**Arts Undergraduate Society of McGill University**

**Legislative Council**

**April 5th, 2017, 6 PM**

**AGENDA**

1. Call to order at 6:15PM
   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 Finance, VP Social, AGELF, ASSA, BASiC, CSA, CSAUS, LAPSA, WIMESSA, RSUS, RUSS
   2. Came late:
   3. Left early:
3. Approval of Minutes from March 22nd 2017 Council
   1. No amendments
   2. All those in favour? All. None against
   3. Agenda is approved
4. Approval of Agenda
   1. Senator Keita: Add motion regarding endorsement on open letter about mental health. Voting: All approve. This item is added to the agenda.
   2. All those in favour? All. None against
   3. Minutes are approved
5. Announcements
   1. Speaker of Council: Please fill out end of year survey about AUS exec.
   2. AUS President: FMC application portal broken for last few weeks, a lot of people who sent in apps and haven’t heard from us. If you sent in FMC app in last few weeks, chances are we didn’t receive it so we’re looking them over for next few weeks, let me know if you’re waiting on funding.
6. Question Period
   1. Arts Rep Thomas: Can you talk about distribution of accountability survey? Since this is our last council, talk about the distribution of results. Speaker of Council: Refer my speaking time to Secretary General because I’m not entirely clear on that. SG Justine Leblanc: For the accountability survey last time, they were distributed anonymously to the concerned execs, and for this end of year survey we made it more general, got some complaints about being too specific last time, so will have three broad Qs this year. Will be emailing responses to execs and their successors, so make comments as general as possible and not too specific to individual people?
   2. Senator Cleveland: Where is agenda? Response: Under AUS updates.
   3. ASA: Was there reason agenda wasn’t sent out on email this time? Speaker of Council: No specific reason, just didn’t have time, but is on AUS website.
7. Appointment of the VP Internal
   1. Speaker of Council: I assume candidates are here to make speeches?
   2. Rebecca Scarra: I’m a committed, hardworking individual who strives to improve McGill community. I’ve been floor rep and sat on floor rep hiring committee, currently working as co-commissioner for Community Engagement Committee. I’ve had experience working with large groups of people, deeply value working a part of team, have excellent comms and conflict resolutions skills, and committed to personal learning and growth. Being largely admin role, VPI requires admin skill and being accessible, I believe my organizational skills would allow me to be good at this position, and I like being busy. I’m also easily accessible via email or other forms, I will respond swiftly. This is essential to ensure departments and events run swiftly as possible, and I’d work as point of contact for all departments so strong interpersonal skills a strong asset to this position. I’m extremely approachable and make sure people are aware of all AUS resources available, would love opportunity to work as part of AUS team next year and thanks so much for your consideration.
   3. David Metcalfe: I’m second year joint honours student in history and political science. I believe I would be suitable candidate because I have time to be actively engaged. I had to manage 10k fund on for Dawson students and clubs, dealt with student body and CEGEP itself, along with Profs and admin. I’m dynamic and love meeting new people, I’m always open to suggestions, very pragmatic and I’m completely bilingual. Completely open to any Qs and actively involved in volunteering, with homeless and Quebec liberal party’s work with aboriginal affairs, aware of many issues McGill is working on with them.
   4. VP Internal: Point of information, in order to be eligible for position you had to sit on a committee, and if you’re not on one you are appointed to a committee.
   5. VP Academic: Clarification, this position is appointed by council again in September, next year council’s discretion whether to hold bylaw election at time, after Sept. 13th at first council meeting.
   6. Debate:
      1. VP Academic: To both candidates, are you here in Montreal for the summer? Rebecca: No, have internship back home, but accessible via email. David: Yes, I live in Montreal.
      2. AUS President: For both candidates, do you intend to retain positions in other committees and organizations next year? Rebecca: Current committee I’m on is ACE, so no. I’ve applied for another committees. David: As of right now I’m not on any other committee. AUS President: I meant in terms of volunteering too. David: I’m very devoted. I volunteer at homeless shelter few hours a week, don’t feel time constraints interfere with my studies or other engagements.
