**Arts Undergraduate Society of McGill University**

**Legislative Council**

**January 29th, 2020, 6:00 PM**

* 1. Call to Order
     + 6:04 pm
  2. Territorial Acknowledgement
     + AUS would like to acknowledge that McGill University is situated on the traditional territory of the Kanien’kehá:ka, a place which has long served as a site of meeting and exchange amongst nations. AUS recognizes and respects the Kanien’kehá:ka as the traditional custodians of the lands and waters on which we meet today.
  3. Roll Call
  4. Meeting Minutes for Approval: AUS Legislative Council 12 January 2019
  5. Approval of the Agenda **| APPROVED**
     + VP Internal: Motion to Add Late Motions to the Agenda
       - Second mover: CSAUS
       - Motion passes
     + Approved, with amendments
  6. Announcements
     + VP Internal: Valedictorian applications are out now. The first version said there's a GPA requirement, but I've changed the language so that there's no specific GPA requirement.
     + VP External: There are a couple of events happening as part of Work Your BA. RBC Campus Info/Speaker event in Brown 5001. How to assess job offers and negotiate your salary. VP Finance to negotiate on my behalf. Career studio on effective interviewing. Miami Grad School on Friday coming from Toronto to offer advice on how to gain practical skills. Turnout for that is low so please spread the word. Tomorrow night speed mentoring session in Thompson (wine and food!) Please come by as well. All details found on CAPS website.
     + VP Social: Grad Ball - Date is set for March 28, 2020. Definitely departmental execs please pass that on with your other graduating execs and try not to schedule anything for that weekend so that if you have graduating students, they can go to grad ball. Ticket sales going live tentatively for Sunday, February 9, 2020 at 12 pm. Last year, the three tiers sold out in under an hour and dinner tickets were sold out under a week. We don't allow resales. Remember the dates and time. Keep an eye out when the Facebook page drops for the final time.
     + ESA: Does everyone like 50-cent wings? If you do like wings and do like drinks, you should join the ESA and PSSA at our Welcome Back event, 6 pm at Friday at Carlos & Pepe's. $10 for in-department $12 for out of-. First drink is on us, first 200 wings are on us. Tacos. I'll let you know about vegetarian options. Tickets are on Eventbrite or you can buy them during our office hours at Leacock 420.
  7. [AUS LC Workshop](http://ausmcgill.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/AUS-LC-Workshop.pdf) on the Constitution Presented by the Secretary General Team
     + Presentation
       - Secretary General: Hi, everybody. Thank you for listening to our presentation. A little bit of context: we gave almost the exact same presentation to most of the incoming execs last April as a response to events that happened last year, due to some breaching of constitutional authority. Last semester, there was an open letter sent by some members of this Legislative Council and one of the things when we were reading through it, there were some issues about understanding the role of Legislative Council versus the roles of the execs and what powers Legislative Council has versus what power the execs have, so we wanted to make sure people have background understanding these things so that people can hold the execs accountable.
       - Deputy Secretary General: "The AUS' mandate is to represent all McGill students in the Faculty of Arts and to promote their welfare and interests; provide activities and services to enhance the educational, cultural, environmental, and social conditions of its members." "The AUS is independent of McGill University. Accredited by Quebec government, have MOA with university." A little bit about the MOA (Memorandum of Agreement). The AUS is accredited as a student association. The MOA outlines the AUS' relationship with and its obligations to McGill University and is renewed every five years. The current MOA was instated in January 2016 and is up for renewal next year in 2021. The AUS was incorporated in 1993 under the Quebec Companies Act and has an NDQ. The AUS is a legal entity separate from McGill University and we can't be shut down by the University.
       - Secretary General: Before we get to your role as Legislative Council, we thought it might be helpful to give a little about what our role is. This is a question I get all the time. Well, not really, because most people don't know I exist. If they do know, they don't know what we do. What we're responsible is human resources and accountability concerns of the Society. On a daily basis, that means processing payroll for the execs and the AUS assistants. But it also includes chairing HR complaints, for example, if someone needs to be let go. What's mostly useful for you is more the accountability stuff, our responsibility, as well the way we've interpreted it. We're obviously not elected or have any authority of our own. What we try to do is bring to your attention, as the elected body, the issues that need to be sorted out in terms of accountability. We don't have authority, we can only tell people what's happening. For context, we're appointed by the Legislative Council on the recommendation of the President. I can only be removed by 2/3 majority of Legislative Council.
       - Deputy Secretary General: So now I'll talk about the membership of the Legislative Council as outlined in the AUS Constitution. Per Article 7 of the Constitution, the Council consists of the Executive Committee, a representative of each of the Faculty of Arts departmental associations and programs, all Arts Representatives to SSMU, all Arts Senators, the VP External of FEARC, a representative from AUSec, the Speaker of Council (non-voting), the Recording Secretary (non-voting), a representative from the AUS Equity Committee, a representative from the FMC, a representative from ACE, and a representative from EPIC. The AUS Council derives its power from being the most democratic body of the AUS.
       - Secretary General: What exactly is Legislative Council? Why are they different from the execs? So, the Legislative Council is the governing body of the AUS, and makes all decisions and takes action on behalf of the AUS, adopts the AUS annual budget, establishes Committees of Council where and when it deems necessary, and, this is the important part, has the power to mandate any of its representatives to adopt and defend a specific stance. The Executive Committee ensures communication between Council and the members of the AUS, has all the powers of Council between meetings of Council, and all resolutions and actions of the Executive Committee taken between meetings must be submitted to the next Council meeting for ratifications. Last year, they added a clause where execs are not allowed to approve FIOs. So, when a class is running abroad and wants to do extra stuff outside of course work, it asks for an extra fee and the Quebec government requires that the fee be approved by the student government. This is because Quebec has regulated fees to protect student interest. An example of the last clause: if the Executive Committee wants to approve a fee, they can do that in Executive Committee, and then the only thing is they have to bring it to Legislative Council at the next meeting, and it has to be re-approved by you. If you don't approve it, then the fee is not approved. You do have the final authority. There's a little bit of ambiguity in terms of organization operating as a legal body.
