**Arts Undergraduate Society of McGill University**

**Legislative Council**

**February 27th, 2020, 6:00 PM**

* 1. Call to Order
     + 6:09 pm
  2. Territorial Acknowledgement
     + AUS would like to acknowledge that McGill University is situated on the traditional territory of the Kanien’kehá:ka, a place which has long served as a site of meeting and exchange amongst nations. AUS recognizes and respects the Kanien’kehá:ka as the traditional custodians of the lands and water on which we meet today.
  3. Roll Call
  4. Meeting Minutes for Approval: [Minutes AUS Council February 12th 2020](http://ausmcgill.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Minutes-AUS-Council-February-12th-2020.docx) **| APPROVED**
     + Amendments
       - RSUS: There's a point where I had a friendly amendment and it neglects to mention that I said, "Union for Gendered Empowerment." It just says, "gendered empowerment."
     + Minutes approved, with amendments
  5. Approval of the Agenda **| APPROVED**
     + CSAUS: Motion to Add Late Motions to the Agenda
       - Second mover: RSUS
       - Motion passes
     + Agenda approved, with amendments
  6. Announcements
     + President (via CSAUS): Due to the advocacy of Council and BdA, DPSLL has conveyed that the Arts Lounge has a targeted opening date of April 30, 2020 - September 1 at the latest. BdA is working hard to have one last BdA in April.
     + CSAUS: [1] On Friday, March 13 at 1pm at Faculty Club, Canadian Studies is hosting our "Welcome to Canada, Welcome to Quebec" event. [3] On Tuesday, March 17, Canadian Studies is hosting a lecture featuring David Limeti.
     + BASiC: On Saturday, March 21st, we're hosting a new event. It's a pub night with live music. They also take requests. It's a free event to raise money for a food bank.
     + VP Academic: Valedictorian applications have been extended to March 8, and if anybody needs extensions for reference letters, please email me.
     + EASSA: The EASSA has two events coming up. [1] On Monday, March 9, we have our Wine and Cheese from 6:00 to 7:30 pm in ARTS 160, and; [2] On Friday, March 13, we have a SDG Conversation/panel discussion with IDSSA on social inequality in East Asia from 2 to 3:30 in Wilson room 103.
     + PSSA: The PSSA is holding our annual Ottawa trip on Friday, March 20. Tickets are $27 and you get to visit Ottawa for the whole day. Check out our Facebook page for more info.
     + GSFSSA: It should be in our report, but we have an event on Thursday, March 19: "Angry Queer Somali Boy: In Conversation with Mohamed Ali." Hopefully we'll have our budget set by then. We've invited a guest speaker named Mohamed Ali speak about his memoir. [2] We scheduled a bake sale for Friday, March 13. This will hopefully raise some funds for the March 19 event.
     + HSA: I've been asked to share that tomorrow the HSA will be launching the lecture series. For students who have historical research which is underrepresented on campus and for students who want to present their historical lectures to each other. I highly recommend you to submit it over the next week because it's an interesting way to share new perspectives.
  7. Presentation about [McGill Bicentennial](http://ausmcgill.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Bicentennial-presentation.pdf) Celebrations
     + Presentation
       - Thank you for the opportunity to present a very high-level presentation of the Bicentennial and what we've been up to in the past 3.5 years, and what's coming starting September for 15 months. Today, I wanted to focus on the student outreach efforts that we've undertaken. This is also a very high-level presentation on where things stand. So, as I said at the outset, the Bicentennial will last 15 months from Homecoming 2020 to December 2021. Why are we celebrating? Should we even celebrate? Well, it's not very often that an institution reaches 200 years old, so it's an opportune moment to reflect on not only some of our successes, but also some of the challenges that the university has faced over the years. Not only to reflect, but to position that reflection into the 3rd century of the university long-term. It's also a way to showcase what members of the community have contributed in the first two centuries and also how McGill as an institution has impacted people, whether directly or indirectly, and how it shows that. Second, it's not so much about the past as it is about the future. While we will be recognizing our contributions and accomplishments, it's a good way to position the university for the next 100-200 years to start plans, discussions, and to move forward in many new direction. This is the vision we've submitted to the university leadership. It's looking back and moving forward. How are we going there? There are six major goals. What we recommend to the units - faculty or department - is to look at these goals, look at how they fit, how to make it yours, and how to adapt it to your reality. Those are some of the things guiding us here. A big one is show how McGill has evolved and will evolve over the years. There are seven guiding principles to the planning of the Bicentennial. In addition to the guiding principles, each Faculty has created a Bicentennial committee comprised of Faculties, staff, normally students as well, to develop plans at the Faculty level. Each Faculty looks into the events that they hold normally through the year - throughout the 15 months - and will brand some events as Bicentennial. Each Faculty was also asked to think of one or two special events for the Bicentennial. Special units like Enrollment Services and DPSLL also look at what they do throughout the year and brand big events as Bicentennial. My office is looking at McGill-wide limited events. There are eight of them at the moment. The launch weekend is the weekend of September 24-26. A student challenge to impact on sustainability is opening registration next month but will officially kick off in September and go throughout the Bicentennial. There's the Global Health signature project that we're working with different Faculties and units throughout campus. This is not just an exhibition, but it is a partnership. There will be an exhibition on Sherbrooke Street on the role of the university to the arts but we're also commissioning an Indigenous structure to be constructed on the Roddick gates, slated for March 21, 2021, the Bicentennial. There will be an event geared towards McGill employees: a Bicentennial summer festival with music, movies that feature McGill as a location or a McGillian as a main character, etc. McGill's role in aerospace will be showcased and we'll bring together student groups on Aerospace and be bringing back McGill's astronauts. These are the events we've been planning. In addition to these events… it's not just a series of events. There are a few key initiatives through talks, and these are the things we will really be looking at. Research, student outreach (what we've done over the past few years), international component, indigenous programming component to celebration, and the history of McGill are all things we'll be revisiting. I know some of you will ask: yes, James McGill was a slave owner and there were Indigenous issues. Rest assured, we will look into these issues. Showcasing alumni through the years, sustainability, and an equity piece. Related to the university for the next chapter of its history. Student outreach: what we're trying to do is to provide framework for students to express themselves. Between students and admin, we want to provide more concrete opportunities for students to network, learn, etc. through events and projects and everything happening at that time, and allowing them to showcase their identities and uniqueness with financial support. Some of the things we've done so far is offering students opportunities to volunteer and employment. Working with professors, creating courses where students not only learn, but apply their learning to something concrete. That is not enough. We're looking for proposals from students to get a sense of what would be a meaningful Bicentennial from a student perspective, and what are things we should be looking at doing that would foster your involvement in the Bicentennial. I'd be interested in hearing them.
