**Arts Undergraduate Society of McGill University**

**Legislative Council**

**March 9th, 2016, 6 PM**

**AGENDA**

1. Call to order at 6:05PM
   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: EPIC, FMC, EASSA, MESS, MESSA, NASSA
   2. Came late: ESA, MPSA, MUGS
   3. Left early: BASiC
3. Approval of Minutes from February 24th 2016 Council
   1. No amendments
   2. All those in favour? All. None against
   3. Minutes are approved
4. Approval of Agenda
   1. AUS President: – Amend the order of reports so VP Communications and VP Internal are right after the President? Seconded. Amendment added.
   2. FEARC: Motion to amend the agenda to include short presentation on SSMU referendum constitutional question before item 6. Seconded. Amendment added.
   3. All those in favour? All. None against
   4. Agenda is approved
5. Announcements
   1. VP External: embrACE week starting on Sunday, lots of community engagement things. Check on Facebook and come.
   2. VP Academic: Deadline for teaching awards nominations extended to this Friday. If you have an outstanding Prof or TA you want to win an award, send nomination before Friday at 5pm.
   3. PSA: Tomorrow film screening Jericho in Sherbrooke 688, room 295 at 6pm.
   4. FEARC: Point of order, did we approve the agenda yet? Response: You’re right, thank you.
6. Presentation by members of No Committee on SSMU Constitutional Referendum
   1. FEARC: The SSMU referendum period opened recently, the voting is next week. We want to provide info at this council meeting and from both sides. I want to have you guys make informed decisions instead of pressing my beliefs here.
   2. Reasoning for putting this on the ballot: trying to minimize the discourse on campus when there’s controversial motions at GAs, like most recent one that was overturned. This provides a mechanism to override the decisions of the GA.
   3. AUSEC: March 16-18th there will be SSMU general election, will be question on constitutional amendment, very specific. A lot of great things on the ballot, but also this, Article 13.2. Article 13.3 is just setting the agenda for the GAs. For some more clarification, this will mean that motions submitted to GA will be submitted to steering committee, per usual, but they then decide whether this is “external” and “divisive.”
   4. Steering Committee are executives that vary from year to year. They determine if the motion is external and derisive, so the GA won’t be able to debate it without going through 2/3 assembly on paper. And if it’s approved for the agenda, go through another 2/3.
   5. This is not democratic. In order to pass a motion at a GA, you have to get 100 signatures from a variety of faculties, and other processes. It’s very restrictive. If this amendment was included, it adds the steering committee and these 2/3 qualifications in order to eventually pass the motion. Meanwhile, GA already has lots of opportunities to shut down the debate and restrict the motions.
   6. Steering committee isn’t elected, very small group of people that are making large decisions for what’s considered divisiveness – everything is divisive for something, there’s no true definition. No actual criteria, the committee’s decision. Cause people to fall back on their own political opinions? Students should be able to decide what’s discussed at the GA. This would hinder that.
   7. No mention of an appeal process, this would be a permanent change. And no consultation with the student body happened. Lack of transparency.
   8. Discussion:
      1. ASA: I think if we’re going to discuss this motion, need to acknowledge this is an extension of BDS movement. Students don’t go to GAs in the 100s otherwise. So I know why this was put forward: this isn’t to stop the democratic voice, but when you’re toppling the student body for 2 weeks, this is what they’re trying to minimize. Wouldn’t have this for student internships or environmental issues, people on both sides are in therapy for this. Response: But is this a good enough reason for this to go through? This was passed before the BDS motion came to the GA. Yes there are students on both sides going to therapy, a lot of emotions around the BDS motion. But I still don’t think it’s a legitimate reason.
      2. VP Academic: Most contentious issues aught to be discussed, not to stifle a debate that ought to be had. It’s important for democracy. I don’t feel like having an unelected body censor motions brought forward for students is right. SSMU is supposed to be fighting for this. Debates bring progress. FEARC Response: I do appreciate your point. This motion was brought forward with good *intentions*. It is important to have civil debates, it’s important for everyone’s voice to be heard so democracy can run its course.
      3. VP Finance: A big part is the screening committee composition, are you just against it itself, or the diversity more? Response: We’re against the idea of a screening committee. Shakir: But a screening committee already does exist. AUSEC: Yeah, this is a good point. FEARC: I think the motive is giving the screening committee such a powerful veto, 2/3 majorities being hard to achieve. This is the motivation, overwhelming burden to overturn decisions.
      4. VP External: Think it’s interesting that only time the student body participates is when it’s contentious, the SSMU building was maxed to capacity that day. I don’t think we need to put these safety barriers, as it’s discouraging for student participation. It is important not to dishearten students.
   9. No more points of discussion.
7. New Business
   1. Motion Regarding McGill Panama Field Study Program Fee
