

F1920-25

**Motion to Create the Arts Student Sustainability and Ethical Procurement Fee (For Referendum) and Ratify Ethical Business Practices Committee Report Recommendations**

***Whereas****,* the Arts Undergraduate Society (AUS) must enforce and exemplify the highest standards of ethical procurement and sustainability in the conduct of its affairs;

***Whereas,*** to the end of enacting high ethical procurement and sustainability standards throughout the affairs of the AUS, Legislative Council ratified the *Ethical Business Practices By-laws* in 2014;

***Whereas***, unclear standards, weak incentives for implementation, poor communication of enacted standards, incomplete implementation and weak enforcement of standards resulted in these By-laws being entirely ignored and unimplemented;

***Whereas***, it is thus clear that AUS lacks *effective* and *implementable* policies and procedures to enforce and promote said minimum standards of ethical business and sustainability;

***Whereas***, clearly, AUS-funded activities continue to generate considerable environmental damage, specifically in their transport, single-use plastic waste and printing capacities;

***Whereas***, similarly, AUS currently lacks applicable environmental policies to mitigate greenhouse gas (GHG) output, harming its current and future students;

***Whereas,*** the AUS currently procures apparel and many other products from unethical suppliers, who contribute to unfair and unsafe labour practices;

***Whereas***, despite both failure of previous policies within their association and current shortcoming, Arts students have demonstrated sustained interest in ensuring their representative body embodies, promotes and enforces the highest standards of ethical business practices and environmental sustainability;

***Whereas***, no attempt to replace or build upon the initial attempt at ethical procurement and high sustainability standards have since been made;

***Whereas***, to the end of reducing environmental and social damage done by AUS in the conduct of its affairs, the Ethical Business Practices Commissioners, at the direction of the VP Finance, undertook consultations throughout AUS to identify areas of concern, gather input on anticipated difficulties Departmental Associations and Executives would experience in implementing proposed solutions and begin determining the extent of environmental and social damage done by the AUS;

***Whereas****,* Departmental Associations have responded positively to the concept of AUS By-laws addressing environmental and ethical considerations in the conduct of their affairs but identified funding shortfalls as a significant barrier to reducing environmental damage

***Whereas***, furthermore, the study worked to identify best practices from cross-organizational samples and determine why AUS’s previous attempt at environmental damage mitigation failed;

***Whereas***, the attached report summarizes the finding and recommendations of the Ethical Business Practices Commissioners and VP Finance;

***Whereas***, the study, officially titled the *AUS in an Evolving World* presents a comprehensive, concrete and immediately implementable framework, with the requisite funding to support its recommendations, which allows a meaningful re-attempt at achieving high ethical standards in procurement and environmental sustainability;

***Whereas***, the attached report study and its expenditure tables specify the proposed uses for the requested fee levy;

***Whereas***, all segments of civil society have an ethical duty to contribute to the goal of decreasing emissions in line with the United Nations Paris Climate Accords;

***Whereas***, the AUS, as an active and influential member of civil society reserves no right to claim exception to the above ethical imperative;

***Therefore, be it resolved*,** that the Arts Undergraduate Society (AUS) send the following questions regarding the Arts Student Sustainability and Ethical Procurement fee levy to the Winter 2020 referendum:

1. **Do you agree to create an opt-outable Arts Undergraduate Sustainability and Ethical Procurement Fee of $2.00 per semester for full-time (9 credits or more) Bachelors of Arts students and $1.00 per semester for part-time (less than 9 credits) Bachelors of Arts Students, and half those amounts for Bachelors of Arts and Science Students (based on their full-time/part-time status) starting Fall 2020 and ending Fall 2023 (inclusive)?**
2. The AUS Legislative Council adopts the actionable aspects of the question and that any grammatical or legal changes necessary do not need the re-approval of the Legislative Council.

***Be it further resolved,*** that the Arts Undergraduate Society (AUS)**:**

1. Effective September 2020, repeal the *Ethical Business Practices By-laws*;
2. Ratify the *Sustainability By-laws (unformated)* and *Ethical Procurement By-laws* (unformated) attached in **Appendix C** and and **Appendix** **D** (respectively);
3. Effective September 2020, amend the *Financial By-laws*, Articles 4.8, 5.1.2, 5.3, 7.4.1, 8.1.7, 9.1, 9.1.1, 9.1.2, 9.1.3, and 11.4 to read as amended in **Appendix E**;
4. Effective September 2020, amend the AUIFC By-laws, Articles 8.6 and 8.7 to read as amended in **Appendix F**;
5. Ratify the Ethical Business Practices Report attached in **Appendix G** (titled “*AUS in an Evolving World: A Study of Ethical Procurement and Sustainability in AUS*”) as the official *AUS Sustainability Plan*;
6. Effective September 2020, give the provisions and recommendations of the newly ratified *AUS Sustainability and Ethical Procurement Plan* all the weight and enforceability of an AUS By-law;
7. Effective September 2020, direct the AUS VP Finance and Ethical Business Practices Commissioners to implement the recommendations outlined in the *AUS Sustainability and Ethical Procurement Plan* according to the **Implementation Expenditure and Scheduling Tables** located therein**;**
8. Effective September 2020, for those provisions mandated either by the newly ratified *Sustainability By-laws* and *Ethical Procurement By-laws* or implementable under the *AUS Sustainability and Ethical Procurement Plan* recommendations (but not specified in the **Implementation Expenditure and Scheduling Tables**), direct the VP Finance and Ethical Business Practices Commissioners to implement transition period ending December 2020, and;
9. If deemed necessary by the AUS President, VP Social and VP Finance, allow all organization related to Frosh to receive a discretionary transition period lasting no longer than September 2020, and;
10. Effective September 2020, direct the VP Finance and Ethical Business Practices Commissioners to establish an ad-hoc review committee which will monitor the progress and implementation of the operative clauses ratified under this motion and collect feedback from departmental associations.

Moved by,

Stefan Suvajac, AUS VP Finance

Darshan Daryanani, AUS VP External