       - Deputy Secretary General: To emphasize: anyone can request minutes of Executive Committee, except for closed sessions. Executive Committee is an open space because as councillors, you can request any minutes from any non-closed sessions.
       - Secretary General: Another important thing is about freedom of information, and information is really how accountability works. We do have weak freedom of information clauses in our Constitution, but it is important to note that this is how you guys can hold the exec to account, and this is what we try to do as much as possible: we bring information to you. We can't make decisions for you, and we usually don't advise 'cause it can get messy. Executives, by nature, will have more information about what we're discussing than you because they tend to be more involved in these areas, like working with DPSLL. Believe me, McGill University is a complicated body, so there's a lot of areas where information can make a difference between big and small changes and different directions of the organization. Article 21, which pertains to freedom of information, says that all documentation of Council and its Committees shall be public, except for "information, documents, or minutes concerning ideas or motions that were not acted upon, or of closed sessions of Council or its Committees." "Requests to see the minutes and documents of Council and its Committees shall be addressed to the VP Communications." This clause is something we're looking at changing, if we can. Also up to you too. The VP Communications is the information officer. There is an accountability issue when there's a single executive deciding which information is open or closed. This is a tight definition of what is information and what should be available. It's something that maybe we should look at. The point we want to emphasize is that information (about what's going on and what you can do) is crucial here. I know it's not fun, but reading through the Constitution is really useful and is almost your responsibility as elected and appointed officials. Many issues about accountability - a lot of things that went on last year was 'cause the executives hadn't understood their responsibilities as outlined in the Constitution. It's important to understand what you can and can't do. Reading through the Standing Rules of Council - and I know this is not something that's fun, but - it's also very useful. One of the issues that came up last semester came about because discussion was scheduled for the end of Council and some people felt it should have been early on in the meeting. This is something Legislative Council has the authority to change. It's not something the execs have to do; councillors can bring Council to do it, too. Very procedural, but that's the way that authority and accountability work - it's the technical details of things.
     + Questions
       - HSA: If we're trying to do something, for example, a motion that says the AUS Legislative Council does something… Would we have the power to say, "The AUS President shall do this," as opposed to referring to the Legislative Council?
         * Secretary General: Well- let's use the SSMU VP Internal as an example. They requested that she release a statement specifically with regards to relations with the Indigenous Students. I'm using SSMU examples 'cause they tend to mandate their execs a lot more than we do. Anyway, they mandated the VP Internal to release a specific email not from her, but about an event on a certain date. These are things related to their roles that you can do. You can't request the individual, but you can request role.
       - WIMESSA: I was wondering: so you mentioned that the AUS Legislative Council has the power to mandate executives to do things and that, for instance, if Legislative Council approves or doesn't approve a fee, the Executive Committee has to respect that?
         * Sec Gen: That's one of the issues that came out of last year: it wasn't clear if Executive Committee could make a decision on something that the Legislative Council already voted on. Last March, we decided that the Executive Committee can't vote on something that Legislative Council already voted on. That was the issue last year: new information had arisen and the Executive Committee decided that it was a now a new issue, so they could vote on it again and overrule Legislative Council's vote. Technically, they couldn't have and can't.
       - WIMESSA: After that decision about the course fee last year, I believe that's why the Secretary General suspended that decision. But then the administration went on and approved the fee, and now they're approving the course again. So what can AUS do about that?
         * Secretary General: The reason administration was allowed to run the course anyway was because SSMU approved it. They're also a representative body, so they're allowed to approve fees. However, I think SSMU is no longer approving fees under their moratorium.
       - RSUS: Was the fee approval - does it need to be renewed? Would the moratorium mean that fee renewal is not actually a thing and in that case, could AUS try to do something?
         * Secretary General: I would have to check. I don't know what the exact legal requirements are about the fee renewal situation. The way the SSMU moratorium works is that new fees aren't the only ones they're not approving, I also believe they're not approving renewals. The situation, I'm assuming… the admin and the DPSLL probably would request approval if they needed it, 'cause they're usually pretty good at staying within legal limits. Probably… it doesn't need to pass through again.
  8. New Business
     + [Motion to Amend the CSA Constitution](http://ausmcgill.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Motion-to-Amend-the-CSA-Constitution.docx) **| PASSED**
       - Moving (CSA)
         * Hello. We don't have many changes here. We updated three of the executive position descriptions for two reasons: [1] to expand the VP Academic's purview. They don't have much to do right now, so we've got the VP Academic to get involved with their classes, so that's reflected in both the President and VP Academic's roles. [2] We're reflecting that we're doing online elections as mandated by AUS By-Laws. Changes are in purple.
       - Second mover: VP External
       - No questions
       - No debate
       - Voting
         * Motion passes
     + [Motion Regarding Condemnation of McGill Faculty of Arts Promotion of Turkish Academy of Sciences Award](http://ausmcgill.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Motion-Regarding-Condemnation-of-McGill-Faculty-of-Arts-Promotion-of-Turkish-Academy-of-Sciences-Award.docx)**[late] | PASSED**
       - Moving (WIMESSA)
         * What we're trying to achieve with this motion is the Faculty of Arts promoted one of the awards awarded to WIMESSA. The award itself was presented by the Turkish President and we condemn the promotional award. The Turkish Academy of Sciences is longer a legitimate scientific association due to the government and other government affiliated institutions, so we want to condemn the award and want us students to be disassociated with it.
       - Questions
         * CSAUS: I did see the email being referenced. I do want to condemn this. My question is: this email that is referenced and the resolution was sent out in November. The event that featured the Turkish president happened in December. We're nearing February. Why now, why condemn this now, and why not at any other Legislative Councils beforehand?