     + Questions
       - VP Services: I want to commend the team for planning the Bicentennial. I highly encourage Councillors to share any thoughts and ideas on how these events could reflect student wants and needs. I also have one question: how can students like us be involved in the planning process? Will there be a committee?
         * I've been wanting to do a student committee for 2 years. The biggest challenge I've had is a normal response. We want students from many Faculties to come together to really think about how to make the Bicentennial really engaging to students. We're definitely looking at the possibility of creating it. One thing I would ask you guys - a big question we've always had is how do we do things that fit with students' schedules. There've already been a few students but it'd be interesting to have that committee.
       - GSFSSA: Would it be okay if we shared some information or a slide from our slideshow in our listservs to canvas the Faculties?
         * Yes, please share them. We've developed a communication strategy but if I didn't want them to be shared, I wouldn't have sent them to the committee. I can't give answers to everything but please share.
         * GSFSSA: If there are particular individual or email for the committee that we should reach out to?
         * gerald.cadet@mcgill.ca
       - RSUS: What kind of conversations can students be able to have? From just an academic side or about services at McGill?
         * What kind of conversations do you want to have?
         * RSUS: Students don't feel very supported at McGill, especially regarding student services, and that's what I would like to see out of the Bicentennials: actual conversations with the students, and not just forms to fill out.
         * What would an actual conversation with students look like?
         * Every time I've had conversations with the university, I've been shot down. Like, oh, they don't want to hear any student experiences with it. There's the McGill-funded Student Wellness Hub "Fact or Fiction?" section that's really insulting. A lot of these conversations need to be McGill admin genuinely listening and accepting these student critiques. We're having these experiences and they can't be applications just filled out. You can't just have a form. It needs to be an open conversation where students are not shot down.
  8. [Presentation on Proposed ASEF Changes](http://ausmcgill.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Presentation-on-Proposed-ASEF-Changes.pptx)
     + Presentation (VP Finance)
       - This presentation's focusing mostly on how the current structure of ASEF can be changed and replace the EEO bursary program that's being cut due to Quebec government cuts.
       - We have more amount in this account than is being spent. As the account stands now, it is not addressing the current needs of the student body. Quebec government being cut so anyone currently on program will no longer be eligible
       - EEOs - learning experiences that take form off campus in forms of competitions, research, internships, etc. Not an extensive list and can be expanded in the. Not open to all students. Students in more financially advanced backgrounds are more able. The focus for out-of-classroom learning experiences is no longer restricted to campus as Work Study. Off-campus of this nature is where Off-campus seems to be heading.
       - Background EEO Bursary Program. It accepts students based on student needs and compensates as they incur expenses. If you have to go abroad for research, you are compensated when you buy the ticket and pay rent.
       - Faculty Employment Fund overseen by ASEF Committee and both of these funds matched by the University
       - Proposed Changes
         * Using infrastructure that we have in place to make sure there are no gaps. First, to increase the fund that we're allocating to this program. Second, greater oversight in how this program will be administered. Sustainable - how can this program be something students can take advantage of?
       - As with the EEO and ASEF, we will lobby the university for matching funding here too. This is a program that will be invaluable to arts students. This has been popular for students and the vast majority has been Arts students. This program is disappearing. That money will no longer be there and students can no longer take advantage of this stuff here. We'll be the only ones on campus providing this bursary in the face of Quebec government discontinuing
     + Questions
       - ESA: I was just wondering; the Quebec government discontinued the EEO without replacing it, or are we saying anything about that?
         * VP Finance: Yes, the Quebec government made a unilateral decision and scrapped this program. A statement… that's not what I'm proposing, but what we're doing is not disallowing the possibility to making a more concrete stand. My focus is just on making sure there's no gap on what this is.
       - MUGS: I was just wondering to be sure. There's no plan to make the ASEF fee non-opt-outable, right?
         * VP Finance: Great question. No, there isn't.
       - BASiC: I was just wondering. I know the fee is increasing, I was wondering if the additional fee avoids having to take funds away from the Faculty Employment Fund?
         * VP Finance: It's specifically designed that way, yes. There will be a small increase to the Faculty Employment Fund. The majority increase goes to the new one, though.
       - CSAUS: I have a question about the allotments. They're not changed and they're just adding more money. I think it's ridiculous that the CAQ with a $2.3 billion surplus is cutting a program for students cut. Are the allotment numbers changing or staying the same?
         * VP Finance: Scholarships and Student Aid recommends a specific amount to make the program sustainable. In order to minimize the student fee raise, let's raise the total number we need to support both funds evenly. The majority goes to the new program we're proposing.
  9. Presentation from EPBC
     + Presentation (VP Finance, EPBC Commissioners)
       - This presentation was compiled from consultations with departments; this was a 6-month long process from September
         * Concerns that they have to solutions we have to these policies, and solutions are implementable
         * Developed policies. Researched. Compared to other institutions. Criteria like cost effectiveness, burden of responsibility, whether or not these are substantial and implementable provisions that can replace issues of the AUS.
       - EPBC (Gideon): I'm one of the people who made this presentation. I focused more on the sustainability and environmental aspect of this. I want to thank you for your contributions. To start, in terms of the new AUS Environmental policies, they go into detail. They're focused on reducing carbon output and offsetting that which we can't reduce.
         * To reduce carbon output, we want to focus on advertising public transit, respecting more when departments ask funding for public transit, and making it available to clubs.
         * Printing: all AUS funded printing has to be FSC certified - Forest Stewardship of Canada certified. There are options for FSC products in Montreal. Cutlery will be compostable or use Plate Club
         * Offsets - this was the focus of my research. The problem is that we can lower carbon output, but there are limitations. For public transit, we would love for students to use more public transit and to fund this increased usage, but we can't control where transit goes, how accessible it is… we don't have the authority to change public transit. We want to offset all gas and diesel purchases for private cars, all Ubers, lift shares, and taxis. It goes from using the price to find out total gas and transport use to get the carbon output.
