**Arts Undergraduate Society of McGill University**

**Legislative Council**

**March 12th, 2020, 6:00 PM**

* 1. Call to Order
     + 6:10 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
     + CSAUS: Do we have quorum?
       - Speaker: Yes. We have 31 voting Council members here; 21 absences.
  4. Meeting Minutes for Approval: [AUS Council Minutes February 27th 2020](http://ausmcgill.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/AUS-Council-Minutes-February-27th-2020.docx) **| APPROVED**
     + Amendments
       - CSAUS: In the debate on the blood drive services motion, it says that the CSAUS representative stated that he has given blood. Strike the part where I said I gave blood, because due to my condition, it would be impossible to do so.
     + Minutes approved, with amendments
  5. Approval of the Agenda **| APPROVED**
     + Amendments
       - CSAUS: Motion to Add Late Motions to the Agenda
         * Second mover: ASA
         * Motion passes
     + Agenda approved, with amendments
  6. Announcements
     + CSAUS: [1] If you're still interested in the Canadian Studies events I announced before, check MISC (McGill Institute for the Study of Canada) to find out whether they're still going on, still approved. [2] The CSAUS lounge's grand opening is indefinitely postponed.
     + President: [1] If McGill ends up cancelling classes, this will be our last Legislative Council. [2] Because the Quebec government has just banned indoor events with over 250 people, we are cancelling the Climate Strike GA.
     + VP Social: I just wanted to address the concerns around COVID-19. I just want to highlight that [SUS VP Internal] Wendy Yan and I prioritize the health and safety of our guests for Grad Ball. We understand that Grad Ball is different than a Wine and Cheese, or an apartment crawl, or anything like that. There are a lot of graduating students who are really looking forward to this. Keeping all of that in mind, we're taking it day by day, and as of this moment, we're monitoring this situation closely. Your best way to stay informed about any future decisions we make is to keep checking the Grad Ball Facebook event page. We've been getting a lot of emails and messages. And just to address a few other concerns: some people have been asking, "Can't we limit the number of Grad Ball attendees to 250?" I don't think making it 250 is a good call, unless you have a good idea of who to determine deserves to go. We're just gonna see what happens; a lot can happen in between now and in a week. We're gonna see what McGill does. If it becomes mandated, then we must cancel Grad Ball, and we'd be looking into perhaps coming up with a replacement event. If the 250 people rule is a rule, then it doesn't matter what event I put up in replacement: there will not be a just 250 people graduation event for AUS and SUS.
     + President: Just as a reminder: because we are doing a livestream, if everyone can just talk into their microphone and speak at an audible volume, that would be appreciated.
  7. AUS Executive Candidate’s Speeches and Elections
     + [Candidates for AUS Executive](http://ausmcgill.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Candidates-for-AUS-Executive.pdf)
       - Speaker: To clarify voting procedures for tonight, only the councillors who are not present are voting online. Make sure they send their McGill email to (VP Internal) Maheen via the Facebook post [on the AUS Legislative Council Facebook group] to make sure they get their ballots to this by-election. The remainder of the individuals here will get paper ballots. We will also be livestreaming this. So, we're gonna get started with our typical procedural stuff. The first position we're considering tonight is VP Communications. All candidates have 2 minutes for their speeches and a 2-minute question period. I will tap once when the candidate has 30 seconds left [in their speech], and twice when the candidate has 10 seconds left.
     + VP Communications Candidates
       - Sasha Delouvrier
         * Speech

Ladies and gentlemen, it is my great honour to present my candidacy to the position of Vice-President Communications of the Arts Undergraduate Society. As a first year student at McGill, I believe in increasing the outreach to the younger body of students. Going back onto my emails, I realized that the first listserv that was sent from "Miss Communications" (VP Communications Yoana's listserv alias) was actually just a Welcome Back listserv. So I went ahead and asked students from all the residences how they felt about the AUS and how close they felt to the AUS. Most of them asked me what the AUS actually did. I believe in implementing a first listserv that actually explains what the AUS is, what the AUS does, and how it's important to all of the Arts undergraduate students. Furthermore, I would like to include categorized opportunities that are submitted through the listserv so that people don't just have a big blob to read and then get confused [by], but can actually sort through and see what opportunities are relevant to them. Furthermore, I believe that communications is three-prong and it should be done on all the necessary levels. First of all, it is communicating with all Arts Undergraduate students. This includes increasing social media outreach, posting more often on Instagram, as well as promoting all of the Arts Undergraduate Society's opportunities on Facebook, and not just elections, such as the Peer Support Center or the Essay Writing Center. Furthermore, I would like to ensure accountability. If I am to be elected VP Communications, I believe I will commit to writing a report on my portfolio and its services on a weekly basis. Furthermore, I would like to work side by side - I commit to working side by side with all of the other portfolios to ensure success of all the projects that are put forward to this Council. Finally, I believe in accountability and communication between every group in the Arts Undergraduate Society to ensure proper visibility for everyone when and if needed, if demonstrated, through a database, and touching base with all different groups of the AUS on a weekly basis. Thank you.

