**Arts Undergraduate Society of McGill University**

**Legislative Council**

**October 2nd, 2019, 6:00 PM**

* 1. Call to Order
     1. 6:04 pm
  2. Territorial Acknowledgement
     1. 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
     1. [AUS Legislative Council September 18th 2019 Minutes](http://ausmcgill.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/AUS-Council-September-18th-2019.docx)
        + Minutes approved
     2. [AUS Climate Strike General Assembly, September 25th 2019 Minutes](http://ausmcgill.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/AUS-Climate-Strike-General-Assembly-September-25th-2019.docx)
        + Minutes approved
  5. Approval of the Agenda
     1. VP Finance: I move to add items #9.3 through #9.10, which were late, to the New Business section of the agenda.
        + Second mover: President
        + Motion passes
     2. Agenda approved
  6. Announcements
     1. RSUS: The Religious Studies Undergraduate Society is hosting a Wine and Cheese in Birks Building from 3-5 pm on Friday, October 18. Anybody is welcome, especially if anyone is interested in Religious Studies or in similar majors. We'd love to meet you and talk to you!
     2. AHCSSA: The Fridge Gallery accepting submissions from student artists! If you don't know what Fridge Gallery is, it's an organization on campus that accepts student submissions from artists and artists such as editors who write pieces on the works submitted.
     3. VP Academic: The Departmental Academic Roundtable (DART) meeting is next Thursday, October 10, from 6-8 pm in ARTS 260. All VP Academics must attend.
     4. IDSSA: The International Development Studies Students Association is holding a series of conversations (SDG Conversations) on sustainable development goals. Our first one will be about Indigenous representation in Canada on Wednesday, October 9 at 5:30pm in Stewart Bio. Hope to see everyone out there.
     5. MESS: The McGill Environment Students' Society is co-hosting a walk up Mont-Royal tomorrow (Thursday, October 3) from 4:30-5:30 pm picking up trash. Gonna be fun, especially if you want a break from school. Everyone is welcome!
     6. VP Finance: The Finance portfolio is hiring, especially the Finance Commissioner portfolio, which will be an internal auditing position. I encourage everyone to apply. The relevant information is on the AUS Facebook page. We also need three members-at-large for the Financial Management Committee (FMC). None of you are eligible but please share the message to anyone who is eligible. Lastly, we're hiring for the Ethical Business Practices By-Laws Review Committee. Please contact me if you're interested.
  7. Presentation from SSMU Executives to Explain Motion for a Fee Moratorium
     1. Presentation (SSMU)
        + I'm Bryan Buraga (he/him), President of the SSMU.
        + And I'm Adam Gwiazda-Amsel (he/him), VP External of SSMU.
        + We're here today to explain a motion coming up to SSMU Leg[islative] Council coming up to vote on Thursday, October 10. The motion that stands in front of you, your Council representatives either have presented or will be presenting…? *(Arts Representative Adin affirms this).* The question on the table is fossil fuels. SSMU is presenting a tactic towards divestment. The two major issues the motion addresses are: (i) the divestment itself, and; (ii) the shortcomings of the Board of Governors' committees to advise on responsibilities relating to student interests. The committees on the Board of Governors does little to solicit student interests, which is supposed to be its job. One of the ways we have power at McGill, as was made clear at the recent AUS Climate Strike GA, is economic holdings and maneuverings within the university. Students are the biggest donors to the university… well, one of them, but our money isn't being used for what we want it to be used for. Even if you make budgeting arguments (for the investments), they don't hold too well. This motion that we have here is that for any fees that must be passed by students (Ancillary fees [a.k.a. FIOs] like Access McGill fees, etc.), we'll have a policy to reject those outright as long as McGill continues its investment in fossil fuels. If the university decides they want to skip proper governing processes and go directly to pushing these fees, cutting SSMU Leg[islative] Council out of the process, we're (the SSMU executives) mandated to run a "No" campaign. There's also a letter attached to the motion (Appendix B) which is addressed to the Board of Governors and to other individuals involved explaining the rationale behind our decision and the implications it has. We're here to answer questions and concerns, to hear general opinions and feedback, yeah.
     2. Questions
        + VP Finance: So, have any other universities done something similar to the desired end? Has this worked in other places? Has it been done?
          - SSMU President: Back in 2016-2017 academic year, the SSMU decided to try something similar to this to reduce overhead charges on student service fees. Those fees are mandatory charged fees by the university that students have to pay and they are regulated by government. The regulations mandate that the university can only increase the fees by a set percentage according to disposable household income by capita per year. McGill's practice before (our 2016 tactic) was to take away a certain percentage of these student fees (which students pay to stay in student services) to go into the university general budget (a.k.a. central administrative services). When students pay a certain amount of student services fees to get mental and physical health, etc., they expect 100% of what they're paying to go to those services. But in the past, McGill has taken a cut out of that for their own operating budget. A similar policing and method of pressuring the university (similar to the motion for a fee moratorium) passed at the SSMU General Assembly back in the 2016-2017 year and resulted in the university starting to cut back the amount of overhead fees that they currently charge students and athletics. So there is some context in this tactic and to its success. It's important to recognize that as students, we hold important financial power over the university: we're one of their top donors and we shouldn't continue to invest in a university that ignores our desires to keep it fossil fuel free.
        + Arts Representative Adin: Can you clarify if you anticipate negative outcomes on student services as a result of this motion? And if you do, their (the negative outcomes') extent?
          - SSMU President: This went out last year. It's not the university's standard practice to do referendums over and above the basic increase. There were $12 million invested last year to student services in the process of revamping their whole network. We don't anticipate upping the fee, and they shouldn't, anyway.
        + VP Academic: So, basically, I was reading this article that says McGill invests its money differently from other universities. We invest in managers who then invest in other people. That was a major concern that we had when we talked about investment in McGill. The way you described this, how would we tackle that problem?
          - SSMU President: I said on the Committee to Advise on Matters of Social Responsibility (CAMSR) how McGill's endowment is structured. $1.6 to 1.7 billion dollars; $130 million of that goes into fossil fuels directly. McGill manages its endowments in different ways, some of them are into fossil fuels directly. Appendix A in the Motion Regarding Policy on Moratorium on McGill Fees Until Fossil Fuel Divestment includes a specific list of direct stock holdings that McGill holds, and they do have fund managers (mutual funds and other assets are managed on behalf of the university). In the first be-it-resolved clause, the second point is to divest from direct and mutual funds. Effectively, this phases out any investments they currently have. We don't want the university to be fiscally irresponsible, just to phase it over time - that's what we're asking for.
        + CSAUS: I want to thank SSMU execs for being here tonight. The Access McGill fee was brought up and that's to make the university more accessible for students with disabilities. Is this motion impacting this fund in any way? As the resolution states, it doesn't mention the impact of the moratorium on the renewals of existing fees. Do you intend for this to impact renewals of current fees?
          - SSMU President: No, the moratorium is deliberately intended to maintain the status quo until the university divests from the status quo. We don't want to do anything to negatively affect students to that degree and many students rely on Access McGill to come to the university, so we'd maintain that in the future years after this motion passes.
        + CSA: Is it in order for me to ask multiple questions?
          - Speaker: If you can make it into one question.
          - CSA: Could you clarify how exactly divestment aids in the general effort? Divestment is just a sale of sales, so if someone else buys them, it's not harming the company - they still get money. As a share holder, McGill has the statutory right to send a representative to shareholding meetings to give their concerns, and this motion would make them give up that right.
          - SSMU VP External: You sell the shares back to the company and then the company has to re-sell them, which happens on an open market. That doesn't take too long. A public institution should not be funding things harming people, which is where CAMSR comes in. The fact is that McGill University doesn't care about social injury all that much and, to my knowledge, hasn't attended shareholding meetings to pressure the fossil fuel industry. So, I don't understand who they'd send to shareholding meetings to this effect. Divestment aids in the push for climate justice because you have one less person willing to support the fossil fuel industry, which I see as a failing industry. It'd be one in a series of quite a few groups who stop investing. No new investors = old investors leaving = factually diminishing industry.
          - SSMU President: McGill University isn't an activist shareholder in any of the companies it directly holds.
        + Arts Senator Henrique: Thank you for being here. So, I roughly know the numbers because we're running questions at Senate on that. Bryan, you do sit on the body that discusses the investments. Do you know which way the discussion is going? Maybe… forcing their hand in some way? Reducing overhead fees, so $360,000 on a budget of $12 million for student services (which is already small) … That's the amount we take out of people's hands, which is roughly 3% of the student services budget, or so you could say in a way. Anyway, the overhead charges are roughly 3% of the student services budget but only less than 0.03% of McGill's entire operational budget. Forcing McGill's hand through overhead fees… I don't know if it's financially impactful enough to do so. You're risking hurting student services by barely tickling McGill on their operating budget. I don't know if this is the right budget, so I want to know if it is…?
          - SSMU VP External: This motion doesn't have to do with overhead fees. The previous use of this strategy (back in 2016) addressed overhead fees.
          - Arts Senator Henrique: My understanding is that if we don't pass anything that increases this fee, the only thing that affects McGill is the overhead fees, but how are we impacting them negatively and not student services?
          - SSMU VP External: It's not overhead fees exclusively. If they want new projects, McGill has to pay more money to fund them without overhead fees. We're shifting this burden back on the university (millions of dollars) so that we don't fund these things that McGill wants.
        + CSUS: If it so happens that it's been a year or two since the passing of this motion and McGill doesn't change its policy, is there some sort of structure for removing this decision that you've made or calibrating what we're going to strategize with?
          - SSMU President: Essentially, this policy written is intended to put maximum pressure on the university to divest (from fossil fuels). In the future years, if the decision is made to alter the wellbeing of students or Leg[islative] Council, the policy can be amended or repealed.
        + ESA: We were wondering what's stopping McGill from bypassing this moratorium and raising funds for their operational budget by raising tuition on international students?
          - SSMU VP External: Quebec legislation passed, in 2013, that auxiliary fees must go through this process/student representational processes. So, they have to ask us if we're okay with it. They can't go through their own avenues, so, they can't be funded through tuition - specifically because things like that would happen without those protections. So, the Quebec government is actually on our side on this one. For once.
        + Secretary General: I was wondering about if SSMU has fully explored the impact of this moratorium on all aspects? We talked about student fees, but - let's take FIOs for example - a lot of courses that require FIOs to be run (to travel to other countries) and for the university to visit other universities. This would be affected by moratoriums. Has SSMU any plans to develop a report or anything to explore the full impact of what this will do for students?
          - SSMU VP External: That's a good point. We could commission an impact study. This is relevant and I could bring forth an amendment to the policy. Four amendments for the obligatory auxiliary fees (institutional). As for the future impact, a couple of these being brought up won't negatively affect student wellbeing in a way the university would not be willing to cover. That concern is valid that the university could just, "No we're not doing this." But nah, that's not happening.
          - SSMU President: The university is asking students to cover $8 million for project for referendum and creating some sort of fee for that. By using power and voluntary decisions to fund these projects, let's look through the lens of what institution we're funding and if it makes sense to fund this institution when we have our own things to worry about. You can reach us at president@ssmu.ca and external@ssmu.ca
  8. Unfinished Business
  9. New Business
     1. [Motion to Amend the RSUS Constitution](http://ausmcgill.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Motion-to-Amend-the-RSUS-Constitution.pdf)
        + [Motion to Amend the RSUS Constitution [with friendly amendment]](http://ausmcgill.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Motion-to-Amend-the-RSUS-Constitution.docx)
        + [Motion to Amend the RSUS Constitution [final version]](http://ausmcgill.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Motion-to-Amend-the-RSUS-Constitution-final-version-passed.docx) [PASSED]
        + Moving (RSUS)
          - Hello, I'm the RSUS VP External. I'm Mo (they/them). What happened with our need to amend the Constitution was that up until May 2016, the School of Religious Studies was its own faculty. But in May 2016, we were put into the Faculty of Arts. A lot of changes were made to our Constitution, but it still doesn't reflect these changes. Our current RSUS exec went through it and updated it. There are two main issues. 1) There are a lot of references to the "Faculty of Religious Studies," which is patently not what we are anymore, so we updated that. And, 2) we had never included Bachelor of Theology students in our Constitution. They are de facto members of RSUS and de jure members of the AUS, in that they pay membership fees and when the VP Communications sent us our contact list, they were on it, but they're not in the RSUS Constitution. The Bachelor of Theology Undergraduate Studies' Association (TUSA) was dormant for 3 years but now they're active again and have meetings coming up. Because they're no longer dormant, they were concerned about their rights being acknowledged by the current RSUS constitution, so we wanted to amend the Constitution, particularly Article 3.1, to include them. It (the amendments) doesn't change anything in terms of our practice, it just makes sure that we are acknowledging in our Constitution these changes made three years ago.
        + No questions
        + *CSAUS added as second mover*
        + Debate
          - VP External: The last article, Article 7.9, states that the VP Internal should represent Bachelor of Theology students. Why is it a VP Internal role rather than an External role?