      1. Jacob: This is another motion that affects us internationally because of the Canadian dollar. Has increased its cost over 2.2% that Quebec law mandates we have to then approve. Important thing to look at is last clause, the justification. Basically because of fall of Canadian dollar, as Panama uses the American dollar.
      2. It’s an increase or $520, 10.4%. Note that there are a couple awards that students can apply for that can offset this price.
      3. VP Academic Q: Generally when there’s fee increases to compensate for monetary fluctuation it will be modified for year to year. Or is it binding? Response: We only approve specific changes, so hypothetically could keep this at same level for future years. But if they reduce the fee, don’t have to come to us to approve. Gabriel: So what if fee presented is no longer reflective of real costs but admin doesn’t have the incentive to lower the cost again? Jacob: It’s a possibility, but there’s a committee within SSMU and McGill admin that supervises these fees.
      4. No points of discussion.
      5. Voting: All those in favour? All. Motion is approved.
   2. Motion to Amend ASEF Bylaws for 2016
      1. VP Academic: Clarification before we vote. Every year ASEF collects undesignated funds that haven’t been allocated by Profs. This year had 40k and 10 applicants. So we had to go through applications, met with Dean of Arts and allocated money based on clarity of applications and perceived impact on students.
      2. One of biggest decisions was to fund 16k worth of ARIAs for Arts Internship Office. Will allow 8 students to work with Profs over the summer. Made because AIO’s financial situation is dire, and they have great program to run but looking for support. The Prof matches every dollar we allocate to ARIA, so this is really representative of 32k. A tremendous service we’re giving, it’s actually hiring 16 students.
      3. Ground rules for new VP Academic will be put in place for applications next year like streamline pay for $14/hour, except for visual arts collection. We funded up to 4.5k for different units.
      4. No money to CAPS because they were looking for yearlong positions from September to April, where this is a summer thing. Instead gave money to visual arts because we’ve gotten great feedback before.
      5. Spent the 42k in most efficient way that would could.
      6. No points of discussion.
      7. Voting: All those in favour? All. Motion is approved.
   3. Motion to Amend AUS Financial Bylaws
      1. VP Finance: Very straightforward, last council I brought up motion to get us a VISA card to for online purchases. Will be limit of 5-10k, clarification that this is only for online purchases where we can’t use cheques.
      2. No points of discussion.
      3. Voting: All those in favour? All. Motion is approved.
8. Reports of the Executive Officers
   1. Report of the President
      1. Since last AUS meeting was right before reading week, there hasn’t been a lot done. Haven’t been a lot of committee meetings.
      2. Faculty Meetings was on March 8th. I couldn’t attend, but VP Academic said it lasted around 40mins? Will talk about that in his report.
      3. Congratulations to elected AUS Arts Reps. Excited to work on your transition, sure you’ll do a good job.
      4. Highlight AUS 2020, which was a part of my platform when elected. Trying to create 5-year strategic plan for AUS, an organized list of ideas of how things in AUS can be done better. It’s informal, so timeline is work group meeting sometime this month, then present at last council meeting. Is about how we can better organize our governments, finances, etc. If you’re looking to get involved, let me know.
      5. Human Resources: Exec Committee voted to get rid of full time hires, pending approval of constitutional amendment at last council. So only have part-time exec assistants and part-time bookkeeper. This is for cost control, speaks more to hiring students with student money.
      6. Meeting soon with McGill Spaces Project to discuss Leacock projects like all the terraces and the green spaces.
   2. Report of the VP Academic
      1. Congrats to Erik, the new VP Academic of AUS.
      2. Biggest project I’ve been working on is ASEF, so thanks for approving that motion. On another note, the current VP Academics and VP Finances and newly elected ones will be meeting with Associate Dean of Graduate Research to restructure Arts Employment Fund. There is money lost that McGill has not been distributing to Profs, or has been locked up in accounts. This is money that could be used to hire students. Potentially in future, will be two ASEF cycles, one in fall and winter.
      3. Jacob and I are in process of writing AIO advisory committee bylaws.
      4. Academic Affairs Council meeting next week. VP Academic elect and I meeting with Associate Dean of Student Affairs today, was productive. Went over projects for next year. Faculty admins think positively of advising platform we’ve been working on.
      5. Attended Faculty of Arts meeting. Peel row houses being sold by McGill, first and second floor of Ferrier will be the substitute. So screening hall will be moved. Basement of Leacock will also be shut down for the summer. Apart from space, the university is drafting health and wellness strategy, plus sexual assault one.
      6. Rest of my time will be meeting with Dean to go over valedictorian and teaching awards nominations. Can still apply to be valedictorian until Friday, or to nominate Profs.
   3. Report of the VP Communications
      1. Jacob: Nuit Blanche is happening on March 18th. Spread the word and stop by SSMU building from 8pm to midnight to see exhibits, drink refreshments.