      3. VP Comms: Are there any projects or plans you plan to tackle this summer? Goals you want to bring to the table to innovate? David: Engage with McGill community. Find a lot of students in faculty feel indifferent to AUS contributions to McGill life, despite people here giving time and energy to ameliorate outreach for them. Don’t feel it’s fault of McGill body for being unaware, but have to augment our engagement with them, through social media, events, etc. But always open to suggestions, very pragmatic, and feel it’s a team effort. Rebecca: Because it’s largely admin role working with departments, cultivate relationships with them so I can be approachable to their needs, feel comfortable discussing any issues they might have. And have open lines of comms within wider AUS, people who may have concerns. So people can come to me and discuss any issues.
      4. VP Internal: Do either of you have practice admin experience besides personal qualities of being organized? Rebecca: Never worked directly in admin position before, but I worked summer job as riding instructor, admin roles because working with large groups of people, but no formal experience. David: Working at Dawson, large admin role and quite time consuming, and I’ve been employed at Costco for 6 years and reached position that I make schedules for 80 people in my department, learned from my job that you give big time commitment, need to be on the ground, and need to hear out beefs and willing to resolve those in most diplomatic matter.
      5. Senator Keita: Do you work at Costco during the school year or only during the summer? David: Previously working 30hrs a week but this year as result of greater volunteering, reduced to 15hrs/week, but most hours worked during the summer. But because of my seniority I have flexibility regarding schedule, can make arrangements.
      6. Senator Cleveland: Have either of you met with current VPI to discuss responsibilities of position, besides reading it? Rebecca: No, haven’t sat down and had formal meeting, briefly discussed over email, this happened pretty suddenly. David: In same situation, found out on short notice, would have to consult afterwards.
   7. No more points of discussion.
   8. Arts Rep Thomas: Motion for private ballot vote. Seconded. Voting: All approve. VPA: Motion to recess for 5mins for voting. Approved.
   9. Rebecca Scarra Q: Because I’m voting member of council for ACE, am I still allowed to vote? Speaker of Council: Yes.
   10. Arts Rep Thomas: Do we have option to abstain? Speaker of Council: Yes.
   11. Voting: 2 abstentions, 17 votes for Rebecca and 12 for David. Rebecca Scarra is appointed as AUS VP Internal.
8. New Business
   1. Motion to Approve Painting of the AUS Office
      1. VP Academic: Basically this would technically be out of AUS operating budget, but from next year’s budget. But because it’s large expenditure wanted you bring it to you. AUS office half painted last summer, only bottom three feet of walls because of flooding. We have savings totalling several 100s of 1000s of dollars, and ventilation is pretty bad so close office for week and half in summer, and hire student painters to do it. Price to be approx. $4100, priced a bit more because it’s pretty out of shape, color on walls plus AUS logo on wall.
      2. Discussion:
         1. PSA: Does AUS have color in mind? Response: Open to straw poll from council, but thinking ivory? Off-white? Senator Keita: Ivory, for every Thursday? Don’t think that works. Because BDA happens there. VP Academic: Wouldn’t necessarily be color of lounge, would be color of office.
         2. VP Internal: If you’re committed to providing student jobs, apps for these positions? Response: Hoping to do open callout.
         3. CLASHA: How did come up with 4k price? Response: Had assistants measure entire wall space of office, and price of paints, primer plus two coats of paints, used home depot estimates, and estimated based on square footage, and added buffer of 25%.
         4. AUS President: Check in with McGill that you’re not in violation of agreements if you’re hiring students for manual labour. Response: Yes, if this goes forward, but not guaranteed.