         * For offsets using, I've advised to use "Less." It's certified by the United Nations, gold standard, Canadian, certified by organizations, and allows mass purchases. We can calculate carbon and pay through that.
         * Plastic use offsets. McGill admin proved a bit difficult for this. They were positive, then they had trouble providing information we asked for. This is expansive. Foundation for later work to make AUS more sustainable and ethical.
       - EPBC (Aspen): I worked on the ethical procurement policy. Most of it focuses on apparel procurement. Most people told us those were the most significant purchases departments were making. So, we split it into two parts.
         * Apparel produced inside Canada | If you're purchasing products inside Canada, it needs to meet one of the two conditions: [1] Decent work conditions, or; [2] Strong evidence of social entrepreneurship. One way to prove social entrepreneurship is that the company has membership with the World Trade Federation, or other sufficient documentation.
         * For apparel produced outside Canada, we require the apparel to be certified with the Fair Trade International Cotton or Fair Trade Cotton Source. Why we chose those: they're the most internationally recognized for ethical apparel.
       - Aspen: The rest of our work went into ethical events sponsorship. This part of the policy is an encouragement point. We encourage associations to seek ethical sponsors. One way to determine whether the sponsor is ethical is to demand certification or evidence of social entrepreneurship. These are substantial changes, so we've put together an official supplier list that departments can get their supplies from. Associations will have the opportunity to provide new suppliers for suggestion, and the Ethical Business Practices Committee will review it and put it on the approved suppliers list. We will also work on a disapproved suppliers list. It'll save you time to submit something that has been submitted.
       - VP Finance: One of the major things why the previous attempts at something like this failed is because the necessary financial resources to provide these changes has not been provided. It usually costs more to be ethical. Especially for smaller departments, the rules to make changes to behaviours is limited. The fee levy which will increase the number of departmental allocations to implement this policy - there will be a 50% increase on top of what departments already receive in order to implement this policy. We've costed that out. We included carbon offset prices, and the FMC (Financial Management Committee) fund will support anything beyond what we've talked about and community engagement. It's difficult to include in this policy directly. We recognize there are things that cannot be changed that reduce whatever. We must collaborate with organizations that deal with climate justice more broadly. This is a foundational process this is not a final word. What we're doing is doing a basic framework so that we can force more stringent regulations and provisions. This is an open and flexible policy and it is contingent on the fee [levy?] passing in September 2020. There will be a transition period education about what these things entail so that what we do is implementable in the next year. We have a duty to try and be as inclusive as possible and as broad and ambitious as possible. A round of applause for our committee. The level of rigor and effort that has gone into this is commendable and should be matched by all future attempts at this.
     + Questions
       - CSAUS: I want to thank you guys for the amount of work you've put in, it looks very comprehensive and it's an important initiative. I think the labour movement is prominent of climate justice. Is there any consideration for union-made products for sustainable business practices?
         * Aspen: Starting within Canada, in the "decent work" definition outlined, the right to organize is part of that. As an example, as one of the sufficient proved suppliers that are able to be used by associations, I included "Ethica," which is a supplier in Quebec in which all employees are unionized and all products are made in Canada. Outside of Canada, [union-made products are] part of the Fair Trade International certification
       - IDSSA: Under the IDSSA MOA, the only way to get apparel is through the Le James library. I was wondering if you know if Le James creates their apparel ethically. We don't have an option to follow the approved apparel list.
         * VP Finance: This policy has the kinds of things that apply to most departments. Most departments do not go through Le James. I'm not intimately familiar with the standards and practices of Le James. There's room to look at how we can comply these policies with Le James. I wouldn't be surprised if they would comply with us or make sure that these policies can be complied with, but that's conjecture.
         * VP Academic: That is something brought up during MOA negotiations in the next 30 days. If AUS itself wants to have our own merch. That would be covered in that and we would address the same issue in that conversation.
       - GSFSSA: First, I was wondering if, in your evaluation of what standards we should follow and what certifications should be followed, there will be considerations to materials of clothes that should be made?
         * Aspen: In terms of the apparel certification for apparel made outside of Canada, the FTI specifically talks about cotton. This is what the majority of this ethical apparel is made from. There are two options: Fair Trade Cotton, in which 100% of the cotton in the 100% cotton clothes are fair trade certified, and Fair Trade Cotton Source, in which fair trade cotton is blended with other fibres.
       - GSFSSA: Regarding reducing CO2 and the accessibility of public transportation. I'm thinking about… I don't know how much McGill residents/students are already subsidized in taking public transport. Is there any branch that touches upon that?
         * Gideon: Could you define your question more?
         * GSFSSA: Is there any way our hope to reduce CO2 emissions by taking public transportation instead of cars could reach toward housing procurement so that people don't need to use any form of vehicle?
         * Gideon: We're trying to reach current student needs.
         * VP Finance: This policy relates to AUS activities. This is not binding people upon people who are not seeking funding from the Arts Undergraduate Society.
  10. New Business
      + [Motion to Select 2020-21 RSUS Executive Independently](http://ausmcgill.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Motion-to-Select-2020-21-RSUS-Executive-Independently.docx)
        - Speaker: I think we should merge all the motions from departments asking to hold their executive elections independently from the AUS into one motion.
          * [Motion to Select 2020-21 RSUS, QSSA, JSSA, SLUM, and PSA Executive Independently](http://ausmcgill.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Motion-to-Select-2020-21-RSUS-Executive-Independently-amended-passed.docx) **[amended] | PASSED**
        - Moving (RSUS)
          * RSUS be real small. Not a lot of people participate in our activities because of how small we are. It's much easier for us to run elections on our own to do it independently and get as much voter turnout as possible. There's also been instances in the past. Doing these independently makes sure these execs sustain over the next year. I would say that this is very good and helpful.
        - Second mover: CSAUS
        - Questions
          * WIMESSA: Are there already departments that are exempt from AUS elections?