RSUS: Bachelor of Theology students are within our organization; it's not like we're a joint association. All Bachelor of Theology students are under RSUS mandate. Because they're within our mandate, it's the VP Internal's job.

* + - * + VP External: In that case, I agree that they should be under the VP Internal portfolio. But, under the understanding that TUSA is an academic association, shouldn't that be under some sort of different portfolio rather than that of the VP Internal? I do see how the VP Internal portfolio organizes the organization itself, but does that manage the committee of students that have the same sort of equivalent?

RSUS: We only have six positions in our exec since we're a very small association. So, Article 7.9.3 discusses the student representatives of the BA committee. We don't have a VP Academic, so… There aren't tons of commitments to be taken on since we're a small department, so the exec can have commitments such as that (representing SRS students) within the internal portfolio

* + - * CSAUS: Motion to Move the Previous Question
        + Second mover: Arts Representative Adin
        + Motion passes
      * Voting
        + Motion passes
    1. [Motion to Approve the New MIRA Logo](http://ausmcgill.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Motion-to-Approve-the-New-MIRA-Logo.docx) [PASSED]
       - Moving (MIRA)
         * I'm Elizabeth, VP External of MIRA. Here, you can see our two logos. They're almost the exact same logos, but the new one has a **BOLD FONT.** That is all.
       - Questions
         * MUGS: There's, like, all these stupid rules around the use of the martlet logo in departmental logos. That won't be a problem?

MIRA: Everything is fine. We already used it in our previous logo, so there will be no problems. Plus, it's been discussed.

* + - * No debate
      * *VP Academic added as second mover*
      * Voting
        + Motion passes
    1. [Motion to Amend the Financial and AUIFC By Laws](http://ausmcgill.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Motion-to-Amend-the-Financial-and-AUIFC-By-Laws.pdf) [late]
       - [Motion to Amend the Financial By-laws and AUIFC By-Laws [FINAL]](http://ausmcgill.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Motion-to-Amend-the-Financial-By-laws-and-AUIFC-By-Laws-final-passed.docx) [PASSED]
       - Moving (VP Finance)
         * The majority of the amendments that you see before you are essentially housekeeping amendments: e.g. bringing things up to date, changing practices to make the decision-making structures within representative of broader interests, etc. This motion involves specific changes to funding. First major change: specifying from which year the Department of Vocations get indexed. That wasn't done in the past so I specified which year that is. Second major change: added the VP Academic to the FMC to broaden the scope of input for decision-making. Third major change rearranges the allocations within the FMC and increases it slightly, partially in order to alleviate financial pressures within the organization for specific departments - they voiced some concern. Also leveling up the Special Project Funds to a level that it gets spent at - used more frequently this year. Finally, clarifies and extends the period by which all cheques must be claimed from AUS: April 15. I moved the date closer to the end of the fiscal year since people voiced concerns about that too. This will be enforced very strictly: anything after the 15th will be issued for the following fiscal year. As for the AUIFC by-law amendments: adds VP Finance to the Partnership of Library Committee.
       - Questions
         * CSAUS [Point of Parliamentary Inquiry]: Are you presenting this as a package or as one motion?

Speaker: This is one motion. You can motion to split the question.

* + - * + RSUS: How will the changes to Article 11, regarding internal accounts, affect our associations?

VP Finance: It won't. It continues standard practice, just clarifies the definition. It made it seem like there was a bank account in the association. That is not the case; that's literally impossible. Clarifies that it's not a bank account; it's a budget line from which you are entitled to spend money.