* + - * + Questions

Gallery (Adam Amsel): Do you think that the role of VP Communications is political? Why or why not?

Sasha Delouvrier: I don't actually think that it is a political position. I believe that as a student organization, the Arts Undergraduate Society has a position to represent all students, and while it holds many elections and a lot of Councillors present here were elected to their positions, the VPs are elected by Councillors simply to develop projects for the students and maintaining many of the things that were already established by previous generations of the AUS, such as the Fine Arts Council, and maintaining that for the future success of all McGill students and to properly welcome new students to our community.

VP Communications: Hi, Sasha. I really liked your speech. I also really liked how you plan to better organize the listserv. I think that's very very necessary and it's something that I tried to do this year and started, so the speech was really good. A question I had for you is… You talked a lot about social media outreach. And something I noticed in my role was that managing every single social media platform is a lot of work. So, do you have one or two or maybe three apps that you want to focus on and what you want to do specifically with the apps? So, for example, I mostly focused on Facebook and Instagram. And with Facebook, there's also something called paid promotion. So, more on the marketing side, what apps do you want to focus on and streamline? My question is more technical, I guess, to increase outreach.

Sasha Delouvrier: Of course. At Frosh, I noticed that everyone uses Instagram, so I would focus, like you said, on Facebook and Instagram. That's something I wanted to keep going, 'cause it's something I noticed you did this year. On Facebook, I would focus on promoting what the AUS has to offer. For example, like I said, the essay writing center, among other things. Whereas on Instagram, I would focus on promoting the AUS itself: all the people working for the AUS. That means all of the councillors, the different student associations, as well as the different VPs, secretary general, etc.

ESA: Could you please take a moment to elaborate how your previous experiences have prepared you for this role?

Sasha Delouvrier: Yes! In high school, I was a founder and Secretary General of my school's Model UN conference, which means that I had to build up, from the ground up, a database of contacts and a whole communications/marketing plan to attract schools and welcome them to our school. Not just to have people attend our conference, but because I believed our school could bring something to the attendees. Furthermore, as a member of the Secretary of SUMS(?) I have worked closely, especially during the year, with the Director of Public Relations to promote SUMS(?) and what it does.

*Question period elapses*

* 1. VP External: Motion to Extend [Candidate Sasha Delouvrier's Question Period] by 30 Seconds **| PASSED**
     + Motion passes
  2. Questions, continued
     + VP External: My question has to do with French communication. What are your plans to ensure that the AUS fulfills its mandate to ensure that Francophone students are well-represented in all social media platforms, especially through the listservs?
       - Sasha Delouvrier: I didn't have time to talk about it, but I am actually French. So, that's something I hold dearly at heart. I believe in, first of all, maintaining all the French discussion groups, which I did a lot of research on, thinking about this application. I believe in bringing together… like I said, in reaching out to the younger students and including them into this French section of McGill. The reason I chose McGill is because it was the perfect mix between France and North America.