   4. Report of the VP External
      1. Most of my time is being consumed planning for embrACE, which is starting on Sunday, and working with Grad Ball committee for next Saturday.
      2. Tomorrow at BDA embrACE is raffling off tickets for Museum of Fine Arts and New City Gas, with all proceeds going to Friendship Bench. Check out Facebook event.
      3. ISAC wine and cheese at end of March.
      4. McGill 24 is happening, going to be setting up McGill 24 kiosk in lounge with swag. Talk about what you love or hate about McGill and where you want funds to go.
      5. SSMU Engagement: Commissioner and I releasing applications for awards, templates for those applications are set up.
      6. Rupi Kaur is coming tomorrow, you should all go.
      7. Meeting with McGill Space Project next week with Jacob to talk about green space stuff.
   5. Report of the VP Finance
      1. SNAX: Have 11 paid positions to offer, all of them are hourly wages. If you could promote this to your constituents, that would be good. We run SNAX to provide students with jobs.
      2. FMC hasn’t met yet, but is meeting day after tomorrow.
      3. A lot of work going into the audit.
      4. Meeting with Jacob with incoming VP Finance to transition him into role, met last week to go over frosh things.
   6. Report of the VP Internal
      1. Jacob: AUS awards are going to be on Monday April 4th at Weinstein and Gavino’s. Nomination kits will be sent out this week, which will have more info. Nice end to the year, lots of fun. Please RVSP once email is sent out.
      2. Last chance to book liquor permit is this Friday. If you have an event you need it for, talk to VP Internal.
   7. Report of the VP Social
      1. For BDA, the VP Social elect and BDA co-chairs are in process of interviewing everyone that has applied for manager. Won’t announce who they are until later next week, everyone’s busy.
      2. EPIC: Not holding Arts Attack event. Lots of risk, payoff wasn’t worth it. Open-mic event instead at beginning of April?
      3. Lots of emails for Grad Ball, still have some dance tickets. Sending out confirmations on rolling basis. Friday at 5pm is last chance to ask for refunds.
      4. Frosh coord info session happened, first we’d done. Application is still live until Sunday at 5pm, application found on Facebook page. VP Social elect and I along with last year’s committee members will be interviewing people next week.
9. Reports of the Arts Representatives and Senators
   1. Report of the Arts Representatives to SSMU
      1. Arts Rep Ning: SSMU council was on Feb. 25th. There was additional constitutional amendment and screening motion with 2/3 majority, so it’s going to a referendum.
      2. Motion to reaffirm SSMU’s Commitment to Diversity of its Membership was tabled, drafting new statement.
      3. Motion regarding VP External’s participation during referendum period failed.
      4. Committee meetings: Lexi had Equity Committee, contacted lots of student groups and Profs to see if they’re interested in TVM project.
      5. Adam has updates on Steering Committee, but Dental Committee passed motion for fee increase, going to referendum. Also has upcoming MAASH meeting on March 11th.
      6. I went to Faculty of Arts meeting, and going to Dental Committee meeting this Sunday.
      7. PSA Q: Can you explain SSMU/Kareem controversy? VP External Becky: Kareem was quoted that he hopes Jewish students don’t feel alienated by BDS motion passed. Deliberately misquoted by woman who had aggressive opinions at GA, made clear to student body that this wasn’t what he said.
   2. Report of the Arts Senators
      1. Senator Kpeglo-Hennessey: Not much to report because of reading week.
      2. McGill 24 coming up, received two emails already.
      3. Advisory Committee on Student Rights is meeting soon. Hasn’t had meeting in 3 or 4 years.
      4. Still waiting on reappointment of Dean of Students.
      5. Course outline question that I sent out: looking at potential options and will get back to you soon.
      6. Erin and I met with student affairs, discussed wellness strategy that is making its rounds of consultations. Is a university-wide strategy.
      7. Senate is coming up on March 23rd, discussion on university policy for assessing enrolment.
      8. Erin highlights: Medical note policy is going through consultation.
10. Reports of Committees and Departmental Associations (AGELF-WSSA)
    * 1. MPSA: On the 17th of Feb. we had ice-skating in old port. This month we have Pi Day where you can pie an exec to fundraise for grad ball.
      2. Have wine and cheese with Profs for PSI Journal launch on 15th of March.
      3. IDSSA: We’re working on our journal, Latitudes, launching on 29th of March. Event probably in Leacock 232, so come.
      4. Internship program in place that we started last year, we have 5 postings and 2 internships going on right now. If you know someone who would be interested, that’d be great.
      5. Tutoring program in place, hiring 2-3 students for finals seasons. Or can always come to our office hours.
      6. SLUM: Our undergrad journal coming out next month.
      7. Canadian Conference for Linguistic Undergrads coming on March 18-19th.
      8. 2 confirmed speakers for Future Week.
      9. Prof wine and cheese happening in April, and bake sale has been delayed but should be settled this week.
11. Question Period
    * 1. None
12. Next Meeting Time and Date (**March 23th, 2016 at** **6:00pm in LEA 232**)
13. Adjournment at 6:58PM

**Membership of AUS Council**

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