Speaker: No. Departments must apply to opt out of AUS-run elections for their executive committee every year.

* + - * + WIMESSA: The motion seems like it's about being exempt from AUS elections, but is it still an independent election? How does it work?

RSUS: We just want to run the election for our exec on our own.

* + - * No debate
      * Voting
        + Motion passes
    - [Motion to Amend MIRA Constitution](http://ausmcgill.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Motion-to-Amend-MIRA-Constitution.docx)
      * [Motion to Amend MIRA Constitution](http://ausmcgill.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/2-Motion-to-Amend-MIRA-Constitution.docx) **[amended] | PASSED**
      * Moving (MIRA)
        + The name of our program changed, so we have to change our association name to Labour and Industrial Relations instead of just Industrial. We're also looking to add a new position on our exec: VP Case Comp. We recently ran our very first case competition, and we'd just like to add a new exec who would have full reign on running this case competition. We just need someone to run this case comp.
      * Second mover: BASiC
      * No questions
      * No debate
      * Voting
        + Motion passes
    - [Motion to Approve FMC Decisions](http://ausmcgill.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/VP-Finance-Motion-19-23-Motion-to-Approve-FMC-Decisions.docx)
      * [Motion to Approve FMC Decisions](http://ausmcgill.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/3-Motion-to-Approve-FMC-Decisions.docx) **[amended] | PASSED**
      * Moving (VP Finance)
        + Standard procedural motion to approve the decisions of the last FMC.
      * Second mover: SLUM
      * Questions
        + CSAUS: Wondering if the VP Finance's opinion on Adobe has changed since the last meeting.

VP Finance: It hasn't.

* + - * No debate
      * Voting
        + Motion passes
    - [Motion to Ratify Ferrier 223 as CSAUS\_QSSA Lounge](http://ausmcgill.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Motion-to-Ratify-Ferrier-223-as-CSAUS_QSSA-Lounge.docx) **| PASSED**
      * Moving (CSAUS)
        + Basically, I'm gonna briefly explain this motion. I was empowered by the CSAUS Executive Council to locate a space that would be a space for Canadian Studies students. Our fellow institute department, QSSA, is also interested in a student lounge. Perhaps you've heard of the lovely Ferrier building. It houses Canadian Studies, Indigenous Studies, and Quebec Studies. There's a room in the far corner called Ferrier 223 and it's a general lounge for Arts students. It's administered for AUS. CSAUS and QSSA ask that, while AUS remain responsible for administrative procedures for the space, that the AUS allow CSAUS and QSSA to put up a sign that says, "Welcome to the CSAUS and QSSA lounge!" This motion does not restrict access to Ferrier 223 from other students of other departments. We just want somewhere to sign up, congregate, and have Timbit Tuesdays, where come to that space, have Timbits, and have coffee with fellow CSAUS-ers.
      * Questions
        + Speaker: Is that the all glass-room with the charging seats?

CSAUS: Yes, great room. Very comfortable to sleep in.

* + - * + ESA: On Timbit Tuesdays, will there be any traditional Quebecois desserts served?

CSAUS: I will yield to QSSA on that one.

QSSA: I'll look into that but I guess we could bring maple cookies or something.

ESA: BEAVERTAILS!

* + - * + PSA: I'm wondering about the lounge's hours?

CSAUS: It is a 24/7 lounge. Once we have the lounge, I invite all Councillors to have a sleepover with me.

* + - * Debate
        + MUGS: Just for the record, I would like to say that Tims coffee sucks.