* + - * No debate
      * Speaker: Appendix A and B are wrong we're gonna fix that. The correct lettering is in there, but A and B are wrong.
      * Voting
        + Motion passes
    1. [Motion to Renew the Arts Undergraduate Improvement Fund (AUIF) Fee Levy and Make the AUIF Fee Levy Non-opt-outable](http://ausmcgill.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Motion-to-Renew-the-Arts-Undergraduate-Improvement-Fund-AUIF-Fee-Levy-and-Make-the-AUIF-Fee-Levy-Non-opt-outable.pdf) [late]
       - [Motion to Renew the Arts Undergraduate Improvement Fund (AUIF) Fee Levy and Make the AUIF Fee Levy Non-opt-outable [AMENDED]](http://ausmcgill.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Motion-to-Renew-the-Arts-Undergraduate-Improvement-Fund-AUIF-Fee-Levy-and-Make-the-AUIF-Fee-Levy-Non-opt-outable-amended-passed.docx) [PASSED]
         * *Note: The amended motion strikes the second question of the original be-it-resolved clause (to make the fee non-opt-outable) and only moves for the fee itself to be renewed (in referendum).*
       - Moving (VP Finance)
         * The Constitution and By-Laws mandate that this fee be renewed every three years. The condition is that we take the opportunity to look at the structures of the fee and looking at what this fee has been used for (to fund significant projects for departments, libraries, creative things at McGill, internships through the Arts Internship Office). There's a problem with this fee being opt-outable: it benefits everyone, and you cannot be excluded from these benefits from opting out. This fee has benefited the entire community. That clarifies the basic argument. Essentially, the motion is to prove questions, and those questions are: if you wanna renew the fee, do you wanna make it non-opt-outable? All motions with reference to referendum questions are in the process of being translated to French.
       - No questions
       - Debate
         * GSFSSA: I have some thoughts I want to share. I think the argument around "benefiting everyone" and "you can't opt out of and still receive" ignores the larger societal differences of people that are coming into the university. People might opt out because they don't have money. These fees might benefit everybody, but that doesn't mean there aren't reasons outside of university that don't put them in a position to pay. The argument isn't super clear. I think it's great that these fees have helped improve libraries and I've experienced benefits of that too, but I don't think it should be on students to improve libraries.

VP Finance: Thank you for the concerns. On the point of taking care of funding libraries, I think it's less that it's putting the responsibility on us, it's more that the fund gives us the unique opportunity to direct those investments. It's saying that, no, the AUS and Arts students have the opportunity to direct investments with very little resistance. Second, I think the argument that social concerns is problematic, from the perspectives of: (i) if that's applied, it would undermine the premise of all fees paid to student services. It's a fee unlike any other. AUS provides services to thousands of students. This is the same. This fee also provides opportunities to thousands of students. If we're going to carry through the premise that if you pay a fee, you belong into a society… I think it should be applied consistently throughout the entire organization and thus throughout all funds that it administers

* + - * + Speaker: Just a reminder that this motion is to bring this question to referendum.
        + RSUS: I don't think you can really philosophically argue that many students opt out of these fees out of financial limitations, even if you seek the premise. I agree with GSFSSA. You don't get to argue with a philosophical perspective on that.
        + HSA: With regards to what you said about the entirety of the AUIF improving the whole Arts student body, it does say in the motion that 20% of the AUIF is allocated to other Arts bodies. Is it true that, for example, all activities in the Arts Internship Office can say with certainty that those opportunities are being made available to all income-level students? What are the things AUS will be doing if they start charging? If they charge more of these non-opt-outable funds, what can the AUS say they're doing to make things more affordable and accessible otherwise?
        + EASSA: I just want to know if you have the data of what percentage of students is opting out and how much is being lost fiscally.

VP Finance: The approximate opt-out rate takes away $15,000/$20,000-ish from the potential budget, with 5%-7% of students opting out of the fund.

* + - * + ASA: Starting with how much money the opt-out rate takes out as opposed to the percentage of people opting out… The way that it's framed implies that there's a large amount of people opting out. I'd like to end with mirroring sentiments from GSFSSA.
        + CSAUS: First, thank you, VP Finance, for bringing this up. I will be supporting this. I use a lot of services, like the 24-hour access to Ferrier. It's really nice to have, especially with Schulich closed. I echo the sentiments from the VP Finance that if you are using services provided to you, you should pay for it. I do sympathize with the argument that many students cannot afford the fee, but the whole argument is a little hypocritical. Many Members of Council advocating for this argument were on the Raise the SSMU Fee Committee; they voted and campaigned to raise the SSMU fee. Like the Speaker said, this has to go to referendum, so why should we keep students from deciding for themselves if they think this fee should be opt-able? This is a routine motion. I think we should pass this and let our constituents decide for themselves.
        + CSA: I wanted to know what body of students put forward this motion, or if it was just you. Like, the committee that moved this.

VP Finance: Thank you. The Committee I'm referring to is the one allocating this fund. They haven't met.

CSA: So… what you're saying is it's just your idea.

VP Finance: Yes, if you'd like to put it that way.

* + - * + MUGS: I have a concern in general. This is a very well-intended motion but looking the agenda, there are motions to increase other fees. If we're making this fee non-opt-outable and increasing three different fees, I fear we're asking too much of students. The more we ask, the more we risk them rejecting the referendum. We should take this into account.
        + CSAUS: Point of Order, those are motions to renew existing fees. They are not new fees.

Speaker: That's not a Point of Order. If people want to debate other motions, they can, but this debate is about this particular motion. This is going to referendum, so if you want to decide if these are passed tonight, they're just being in a referendum. It's essentially a checkbox for other AUS students.

* + - * + President: I can answer questions about the Fine Arts Council (FAC) as I was VP Communications last year. FAC events are put on for zero cost. FAC events are accessible to all people, regardless of income.
        + RSUS: So, CSAUS brought up the fact that students will be able to vote on whether they want this to be non-opt-outable. Will it be a split question? If it is not then people are being forced to vote on both things together, which wouldn't be fair. Making it split would be fair. But if they're not split, then this needs to be amended.

VP Finance: It is split.

Speaker: It will appear as questions 1 and 2.

* + - * CSAUS: Canadian Studies moves the previous question [FAILED]
        + Second mover: GSA
        + MUGS (Point of Parliamentary Inquiry): Do we require a 2/3 majority or unanimous consent to move the previous question?

Speaker: Simple majority, 50%.

* + - * + HSA [Point of Information]: If we wanted to vote to pass the first question but not the second… if this (Motion to Move the Previous Question) were to pass, would that not be possible or would we be able to do that now?

Speaker: You have to motion to split the question and then we'd vote on it.

Arts Representative Adin [Point of Order]: To move the previous question, we need a 2/3 majority vote.

Speaker: It is 2/3, thank you for double checking. If this motion passes, we will be voting on the question now, and you cannot change it.

* + - * + Voting

Motion fails

* + - * HSA: Motion to Split the Question between First Clause and Second Clause [PASSED]
        + Second mover: ASSA
        + *(Speaker attempts to move into Voting on this motion)*
        + VP Finance [Point of Order]: Is there no debate allowed on the proposed amendment?

Speaker: Yes, we can allow debate.

* + - * + Debate (regarding the Motion to Split the Question)

VP Finance: In respect of our disagreements, it's important to emphasize that both questions are going to referendum. I don't see the point in saying, "Let's not allow AUS students to vote." If there are disagreements then, yeah, that's fair. But it is not fair to not allow the AUS membership to vote. Whether they vote or not, that's up to them. I'd like to premise the debate by making that point.

HSA: So, the reason that I split the question is that - and the AUS and all departments also have to realize this - is that the percentage of people that opt out of these funds is a minority. Minorities deserve protection at their university and their voices will be hurt by the second clause going to referendum. I've not seen convincing evidence of the assertion from members of the exec that this doesn't disproportionately affect students of financial need. I am still without well fleshed-out evidence that the Arts Internship Office is funded in part or that it's distributed in a way that is equally distributed. All I've heard is someone from exec, that may or may not be in financial able themselves, assert that. That's why I motioned to divide the question, because I want to protect the interests of lesser financial students, not because I don't want to see it discussed.

IDSSA: To speak on the Motion to Split the Question, it's important to note that most of the discourse surrounding the original motion has been about the second clause. I worry that the first clause will be denied because people vote against the second one.

RSUS: I'm against the second part. I do echo the sentiment that we should allow everyone to vote, but I also echo the sentiment that the people who are opting out of this fee are a minority. And I was wondering: if, instead of splitting the question, we amended the second question so that it stated what the impact would be for students who want to opt out, and if that would satisfy everyone here. So Arts students can still make informed decisions for themselves.