WIMESSA: Basically the original plan was to condemn this in the first Legislative Council in early January right after break - the award was given on Dec 30. However, due to logistical reasons, we could not bring the motion forward.

* + - * + CSAUS: I'm vaguely familiar with the Turkish Academy of Sciences. Was this professor the only one who received this award from them? Another professor from Duke received the award, but I checked Duke's student government and there was no similar condemnation motion. Is there anyone else who's received this award? Has the professor been contacted by anyone within your department about your objections prior to moving this motion?

WIMESSA: I'm a McGill student, so I'm trying to do stuff within the McGill community. Regarding reaching out to the prof, yes, before he went to Turkey to get the award, two WIMESSA executives approached him and had a less than hour conversation about how it would be problematic. He knew the students would not be happy with it. I would like to note that the promotion was done by the Faculty of Arts. WIMESSA made no promotion of it, as the general staff of the ISS did not agree with the reception of the award.

* + - * Debate
        + VP Academic [Point of Clarification]: The question by CSAUS is that the issue was brought to me by a student during the break and I personally caused the delay in bringing this motion to Council. This was partly me: due to personal reasons, I delayed my return to Montreal. That's why the motion wasn't brought to the first council session. If the department distances itself from an award, that speaks volumes and should be considered in this motion.
      * Amendment
        + HSA: Changes text of motion to change, "The AUS Legislative Council email" to "the AUS listservs and all applicable platforms." I just motioned this because it inspired me to broaden the scopes: spread as much awareness as possible to students who are, in part, paying tuition to Faculty of Arts. This is in line with the AUS' principle of protecting students.

ESA: Just out of curiosity what are "all applicable platforms"? Does that include Instagram and other social media platforms?

HSA: The reason I went with that wording was because I personally trust the judgement of the VP Communications of what "all applicable platforms" is. If anything thinks that isn't clear, I am amenable to change it.

* + - * + Arts Senator Henrique: What was the be-it-resolved clause before the amendment was proposed?

HSA: "The AUS Legislative Council condemns this reward promotion."

* + - * + President: This question's directed to the HSA rep. In terms of what you want to be included in the listserv, do you want VP Communications to summarize it ourselves, or do you want the exact motion included? I just want to represent what you want.