         5. FMC: Isn’t the office pretty messy? Response: Won’t be after May, whole office reorganization. CLASHA: Would that cost money too? Response: Expecting execs to chip in, the new execs have traditional clean. VP Comms: Is that part of mandate? Can’t be forced. VP Academic: No. FMC: Think that walls aren’t that dirty in office, it’s nice space already just a lot of clutter; the money for painting could go to other places. It’s a lot of money and don’t think it’s the best way to spend money. Arts Rep Thomas: Totally valid point, but more motivation, even though office walls are clean, think that this was coming from wanting to bolster AUS spirit and redo office, trying to refresh us as a society, wanting to put huge logo in the office. Can look at more economical ways of doing this, but this is coming from wanting to bolster spirit, we had other ideas of student involvement in terms of Art going into office? VPA: We are expecting closer to 4k but hoping to bring this to student council earlier, wanted this debate of whether this was good use of student funds, given that we’ll have to invest in infrastructure in the next year, trying not to push too hardly on either side.
         6. MUGS: Lot of funding for infrastructure, can that be reallocated somewhere else? VP Academic: That 35k needs to be used for infrastructure, but this could be used by AUS operating budget in summer and then paid for by AUIF in September. Used by savings during summer and then retroactively refunded.
         7. VP Comms: There are mentions of reallocations of funds, wondering where we wanted to see those funds reallocated? Where you guys want to see improvement?
         8. Senator Hocevar: Has there been consideration that instead of painting office something neutral, commissioning someone with creative talent to paint mural, more representative of AUS spirit, if idea was to bolster spirit? FEARC: Agree, but also think need professionalism, as long as that can be contained with air of professionalism, like SSMU boardroom, think that was additional motivation to keep in mind. Senator Hocevar: Plenty of ideas that are still professional, maybe indigenous artists?
         9. CLASHA: Why doesn’t AUS have disability door?
         10. VP Academic: To respond to before, we’re not locked in onto design or color scheme, it’s very tentative. The mural has been proposed for lounge, and cool to do for lounge if we can maintain that air of professionalism.
         11. FMC: Reminder that more colors of paint cost more money, so cost is also a factor. If we have nowhere else to allocate money, go towards painting, but feel that even though people do visit AUS office, not many people do. Not many people have reason to. Ways infrastructure money can be used to direct people towards AUS as a service? Equity: Recognize that not many people go to AUS office is because it’s not refreshed or repainted, and think about lived experiences of AUS exec who have to stay in that basement for nine months…
         12. VP Comms: Wanted to make comment that if we do mural, the money still going towards student painters, so still want ideas of where to reallocate money?
         13. Senator Keita: What’s scope of infrastructure budget? VP Academic: The VPF able to answer this better, but have 75k from Arts senators under allocated before, another 230k this year. AUS President: Still voting remaining for this year’s surplus. VP Academic: About 210k surplus liquidated this year, but AUS bylaws require 50k in savings at any one time.
         14. VP Internal: In response to CLASHA in regard to accessibility of spaces, sending email right now and sure that Rebecca will be okay following this up, thanks for suggestion and think it would be great use of funds.
      3. No more points of discussion
      4. Voting: All in favour? Majority, with 6 abstentions. Motion is approved.
   2. Motion to Amend the Financial By-Laws
      1. VP Academic: VPF not able to be here tonight. The proposal to make couple changes to AUS bylaws. FMC makes decisions on how to allocate funding every two weeks, in previous years not brought to council, just decisions made in VPF reports, and if council wanted to reject them had to be motion to reject, don’t think council has ever used that. So trying to institutionalize that, bring them forward in a block each semester not practical since apps are time sensitive.
      2. For purchases made by credit card, there are significant places and times when cheques can’t be used, so strike “exceptional use” in 10.7, and in 14.3 “fourteen days” to 30 days because FMC doesn’t meet in time sometimes, IE when November financial statements are made.
      3. Senator Cleveland Q: FMC doesn’t meet in time to review November’s statements into December? Any way of keeping 14 days, adding subsection “because of life of student…?” Seems odd to me to retrieve banks statement reviewing last month’s expenses. Response: Also with spring break, FMC meets every two weeks, so gets dicey.