Speaker: We're currently debating the splitting of the motion. With regards to making an amendment to the motion, we would have to fail the splitting motion and then revert back to debate again, and then you could motion to amend the question. If you wanted to do further research then tabled the motion to be brought back to Council at a later date, there's still one more Council before the election referendum deadline. So you could bring back a similar motion at the next meeting.

VP Finance: What the Speaker said is not exactly true. Each question on this motion has been approved by DPSL so that if they passed, they would be implementable. If we wait until the next meeting, it will not be possible to have DPSL approve the motion for the Fall Referendum. It's not viable to suggest we can revisit this question on October 16 when Council reconvenes.

CSAUS: I value the intentions of HSA for splitting question. I'll reiterate my point: our constituents are smart. They're at McGill. They can understand the impacts this motion will have on other students. When we were talking about raising the SSMU fee, a lot of you campaigned for that. That fee was significantly more expensive than the $16 for Full-Time AUS students that this motion is suggesting. I move the previous question and implore you to think hard about the consequences of making this non-opt-outable.

Speaker: You can't call the question on a subsidiary motion. Only on the main motion.

ESA: So, I don’t think the point of HSA's motion was to suggest that McGill students are not smart enough to think of the potential impacts of this (the VP Finance's) motion. The point of a representative body is to represent what our constituents want. If we were to argue that direct democracy is always good, then what's the point of Leg[islative] Council if we shouldn't filter anything at all? We're here to filter what questions are for referendum. We represent our constituents, so it's relevant to split question.

VP Academic: To answer HSA's question: I sit on the AIO (Arts Internship Office) Committee. AUS goes above and beyond to fund internships and to accommodate students of all economic backgrounds. We funnel into multiple other funds that the AIO comes across to do its best to fund every internship we can.

MUGS: Hypothetically, if Leg[islative] Council were to reject the second question of this motion, then would the first question about renewing the fee itself have to go back to DPSL?

VP Finance: Thank you very much for all your points. I admire and respect HSA's principle and I invite everyone to look into how this fee benefits every department. I spoke to the Faculty *(sic)* of Gender Studies about their $10,000 allocation from the fee, the $40,000 allocation to AGELF, and more. I’m not surprised that people don't know about these, as they're not meant to be showy and festive, but consider carefully the questions in this motion. And I encourage people to bring this to public debate. The second part allows for it to be brought to public debate. I want to have a discussion with HSA in public about whether this benefits people. People should be able to hear both sides of the argument, not to be shut down from the get-go. That's democracy, what we're putting into the public arena for debate, and what we're putting into the public is whether this fee should be non-opt-outable: yes or no. They ought to have the ability to discuss it and hear both sides of the argument and then make an informed decision about it: either a strong yes or a strong no.

ASSA: I think nobody is debating how useful this fee is; that's not HSA's point by dividing the question. As a woman of colour myself, it's relevant to split the question just because we have to remind ourselves that not everyone has the same privileges. Yes, you did many amazing things with this fee, but the fact of the matter is that you did all those things even with 5%-7% opting out. So making this fee non-opt-outable wouldn't change much in terms of the opportunities it would bring.

GSFSSA: Just to emphasize a point that seems to be getting ignored, and that point is that if we put this out to all students, that might result in the minority being harmed without the power to speak against this and to change the outcome. It's vital that we split the question to vote separately.

RSUS: I'd like to bring back the fact that the VP Finance came up with these questions by himself. The idea to make the fee non-opt-outable did not come up from me, but from himself. Furthermore, as was discussed by GSFSSA, the AUIF has been able to run and function with 5% opting out. Furthermore, this is increasing the budget of the AUIF, but this increase wouldn't indicate that it would increase the percentage of people opting out. It is hypocritical that you are concerned about our money when you denied us our surplus without much transparency. Splitting the motion would address the students.

Arts Representative Adin: Given this debate straying from the topic of splitting the question, I move to the previous question.

Speaker: We can't move on a subsidiary motion.

VP Finance: If I may ask, what's the necessary threshold to pass the original motion?

Speaker: It is a 2/3 majority.

VP Finance: It's not a 1/2 simple majority?

Speaker: No, because it's voting on the question PLUS on splitting the question, it's 2/3.

HSA: Just to clarify the procedures, regarding the motion that I made before (Motion to Split the Question), I didn't realize that I was motioning to split the question AND to move to vote. Can I just do the splitting?

Speaker: Yes, we can just do it that way. Then it'll be two votes, in a way.

CSAUS [Point of Order]: Only a simple majority vote is required to split a question.

Speaker: We're doing them separately, anyway.

* + - * + Voting (on the Motion to Split the Question)

Motion passes

* + - * Speaker: So, now, we're voting to vote on the motion(s).
        + Arts Representative Adin [Point of Parliamentary Inquiry]: Are we voting on whole motion?

Speaker: Yes, but we're voting on questions 1 and 2 separately.

* + - * + PSA: We're having further debate before voting, right?

Speaker: No, because we're in voting procedure. Even if we hadn't been about to vote, we have a default cap on debates for 15 minutes, and we've vast exceeded that. Either way, we would have had to vote on extending debate time.

* + - * Voting (on question 1 of the original motion)
        + Motion passes
      * Voting (on question 2 of the original motion)
        + CSAUS: Motion to Request for a Divided Vote

Second mover: GSA

Motion fails

* + - * + Motion fails
      * Speaker: I'll be updating the past motion after Council to reflect the changes made (a.k.a. the striking of the second question from referendum).
    1. [Motion to Renew the Arts Computer Lab Fund Fee](http://ausmcgill.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Motion-to-Renew-the-Arts-Computer-Lab-Fund-Fee.pdf) [late] [PASSED]
       - Moving (VP Finance)
         * We meet again. The motion is before you. The Computer Lab Fund provides services to many students and based on the last question (of the motion), there is a funding deficit in the computer lab, particularly in regard to the Laptop Lending Program. The motion is to move to bring a small fee increase option in addition to agreeing with the fee itself.
       - Questions
         * MUGS: From the previous meetings, I recall that there's a sizeable surplus in the IT Fund. Is it possible to use that fund for the computer lab?

President: So, the VP Services and I met with the Associate Dean and other relevant officials about that. There's no guarantee that that fund (the IT fund) will be put towards the Laptop Lending Program. The Info Tech Fund is completely up to the jurisdiction of the Associate Dean. We can lobby for her to spend it for the laptops, but there's no guarantee she will. What the Laptop Lending Program wants to do to is to upgrade their devices. That requires an amount likely too large for what we're passing (in this motion): the IT fund wouldn't cover all of that in addition to the fees associated with the Laptop Lending Program itself. That other IT program does exist, but I can't see it covering the cost (of the Laptop Lending Program and other Computer Lab Fund projects) in its entirety.

* + - * No debate
      * Voting
        + Motion passes
    1. [Motion to Renew and Increase the Arts Undergraduate Theatre Society (AUTS) Fee](http://ausmcgill.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Motion-to-Renew-and-Increase-the-Arts-Undergraduate-Theatre-Society-AUTS-Fee.pdf) [late] [PASSED]
       - Moving (VP Finance)
         * The motion is before you. It is doubling the AUTS fee from $1 to $2 for Full-Time students and from $0.50 to $1 for Part-Time students. The theatre program does brilliant work every year, but the cost of renting Moyse Hall (the theatre that AUTS rents for their productions) increases every year. The renting cost has increased to the point that the current student fees don’t even pay half the fee of Moyse. This fee increase makes sure that AUTS is funded. Both options are included in motion.
       - No questions
       - Debate
         * VP External: Basically, so, I'm aware of the theatre society, but it's difficult to know what their shows are and what they do with the fund. Most shows charge students to enter and watch these shows. So, we're paying $2 on every ticket. Why do we need to increase the fee when the society charges admission?

VP Finance: I'm happy to respond - it's not just a question of renting Moyse Hall, it's also a question of AUTS wanting to expand upon their productions, like buying rights to more well-known scripts and getting more expensive props.

Recording Secretary: I can actually answer this, too; I'm in another theatre society that also rents out Moyse Hall for its productions. Moyse Hall requires the rent to be paid upfront before the production. So, even though AUTS does charge admission for tickets to see the show, they need to have the money to rent Moyse Hall before they can get this admission money, hence the need for the fee increase… because they'd be getting the ticket money after they'd already needed to pay Moyse.

* + - * + VP External: Is Moyse Hall under the AUTS or separate and part of university?

VP Finance: Moyse Hall is operated and owned by the university.

