**Arts Undergraduate Society of McGill University**

**Legislative Council**

**January 16th, 2019, 6:00 PM**

* 1. Call to Order
     + 6:00 pm
  2. Territorial Acknowledgement
     + 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.
  3. Roll Call
  4. Meeting Minutes for Approval: AUS Meeting November 28th 2018
     + Motion passes
  5. Approval of the Agenda
     + Motion to Amend the Agenda to Include Motion for The Religious Studies Undergraduate Society (RSUS) to Select the 2019-2020 Executive Independently
       - Motion passes
     + Agenda approved
  6. Announcements
     + [AUS Elections Announcement to Council] President & AUS Elections: If you want to add a referendum question for an AUS Elector, you must have that ratified before the 13th in Council. Check AUS Elections emails for Winter Referendum and Winter General Election dates and deadlines.
     + VP External: Next week is the Work your BA (Jan 24 - Feb 1) event. The Facebook event is posted in group. Individual events for specific events that are coming by Friday. There's going to be a law school event, a UN Speaker, a panel for Arts and Entertainments, NGO Panels, and other workshops by CAPS. Please share with your constituencies!
     + VP Finance: Fill out the form posted on the group. Everyone needs to nominate someone to sit on AUIFC. Ideally, they'll be free on Wednesdays at 9:30-11:30 'cause that's when meetings happen.
  7. Unfinished Business
  8. New Business
     + Motion to Amend General and Departmental Electoral Bylaws [PASSED]
       - Moving (President):
         * The 3-strike process was amended to the de-merit system for elections. This ensures that AUS Elections is always invited to social media groups and that the President has to provide the lists for electoral constituents by certain dates. Slates are being struck for both general and electoral by-laws.
       - Questions:
         * RSUS: If I were to propose an amendment mandating AUS Elections to provide anyone penalized under the former position how to appeal, would this be a friendly amendment?

President: We need agreements from the fellow movers, as well.

RSUS: Whenever AUS Elections penalizes someone, AUS Elections sends reasons for penalizations and instructions on how to appeal

* + - * Points:
        + Arts Senator Wilson: If the movers view the amendment as friendly, will this not become an amendment to the bylaws?

Arts Senator Wilson: Amendment now reads, "AUS Legislative Council" and not "AUS Elections"

* + - * Voting:
        + Amendment friendly; voting on entirety of motion with the amendment
        + Motion passes
    - Motion to Amend Dates of Elections [PASSED]
      * Moving (President):
        + We realized some dates needed to be amended. The campaign period continues but doesn't overlap with the polling period, which is why we're bringing in another amendment, because this was in error.
      * Questions:
        + VP Finance: In the past, campaign period has ended before polling period.

President: In my experience, they've always overlapped.

* + - * + VP External: Is there another amendment coming after this so that the campaign period and polling period DO overlap?

Speaker: Yes, there is another friendly amendment that proposes the campaign period and polling period overlap

* + - * Voting:
        + On the amended version of the motion
        + Motion passes
    - Motion to Amend the IRP [PASSED]
      * Moving (VP Social):
        + Currently, the article says to start an IRP investigation, it must be brought to an Equity Commissioner. However, there are certain situations where it's brought by other people (like McGill security or the VP Social themselves), so we added a clause where investigation will be instigated and requests be accepted if brought by third-party authorities like security, as a lot of these matters are time sensitive
      * Points
        + Senator Wilson: Friendly amended steps "4.6" above to 4.4 to 4.5
      * Voting
        + Motion passes
    - Motion for the QSSA to Hold Separate Elections [PASSED]
      * Moving (QSSA):
        + QSSA represents approximately 9 students so we're able to deal with small numbers of candidates for elections. This means an online platform is not effective since we're such a small department. We'd like to hold independent elections by ourselves because it's easier: we can just email everyone to vote on a date together and vote simply without a big online thing.
      * Questions
        + VP External: It's easy to do voting online. Even if it's a small number, have you considered doing online just for accessibility (not everyone can meet in one meeting time even if they really want to be there)?

QSSA: I can personally say that I know every person from the Minors program. We think it will be easier to hold the election by ourselves.