*Question period elapses*

* 1. Shuchita Das
     + Speech
       - Hi, everyone. I'm going to start off by acknowledging that this meeting is taking place on traditional Indigenous territories. I would also like to say thank you to the AUS for this opportunity. My name is Shuchita Das and I'm a first year student hoping to major in Psychology and something else… I haven't figured it out yet. I'm running for VP Communications of the AUS because I believe that I can use my relevant experience to improve communications to students in the AUS. The AUS listserv, website, and social media are very important but I believe they're not really being used to their full potential. For example, if elected, I plan to make better use of the calendar on the AUS website and regularly update it with important events and info. I would also like to include a mini version of the calendar on the listservs. I also hope to make the listservs more lit, like, LITservs, by adding in jokes and make it more enjoyable so students enjoy reading it and look forward to reading it instead of just ignoring it. Additionally, I plan to have a weekly posting schedule on the AUS social media, specifically Instagram to increase engagement and build AUS' online presence. I have experience running social media and handling communications through the Student Wellness Hub and Student Services: I have a job there as a communications assistant, where I've developed and managed social media, our email, and our blog and website. Additionally, I know that I have the leadership skills and collaborative traits to effectively chair the Fine Arts Council and to work with the AUS Francophone Commissioner. I have furthered my leadership skills in my position as VP External on SSMU's First Year Council. I manage meetings, plan events, and yeah, by being VP External on FYC, I am also on SSMU's Legislative Council. I really hope I gave you guys better insight on all that I have to offer AUS. Thank you.
     + Questions
       - VP Communications: Hi, thank you so much for your speech. The part I liked the best was the LITserv part. So, this year, just a little bit of info on what I tried to do with the listserv. We created a new design and it's never really been recreated since its first inception. So that was my starting of the listserv. So in terms of design - and you don't need to have this down now - do you… what are your thoughts on the design? Would you want to change it? Is it your vision of the LITserv? I thought that was creative.
         * Shuchita Das: I really think "little things" count. Like, having a funny tweet of the week or something that McGill students can relate to, like a funny meme or something, or even having a spotlight on the LITserv of a couple McGill Arts students and asking them a question. Kinda having a "Humans of New York" but like "Humans of Arts" thing on the LITserv or on Instagram. Just some ideas.
       - Gallery (?): I just wanted to ask about the website. So, the AUS website is horribly out of date. There's information from last year's departmental elections. I just want to know what your plan for the website is and for the incoming exec.
         * Shuchita Das: For sure! I definitely want to make it more pleasing to the eye. No offence to the website, but it's a little bland and boring. And, I don't know, when I go on it, it's not the best in terms of communication and all that. Definitely I think my priority would be updating it. Why do we still have information from 2017-2018? That's not relevant to students now. Definitely keeping it updated on a regular basis. Updating the calendar and putting up the appropriate events. I went on it today just to make sure that the Legislative Council was today on the website's calendar, and it was just empty. It was blank.
       - Gallery (Adam Amsel): I noticed that the email that is sent out is from a mail.mcgill.ca, while AUS does have their own website: ausmcgill.com, I believe. I wanted to ask if, this year, you'd be interested in sort of server consolidation. So like how EUS is able to send from their own email instead of relying on McGill. Is that a project that you would dedicate your time to?
         * Shuchita Das: Oh yeah, for sure. I think that branding and marketing the AUS, email instead of having like, what you said, mail.mcgill… Definitely having @ausmcgill.ca. That's how I know SSMU runs it. And it just looks more professional and clean. Just… branding and marketing, I guess. We can copy some of what SSMU does but with AUS and kinda relate it to our own thing.
       - VP Communications: This is just to go off the questions of everyone else. A lot of what everyone's putting up is backup from the years before that wasn't done. In order to… I also came to the role with a lot of things from 2013-2014. In order to fix these things, it's more work in the summer and a bigger team. Is that what you're looking into? Putting more hours in the summer? Because if you look at it, even now there's obviously still a lot to change, but this year what the AUS exec accomplished was so so so much trying to update it and we didn't do that much work in the summer. So you just need to put more hours. Is that something you would do?
         * Shuchita Das: Oh yeah, for sure. I don't have a summer job yet, so, definitely if I was voted for VP Comms, I'd take that over as a project. And everyone under my portfolio who needs to be hired should be hired as soon as possible and just start putting together our ideas and organizing and getting stuff done. I think that's something we should start as early as we can. Start of summer would be great. I'm willing to do that.
  2. VP External Candidates
     + Aye Cham Myayh Pan Mort Aung
       - Hi. Good evening everyone, my name is Aye. I'm running for VP External. My name is probably the longest one on the ballot. The main motivation that pushed me to run for this position would be that I worked with the current VP External, Darshan; he's amazing. I helped him with the Grad Fair and the Non-Profit Fair as a Coordinator. These events have led me to see how important this position is to connecting the future - life outside of McGill - to the Arts Undergraduate Society and its students. As much as these events were successful in enhancing the career prospects and post-graduate prospects of the Arts Undergraduate students, I felt that the success would be even more tremendous if we could have an even wider outreach. I think the best way to do this is to collaborate with the VP Communications and to come up with even more innovative ideas to have a wider outreach. I recently went on a job shadowing opportunity at "Le Bête"(?) which was offered by the McGill Alumni Association. And this opportunity actually opened my eyes to the career world and has given me such a unique experience that was very unique. And as VP External, creating new ties with alumni associations and creating more job shadowing and career-related opportunities that are structured for Arts undergraduate students would be one of my priorities. With four years of high school government experience and much other leadership experience, you will find my ambitions more abundant than the hand sanitizer and paper towels on campus. I hope I'm the new VP External that you are looking for, thank you.
       - Questions
         * VP External: Hi, thank you for your speech. My question has to do with the advocacy side. The role of the VP External involves sitting on SSMU Legislative Council and, at the same time, AUS Legislative Council. How do you plan to prioritize your role and balance it at the same time. Do you have any initiatives that you would like to lead that would be passed through these two councils?

Aye Cham Myayh Pan Mort Aung: Yes. So, the first thing is about balancing, right? I work very well under stress and I'm that sort of person that would be constantly looking for something to stress about. I feel that sitting on both councils would give me that thing I am indeed seeking for. I do have things that I would want to push for. As I have mentioned, we could be creating a lot more opportunities with the McGill Arts alumni that we have, and that would be one of my priorities.