* + - * Voting
        + Motion passes
    1. [Motion to Approve the FY2019 Audited Financial Statements](http://ausmcgill.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Motion-to-Approve-the-FY2019-Audited-Financial-Statements.pdf) [late] [PASSED]
       - Moving (VP Finance)
         * The audit-finished statements include the findings from our last meeting. The motion, as it stands, summarizes the findings of the auditor, and asks for your approval for these statements.
       - Questions
         * RSUS: So, regarding the change in the structure of the budget and the lack of surplus rollover, I was wondering if there was anything found in the audit, like, if there was a need for fixing that, or if the need came from elsewhere… if there was need at all?

VP Finance: I have here the letter from the auditor regarding that. *(Finds letter from auditor).* So, in the Qualified Opinion section from the auditor: while they find that the financial statements regarding surplus rollover is problematic, the limitations of their opinion is subject to cash handling by constituent departments. Meaning, any surplus that is generated by departmental associations is, 90% of the time, generated by cash fundraisers. There is insufficient detailing in the accounting because legal tender cash is not well-accounted for. Given that, I didn't think it would be fair or accountable to include this in the rollover.

* + - * + CSA: I'm concerned. On page 5 of the expense report, under "Revenue and Expenses," there are a couple of things. Comparing last year's profits to this year's profits for SNAX (a.k.a. comparing the 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 fiscal years), last year saw a net profit of 26% while in 2019, it went down to 18%. Is this normal or is this out of the ordinary and being looked into? Another thing: programs. Last year's expenditure matched the revenue, other than a slight over-expenditure, which is fine, but in 2019, there was an excess of $100,000. Is that consistent with AUS' status as a non-profit organization? Shouldn't we put that money back into our organizations?

VP Finance: Thank you for your questions. Regarding SNAX, it's not within its mandate to run a profit: it's simply meant to provide affordable food options to students. The reduction in profit between the two fiscal years is not a concern. The only concern is that it is accessible and responsible. We don't want it running a deficit, of course, but that small reduction in profit is not a concern, in our perspective. Any and all profit finds its way back into university programs (like it did with the Frosh surplus). That (referring to the $100,000 excess) is a significant number and it does undermine our status as a non-profit organization. That's also one of the reasons for cancelling surplus from departments, because the number is simply too high and puts us in danger of being a non-profit in the government's eyes. The goal is not to have a surplus of that magnitude. It will not even be remotely close this year.

* + - * + RSUS: So, when you answered my question, which was the exact same as CSA's question just now, you gave two different answers to us. The first answer was that there was just no way to track the surplus or where it went. Our RSUS VP Finance kept a close record of it and RSUS knows exactly how much surplus we generated, and many departments do, too. I know our non-profit status is a concern, but not having any surplus is much different from not having any surplus at all to prevent us having our things. My question is: please give me one consistent answer as to why it was cut and why you had to cut it entirely, rather than in part, in light of this auditing report.

VP Finance: First, surplus is a year over year thing. While your previous VP Finance might have done a good job, it's not sure what could have happened in years prior, like it is the case with other departmental associations, as well. We have communicated the matter of departmental surpluses through Mirandas, guidebooks, etc. The decision has a lot to do with the accountability surrounding the surplus. The auditors referred to the inability of accounting for cash in relation to the surplus. That's the primary reason. One of my goals of changes this year is to see how surplus can be reliably reinstated in the future years, to uphold basic accountability principles and the auditor created a basis of that.

* + - * No debate
      * Voting
        + Motion passes
    1. [Motion to Appoint the AUS Financial Management Committee (FMC)](http://ausmcgill.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Motion-to-Appoint-the-AUS-Financial-Management-Committee-FMC.pdf) [late] [PASSED]
       - Moving (VP Finance)
         * I believe this motion is very self-explanatory. I invite any questions. There'll be three Members-at-Large added later on.
       - No questions
       - No debate
       - Voting
         * Motion passes
    2. [Motion to Ratify the Speaker of Council, Recording Secretary, and Chief Returning Officer [late]](http://ausmcgill.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Motion-to-Ratify-Speaker-Secretary-General-and-Recording-Secretary.docx) [PASSED]
       - Statement (Speaker)
         * So, this motion is to ratify the Speaker, Recording Secretary, and the Secretary General's *(sic; the Speaker mistook the Secretary General for the Elections AUS Chief Returning Officer; the original 9.9 on the agenda also says "Secretary General" instead of "Elections CRO")* positions in Council.
       - Moving (President)
         * As per the AUS Constitution, these three positions need to be ratified each year at Leg[islative] Council. This motion is ratifying the named individuals (Marie Fester, Jayden Kang, and Shiyi Fei, respectively) for their positions for the upcoming year.
       - Questions
         * CSAUS: Is there any change being proposed in this resolution that would change our knowledge of Council as it stands? Are there any new people?

Speaker: No, these people were all hired in the Spring.

* + - * + Arts Representative Adin: So the Secretary General does not have to be ratified at Council?

Speaker: Yeah I said that out loud wrong. It's the CRO that has to be ratified, you are correct.

* + - * No debate
      * Voting
        + Motion passes
    1. [Motion to Give the VP Services Voting Rights](http://ausmcgill.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Motion-to-Give-the-VP-Services-Voting-Rights.docx) [late] [PASSED]
       - Moving (President)
         * As many of you know, last year, through referendum, we made a new AUS exec position titled "VP Services" to account for a lot of execs having an excess amount of work. At the time, when some of the previous execs had drafted the question (to instate the VP Services role), they didn't include the proper language that would give the VP Services the right to vote at Exec Committee or at Leg[islative] Council. Hence, they haven't been voting since their election. This motion, if passed, would bring to referendum the question of granting the VP Services voting rights at Leg[islative] Council and Exec Committee.
       - No questions
       - Debate
         * MUGS: I move an amendment. The amendment has been sent by email.

Speaker: The amendment is rewording the French translation. I'll explain the amendment. Basically, it is changing it so that both feminine and masculine versions of the words are being used when referring to the Exec Committee.

MUGS: There are also other changes, like changing "SSMU" in French to "AEIM," since it is called AEIM in French. There are also inconsistencies in the execs' genders. Also, "VP Academic" in French is wrong.

Speaker: Yes, just fixing French translations in general.

President: This isn't the official French version, we just had one of the AUS office assistants give a translation that could be provided to Leg[islative] Council. All the referendum questions will be given to our actual translator, who will do a much better job. I just wanted to have this translation for Council to see what it would look like, but if you would like to add those proposed changes now, that would be a friendly amendment

Friendly amendment

* + - * + CSAUS: The V--- Oh it is capitalized in the amendment, my apologies, nevermind.
      * Voting
        + Motion passes
  1. Executive Officer Reports
     1. [President](http://ausmcgill.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/President-1.docx)
        + Remarks added to report
          - AUS Climate Strike GA!!!

Thanks for telling your constituents about it and for coming out to the GA. I'm collectively proud. We did good.

* + - * + Laptop Lending Program

There's issues with laptops not being returned and there's currently no policy dealing with laptops that aren't returned. There's no way of charging students' accounts on Minerva, etc. That's something myself and the VP Services are gonna look into, draft a motion, and bring it to Leg[islative] Council.

* + - * + I sent the Recording Motion to the working group so hopefully that'll be presented next Council. I'm sorry it's taking so long, that's on me, but it'll be ready soon!
      * Questions
        + MUGS: Speaking from last Leg[islative] Council, wasn't there supposed to be meeting with… I believe it was the McGill Daily *(sic; it was supposed to be with The Tribune)*?

President: Yeah, that meeting didn't take place; they never reached out to us. After we had lifted the restriction on campus recording, I guess it became a non-issue?

* + - * + Arts Senator Henrique: Is that Article 10 for now just gonna stay as it is after the previous motion (amended to allow campus recording)?

President: The article is staying as it is, in effect as of now, until the working group decides on the motion being brought to Council. I couldn't bring the motion to it earlier and the working group has to decide what we want to do with Article 10, like amending, repealing, and changing the wording.

* + - * + CSAUS: I would like to request a timeline of the working group reporting back to Council and to ask if the working group will be considering the option of AUS recording Councils and then forcing student groups to use those official recordings?

President: I think CSAUS has great ideas and should join the working group! What it (the working group) can do is to share motion in the Leg[islative] Council Facebook group and people can comment on it that way. In the meantime, we'll keep you updated of our progress.

* + - * + CSAUS: So next council is the timeline for the presentation of the recording motion?

President: Correct.

