

**Arts Undergraduate Society of McGill University**

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F1920-22

**For Referendum: Motion to Increase the Arts Student Employment Fund (ASEF) Fee**

***Whereas****,* the “…sole purpose of the ASEF is to provide funding for the creation of career-advancing and/or academically-based employment opportunities for those members of the AUS who contribute to ASEF.” (*ASEF By-laws*, Article 2.1)

***Whereas***, the ASEF currently supports the Faculty Employment Fund and the AUS Work Study Fund;

***Whereas***, both the of these funds have created hundreds of gainful employment opportunities for students in need;

***Whereas***, through the Arts Student Employment Fund’s allocation to work study, AUS funds a $5.00/h supplement to work study which matches the existing $5.00/h university subsidy to work study eligible student. This increases the total eligible work study subsidy to employers from $5.00 to $10.00/h (usually doubling the number of hours a student can work for an employer for any given number of dollars allocated to wages);

***Whereas***, similarly, the Arts Faculty Employment Fund, matched by equal contributions from the Dean of Arts Development Fund, funds work opportunities for students to work in research;

***Whereas***, increasingly, students pursue learning opportunities in the from of: (1) field study; (2) unpaid research experiences and internships; (3) research abroad, and; (4) certain competitions. The opportunities are called Enriched Educational Opportunities (EEOs);

***Whereas***, students in financially privileged positions are better positioned to take advantage of these off-campus EEOs;

***Whereas***, the only program available to assist students-in-need wishing to pursue EEOs is offered through the Scholarship and Student Aid Office (the *Needs Based EEO Bursary Program*) and entirely funded by a special three-year envelope from the Quebec Government;

***Whereas***, the Quebec Government has discontinued funding for the EEO Bursary Program. As such, the funding EEO program is scheduled to expire in April 2021;

***Whereas***, no replacement program is being proposed;

**Whereas**, Arts Students have received the largest share of the EEO Bursary since its inception in 2017/2018 ($324 147 YTD over 3 years).

***Whereas***, currently, there is no funding provided through ASEF to support students pursuing non-campus learning and/or career advancing experiences;

***Whereas***, Arts Students wish to exercise greater control over the administration of the EEO program and influence the future definitions of EEOs (to potentially include, among other things, independent creative learning opportunities);

***Whereas***, AUS is initiating a process to expand the scope of programs administered under the ASEF Work Study Fund by replacing the University wide EEO Bursary Program with an Arts-Specific EEO program;

***Whereas***, to achieve this, AUS is soliciting matching funding from the University (much like existing programs), requesting that its members pay a higher fee and making existing funding collected under ASEF available to fund an Arts-Specific needs-based EEO Bursary Program;

***Whereas***, the attached By-laws amendment proposals outline the proposed changes;

***Whereas***, AUS refuses to be idle in the face of a program which supports students in need (and expands opportunities) disappearing;

**Whereas**, AUS exists to ensure equity and maximize opportunities for student members;

***Be it resolved*,** that the Arts Undergraduate Society (AUS) send the following questions regarding the Arts Student Employment Fund fee levy to the Winter 2020 referendum:

1. **Do you agree on increasing the opt-outable Arts Student Employment Fund (ASEF) fee from $6.50 per semester for full-time (9 credits or more) Bachelor of Arts Students to $10.00 per semester and from $3.25 per semester to $5.00 per semester for part-time (less than 9 credits) Bachelors of Arts Students, and those same increased amounts for Bachelors of Arts and Science Students (based on their full-time/part-time status) starting Fall 2020 and ending Winter 2022 (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.

Moved by,

Stefan Suvajac, AUS VP Finance

Ananya Nair, AUS VP Academic