HSA: Again, I left a little bit of intentional ambiguity there. We outlined the main principles, but we use the flexibility of the executives to interpret the motion as they want and condemn the award promotion and encourage all Faculties to engage in condemning human rights abuses. If, again, Council would have specific statement that they would be compelled to say instead, that's fine. This is just what I came up with.

WIMESSA: Concerning the President's question, I think it's something we could discuss afterwards to get how we want that structured. I think it'd be good to have some whereas clauses that give valuable context.

* + - * + VP External: From my understanding, this revised amendment does not say anything about the Legislative Council, and I see it as different from the previous be-it-resolved clause where it says "the Legislative Council condemns this award." I think we should separate the two be-it-resolved clauses: one should be to condemn as the will of the Council, and one should be to mandate transferring information to the listservs.

RSUS: I’m wondering what the point of a condemnation is if it isn't distributed publicly.

HSA: That was the first part of my point. Why is the distinction - based on what Secretary General said earlier - why is the distinction between the AUS Legislative Council and the AUS important such that it need be separated? Based on what we were told, I don't see why one needs to be AUS Legislative Council and one needs to be AUS.

CSAUS: I think… just a note on AUS versus AUS Legislative Council. The last condemnation email did say it was from the AUS Legislative Council. Just as a note. A point.

* + - * + VP External: I just suggest that the "AUS" be replaced with Arts Undergraduate Society

HSA: Friendly amendment

* + - * + RSUS: We were unaware that we could make the distinction and mandate the executives to defend a particular position. Thanks to the Secretary General's wonderful presentation, we are now aware that we don't have to just say we're AUS Legislative Council. Just because there's precedent that we do have Constitutional power to mandate any executives.

CSAUS: Sounds fine by me

* + - * VP Academic: Motion to Move the Previous Question **| PASSED**
        + Motion passes
      * Voting
        + Motion passes
    - [Motion to Increase Possible AUIF Allocations](http://ausmcgill.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Motion-to-Increase-Possible-AUIF-Allocations.docx)**[late] | PASSED**
      * Moving (VP Finance)
        + This motion here seeks to amend two specific clauses of the UIAF By-Laws. [1] Extension to the possible submission deadline by 2 weeks. [2] Expansion of fund allocations to improve planned classrooms. The intention is to approve possibilities and potential for students to collaborate with each other or with the administration to improve the physical appearance of spaces in which they learn and to make authority on whether or not these proposals will go through. I summarize these: to seek to expand the possible use of this substantially large fund.
      * Questions
        + CSAUS: I just want to thank the VP Finance for bringing this motion forward. Why the AUIF read that way prior and why AUIF funds were not allowed to fund renovations… What has changed that has allowed us to move forward?

VP finance: Two possible reasons. [1] It was meant to prevent people from willy-nilly proposing physical changes to buildings without following proper procedure (like paint in Ferrier). Proposing a change and planning it is complicated. I think this was included to prevent that from happening. The problem is in previous years, proposals for physical changes have been brought to the AUIF - quite large ones. The issue is that none of them were student-driven. None of them were informed by students because students didn't have the potential to do that - they couldn't bring them forward. I think it's good to open that up and bring more for evaluation that's my assessment

* + - * + MUGS: For reference, could you give examples of projects the AUIF is being used for?

VP Finance: Examples from previous years. First, the Library Partnership Committee, which allocates $80,000-$300,000 to the library every year, which is normally spent on tables, study pods, charging stations, etc. It's been used to modify AGELF to change physical spaces there. It's been used to improve Moyse Hall, the Arts Internship Office, FAC, changes to presentation spaces, GSFSSA, and more. Most changes to classrooms and physical spaces were not posed by students.

* + - * + Arts Senator Henrique: [1] What guarantee would we have, if any, that the Faculty of Arts or any Faculties responsible for changes would accept student money and suggestions? [2] To what extent do we feel that we, as a Council, are taking responsibility from the university into our own hands? [3] How are students expected to propose these changes if we have no experience budgeting these things?

VP Finance: Students number 68% of the committee - the final decision of whether the project meets that threshold will always remain with students. They outnumber the representatives from Faculties, Chairs, Deans, and libraries by a substantive margin. The student voice has prevailed in the AUIF. With respect to the guarantees, I don't believe there are guarantees, but provided that a project can be put together and can be reviewed, the funds should, in theory, be made available. There is no guarantee that it'll go through. That's not the intention, but for example, if I said I wanted to add a certain sound system, at least there's a possibility for us to be proactive to approaching and approving it. We might not be familiar with the decisions now, but overtime, with institutional knowledge, we can do that.

* + - * + VP Academic: [1] I'm surprised that the AIO ties into AUIF. Can you speak to how they use that fund? [2] Could this expansion be used to re-work on the AUS Lounge? Is that a space considered OK?