* + 1. [VP Academic [updated]](http://ausmcgill.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/VP-Academic.pdf)
       - Remarks added to report
         * Departmental Academic Roundtable (DART)

If you don't have a VP Academic in your exec, send someone in anyway: I'll be going over a lot of resources and how I want to count the VP Academic roles this year.

* + - * + HSSLAC

The library is changing its storage system. Books that aren't in English (e.g. Italian Studies or EASSA, this change will be affecting your departments) will be harder to access. If you have any concerns, reach out to me or to the HSA VP Academic.

* + - * + Library Partnership Committee

There is currently no head of library. There IS a head of liaison and access (who is sitting on partnership committee). Stefan (AUS VP Finance) has agreed to sit on the committee, which makes things more efficient.

* + - * + Student Rights Complaints

There WAS a Google form that SSMU put up that Arts students could reach out to if they had violations complaints. I do not have access to it anymore. I request for departments to follow THIS procedure: if your department's VP Academic gets a complaint, direct them to my email. I would be committing, with the student and the VP Academic, to anonymity - if they want anonymity, we'd follow that. Then we'd be reaching out to the professor. If nothing works out with them, I reach out to the Associate Dean of Student Affairs or to the Associate Dean of Academic Administration and Oversight. That's the program I want in place right now. I'll work with our AUS Webmaster to have a form on the AUS website so students don't have to email me; that'll be a much better way to address situation.

* + - * + Peer Tutoring

I have reached out to departments to meet me during my office hours to express concerns and details about the Peer Tutoring program.

* + - * Questions
        + HSA: You mentioned that certain books are being moved *(sic)*. Is that encompassing Latin books and Classics books, as well?

VP Academic: The books aren't being moved, per se, the thing is that the storage system is being changed, and so they won't access books not in English, so, yes, including Latin and Classics. One of the professors in Classics sitting on this committee acknowledges how problematic the system is, but the decision has been made. They cannot do anything to fix the storage system and that in itself is also problematic. We'll be discussing this at the next meeting.

* + - * + RUSS: You mentioned that you reached out to departments regarding peer tutoring. My department did not receive an email. I don't have anything pertaining to that.

VP Academic: Yeah, I was actually going to talk to you about that. So I emailed the personal email of the RUSS President and it (the email) bounced. I don't have the departmental email so if you could get that to me I'll re-send you the email after Council.

RUSS: I am the president.

VP Academic: Yes, I tried to email you and it bounced, like, it wouldn't go through. I was in a class when I got your email, so I'll be sending it (my email) again by the end of today.

* + - * + RSUS: I missed the thing about discussing during the next meeting about the storage system being changed. We also have non-English book that our students need. Can you repeat when that next meeting is?

VP Academic: The deadline for student representatives to sit on faculty meetings has ended. We have two sitting members, me and the HSA VP Academic, so if you have concerns, please channel them through us.

* + 1. [VP Communications](http://ausmcgill.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/VP-Communications.pdf)
       - Remarks added to report
         * I sent out this week's listserv. It was really special: had more info about the Climate Strike GA. I'm constantly working with our graphic designer and updating the listserv to make it visually appealing for more click rates.
       - Questions
         * ASSA: Can people still apply for the Francophone Commissioner position?

VP Communications: Technically, applications closed yesterday, but…

President: Basically, what happens is that the AUS Exec sends list of committees to different members of Leg[islative] Council. You can pick which committee you'd like to be a part of.

VP Communications: Even if you miss the app[lication] date, you can still be on the Francophone Commissioner Committee.

* + - * + RSUS: So, just a concern from accessibility standpoint from the listserv. You have a lot of orange on a light tan background, and that's hard for people with limited vision to see. Towards the bottom, you have the "Click here to submit things to the listserv!" button, and I think that [button's] colour would be better for the listserv's text and graphics than the current lighter orange.

VP Communications: Honestly, thank you for saying that. I will keep that in mind and implement that for the next listserv. I really appreciate when things like these are brought up so please keep letting me know.

* + 1. [VP External](http://ausmcgill.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/VP-External-2.pdf)
       - Remarks added to report
         * CAPS

There will be three workshops led by CAPS, they are posted on the AUS page and as Facebook events, including an AIO (Arts Internship Office) workshop (tentative November 7, not sure, met on Monday with VP Academic and workshop coordinators to discuss this). I met with CAPS' Jean regarding Grad Fair: a memorandum of agreements is attached to my report. All profs coming to AUS helping with labelling and printing, we will reimburse them. We're going to start advertising each school (that will be at Grad Fair) with Facebook posts advertising their websites, what sort of programs they do, etc.

Melanie is going to invite other schools under the Arts Graduate Program to enter Grad Fair, and depending on how many tables I can offer them, I'll offer them to them. They'll be paying, but should there be more than five tables I'll offer them a discount, which I'll bring as a motion to council.

* + - * + Work Your BA

The Work Your BA meeting was supposed to be tomorrow (Thursday, October 3), but Melanie has to go to the hospital, so I hope she's fine. The AIO event will be on January 29, and we'll be deciding whether we'll incorporate this into Work Your BA or not.

* + - * + ACE

The ACE commissioners are here today; they've been hired!

Had a couple of meetings with all the committees yesterday and the day before (Monday, September 30 and Tuesday, October 1). We have two in-house commissioners for hiring and thirty-four applicants for different positions. There are no By-Laws for mental health committees, it is part of the agenda this year to delegate the responsibility of creating By-Laws to commissioners.

* + - * + CSEC

Had a meeting on Monday (September 30). After that convo, I'll come up with a decision for the Secretary General to take away that committee and give its agenda to ACE. The ACE co-commissioner thinks this is a good idea since both committees deal with community engagement, anyway.

* + - * + SSMU Leg[islative] Council

One of the motions discussed today was discussed then. The motion was passed to create an Indigenous Equity Fee for $1 per semester, which will be non-opt-outable, to run different campaigns that the Indigenous Affairs Committee has had.

I submitted a motion to be appointed to the Mental Health Committee

* + - * + SSMU

Met Bryan (SSMU President) and it went well.

* + - * No questions
    1. [VP Finance](http://ausmcgill.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/VP-Finance-Oct-02-Report.pdf) [late]
       - Remarks added to report
         * Audit

The audit is finished and has been approved.

* + - * + Quickbooks and Internal Bookkeeping Restructuring

I am hoping that the standards established during the audit are compliant to the budget that we just approved.

* + - * + Budget

Updated budgets that use the general account legers.

Still waiting on budgets from people. CSUS, DESA, GSA, PSA, and SSA have not submitted their preliminary budgets. If these aren't submitted, it'll be difficult for their programs to be run for the year. Nothing will go on if things aren't submitted. We have until October 16's Legislative Council to pass the AUS budget as a whole, so if everyone could submit those asap, that would be great. Otherwise, the budget is on top of the standards for bookkeeping and accountability.

* + - * + AUIF, ASEF, ACLF, AIO, AUTF

I am seeking out opportunities within the funding framings of the AUIF and MSPF, whereas both funds have similar standards, where funding can be shared between the funds to increase the number of projects they can have.

* + - * + I am happy to speak to people who attended the September 20 workshop for outstanding questions (and during my office hours!)
      * Questions
        + IDSSA: Regarding the AUS allocations: in our preliminary budget based on the number of last year, last year's $3000 dropped to $1000 in the new budget. How could this drop to $1000 happen in the course of a year?

VP finance: This drop is due to mistakes in calculating the allocations in previous years. They were based on our By-Laws, which were wrong. We administered the By-Laws and reviewed them: they listed no use of Minors in departmental allocations. I'm happy to show the breakdown of how many people they have in their departments, if they're interested in where those figures come from.

* + - * + LAPSA: About the budgets: once they're approved, will we be reimbursed for events we had before the approval?

VP Finance: Ideally, you wouldn't have had events before the approval. Some people have talked to us before about that. If your budget is approved and if it's representative of what happened in the event then yes, absolutely, standard practice for reimbursing.

* + - * + Arts Senator Henrique: I didn't understand part of the discussion before. What does it mean when the departments said they were denied surplus?

VP Finance: Surplus is considered to be the accumulated amount of excess revenue over expenses that a particular department accumulates every year. That's the definition.

Arts Senator Henrique: I understand that, but what does it mean when they were denied surplus? They don't get to keep it? Where does it end up?

VP Finance: "Denied surplus" just means that the accumulated surplus isn't being carried over as eligible revenue in those departmental budgets. It's not going anywhere, just into the AUS accounts, where it was anyway.