      4. FMC: If we approve funding for most applications, unless for large amount, get paid to people running organization and then because checks take a while need to get processed, whereas bank statements can be approved quickly.
      5. Voting: All in favour? All. Motion is approved.
   3. Motion to Ratify HR Policy
      1. AUS President: The SG have been working on this for quite a bit of time throughout year, lots of technicalities, lot of ambiguities regarding conflict mediation, how people in portfolios can approach execs when technically it’s their superior, or how streamline operations?
      2. SG Justine Leblanc: Secretary General is really recent position, only second year in existence and this is first year there’s SG and Deputy SG. Trying to solidify its mandate in terms of conflict structures, and make duties clear and establish chain of command, IE if you have problem with X who you go to. This is our first time doing this, Reeve, my successor, will expand on this document, where role of SG is more established on AUS. Issues this year that this portfolio could have been helpful, but didn’t get a lot of inquiries, a lot of people don’t know we exist, kind of obscure since we don’t even have a voting voice.
      3. Discussion:
         1. FMC: Only do conflict mediation and what does that consist of? SG Response: Role of SG is to manage HR for AUS. I work under Becky but I have my own separate bubble next to her, role is meant as independent resource to avoid conflict of interest. IE if someone had conflict with AUS exec, to avoid power dynamic we’re the third party objective observer. But we also run payroll, general HR duties that are normal for any other organization. AUS President: We also have extensive admin role, sitting on CBRC to make all bylaws consistent, no conflictions in bylaws, pretty important role. SG: Now we’re in charge of AUS hiring in primary phases, we’re the people who send CV and cover letters to exec, want to make hiring more equitable. AUS President: If you felt hiring was unfair, can act as mediators.
         2. Senator Cleveland: Was this policy based on other faculties or SSMU’s HR policy? SG: We mainly looked at SSMU’s HR policy, also looked at organizational theory, based on different theoretical frameworks of HR management, but also see throughout years where things can be adjusted. AUS President: Also not first reiteration of policy, have been work shopping it for a few weeks, general framework but also pretty AUS specific.
         3. FMC: Regarding financial framework in general, important that AUS remains free from financial corruption, do you have specific sections in policy for managing HR? SG: Part of financial oversight that SG is in charge of is payroll, go over execs that are on work-study, go over hours and make sure they’re on task. Otherwise more under VPF portfolio, but if a body or person feels their finances are mishandled, you can come to us with those complaints within AUS, and if outside our purview, can direct you to more competent bodies. Not everyone who is SG will be really proficient in financial management, in comparison to FMC who is appointed by general consensus, people who remain at McGill often stay on FMC. FMC Q: What sort of privilege does SG have to look over non-governed hiring process? SG Response: We don’t have oversight to go into committee to look at their books, we work more on demand basis, if someone gives complaint can go into that portfolio. AUS President: There’s lot of discussion about that, purpose of policy wasn’t to do that, simply designed to open up channels to voice concerns, so AUS is more accountable and transparent in future. IE if someone didn’t get in on FMC because felt it was biased process, could talk to SG.
         4. CLASHA: If you find something is wrong what’s process for that? SG: Difficult Q to answer, could be on personal level or institutional level IE mismanaged finances or problem with exec. Not one universal answer, framework that every conflict goes through is that you have five working days to get answer, get in touch with you and concerned body separately, get both versions of the problem. Hard to deal with miscarriage of exec responsibility, more case-by-base situation. AUS President: From that point, act as objective investigator, includes measures for dismissal of exec.
      4. No more points of discussion
      5. Voting: All in favour? All. Motion is approved.
   4. Motion Amend HSA and MIRA Constitutions
      1. AUS President: This is something happening in last few weeks, very procedural. Everything is approved, have consensus.
      2. No points of discussion
      3. Voting: All in favour? All. Motion is approved.
   5. Motion to Instate JSSA
      1. AUS President: Approached by department of Jewish studies, want reinstate their departmental organization, they’re entitled to it, had old constitution that we modernized. Here it is.