VP Finance: For the AIO, there are statutory allocations of 10% ($32,000) provisioned in the By-Laws. [2] The Arts Lounge would never have been prohibited by 8.1.1 and that's something we can do anyway.

VP Academic: I thought the MOA restricted us from making physical changes to any space from the university.

VP Finance: If we get approval we can at least fund it. If we approve it, it's eligible for funding.

* + - * + GSFSSA: Could any member of the AUIF make a proposal and then have it approved? For instance, someone in Art History could say that they want one of their rooms changed and they don't have to be a student under this provision as long as enough students agree is that a fair assessment? Just to follow up, would it be valuable for there to be a mechanism for Legislative Council to have some sort of input as to whether or not that should be approved?

VP Finance: So I'll speak to the structure of the AUIF. The membership provisions mandate that all student members are executives from departments. They can be of any position of any departmental association. All departments must nominate one member and we choose from the nominations. Now, as to who can actually bring a proposal: any student in the Faculty of Arts can bring a proposal. It's democratic. How well it's communicated is a different issue, but it's technically open to anyone.

* + - * + Speaker: Can you speak to whether AUIF decisions come to Council?

VP Finance: Legislative Council has to ratify all of them.

* + - * + Arts Senator Henrique: What's the size of the fund and usually throughout the year, what's the percentage of the fund that's used? These would be sizable projects so we'd potentially use the fund more rapidly.

VP Finance: $300,000-320,000 and approximately - if you include all the statutory allocations (FAC, AIO) - over 90% of the fund gets spent year over year.

* + - * + No debate
        + Voting

Motion passes

* + - [Motion to Approve FMC Decisions](http://ausmcgill.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Motion-to-Approve-FMC-Decisions.docx)**[late] | PASSED**
      * Moving (VP Finance)
        + Just a standard procedural motion to approve the decisions of the FMC about amendments to the AUS budgets, departmental budgets, and allocations to the three FMC funds.
      * Questions
        + CSAUS: I was wondering if the VP Finance could give his opinion on Adobe subscriptions?

VP Finance: It's not funded through the FMC. As a vivid disclaimer. No, I have nothing personally against Adobe suites. It's fine. Good tool.

* + - * + Arts Senator: I don't think this directly relates to the motion but does the FMC have a yearly report about its activity and decisions to departments?

VP Finance: To my knowledge, no, there is no single comprehensive report outlining all of the spending, but there have been reports on the total spending of the supplementary fund, journal fund, and special projects fund. If you want a detailed breakdown you would have to go through the individual motions for approval. It has never been centralized, to my knowledge.

* + - * No debate
      * Voting
        + Motion passes
    - Motion to Ratify Food Sales Policy
      * Moving (VP Services)
        + This, essentially, is very similar to the SSMU Policy, except AUS groups don't pay any fee to table for either samosa or food sales. If you scroll down to Appendix A, these are the food sales regulations. Full AUS Food Sales policy! Please give it a read. It outlines that we have special events permits that falls under the SNAX Manager; it will be provided to people when you guys go get the necessary equipment you need to basically follow the protocol outlined by the Food Policy Minister of Quebec, which is keeping non pre-packaged food at an appropriate temperature (bake sales, samosas) to serve it hot or cold. The procedure is that you may only table with food in the Leacock building. It's easier on the AUS Assistants and we have hot plates that you need to carry around. There'll be less mess and chance of breaking if you stay within Leacock. You just have to wait for a confirmation email from the AUS Assistants telling you that you can table. Important info to pass onto whoever deals with table bookings. On the morning of the booking, you pick up food equipment. To follow protocol, you need them. Your group will be responsible for utensils and plates. About food-grad containers, the Quebec food policy didn't specify what those are, but they provide Tupperware as an example, so we put that here. After you finish tabling, you will return equipment before 5:00 when we (the AUS office) close. You need to clean and wash the hot plate tray. There's a place you can do that next to the porter office: there's a water closet and you can ask the SNAX people where it is if you're unsure. You will get a copy of the food permit that will allow you to sell food. You will need to write down and provide a potential food allergens ingredient list. Just write down the items in descending order of what's in there. This is also for those with certain allergies, they can be notified if they look through the list. AUS groups pay no additional fees, but you will be liable for any lost items that you borrow, so if anything is lost, stolen, or broken, that departmental association will cover the cost. And there's a fee for 10-day late returns. If there's anything inaccessible about the language, let us know.
      * Questions
        + BASiC: Regards to "food served in food-grade containers": is the food served from food-grade containers or do you have to give out Tupperware?

VP Services: The food must be served from food-grade containers. You can't serve food directly from your hands. As long as you're wearing gloves or have a serving utensil, you should be fine. They can also be served in napkins or plates that they can walk off with.

