Academic
      1. Jacob: Some things I was told to highlight were that Arts Student Employment Fund committee meeting is this Friday to distribute funds.
      2. Meeting with Associate Dean to discuss issues with midterms and papers and student academic rates.
      3. Valedictorian deadline coming up, mid-March.
      4. Roundtable scheduled for second week after reading week.
   3. Report of the VP Internal
      1. Jacob: Booking for AUS awards, they’re happening last week of March. Nomination kits will be sent out soon, so if you want to nominate your department, keep an eye out for that.
      2. If we have your office keys in AUS office, please come get them.
      3. Arts Rep Templer: Q for the president, who is our Dean of Arts? Professor Antonia Maioni. She’s a Sociology Prof currently serving as VP of Research.
   4. Report of the VP Communications
      1. Fine Arts Council: Literary Rep held storytelling workshop on Friday, attendance was low, but was fun. Stayed in lounge until 10pm, recommend doing it again next year.
      2. Figuring out which acts in which rooms in SSMU for Nuit Blanche.
      3. French conversation circle held today was cancelled. Asked last week, and everybody’s doing midterms, will commence again after reading week. Come! Sometimes there’s movies and food.
      4. Marketing Committee: Had coffee in Ferrier yesterday, went well.
      5. Prof Talk coords having problems matching Profs’ schedules with room availabilities. But next one happens in March.
      6. Getting in touch with person at SSMU teaching excel, want to teach crash course for Arts students as part of AUS.
      7. Finally ordered charging station for the AUS lounge.
   5. Report of the VP External
      1. Fun stuff happening with ACE: trivia night happened two weeks ago, really well attended with 40 participants. Group we worked with wants to work with us again next year.
      2. Met with international Community Action Network for embrACE. They’re providing us with speaker for wine and cheese. It’s program through school of social work where bring fellows over from Israel and Palestine, train them in social work in specific stream and then send them back home to work.
      3. Meeting with SSMU mental health: they want support for friendship bench project. So during embrACE, we’ll have museum tickets to raffle off.
      4. ACE also planning a day of relaxation at end of semester. Include mountain walk and releasing biodegradable lanterns? Keep updated.
      5. Waffle breakfast happened. Keep eye out March 17th for more waffles, they’re going to be green.
      6. Community Engagement Committee: Mixer soon, arts and culture theme.
      7. Arts Rep Templer: Can you tell us about McGill 24? Response: It’s a social media campaign by alum association. Want to raise awareness about this initiative, where alum and donors across world see which parts of McGill are great vs. need improvement. Looking to work this into friendship bench project, maybe crowd funding campaign and whiteboard for ideas?
      8. WSSA: What’s the friendship bench? Response: It’s an organization that installs a bench on campus as mental health initiative. If you’re sitting there people know you’re open to chat. They also come in and reform our mental health services.
   6. Report of the VP Finance
      1. Hiring for a lot positions, if you’re interested in a paid job. 12 positions opening up, Manager and Assistant Manager are highest paid positions. Cashier callouts coming out online soon, hiring sustainability coord as well.
      2. FMC: I’ve attached link to Google doc with all the allocations. But we’re running out of money fast, so apply if you need to ASAP. Apply directly instead of just coming to me.
      3. Jacob and I met with AUS auditors, audit will happen in first week of June so it’ll be finalized before September.
      4. Issuing callouts for bookkeepers will be paid positions. One for academic year and one for frosh, want to diversify.
      5. DESA has internalized its bank account. Just leaves us with one external account, PSSA.
   7. Report of the VP Social
      1. Election results announced at BDA tomorrow, around 7pm. There will be pizza and grilled cheese.
      2. EPIC: We are booking Belmont for Thursday March 31st. Not named Arts Attack anymore, but will still be related theme to artistic expression.
      3. Grad Ball tickets sale started yesterday, going super fast. If you want to be updated, go to Facebook page. There will be a celiac option for dinner, and Drivesafe and MSERT will be there, plus and Healthy McGill giving harm reduction items. Also we’ll have water station separate from bar.
      4. Frosh: Had meeting with all faculty VP Internals, and another meeting in mid-March to finalize. We’re restructuring responsibilities between us and SSMU. Frosh leader info session also happened yesterday, if you missed it the PowerPoint is on the Facebook event page. If you want to be an Arts frosh coord, the info meeting’s after reading week.
      5. In future, working on transitioning the next VP Social and setting up hiring processes.
8. Reports of the Arts Representatives and Senators
   1. Report of the Arts Representatives to SSMU
      1. Lexi: Had debates for AUS executives, we’re going to be replaced soon!
      2. At SSMY council referendum question was passed along with TVM fee and creation of club fund fee. Contention over ancillary fee, and rules adopted about it.
      3. SSMU Equity Committee: Working on TVM project, essentially a video on social justice and equity.
      4. Missed first Daycare Board meeting for midterm.
      5. Bylaws Review Committee is okay.
      6. Electoral Reform Committee discussed a lot. Looking at possible CEO guidebooks, discussion about SSMU student staff.
      7. Board of Directors meeting called on 16th about whether standing rules should have been adopted by SSMU council?
      8. Adam working on lots of projects, working on Multi-faith dialogue with Kareem for March.
      9. SSMU Health and Dental committee met, plus Electoral Reform Committee. SSMU Accountability still good, too.
      10. His event series for MSAASH “McGill Students Allied Against Sexual Harassment” had a BDA showcase on Thursday. Maybe not proper place to do it, but was cool. Also had film showing on Friday. It had technical issues, but successful wine and cheese after.
      11. Gabe went to Health and Dental committee, Electoral Reform committee, and Student Engagement Committee – picking new meeting time after reading week.