* + - * + Equity Commissioner: You know everyone from your minor but in terms of thinking ahead, it may become difficult to hold internal elections in the future, whether the minor grows or something else happens. There's a lot of validity in wanting to hold independent elections but next year that validity might not be the case.
        + HAS: Would the person counting the ballets be a member of the QSSA? If there ARE only 9 people and the ballot counter IS a member of the QSSA, it would cut very much into the voting party. It might be beneficial to have someone external to count the votes.

QSSA: Amendment is friendly

* + - * + PSA: We do have to move for these every year, so I'm confused by the idea that this would somehow continue every year. I think this is misleading and unnecessary when we are allowed movement in how we propose these election amendments. Just curious about the bylaws behind these election requirements.

President: Yes, you can't get permanent permission, you have to reapply every Council year.

* + - * + CSA: Do you think that this would set an ambiguous precedent for future Councils? There are many small departments and I don't think doing this by a case by case basis would work.

VP Finance: I think it's easier for QSSA's 10 people to meet in one place than CSA's 70.

* + - * + PSA: Do you think you would find it beneficial to meet the candidates in person rather than online or by email?

QSSA: We ask our candidates to do a speech and then have a question period, whereas online you just have text and can't ask anything directly to them

* + - * + VP External: What are the amendments?

Speaker: The two amendments: In-person AND online voting and changing "blind voting" to "anonymous voting"

* + - * Points
        + Equity Commissioner: Friendly amendment: changing "blind voting" to "anonymous voting"
      * Debate
        + Senator Wilson: Last year, there was a motion to have one motion for all small departments to apply for independent voting. Maybe for further AUS Council decisions, the AUS could have an application period for small departments to submit their independent voting applications to one place/one motion.
        + President: I don't think this the best ideal situation for accessibility in voting.
      * Voting
        + Including friendly amendments:

To change "blind voting" to "anonymous voting"

To ensure ballot counter is an external party

* + - * + Motion passes
    - Motion for The Religious Studies Undergraduate Society (RSUS) to Select the 2019-2020 Executive Independently [TABLED]
      * Moving (RSUS):
        + We're a small department, most are in the minor program, and there are only a few majors. Apathy runs wild and not too many people care about elections. The few people interested will be turned off by the formal election process. Within our Constitution, we request to hold interviews independent of the AUS Elections. Our exec interview people and select someone to fill their spot. We've done this for several years and we are looking to renew this permission for the next year's exec
      * Questions
        + VP External: How many people are in your department and as to people being interested in running, how have they expressed their desire for independent exec selection?

RSUS: We don't have a formal number but there are maybe 170 students in the department? We don't have a formal poll but we know there's no interest. All of our exec will have no turnover.

* + - * + How many people applied to be exec?

RSUS: Not a lot. We had to beg for people to apply.

* + - * + GSA: We had a similar situation in the sense that most of our constituents (taking German classes) are not in the GSA officially, but have you considered having minimal effort elections then having interviews as a backup plan? That's what we did and I think that will appease everyone and would look better on paper

RSUS: I see where you're coming from but the real fear is scaring people away. People just don't want to run for elections; if running becomes too complex they'll just join a SSMU club.

* + - * + VP Finance: Depending on the person, don't you think that maybe an interview could be equally intimidating?

RSUS: Yes, however, the people who want to be on the exec are the ones who have no problems doing interviews

* + - * + VP Academic: I want to discuss the accountability of having interviews. How would you have that accountability and who would be sitting on the interview panel?

RSUS: Historically with the RSUS President and by convention whoever is with the prospective President. According to the Constitution, Article 10.1, we hold interviews through the AUS.

* + - * + HAS: Do you use any principles for equity in your hiring or interviews?

RSUS: We don't have any formal equity policies, but it's something we do keep in mind.