* + - * + BASiC: If I could just point out it might be easier if we write, "Served from food-grade containers on napkin/plate" When I read, "Served in," I thought that meant I had to give someone a food-grade container.
        + HSA: For Appendix A, the language implies that for every bake sale that isn't for a pre-packaged food item, you'd need to get a food warmer. At least half of the sales are baked goods. Is it true that… what is the criteria for deciding which food groups have to take a food warmer… or do they all have to take one even if it doesn't make logical sense for them to take it?

VP Finance: There is a company guidebook which outlines exactly which foods need to be served at exact temperatures. Baked goods don't have to be maintained at a specific temperature other than room temperature, so you don't need a food warmer. You can just serve it from Tupperware

* + - * + HSA: [1] Does that mean that the AUS is not going to be responsible for judging if the food is good, you're just making food warmer available and every group can make their own judgment? [2] Would there be any monitoring from you to assess which group needs food warmers or not?

VP Service: [1] When you go into the table booking request form, there are three types of tables you can choose from: samosa, bake, or information. If you choose samosa, samosas are the only food that you need to keep warm between a certain temperature, so you'd only get a food warmer/plate for a samosa-type sale. [2] The AUS Assistants will be the ones making sure you have the equipment you need to proceed with your sale, so they'll be able to see if you have a bake sale or a samosa sale. They'll be the ones to make sure you signed the document that you're liable for the equipment that you borrow. They'll be the ones receiving the stuff you return at the end. We'll put it in the appendix just to clarify that you only need a hot plate if you have a samosa-type sale.

* + - * + RSUS: Because Leacock tabling is so limited, I was wondering if there would be any addition to tables in Leacock? Or if there was any way to possibly expand this, because otherwise we're going to be fighting for bake sale space.

VP Services: The AUS Assistants prioritize table booking requests from AUS groups. If it does get full, they can notify non-AUS groups to cancel their booking to make way for you. In terms of table bookings, we're only allowed two down there right now. We can look into expanding to three, but right now we're regulated to two because of building regulations. It's a fire hazard, apparently. That's something I can inquire into expanding. I know it's a bit inconvenient, but with the snow and the high variability of people picking up our equipment and going into buildings, it's just easier.

* + - * + SLUM: I know it's not exactly the best real estate but is there a possibility of opening up tables on this floor (2nd floor) of Leacock? There's been other events that have placed tables there.

VP Services: Is this in the basement?

SLUM: On this level.

VP Services: That's something Maheen (VP Internal) and I can look into.

* + - * + GSA: In regards to food sales that have already been booked in other buildings than Leacock, will we have to re-book them inside Leacock?

VP Services: You can stick with it. You can re-book if you want, but if you have another booking in another building… You can do both.

VP Internal: I don't think that any food sales up until now have been allowed for AUS groups.

* + - * + SLUM: The AUS is planning on sourcing gloves, correct? This is a minor thing but is there any provision to source non-latex gloves to ensure people with latex allergies don't get bad reactions?

VP Finance: I think the gloves I got are non-latex. I'll check.

RSUS: They're usually latex-free.

* + - * Voting
        + Motion passes
    - Motion to Amend the AUS General Election Dates **[late] | PASSED**
      * Moving (VP Social)
        + Basically, I just noticed that for the General Elections, the campaign period is slated for February 10-14, and polling period doesn't start until 17th. This is a motion to extend campaign period to include polling period so that it would end on 17th as well. The reason for this is because it's nonsensical to not allow candidates to have their platforms and information for constituents to see. Often times, you don't know who the person is, and unless you manage to bump into them in class, you're probably going to go on Facebook. If their Facebook campaign is mandated to be deleted not just during polling period but three days before polling period, realistically this does not help candidates at all, because the only thing you can vote on is a one hundred fifty word pen sketch. It doesn't make sense. Personally and historically speaking, I ran in the last two AUS elections, so I know the electoral by-laws pretty well. The campaign period has always included the polling period. If it didn't, it was amended or changed by the Elections CRO to include it. This is including all our 2020 candidates. Seeing that nomination period starts tomorrow. If we're going to change it, we should change it now.
      * Questions
        + President: This sounds like you're running for a third term?

VP Social: Absolutely denied. I read the AUS Constitution - you're only allowed to do a maximum of two years. Even if I could do a third year - I'm not running to be VP Social ever again. Fuck that.

* + - * + Speaker: Here it says, "The campaign period will run to include the polling period." So that would be the 19th not the 17th.

Social: Those dates are what are on the website right now. It says 17th. Or maybe it says the 19th.

* + - * + RSUS: So the campaign period will extend to the end of the polling period?

VP Social: The end of period

RSUS: So to the 19th.

* + - * + Arts Senator Henrique: I have one concern that I think candidates can be refunded. if somehow a candidate managed to realize they were losing, they could just take off all their ads and get reimbursed. I do think it's a good idea to keep campaigns online, though.