      2. FEARC Q: Will they be holding departmental elections? Response: No, function on appointment basis because they’re a small department.
      3. Senator Keita Q: Why were they removed? Response: No one is ever really removed, just people graduated and it fell apart.
      4. Voting: All in favour? All. Motion is approved.
   6. Motion Regarding Open Letter on Mental Health
      1. Senator Keita: This has to do with petition online regarding open letter to the Director. It speaks on the problems with mental health at McGill, including opening of new office that hasn’t worked out too well. Asking for AUS to endorse this open letter.
      2. Senator Hocevar: To clarify, you can find letter online, posted on FB group earlier this week. And back in the fall had talked about writing our own open letter, but got side tracked, so this would follow-up on a lot of feelings we had back in the fall, problems ongoing with mental health services here.
      3. VP Academic Q: Motion to amend “undergrads” to “undergraduates” in both “be it resolved” clauses. Seconded. Amendment is approved.
      4. Voting: All in favour? All. Motion is approved.
9. Reports of Departmental Associations
10. AHCSSA: We didn’t have that many elements in report, but had journal launch on March 30th and had four presentations on research from students, very successful and coupled with wine and cheese event to celebrate 16th printed edition of journal called *Canvas*. And had trip to Boston from March 24—26th, saw lots of museums. And had last event on Tuesday, was speaker series.
11. ASA: This has been pretty inactive month, one of our Co-Presidents resigned at start of March. We also intended to have GA on the 15th but then snow day happened. We had journal launch two weeks ago during AUS council on 22nd, successful, had between 20-30 people. A lot of events happened in first month or two of semester, IE we had ethnographic film festival in January, most successful event we’ve hosted in last couple years. Otherwise, our VPI and VPA involved in hiring of new archaeology Prof and trying to get faculty to create two new streams in socio-cultural anthro and archaeology.
12. Reports of the Arts Representatives and Senators
    1. Report of the Arts Representatives to SSMU
       1. Arts Rep Thomas: We had SSMU meeting on March 23rd, last one tomorrow. Had presentation on Angelot program, this campaign wants to introduce program at bars, bartenders inserting codes in case someone is in danger, “IE can I get an angel on ice?” Discussed it, didn’t think it was best program at McGill, IE what if bartender is one perpetrating violence, and this campaign has high publicity, VP Ops considering Gerts implement their own program regarding how to handle this ourselves? And started discussing hiring policy, more security check for bartenders. Also passed all these motions listed on report, and shout-out to Isabella for getting nom for councillor of year for SSMU.
       2. For me, Mental Health Committee had last meeting yesterday. Posted link for friendship bench yesterday, didn’t do well this year. And all of Isabella’s committees met, all on report.
       3. Arts Rep Anderson: For clarification Committee on Student Affairs didn’t meet today, Erik let me know. Will have next meeting in May.
    2. Report of the Arts Senators
       1. Senator Hocevar: Our next senate on April 20th, next two senates at weird times. At end of year for senate caucus we write reports to give on to next year’s senators and committees to pass on info, they’re helpful, so we’re undergoing that process right now. Can find biweekly reports online. Don’t have senate caucus this week, but Tuesday after the next senate. And we just passed open letter on mental health.
       2. University committees are recruiting student reps, good opportunity to get involved, important that we get people involved who want to be there, link to apply. If you have Qs about particular committees, ask us. And tomorrow Provost is having drop-in hours at Gerts from 12-5pm.
13. Reports of the Executive Officers
    1. Report of the President
       1. Most of stuff working on is transitional, wrapping up AUIF purchases and circulating eBooks. Meeting with new exec and Deans, met last Monday, things are good.
    2. Report of the VP Academic
       1. Committee on Student Affairs cancelled, wonderful essay centre posters are out, and Madeline is fully transitioned. Student rights violations, still handling student rights concerns for rest of year, still responsive.