      12. Senator Sobat Q: What are ancillary fees? Lexi Response: They’re fees that McGill can ask an Exec to bring forward to SSMU council. Related to our student services that they want us to now cover in our fee breakdown. There’s two this past council for Writing Centre and Accessibility. A few councillors upset that McGill can request that these fees be added on top of tuition. Arts Rep Templer: To clarify, they’re fee renewals, not brand new fees.
   2. Report of the Arts Senators
      1. Sobat: The Senate meeting was last week, had discussion on employment equity. We said everything we wanted to bring up based on what McGill admin has and hasn’t been doing. Heard disappointing off-hand comments from admin and staff after. Want to see change in these representative groups, but does require effort at all levels. Want to further enforce existing policies so that Deans and Department Heads are taking more initiative.
      2. Possibility of making course info available sooner? Had very lackluster response. Only individual departments can decide if they want to make syllabi available, so now pushing for tech improvements to eCalendar. But still want course syllabi to open to all students at beginning of add/drop, though Profs worried about course shopping.
      3. Also had presentation on budget.
      4. Fall reading break is on track for coming to Senate for April. Some faculties still have concerns about profs not wanting to start before Labor Day or having Saturday exams. Next year, maybe having 12-week terms would make it easier for scheduling, except for Engineering faculty.
      5. Draft for Regulation on the Conduct of Research: is only doc that outlines ethics of research at McGill, IE military applications. Was discussed last year by SSMU VP Academic. Scheduled to go to Senate in April, but concerned that exams will get in way of raising opinions on this.
      6. Shout-out to 6 people running for Arts Senator.
      7. Arts Rep Michaud Q: You mentioned a 12-week term? What do we have now? Response: Shorter. 12-week term would allow us to do a full reading break while starting before Labour Day. But accreditation issue, concerns from Profs about shortening teaching days and from students as you’re getting less for your money. But surveys were positive for a 12-week term. Lexi: Do you know if other universities run on 12-week term? Response: Yes, McGill has longer term than a lot of places. Still in transition period because 10-15 years ago a lot of courses were full year, so still haven’t caught up to that split.
      8. Arts Rep Michaud Q: So could cost of courses still not go down? Response: No, that’s a concern. But there are currently more days in fall term than winter term, so they’re not equal either. Still trying to set it up so there’s equal hours with each course, but with fall reading break there might be a little difference. Looking to get around this.
9. Reports of Committees and Departmental Associations (AGELF-WSSA)
   * 1. ESA: On Feb. 18th had Uncorked Mixer, went well.
     2. Yesterday we had the Guest Speaker Series that went well.
     3. Free LinkedIn picture event a few weeks after break, TBD.
     4. Figuring out people for Speaker Series sometime later in March.
     5. Finished setting up all the Econ clothes, so we’re advertising that.
     6. GSA: Last week we held our i-week event where students and Montreal German community gathered to speak germane in a bar together.
     7. Tomorrow we’re showing a film. It’s an East German film from 1973. Held in Sherbrooke 688 in room 285.
     8. Redesigning logo and working on website so it’ll show upcoming events and have education resources, and peer tutoring hours too.
     9. Working on our journal, Vielfält, launch held in late March at the Goethe Institute.
     10. HSA: We just finished the cyclical review, but Profs need to approve.
     11. Historical Discourses: Journal now has a website, historicaldisources.com
     12. Just had Prof Talk last week on histories of love, sex, and valentines. Was lovely to talk about queer history and had great turnout.
     13. Working on research workshop series, have 3 planned right now but it’s in its infancy.
10. Question Period
    * 1. None
11. Next Meeting Time and Date (**March 9th, 2016 at** **6:00pm in LEA 219**)
12. Adjournment at 7:10PM

**Membership of AUS Council**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Name** | **Present?** | **Late / leave early?** |
| **AUS President** | Jacob Greenspon | Yes |  |
| **AUS VP Communications** | Elaine Patterson | Yes |  |
| **AUS VP Internal** | Maria Vedeshkina | Excused |  |
| **AUS VP Social** | Christine Koppenaal | Yes |  |
| **AUS VP Academic** | Gabriel Gilling | Excused |  |
| **AUS VP Finance** | Mirza Ali Shakir | Yes |  |
| **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 | Excused |  |
| **FEARC** | Erik Partridge | Yes |  |
| **AUS Environmental Council** |  | Excused |  |
| **AUS Equity Committee** |  | Yes |  |
| **EPIC** |  | Yes |  |
| **AGELF** |  | Yes |  |
| **AHCSSA** |  | Yes |  |
| **ASA** |  | Yes |  |
| **ASSA** |  | No |  |
| **BASiC** |  | No |  |
| **CLASHSA** |  | Yes |  |
| **CSA** |  | Yes |  |
| **CSAUS** |  | Yes |  |
| **CSUS** |  | No |  |
| **DESA** |  | Yes |  |
| **EASSA** |  | Yes |  |
| **ESA** |  | Yes |  |
| **GSA** |  | Yes |  |
| **HSA** |  | Yes |  |
| **IDSSA** |  | Yes |  |
| **MESS** |  | Yes |  |
| **MESSA** |  | Yes |  |
| **MIRA** |  | Yes |  |
| **MPSA** |  | Yes |  |
| **MUGS** |  | Yes |  |
| **NASSA** |  | No |  |
| **PSA** |  | Yes | Late |
| **PSSA** |  | Yes |  |
| **RSUS** |  | Yes |  |
| **RUSS** |  | Yes |  |
| **SLUM** |  | No |  |
| **SSA** |  | Yes |  |
| **SUMS** |  | No |  |
| **WSSA** |  | Yes |  |
| **Speaker of Council** | Priya Dube |  |  |
| **Recording Secretary** | Amylea Doiron |  |  |