VP Social: How would someone realize that they were losing? Like how would they know unless they hacked SSMU SimplyVoting?

President: There's no way of knowing. We don't release daily updates. And the only person I know who runs Facebook ads is SSMU President Bryan Buraga.

VP Finance: I think there's a campaign spending limit. $75.

* + - * Debate
        + Arts Senator Henrique: Hopefully no one is able to hack into SSMU Simply Voting. But there would be an idea of knowing where you stand in the election based on campus sentiment. Given that some candidates may need to rely on that refund, there are students who can abuse their economic power to get more ads and traction.
        + RSUS: Having a campaign period extend into polling period is common practice. Every single remnant of poster must come down. So part of the point of what VP Social was making was that if you are voting and you can just see the pen sketch, that is not an accurate depiction of who you're voting for and this is common practice throughout McGill elections. This is common for SSMU as well running the campaign period .
        + GSFSSA: Would it be possible at a later date to make another motion to limit online advertising? If there are concerns of wealthy students rigging the system to report that?

VP Social: I'm totally open to. The only reason I'm bringing that forward now is technically the last Council before elections. If something is going to be taken up to the Elections CRO, they'd have to communicate that with all the candidates in a timely manner.

Arts Senator Henrique: Friendly amendment to my own motion: cap once polling period starts - no online advertisements. When I ran for Arts Senator, there were a lot of people that were running, and so I purposely scheduled my Snapchat filter to go up later because I knew that's when they'd be voting: in the early dates of promoting. The next thing is also that if you think someone is breaking electoral by-laws or rigging the election or abusing their power/privilege, you can always report to the Elections CRO. I have gotten problems before and the CRO has examined my campaign before.

* + - * + President: There are already spending regulations. During the candidates info session, they'll be explained by CRO. There is no unlimited spending. If you think someone has spent more than the spending, that's a complaint. We don’t need another motion or amendment, this already exists, we're good.
        + Arts Rep Andrew: To add onto that, people also submit receipts at the end of the campaign period and are reimbursed by Elections AUS. So people are reimbursed for their expenditures. Equal playing field.
        + Arts Senator: My reasoning here is that even though people do show receipts, in practice it's impossible to prove if someone else was paying for someone's ads. It's impossible for know if no one else was sponsoring ads for a third person that's a candidate. I do agree about the posters and people speaking about their platforms. I don't think that a candidate who feels he should be losing should get viral videos and get votes on that instead of his platform. If we could limit the friendly amendment: you're not allowed to see sponsored content. We could just keep the same but look for a sponsor on Facebook. Not a matter of how much people had spent but rather on if they had sponsored posts or not.
      * CSAUS: Motion to Move the Previous Question **| PASSED**
        + Motion passes
      * Voting
        + Motion passes
  1. Executive Officer Reports
     + [President](http://ausmcgill.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/President-1.docx)
       - Additions to report
         * Helping previous Elections DRO Jake Mullins with assuming CRO duties
         * I encourage a lot of you to run for AUS Elections, you've developed a lot of experience here in Legislative Council. You could be a great asset to the AUS.
       - No questions
     + [VP Academic](http://ausmcgill.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/VP-Academic-1.pdf)**[late]**
       - Additions to report
         * Straw poll if there's interest in redesigning and rethinking the AUS Lounge space. It will be open in 2021, but there will be no changes made to it so far so it will open as it is. We were hoping to rethink the space and make it better than it is right now. We could have a straw poll.

Straw poll results: Unanimous for redesigning

* + - * + Reworking the Arts Internship Office to make it the Arts Career Office.
      * Questions
        + CSAUS: You mentioned redoing the Arts Lounge and the timeline of the construction. Would this proposed redoing of the Arts Lounge take it offline for a prolonged period of time? I know a lot of people in Canadian Studies are upset and want to see the Arts Lounge up as soon as possible

VP Academic: We haven't had communication with the administration. To make it happen, we have to get an approval from the DPSL office. My hope is that we would do the redesigning in the way how Fiat Lux would be operated - do a section at a time so that won't completely shut off all of it.