CSAUS: CSAUS vehemently opposes this point.

* + - * Voting
        + Motion passes
    - [Motion to Approve FAC Decisions](http://ausmcgill.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/VP-Finance-Motion-19-24-Motion-to-Approve-FAC-Decisions.docx)
      * [Motion to Approve FAC Decisions](http://ausmcgill.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/5-Motion-to-Approve-FAC-Decisions-1.docx) **[amended] | PASSED**
      * Moving (VP Finance)
        + This is not a standard procedural motion. You've never seen this before. It's the first of its kind. This is the FAC (Fine Arts Council) decisions and we're looking for approval.
      * Second mover: CSAUS
      * Questions
        + PSSA: Could you elaborate why that one individual, "Coco Wang," is getting $400?

VP Finance: Coco Wang is the representative of Women in House. Also, FAC is supposed to award money to individuals who create greater services for Arts students.

* + - * No debate
      * Voting
        + Motion passes
    - [Motion for the ASEF Referendum Question](http://ausmcgill.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/6-Motion-for-the-ASEF-Referendum-Question-updated.docx) **[updated] | PASSED**
      * [Friendly Amendment: Motion to Increase ASEF Fee](http://ausmcgill.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Friendly-Amendment_-Motion-to-Increase-ASEF-Fee-.pdf)
        + VP Academic: Bachelors of Arts and Science students pay the whole fee. SUS doesn't have an equivalent so it doesn't make sense for BASIC students to only pay half and access the full service.
      * Moving (VP Finance)
        + So, this is what the presentation was about. I think enough was said. I stand for questions
      * No questions
      * No debate
      * Voting
        + Motion passes
    - [Motion to Consolidate FMC Funds](http://ausmcgill.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/VP-Finance-Motion-19-21-Motion-to-Consolidate-FMC-Funds.docx) **| PASSED**
      * Moving (VP Finance)
        + The allocations are quite different in all of them. There's more demand for the Journal fund than the Supplementary fund. We're looking for more flexibility to allocate money based on requested allocations.
      * Second mover: CSAUS
      * No questions
      * No debate
      * Voting
        + Motion passes
    - [Motion to Opt Out of Elections AUS [late]](http://ausmcgill.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Motion-to-Opt-Out-of-Elections-AUS-late.docx) **| PASSED**
      * *Already passed; see Item 10.1*
    - [Motion to Approve PSA\_s Independent Winter 2020 Elections [late]](http://ausmcgill.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/9-Motion-to-Approve-PSA_s-Independent-Winter-2020-Elections.docx) **| PASSED**
      * *Already passed; see Item 10.1*
    - [Motion on the EBPC Referendum Question and Report [updated]](http://ausmcgill.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/10-EBPC-Referendum-Question-and-Report-updated.docx) **| PASSED**
      * No moving
      * Second mover: VP Services
      * No questions
      * No debate
      * Voting
        + Motion passes
    - [Motion to Acknowledge the Role of Blood Collection Services on Campus and to Encourage the Continued Advancement of Non-Discriminatory Policies](http://ausmcgill.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/11-Motion-to-Acknowledge-the-Role-of-Blood-Collection-Services-on-Campus-and-to-Encourage-the-Continued-Advancement-of-Non-Discriminatory-Policies-.docx) **[late] | FAILED**
      * Moving (SLUM)
        + I decided to move this motion forward because of the motion drafted last Council session. I appreciate the sentiment behind that and discriminatory practices are reprehensible, but the language of the previous motion was accusatory towards Canadian Blood Services and Héma-Québec. Which avenues should we be pursuing for these concerns? Through my research, Canadian Blood Services AND Hema-Quebec are actively championing the abolition of these discriminatory policies. They are continuously appealing to Health Canada to reduce the periods in which men who have sex with men are prohibited from donating blood and have helped decrease it, over the years, from a lifetime ban to a one-year ban to a three-month ban, and are going in the direction where the ban will ultimately be entirely removed. Health Canada requires that regulations can only be changed based on evidence-conducted studies. These things don't happen overnight, so it's taken a bit of time. I wanted to address the concerns about the reports of misgendering on campus. We should look into that, follow that up, and speak to Héma-Québec and Canadian Blood Services about addressing that and see what the reasoning is, and whether we can help adapt that as well. It's important to address because in the past, blood services have been threatened. The SSMU referendum was to remove blood donation services on Canada because of these discriminatory services. It does put people's lives in danger, but Canada's blood donation service is chronically threatened and every drop of blood lost threatens lives. That's why I brought this to Council, thank you.
      * Questions
        + BASiC: I am a little bit confused because the motion from last week still did commend the good intentions behind these blood donation drives. What I’m a little confused about is that I don't know what these be-it-resolved clauses are asking for, except for these councillors and individuals who have experienced homophobia and transphobia to apologize. I don't know what making blood services "feel welcome on campus" really means?

SLUM: I'm saddened by the fact that that's how you're interpreting it. I think LGBTQ+ rights are very important and I’m not asking for people to apologize. I'm just asking us, as a community, to recognize the role blood collection services play in saving lives. Just recognize, as a group, to recognize the commitment they've made. You'll see how much of an effort blood donation services are making to end these discriminatory services that are mandated by Health Canada itself. I wanted to progress against blame being pointed in the wrong direction.

* + - * + HAS: Were you aware that in multiple points in the past years, especially, that LGBTQ+ people have petitioned Canadian Blood Services to petition against these discriminatory practices, only for Canadian Blood Services to refuse? If Canadian Blood Services truly is championing the effort towards the abolishment of these discriminatory practices, why would they refuse? Why do you think it is the AUS' prerogative to bend to Canadian Blood Services?