* + - * + CSAUS: You mentioned earlier about Minors not counting in AUS allocations. Is that new? And what impact would that have on departments that are Minor-only, like CSAUS? 'Cause we'd lose all our money and that'd be very sad. Well, it'd be sad for me.

VP Finance: The By-Laws state, "If you represent ten students or more, you get a minimum amount of funding. Anything in excess of $570 *(sic; $540)* is calculated using Majors. This is not new, it hasn't been changed. So, you'll get your money. Don't worry about that.

* + - * + RSUS [Point of Personal Privilege]: Is it anything in excess of $570 or $540?

VP Finance: It's $540, my mistake.

* + - * + ASSA: I'm a bit confused. There's a formation (make-up departmental orientation) tomorrow, is it only for the VP Finances of each department?

VP Finance: It's for everybody in the exec, part of it is dedicated to the VP Finances of departments or a representative.

ASSA: Where?

VP Finance: Here (Leacock 232). The actual presentation of the finance part is in Arts 160 at 6 pm.

* + - * + President: My question is that there was a question about what's happening tomorrow. To clarify, my question is… is it or is it not an alternate training day for people who did not come to departmental orientation the first time? So if you came to the first one, you do not have to come tomorrow? That's my question.

VP Finance: I believe that is the case. It's also an opportunity for, if you have outstanding questions, for those to be answered as well.

* + - * + CSA: Where is the makeup session being held tomorrow?

VP Finance: Here, Leacock 232.

* + 1. [VP Internal](http://ausmcgill.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/VP-Internal-1.pdf)
       - Remarks added to report
         * Departmental Orientation

I only have 5 responses on the feedback form :(

* + - * + Room Bookings & Liquor Permits

I'm having a meeting next week with Ferrier building to see if they can accommodate any of our bookings. I'm receiving a lot of requests, this is the time period in the year where I'm having to reject a lot of requests, so I'll see if I can get other rooms (like in Ferrier) for departments.

* + - * + FEARC

Doing that this week and next week. Hopefully, for next Leg[islative] Council, we'll have a representative.

* + - * Questions
        + CSAUS: Could you explain what FEARC is for members of the Council who are not aware of what that is, including myself?

VP Internal: Yes, I'm so sorry. FEARC is the first-year council of the AUS. It stands for First-Year Engagement and Academic Representative Committee. It's for first-years to join the AUS and represent themselves.

* + - * + HSA: So, you mentioned that you're having to deny room bookings. Could you elaborate if you're anticipating events this semester during this time period and why you're not able to accommodate booking requests?

VP Internal: One thing about Leacock 232 is that it's booked for all of October, literally every evening. I have to book all of your requests for November. I have Arts 160, 230, and 260 still available a lot. Many rooms are solidly booked through October and I'm having trouble finding other spaces. I've been given access to Stewart Biology, Adams Building, and Otto Maass, recently, so I might have to put your events in those spaces instead of the Arts buildings. Email me to see what availabilities are but they're not as open as they were a few weeks ago.

* + 1. [VP Services [late]](http://ausmcgill.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/VP-Services.pdf)
       - Remarks added to report
         * General

I'm emailing departments asking for participants who want to join services focus groups. We're meeting through the next couple of weeks to discuss AUS services and to see what we can do better.

Update: French conversation circles will remain under the VP Communications portfolio.

* + - * + Table Bookings & Lounge Bookings

The President, VP Internal, and I are meeting with Ferrier about possible room bookings on the 3rd floor.

* + - * + Locker Rentals

We're going to have a meeting to discuss the consequences of cancelling payments and not clearing out locker by the date set in the rules - there's an issue of people keeping their stuff there over the summer past when they should be in there. emails will be sent out in advance to notify folks as deadline approaches

* + - * + Essay Center

This Friday from 12pm to 1pm, this week only, the Essay Center will be operating from the Gould conference room in the AUS office. I'm trying to get a permanent location for it in Ferrier, but both of these locations have their own problems. Ferrier is hard to get to and in Gould, people get lost in that area. I'll work this week and next week on better locations.

* + - * + Media

I'm in the process of hiring more media team members. A bit of the hiring process has changed - I'm proposing to increase the stipend from $100/year to $75/semester, because people in media should be paid for their work.

* + - * + Public service announcement for everyone! If you are need of clothing or food sponsorships or if your exec doesn't have the capacity to look for sponsorships, we have pre-existing partnerships and relationships set over the years, so if you need those, hit me up.
      * Questions
        + VP Academic: I know that the Economic Students Association (ESA) is looking for corporate sponsorships for case competitions. Should they come to you for that?

VP Services: Yes.

* + 1. VP Social
       - Report *(The VP Social had recently returned from leave and couldn't send a report beforehand)* 
         * I didn't send a report, but I can just give my report right now. I can upload it later in the Facebook group if people are interested. For the last month, I couldn't make it to the last few Leg[islative] Councils 'cause I was on leave. I've been wrapping up Frosh: working out budgets and closing all accounts with the VP Finance. I am running behind but hopefully it will be wrapped up mid-October.
         * EPIC

I hired all the EPIC coordinators. We had a really great pool of applicants, so it was a very tough decision, which is great! Looking forward to EPIC. Huge events planned. Big collabs. Very excited for next two semesters.

* + - * + BdA

I have confirmation that BdA will be taking place at several different locations both on and off campus. I'm going to keep these locations a little bit of a surprise. The last confirmation I got was from one Faculty, last week I got one from an off-campus location, and two other locations I'm looking at are close to closing the deals. The first BdA will most likely be next week (Thursday, October 10). We have something very very special planned for Halloween. Everybody get excited because it'll be insane and I'm living my best life right now.

* + - * + Grad Ball

I booked the date for Grad Ball already. Mark your calendars for Saturday, March 28, 2020. It'll again be with SUS at our classic location, Le Windsor on Peel. We raised the amount of tickets that will be available because last year, we had a waitlist of like, one hundred people. So there'll be more dance and dinner tickets so more people can come. We're using the surplus from Frosh to raise money for bursaries so that Grad Ball is more accessible for students. Paying an average of $100 per ticket plus, if you're a girl, buying a new dress and doing your hair is pricey, so we're increasing bursaries for Grad Ball and bursaries for EPIC tickets, because our events should be financially accessible.

* + - * + New endeavours

After reaching our sustainability goal for Frosh, we can gold certify BdA, EPIC, and Grad Ball. I've hired consultants and coordinators to do that with the McGill Sustainability Projects Fund (SPF) and the Office of Sustainability. We're constantly trying to make events more environmentally friendly.

* + - * No questions
  1. Reports of the Arts Representatives and Senators
     1. [Arts Representatives [late]](http://ausmcgill.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Arts-Representatives-1.pdf)
        + Remarks added to report
          - Arts Representative Adin

Echoing what the VP External said: at the last meeting with [Dean of Students Christopher] Buddle to huddle the Buddle, we talked about his Involuntarily Leave Policy. There's talk at SSMU about the policy because it would give McGill the right to kick someone out of McGill. There are potential problems with that, especially mental health concerns, so there's been a lot of backlash. Buddle realized this and suspended the feedback form, where he was getting flamed, but it's still public. My office hours are Thursdays at 10:30-12:30 if you want to talk about it.

* + - * + Arts Representative Shreya

Regarding the Involuntary Leave Policy, it's still public but Dean Buddle suspended the form to make suggestions on it (the proposed policy). I believe that the Dean recognized that there's a lot of backlash from students and the Dean also got a lot of questions from us (SSMU Leg[islative] Council is on Youtube if you wanna see what happened. This is a new development!) so if you wanna see what happened with that, you can see what he did to suspend the form online. I believe he is taking it back to the writing phase. Getting to my business: I went to SSMU Leg[islative] Council, ran the Arts GA, voting went well, and met with the SSMU Prez for going over our goals for the year. Once those come into fruition, I'll tell you more about it. My office hours are Tuesdays, 1:15-2:15 pm.

* + - * + Arts Representative Andrew

There are some issues with reopening Gerts but I'm preparing the Finance Committee so that when it's open, we hit the ground running and working. My office hours are Thursdays, 9:00-11:00 am.

* + - * No questions
    1. Arts Senators
       - [Arts Senator Chloe Kemeni](http://ausmcgill.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Arts-Senator-Chloe-Kemeni.docx) *(absent)*
       - Arts Senator Henrique Mecabô
         * Report

I did not submit a report. That's true. And sad. I'll step it up.