* + - VP Communications
    - [VP External](http://ausmcgill.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/VP-External-1.pdf)
      * No questions
    - [VP Finance](http://ausmcgill.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/VP-Finance-1.docx)**[late]**
      * Additions to report
        + Ferrier meeting this Tuesday, February 4.
      * No questions
    - VP Internal
      * Additions to report
        + The "T" under my Office Hours is THURSDAY, not Tuesday
      * No questions
    - [VP Services](http://ausmcgill.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/VP-Services-Report-01_30_2020.pdf) **[late]**
      * Additions to report
        + Graphic Design Form

If you need a graphic for a journal or anything, send in a request

* + - * + Apparently, some requests for photography and graphics aren't going to my email. If you submitted and I’m not responding, I'm not getting it. Just send me a quick follow-up email. Sorry about the inconvenience.
      * No questions
    - VP Social
      * Report
        + EPiC has some events coming up. We had to push back our January event because a venue wasn't available.
        + BdA: I've confirmed it. The Arts Lounge closure is a conspiracy. This absolutely is a conspiracy. The reason why I'm saying that is because we went to the DPSLL and they agree that there is absolutely no construction going on in that thing and it is closed for no reason, so they're speaking to the construction team to open it up on Thursdays just for BdA.
        + Side note - Coronavirus! I have a full conspiracy theory. If anyone wants to hear that and if you are okay with hearing that, just let me know.
      * Questions
        + CSAUS: I was wondering if the VP Social could share her theory on the Coronavirus.

VP Social: I will send an email. It's long. I have the RECEIPTS!

* 1. Reports of the Arts Representatives and Senators
     + [Arts Representatives](http://ausmcgill.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Arts-Representatives-1.pdf) [late]
       - Additions to report
         * Arts Representative Andrew: My office hours are on Wednesdays from 10:30-12:30.
       - Questions
         * VP Services: [1] Why was [SSMU VP University Affairs] Madeline Wilson suspended for a few days? [2] Do you know why Speaker Husayn Jamal is resigning?

Arts Representative Andrew: According to a SSMU Board of Directors report that will be heard tomorrow, the BoD decided not to suspend SSMU VP University Affairs. As for Husayn Jamal, he did not give a reason for his resignation.

RSUS: I would just like to point out from what I know, Husayn Jamal is resigning because he wants to enjoy his last semester. There was a joke earlier that was made in good faith about decorum on the floor and I ask you to seriously consider how women are tone policed, especially in regards to issues like racism.

* + - * + Secretary General: I just want to make a comment on that. For context, the Speaker of Council, Husayn Jamal, sent in his resignation letter during the break. And the Accountability Committee did not convene and discuss the proposed suspension of Madeline Wilson until almost a week and a half after the break ended, so in case you're wondering, they're not related events.
    - Arts Senators
      * Arts Senator Chloe Kemeni
      * Arts Senator [Henrique Mecabô](http://ausmcgill.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Henrique-Mecabo%CC%82.pdf)
        + Additions to report

Re-assessing what the maximum weight of a final is and what constitutes a final exam conflict. That's the type of thing that can be changed right now.

* + - * + Questions

CSAUS: About reworking the university student assessment policy, my high school district got rid of final exams. I just wanted to confirm that that's not an option?

Arts Senator Henrique: You mean you want to confirm that it is not in order to get rid of final exams? More and more universities are not even grading students anymore. At Harvard Law, Stanford Management. That's what McGill claims are their inspired institutions. Most discussions are centered on what the reasonable maximum weight of a final exam is.

* 1. Reports of Departmental Associations
     + [CSA](http://ausmcgill.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/CSA-1.pdf)
       - Classics Play - Euripides!
       - Valentine's Day Lecture Series - BOTH speakers locked in!
     + [BASiC](http://ausmcgill.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/BASiC-1.pdf)
       - Questions
         * Recording Secretary: Will the First Year Representative, Ethan, be having office hours?

BASiC: I don't know. Not at the moment.

* + - [SLUM](http://ausmcgill.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/SLUM-1.pdf)
      * Questions
        + RSUS: What is EarthLING?

SLUM: An event among different linguistics departments in Canada to develop policies in their academic communities to promote sustainability: transport, event-based sustainability, and trying to foster that within the academic community.

* + - [PSSA](http://ausmcgill.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/PSSA-1.pdf)
      * No questions
    - [GSFSSA](http://ausmcgill.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/GSFSSA.docx) **[late]**
      * No questions
    - [CLASHSA](http://ausmcgill.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/CLASHSA-1.pdf)
      * Questions
        + VP Services: Is CLASHSA going to have Spanish conversation circles like in previous years?

CLASHSA: I think you're referring to Spanish and Coffee, which is run by the SLASA, the McGill Spanish & Latin American Students' Association.

* 1. Question Period
  2. Next meeting is February 12th at 6:00 pm.
  3. Adjournment
     + Arts Representative Shreya: Motion to Adjourn
       - Second mover: Everyone
     + 8:05 pm

APPENDICES

[Appendix A – January 28, 2020 Meeting Decisions](http://ausmcgill.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Appendix-A-January-28-2020-Meeting-Decisions.xlsx)

[Appendix B AUS FY2020 Operating Budget](http://ausmcgill.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Appendix-B-AUS-FY2020-Operating-Budget.xlsx)