SLUM: I can't speak to the intentions behind Canadian Blood Services in this context. This is an ongoing decision and Canadian Blood Services is continuing to make strides to end the discriminatory process. Health Canada requires very clearly and methodically scientific reports in order to accept new regulations. I can't really speak to that.

* + - * + VP Finance: If the intention was just to condemn Health Canada, then why not amend the original motion? Why not raise an amendment last session?

SLUM: That's a good point. I think it's important to also recognize the contributions made by these organizations because they do save people's lives. I don't want to foster any ill will.

* + - * + CSAUS: I want to thank SLUM for bringing this motion up. I think it's important to condemn the right organization. Can SLUM confirm with us that it is Health Canada that mandates this restriction, and not Héma-Québec or Canadian Blood Services?

SLUM: It is Health Canada, because Health Canada requires scientifically proven studies and uses an incremental process to lift these bans. All these letters have to be approved by Health Canada, and it's not up to Canadian Blood Services to draft these policies.

* + - * + CSAUS: So, in a sense, Héma-Québec and Canadian Blood Services are working within their discriminatory framework to correct this framework?

SLUM: Yes.

* + - * + HSA: How is this the AUS' purview? What would your response be to pointing out that it was Héma-Québec that was so proud to offer the proposal to Health Canada? Why could they not propose to get rid of the ban altogether? That's in their power, but they failed to do so.

SLUM: These processes do not occur overtime. You can't change people's discriminatory notions and cultures overtime. Would that ideally happen? Yes. Héma-Québec and Canadian Blood Services know the framework and they are repealing these discriminatory practices while navigating this framework.

* + - * + Speaker: For the sake of time, I'm not going to entertain any more questions, and am moving into debate period for this motion.
      * Debate
        + GSFSSA: I was going to make this a question, but it can be debate too. I feel like this motion suggests that it's more important to provide a safe space for Héma-Québec than it is to provide a safe space for our students.
        + MUGS: I do respect some of the fears about the potential for loss of blood donations. But to be honest, I don't find this fear to be credible. Héma-Québec is a federally charted corporation. I doubt that they would stop - again, they're a publicly charted corporation. It would be absurd. It makes frankly no sense to just assume that they would do this and I really think that's not a good reason for completely ignoring the concerns of LGBTQ+ students at McGill.
        + Gallery (Queer McGill representative): I worked on the previous motion. Speaking as a representative for LGBTQ+ students on campus, it's important to look at the studies and where these rules are coming from. Insofar as the original rules of banning men having sex with men from donating blood came from the AIDS crisis, which harboured the fear of "gay-related immunodeficiency." AIDS has been largely seen as a gay disease. This is not coming from a place of science; the original legislation was not on any scientific basis, it was based on stigma. But now we're asking advocates to provide scientific studies? It makes it a lot harder to ask to get rid of this. It's important to recognize that this is not coming out of science, this is coming directly out of oppression, and it's important to look at the lives lost due to this oppression. I know the vital work they're doing and I applaud blood donation services. However, regarding the current rules. First of all, there's been studies that show that the first rules of bans against gay men led to a lower compliance in donations and more tainted blood than not having these rules in place. Which is obviously counterintuitive. That's also important to take into consideration. There's a higher rate of suicidality in LGBTQ+ community than not in the community. The lives lost and the mental strain because of this kind of oppression… Are we paying attention to those lives lost, not just the privileged lives that are lost?
        + HSA: The AUS Equity policy mandates that the AUS creates safe spaces for its students, not to create safe spaces for the government. The consistent takeaway is that the public has disadvantaged student safety and wellbeing. While this motion is in good faith, it could diminish these lived experiences. With regards to the same sources this motion cites: the blood donations services actually voted not to eliminate the ban. #7 actually actively recommends that you'd like CBS and Héma-Québec to change and write letters. We should not reward incrementation.
        + CSAUS: In response to LGBTQ+ students not feeling like they are in a safe space around these blood donation services… I went to the last blood drive. I, a gay man, walked in, had a free hot dog and generally had a good time.
        + IDSSA: I just wanted to say something about Brent's comment about going to have a hot dog. I'm glad that they feel comfortable, but a statement like that in a discussion like this makes me feel like I'm weaker, or like, since I didn't feel comfortable getting a hot dog, that my lived experience was weaker. Brent's experience is valid, but the people who didn't feel comfortable going to these blood donation services are valid, too.
        + ESA: First of all, I just wanted to say regarding the previous (HSA's) motion, there is no reference to Health Canada. That being said, I feel like that the argument or the spirit behind the motion doesn't find itself. While Héma-Québec and Canadian Blood Services may not be directly responsible for the ban, they do participate on it. The previous motion about this topic was about putting pressure on all organizations who contribute to oppression. As a blood donor myself, I've been a volunteer for Héma-Québec. Before seeing this previous motion, in Quebec, the question about men having sex with men was just another question on a questionnaire I could check "No" to. After seeing this motion, I came to understand how someone who's not in the same position as I am facing this questionnaire would feel completely invalidated as a person because of who they are and the choices they've made. We also need to see the value that motions like these have for privileged people like me for opening their eyes. As a proud blood donor, I'll also be voting against this motion.

PSA: In the be-it-resolved clause, there is no reference to Health Canada, but the previous motion does appeal to Health Canada. It says, "To secure the right for MSN to donate blood and continue to encourage services to appeal the ban."