For the first part of my oral presentation, I just want to say: look into Chloe's report. She's doing a lot of amazing work. This doesn't leave her a lot of time to come to AUS Leg[islative] Council but you should take a look.

New Redpath Café

I was at the same meeting that Arts Rep Andrew was at with Student Dining Services and… whatever their name is *(Food and Dining Services)*. It's impressive, the work they did with new Redpath services. They addressed every concern we had: the new café has fruit, vegan and gluten-free desserts, and the prices are substantially lower not only for coffee (The Tribune had an article on how the coffee's cheaper) but also for the pizza, sandwiches, etc. They did a really good job listening to student demands.

Involuntary Leave Policy

The status on the Involuntary Leave Policy is that Buddle… he's just waiting there and on standby, he's not taking consultation because he was demolished by the student comments responding to the proposed policy. The policy is not moving forward to Senate for the Fall semester anymore like he was expecting.

Tenure Procedures at McGill

Had a discussion on Senate Caucus with a SSMU researcher focusing on understanding tenure procedures at McGill (how profs make tenure, who composes the tenure committee, how profs can lose tenure, if possible). The handout with all this info is coming out very soon; the graphic designer is working on it, the rough draft is finalized.

McGill's Fundraising Campaign

I'm drafting a question to Senate to be submitted by tomorrow, I just have to format it. It's on understanding the impact made by McGill's glorious Nike advertisement campaign on student services funding. There is no money allocated to student services within that $2 billion. That's problematic. McGill admin is gong to be questioned on that at Senate. You can also watch Senate online. I can also send you screenshots of Big Suze's face zoomed in, if you'd like.

* + - * + Questions

CSAUS: Can you send me those screenshots for my personal entertainment?

Arts Senator Henrique: Yes.

Arts Representative Shreya: Do you want to share the specifics of McGill's fundraising campaign with all of us? I read about it through the McGill email, but everyone would benefit from a breakdown. There's $7 million for research and literally nothing for students.

Arts Senator Henrique: Something I forgot to mention: I'm still structuring how I'm going through this, but Senate is working on revising university student assessment (finals, etc.) I'll need help from departmental representatives to get syllabi from courses (for analyzing finals' weight distribution, if it's more weighted in upper years, etc.) and running a survey on how students feel, in general, on how midterms and finals are weighted.

VP Academic: I was informed that a student working group is supposed to last for 3 years, so what's the timeline of the information when would it come out, and the impact?

Arts Senator Henrique: For the University Students Assessment Policy? The working group isn't planning on showing anything to Senate before Winter 2021, so it is a working group that'll last for a long time. During the first working group consultation, I personally didn't feel very confident that they were actually representing students. I took the initiative of offering myself to collect the data and to show it to the working group. The impact is hard to say because the working group's undergraduate representative will likely change over time. It's good to get conversation going with undergrads because I don't think the Dean was going to send that to them.

VP Academic: I find it problematic that there's only one undergrad sitting on this committee. Is there a way to make amendments to the working group membership?

Arts Senator Henrique: I apologize if I made the working group seem bigger than it actually is, but the working group is only four people. They respond indirectly to Senate broadly but they respond directly to the APC Subcommittee of Teaching and Learning (STL) which has 200 undergrad representatives and goes through more filters. The working group itself that reads the policy over and discusses it is comprised of one faculty representative, Madeline (SSMU VP University Affairs), and another representative. It's a small working group which is taking external presenters and I can check if there's a way for more people to be present or even to present, themselves, the evidences that they're going through as McGill students.

VP Services [Point of Personal Privilege] Can you remember to speak into the mic, please?

* 1. Reports of Departmental Associations
     1. [SUMS](http://ausmcgill.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/SUMS.pdf) [late]
        + Updates
          - Our office hours this week are 11am to 3pm, Monday to Friday. Our office hours are announced; they are not the same every week.
          - We have a meme contest happens every semester.
        + Questions
          - Arts Senator Henrique: I was wondering, for the lounge renovation specifically, is that the Burnside lounge specifically for math students, the one that's not even open for mathematics minors?

SUMS: The SUMS lounge is open to both majors and minors. It's the math library that is only open to majors.

* + - * + Arts Senator Henrique: As part of lounge renovations, I remember the amount given to SUMS for this renovation was quite substantial. Is that money coming from SUS or the AUS? I'm trying to understand where other departmental associations would stand in trying to get their lounges renovated.

SUMS: This is SUMS' saved money. It was originally meant for the library upstairs, but a donor came in last minute and paid for that so we have a lot of money left over, which we're using for lounge.

* + - * + VP Social: Basically, SUMS had mentioned they were selling apparel. This goes for all departments. Essentially, if you have already contacted people to order apparel, that's fine, you can choose to keep going with them. But if you're looking for someone new, every undergraduate society on this campus, including AUS, uses one supplier. He's excellent, gives great deals, and waives extra fees, so you're only paying for actual sweaters/shirts themselves, not for the ordering. We've had a good relationship with him for over a decade so if you're interested in that, you can contact me or Haidee (VP Services).
        + EASSA: On the sign-up sheet for presentation of departmental reports, it says October 23. There's no Council on that day.

Speaker: It should say October 30, that was a mistake.

* + - * + RSUS: Is this for general questions?

Speaker: No, this is for SUMS.

RSUS: Oh, nevermind then.

* + 1. [CSA](http://ausmcgill.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/CSA-1.pdf)
       - No remarks or updates added to report
       - No questions
    2. [MUGS](http://ausmcgill.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/MUGS-1.pdf)
       - MUGS: For those of you who are not aware, since we've gotten a bit of confusion about this, MUGS is the Geography students' association (MUGS = McGill Undergraduate Geography Society).
       - Remarks added to report
         * Our lounge is on the third floor of Burnside.
         * The Department of Geography (the actual department, not MUGS) is selling merch.
         * McGill Open House

Physical Geography will be in Bronfman and Human Geography will be at Redpath.

* + - * + Our first social event will be at Bar des Pins (BDP) on Thursday, October 17 at 6:30 pm. It is open to all Geography and Urban Studies majors and minors.
      * No questions
  1. Question Period
     1. RSUS: I'm not sure who this goes to… the President? First of all, I noticed that many of you in your reports detailed your office hours, but those aren't on the AUS website. I was wondering when that would be updated. Same with updating the Constitution, By-Laws, AOAs. Lots missing on the website. When are updates happening?
        + President: Basically, this year's exec was left having to carry a lot of labour from last year's execs. None of the updates were made as they were passed. Just today, I finalized the Secretary General's contract and that involves updating the Constitution. I'll speak with the VP communications and the Webmaster about those. We know first hand that our Constitution is outdated, that it doesn't make sense, and that some clauses don't even apply to this century. Expect many updates and motions. We'll be sending the committee list out and one is the Constitution and By-Law Review Committee, so that'll be a committee you can declare your interest for.
     2. Secretary General: A comment on the VP Academic and Senator's discussion - Ananya (VP Academic) made a comment on getting undergrad representatives onto the working group. We're still looking for representatives for the Disability Advisory Board, the Career Board, and the International Students Advisory Board. If you know anyone interested, get them to send an email to uasecgen@ssmu.ca. The boards are starting to meet but if we can't fill these positions, we can't push to get more slots, which is a goal of mine.
     3. Shreya: I have an announcement. So, we have through SSMU the Library Improvement Fund Committee and we just extended the deadline. And some of you might be interested so we're looking on a new library fund and also on improving the funds that currently exist that allocate back to the library. There's/there'll be a new study space on Redpath floor 2; everything from Schulich there. Applications are still open.
  2. Next Meeting is 16 October at 6pm!
  3. Adjournment
     1. CSAUS: Motion to adjourn
        + Second mover: VP Internal
     2. Adjourned at 8:42 pm

Appendices

[Appendix A UPDATED RSUS Constitution](http://ausmcgill.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/UPDATED-RSUS-Constitution.pdf)

[Appendix B MOA with CAPS (VP External Report)](http://ausmcgill.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Appendix-B-MOA-with-CAPS-VP-External-Report.pdf)

[Appendix C Financial By-laws Amended October 2019](http://ausmcgill.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Appendix-C-Financial-By-laws-Amended-October-2019.pdf)

[Appendix D AUS April 2019 draft Financial Statements](http://ausmcgill.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Appendix-D-AUS-April-2019-draft-Financial-Statements.pdf)

[Appendix E AUIF By-laws Amended October 2019](http://ausmcgill.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Appendix-E-AUIF-By-laws-Amended-October-2019.pdf)