* + - * Debate
        + PSSA: Talking again on GSA's point, there's a lot of merit running an election. There's the concern of accessibility running an election and it's fair, but maybe that's something we can address making elections more accessible. GSA's way of having elections first then applications/interviews as a backup seems more
        + Senator Wilson: I don't think you should be worrying about scaring people from an election. In my opinion, if you think an election is too much work, being a student exec is too much work. If someone doesn't want to run for an election maybe they wouldn't be up to their exec position's responsibilities.
        + CRO: There's a lot of discussion with how departmental elections are run. I recommend in the cases that independent departments want to run their own departments, Council can make sure they have options in place instead of having to hold a motion each time. If Council can make a standard depending on the size of the department. This would make it easy for both departments and Council in efficiency
        + RSUS: The current execs, I know all of them, would have no issue with elections. However, we can definitely find confident people through interviews and it's true that if there's an expectation that people can't handle elections I understand that. Our concern is a bit more immediate in the sense that (theoretically) if we have an election and no one proposes that they want to run, then we don't have anyone in that spot. As for GSA's suggestion, I'm pretty confident we'd end up holding only interviews. I like what the CRO mentioned. It seems that every time this comes up for departmental independent elections, there's always a different issue. So I would be open to rescinding my motion for now to open some sub-committee to deal with this and how to make this more smooth.
        + PSSA: I think what would be more effective, considering that the CSA and QSSA all put out changes in how they run departmental elections, what the CRO says is correct. We should create a standard to prevent long discussions every time. Coming up with a working group to set these standards for elections and looking into existing AUS legislation (e.g. Equitable Hiring Committee created last year has guidelines on conducting elections, where you have to have 2 executives who don't have conflicts of interest with the people being elected). Making more elections accessible and defining them for small, medium, and large-sized departments. If we strike a working group it could probably come up with these standards by February 21.
        + GSA: If RSUS and any group wants to join and create a homogeneous elections followed by interviews process that we can present next Council to avoid the case-by-case basis thing, we could start setting a standard by this year.
        + CRO: It's important to have a standardized way of elections. We can't change how we run things with every department. This might create conflicts of interest and favouritism with certain execs. So we should have a standardized process so it can't be amended as easily
      * Points
        + AHCSSA: Alternative to working group: Senator Wilson and GSA mentioned all the departments working together to do a combined election and interview process. Could we go back to that?

Senator Wilson: This is a bit different. We just want to create a standard for all independent departmental election applications.

* + - * + PSSA: Point of Information: Motion to have a break to draft up this standard

Speaker: We're still debating this so we could motion to table this motion

VP External: Do we need to create that amended motion first or do we have to table?

Speaker: You need to table first

* + - * Motions
        + RSUS: Motion to table

Motion passes

* + - Motion to Suspend the Rules to Amend the Agenda [PASSED]
      * Movers: President & VP External
      * Vote
        + Motion passes
    - Motion to Strike a Working Group on Standardization of Departmental Elections [PASSED]
      * Moving (PSSA)
      * Speaking
        + Senator Wilson: Friendly Motion to Fix Spelling Mistakes
      * Voting
        + Motion passes
  1. Executive Officer Reports
     + President
       - Insurance almost here
         * We sent back information but insurer is currently away. Gonna call tomorrow.
       - Election stickers saying, "I Voted!"
       - Referendum: All our fees expired this year. Now I have to renew all our fees.
       - CRBC meeting. Thank you for being great.
       - Projects:
         * Applications for People of Colour Commissioners received
         * Planning Femmes and Politics event but I had to move the date because it was the same as our holiday party
         * Mia, Billy, and I are hiring a new Internal Assistant
     + VP Academic
       - Essay Center is rehiring a new External Coordinator
         * Hiring internally right now so we don't have delays
       - Library Refurnishing Committee tentatively meeting this Friday at 2:30
       - Peer Tutoring Applications released and due January 22 at 5:00 pm
     + VP Communications
     + VP External
     + VP Finance
     + VP Internal
     + VP Social
  2. Reports of the Arts Representatives and Senators
     + Arts Representatives [Late]
     + Arts Senators
  3. Reports of Departmental Associations
     + CSAUS
     + HSA
     + CSA
     + IDSSA
     + ISSA
  4. Question Period
  5. Next Meeting: January 30th, 6:00 pm
  6. Adjournment
     + PSSA: Motion to adjourn
     + 7:37 pm