       2. Hiring is going well for my portfolio. Thanks for awesome year, next council meeting Sept. 13th
    3. Report of the VP Communications
       1. For those who aren’t at AUS awards, congrats to Casarina for winning councillor of year. Council writing exit reports, keep institutional memory.
       2. Francophone Commission had event at Gerts, a 5à7, sangria for all who came. AUS Media has one last video at BDA tomorrow, asking fun Qs.
       3. For transition, Maria and I started interviews today, going through weekend.
       4. Senator Keita Q: When do you send last email? Response: Last listserv goes out this Monday. Shout out to Jules who also was translator this year.
    4. Report of the VP External
       1. All committees have done events, began transition with Catherine and working on hiring this week and next. Last SSMU council tomorrow.
    5. Report of the VP Internal
       1. Thanks for everyone who came to AUS awards, have form on my report that I’ll post in FB group, feedback of how event was. Please be brutally honest, want to make event as great as possible next year with Rebecca.
       2. Starting transition soon, spent about 10hrs transitioning old VP Internal, but I’ll do that again…
       3. Room bookings for study sessions, I can’t get permits, but let me know for studying purposes. But let me know ASAP since they’re being used for other purpose, AKA exams.
       4. Equity: Thank you Kira for organizing AUS awards.
    6. Report of the VP Social
       1. Report posted online
14. Next Meeting Time and Date (**September 13th 2017 at 6pm**)
15. Adjournment at 7:40PM.

**Membership of AUS Council**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Name** | **Present?** | **Late / leave early?** |
| **AUS President** | Becky Goldberg | Yes |  |
| **AUS VP Communications** | Chanèle Couture De-Graft | Yes |  |
| **AUS VP Internal** | Kira Smith | Yes |  |
| **AUS VP Social** | Kat Svikhnushin | No | Excused |
| **AUS VP Academic** | Erik Partridge | Yes |  |
| **AUS VP External** | Kia Kouyoumjian | Yes |  |
| **AUS VP Finance** | Noah Lew | No | Excused |
| **Arts Representative to SSMU** | Isabella Anderson | Yes |  |
|  | Maria Thomas | Yes |  |
| **Arts Representative to SSMU** | Catherine Jeffery | Yes |  |
| **Arts Senator** | William Cleveland | Yes |  |
| **Arts Senator** | Casarina Hocevar | Yes |  |
| **Arts Senator** | Charles Keita | Yes |  |
| **FEARC** |  | Yes |  |
| **FMC** |  | Yes |  |
| **ACE** |  | Yes |  |
| **AUS Environmental Council** |  | Yes |  |
| **AUS Equity Committee** |  | Yes |  |
| **AGELF** |  | No |  |
| **AHCSSA** |  | Yes |  |
| **ASA** |  | Yes |  |
| **ASSA** |  | No |  |
| **BASiC** |  | No |  |
| **CLASHA** |  | Yes |  |
| **CSA** |  | No |  |
| **CSAUS** |  | No |  |
| **CSUS** |  | Yes |  |
| **DESA** |  | Yes |  |
| **EASSA** |  | Yes |  |
| **ESA** |  | Yes |  |
| **GSA** |  | Yes |  |
| **HSA** |  | Yes |  |
| **IDSSA** |  | Yes |  |
| **ISSA** |  | Yes |  |
| **LAPSA** |  | No |  |
| **MESS** |  | Yes |  |
| **MESSA** |  | Yes |  |
| **WIMESSA** |  | No |  |
| **MIRA** |  | Yes |  |
| **MPSA** |  | Yes |  |
| **MUGS** |  | Yes |  |
| **NASSA** |  | Yes |  |
| **PSA** |  | Yes |  |
| **PSSA** |  | Yes |  |
| **RSUS** |  | No |  |
| **RUSS** |  | No |  |
| **SLUM** |  | Yes |  |
| **SSA** |  | Yes |  |
| **SUMS** |  | Yes |  |
| **Speaker of Council** | Jonathan Glustein |  |  |
| **Recording Secretary** | Amylea Doiron |  |  |