* + - * + EASSA: Personally, as someone who has had blood transfusions… When you're in that position, anyone would be grateful for any blood available that you need. Correct me if I'm wrong, but I don't believe our previous motion banned any blood donations. In the current motion, where it says we should welcome the blood drives and donations… All we're doing is making a statement against discrimination against LGBTQ+ communities and not banning blood donations in general. So yeah, I will be voting against this motion.
      * Voting
        + Motion fails

Quorum Roll Call

* 1. 24/25

BASiC: Motion to Reorder the Agenda to Have Reports Until We Reach Quorum

* 1. [VP Academic](http://ausmcgill.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/27th-Feburary-2020_-Academic-Report-.pdf) **[late]**
     + Questions
       - Speaker: For departments who have peer tutors who continue to work after April 1, when should they submit timesheets?
         * VP Academic: The timesheets are for personal accountability; we don't need timesheets to be paid. They'll be paid for all hours they work.
  2. [VP Finance](http://ausmcgill.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/VP-Finance-Feb-27-Report.docx)
     + Questions
       - CSAUS: Didn't you say that the SNAX debit machine will be ready for February 2020?
         * VP Finance: I did, but it won't be ready by then.
       - CSAUS: Is there a new timeline?
         * VP Finance: No. I don't want to commit to any more timelines.

* 1. [Motion to Declare a Climate Emergency](http://ausmcgill.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/12-Motion-to-Declare-a-Climate-Emergency.docx) **[late] | PASSED**
     + Moving (BASiC)
       - As I’m sure you remember at last Legislative Council, RSUS and I presented alongside C-JAM about striking for the end of March through the beginning of April. We've been collecting signatures and getting our student body mobilized. What we'd like to do is put out a climate emergency declaration as the AUS. Last semester, we had a Climate Strike General Assembly demanding that McGill divest. Our demands weren't met. As members of the AUS, it's our responsibility to stand in solidarity with our students and their demands. Be it resolved, the AUS declares a state of climate emergency. Be it further resolved, the VP Communications sends multiple emails about climate justice demonstrations and any other forms of climate justice.
     + Questions
       - CSAUS: Have you consulted with the VP Communications regarding their involvement in this?
         * BASiC: No. But willing to help her in any way she may need.
       - VP Services [Point of Information]: Our VP Communications' French translator won't be able to translate any kind of open letter until school starts back up [after Reading Break]. After spring break, we have other statements to be released - do you have a hard ask for asap?
         * RSUS: Our main thing is we would like to have declared state of emergency relatively before the next General Assembly. The GA is scheduled for March 18, thanks to Maheen for booking it. That week or April 4 would be good, but as far as the "Has McGill divested?" segment and anything in the listserv - that would be part of the normal listserv. That's what we're looking for. Just active communication to facilitate engagement
       - RSUS: Would I be allowed to provide a French translation that we send out?
         * VP Academic: You would be compensated for that.
         * Speaker: What type of content do you want the VP Communications do you want to include? Perhaps C-JAM might be entertaining a weekly article submission and what the VP Communications should link to that
         * RSUS: We definitely could do that. We don't want to give a lot of burden for Yoana to do we just want to have a space for this to be heard.
       - VP Services: I'm all for this. However I'd recommend you'd consult with Yoana. She's in Florida but yeah.
     + Debate
       - HSA: Thank you to Haidee!
     + Voting
       - Motion passes
  2. [Motion to Release A Statement in Solidarity with the Wet’suwet’en](http://ausmcgill.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/13-Motion-to-Release-A-Statement-in-Solidarity-with-the-Wet%E2%80%99suwet%E2%80%99en.pdf)**[late]**
     + [Motion to Release A Statement in Solidarity with the Wet’suwet’en](http://ausmcgill.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Motion-to-Release-A-Statement-in-Solidarity-with-the-Wet%E2%80%99suwet%E2%80%99en.docx) **[amended] | PASSED**
       - ESA: I sent this friendly amendment because I don't think this denatures the spirit of the original letter. This just adds more of a local perspective. At McGill, it's ingrained in our culture to recognize that we are on unceded land. Our spirit of cooperation can go further to support what the Kanien’kehá:ka have done with their blockade. And for those that follow recent Quebec news, Premier Legault started talking about AK-47s to confront the land defenders. It was uncomfortable and bizarre for premier of Quebec to make colonialist statements. Later part of amendment.
     + Moving (VP Services)
       - I posted this a bit late, so sorry about that Marie. And I posted this on the group. The statement letter has since been changed. I did email our Indigenous Commissioner, Tomas, about this, asking if he could give us any pointers. Again, it's a very busy time for the commissioner. He added a little thing in the letter: "the AUS recognizes that projects provide threats to governance." Disclaimer: I am non-Indigenous and I am a settler. Most of the original document was my own research. Now it's less focused on settler-driven focus on law and on Indigenous governance. The AUS does recognize the legitimacy of the Wet'suwet'en law. I want to highlight some of the calls to action at the bottom. The camp legal funds, as well as the helpful toolkit and how to take action and be a good ally. This is very broad and you might not be sure how to contribute to the cause but it's a resource for you to look at. It has the latest updates on what's going on underground. Especially since the RCMP said they'd be withdrawing but they haven't, for updates I would highly recommend the sources.
     + Questions
       - MUGS [Point of Information]: For the Appendix, what letter is that in the drive?
         * Speaker: This is part of the motion.
     + Debate
       - MUGS: I'm not sure whether we should be using the term "Mohawk" in this context. If anyone has more information on this, correct me if I'm wrong.
         * ASA: Disclaimer, also not an indigenous people. People definitely do use the term Mohawk.
       - ESA: The news articles I have read on the topic talk about the Mohawk Natural Council and their leaders. I can't speak to the difference between the two but they seem to be commonly used.
       - HSA: Would it be possible to elaborate if people were to pass a tentative timeline of the motion to have "Mohawks/Kanien’kehá:ka" and then for VP Services to consult Indigenous groups on campus
         * Speaker: Add an amendment and a be-it-resolved clause.
       - VP External: I have a suggestion. I don't think we should take this issue lightly. If there's an issue of clarity, I suggest we commit this back to the committee working on this, back to Haidee. While I do understand the urgency of this issue, I think we should take the issue with sensitivity. We should make sure students are actually consulted. This is a suggestion, not a motion to amend.
       - VP Services: I didn't respond to what HSA said, but I’m very friendly consulting Tomas and other Indigenous students about this. There isn't a timeline on this. I'm easy on when exactly we can post this. Whether it be after spring break or next month, there's no real rush to post this if we haven't done the proper consultation from the relevant groups.
         * Speaker: You're free to do consultations.
       - VP Academic: Considering the fact that this motion was written with consultation with Indigenous students, this motion can be passed right now, then the statement can be consulted further.
       - HSA: Just reiterating my earlier point. I know SSMU does routinely give authority to an *ad hoc* committee to release statements whenever they want. They didn't want to pass it now, so they gave authority to the *ad hoc* committee to pass whenever they wanted. We could do that with this statement.
       - CSAUS: I'd like to add an additional be-it-resolved clause - that the AUS approved the statement in principal and for it to be reviewed once again for consultations, then sent out when approved by VP Services and relevant consultants without coming back to Council.
         * VP Services: Friendly amendment
       - ESA: I want to apologize for not researching enough. On the website of the Confederacy, they do refer to the Kanien’kehá:ka as the Confederacy made up of the Mohawks.
       - VP Services: I want to thank ESA for making the amendment. I was trying to figure out.
     + Voting
       - Motion passes
  3. [Motion to Amend the AUS HR Policy](http://ausmcgill.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Motion_-Amendment-to-the-AUS-HR-Policy-.pdf) **[late] | PASSED**
     + Moving (VP Academic)
       - This was a recommendation by Secretary General Nathan Mendel. Currently, the AUS HR Policy mandates that the Deputy Secretary General becomes the next Secretary General. According to Nathan, this is not equitable hiring. We are striking this clause from the HR policy.
     + CSAUS: Motion to Move into Confidential Session **| PASSED**
       - Motion passed

*-Council enters a confidential session-*

* 1. *Motion to sign RSUS Open Letter* ***| PASSED***

VP External: [Attempted] Motion to Mandate all Departments to Read Report

CSAUS: I move to defer departmental reports to next Council and to adjourn **| PASSED**

* + Second mover: Everyone
  + Adjourned: 8:54 pm

* + ~~Executive Officer Reports~~
    1. [~~President [late]~~](http://ausmcgill.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/President-late.docx)
    2. ~~VP Academic~~
    3. ~~VP Communications~~
    4. [~~VP External [late]~~](http://ausmcgill.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/VP-External-late.pdf)
    5. [~~VP Finance~~](http://ausmcgill.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/VP-Finance-Feb-27-Report.docx)
    6. [~~VP Internal~~](http://ausmcgill.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/VP-Internal.pdf)~~[late]~~
    7. [~~VP Services~~](http://ausmcgill.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/VP-Services-1.pdf)~~[late]~~
    8. [~~VP Social [late]~~](http://ausmcgill.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/VP-Social-late.docx)
  + ~~Reports of the Arts Representatives and Senators~~
    1. [~~Arts Representatives~~](http://ausmcgill.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/arts-rep-report-feb-27.pdf)
    2. ~~Arts Senators~~
       1. ~~Arts Senator Chloe Kemeni~~
       2. [~~Arts Senator Henrique Mecabo~~](http://ausmcgill.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Arts-Senator-Mecabo.pdf)
  + ~~Reports of Departmental Associations~~
  + ~~Question Period~~
  + ~~Next meeting is 12 March at 6:00 pm~~
  + ~~Adjournment~~

Appendices

[Appendix A – February 18, 2020 Meeting Decisions [updated 25 February]](http://ausmcgill.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Appendix-A-February-18-2020-Meeting-Decisions-updated-25-February.xlsx)

[Appendix B – FAC Funding Application for Approval](http://ausmcgill.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Appendix-B-FAC-Funding-Application-for-Approval.xlsx)

[Appendix C – AUS Sustainability By-laws [updated]](http://ausmcgill.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Appendix-C-AUS-Sustainability-By-laws-updated.docx)

[Appendix D – AUS Ethical Procurement Policy](http://ausmcgill.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Appendix-D-AUS-Ethical-Procurement-Policy-.docx)

[Appendix E – Financial-By-laws-Amended-Sept 2020 [updated]](http://ausmcgill.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Appendix-E-Financial-By-laws-Amended-Sept-2020-updated.docx)

[Appendix F – AUIF-Amended-Sept 2020 [updated]](http://ausmcgill.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Appendix-F-AUIF-Amended-Sept-2020-updated.docx)

[Appendix G – Ethical Business Practices Final Report](http://ausmcgill.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Appendix-G-Ethical-Business-Practices-Final-Report-.docx)

[Appendix H – IPCC Report](http://ausmcgill.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Appendix-H-IPCC-Report.pdf)