* + - Libby Williamson
      * Speech
        + Hello, Council! My name is Libby Williamson, and I'm in my third year at McGill, studying Psychology and Political Science. Obviously, I'm running for VP External. A little bit about me I was a Floor Fellow for the past year, I did O-Staff for Frosh this past summer, and I was an active member of the McGill Cheerleading team for the past three years. I've interacted well and have worked various aspects of the McGill administration, and I hope to use this to create more opportunities for McGill Arts students. Speaking of opportunities, one of my main objectives is to continue creating concrete networks for alumni-student relations. Alumni are a great resource for students to gain knowledge in potentially post-undergraduate positions in fields that they are passionate about. Whether alumni decide to participate in a mentorship role or to create job opportunities and internship opportunities, this engagement allows for a broader connection in the McGill community. I also hope to tie this concrete network into AUS events such as Work Your BA and job fairs to demonstrate to students what's possible after graduation. Another objective that is incredibly important to me is Mental Health at AUS. As a Floor Fellow, I know firsthand that mental health has various effects on McGill students. I believe it's important to us as Arts students, one of the largest Faculties on campus, to advocate for more mental health resources that are accessible to students. I hope to continue to create spaces like open mic nights or craft fairs where students are able to creatively express themselves in healthy ways. Finally, as the SSMU building reopens, I feel it is important that Arts students and their respective clubs have a voice within this process. In SSMU Legislative Council, I want to represent my other portfolios and what is best for the Society as a whole. To best do this, I want to be accessible on multiple platforms for students' needs and whatever way they are comfortable reaching out to me. I feel that due to my previous experience with McGill organizations and my ability to work collaboratively, I am the candidate that you are looking for.
      * Questions
        + VP External: Hi, thank you for your speech. My question has to do with… Do you have any plans as to how you would consult AUS students before you represent them at SSMU Legislative Council?

Libby Williamson: Yeah, I want to create more of an open platform via social media and other events, so collaboratively with comms to put out polls on important issues or to create opportunities to discuss, almost like office hours, and have that opportunity.

* + - * + IDSSA: I think one of the points you brought up highlights an issue that I saw as a member of the Mental Health AUS Committee. So you said these ideas for events; it just so happens that two of the events that you presented are ones we planned to run. I think that highlights some of the disconnect some Committees feel with the AUS. What would you do to amend that disconnect and make the events you know would be beneficial more well-known to the Society?

Libby Williamson: Again, I think working with the VP Communications is super key to creating events and awareness. But also, communication with AUS in general needs to be more collaborative. I find that a lot of students are really disengaged with AUS as is, so finding ways to creatively engage them, whether it's representation on campus or emails, listservs, that kind of stuff.

* + - * + CSAUS: Hi Libby. A lot has been talked about first year outreach. As I know, you were a Floor Fellow in Gardner. I was wondering if you could elaborate more on any plans to reach out to first years who may not be as aware of what AUS does or what AUS represents?

Libby Williamson: I think a super underused resource is the Floor Fellow community in general and the AUS' connection with them. I think that it's important to highlight these student mentors that can connect with these first years on a more firsthand basis. I want to highlight using that and initiating more conversations and organization workers like the Floor Fellow community.

* + - Vasily Levkovskiy
      * Pre-Speech Points
        + Vasily Levkovskiy [Point of Inquiry]: May I distribute some flyers before the speech?

Speaker: Was there anything about that in the [nomination] package? No? Okay, go ahead.

*The candidate distributes flyers.*

* + - * + VP External [Point of Parliamentary Inquiry]: Does this affect the time that the [candidate] has [in their speech]?

Speaker: No.

* + - * Speech
        + Dear friends, my name is Vasily Levkovskiy, and I'm an international student form Moscow, Russia. I was excited to hear that you are looking for executives for next year, and I'm here in front of you presenting. And I'm [shaking], not only because I'm so excited to be part of the team next year, but probably because I had too much Red Bull printing those flyers for you guys. I will not take too much of your time to present; I will make it quick. I think that I am a good fit for this position due to my professional experience organizing events and negotiations. I have worked as VP Events with McGill Russian-Speaking Students' Association. And there, we have participated in organizational events, activities, and I've done negotiations with other student societies of McGill for joint events. At the same time, I have professional experience working with the Russian government. I interned in a Russian military political association, there I had to communicate with high ranking Russian government officials to organize some sort of joint events, as well. So, you understand that in case you don't vote for me, you still vote for me. Jokes aside, I want to mention some key ideas. I want to run for VP External for AUS. I am looking to provide students offered through mental health programs, as my mother is one of the top psychologists and art therapists in Russia, and she could give some job strategies, which I want to implement through this program and help students in need because I acknowledge these problems as real and existing. I want to help the students in it. That's it.
      * Questions
        + VP Finance: Can you expand a little bit on those plans on mental health?

Vasily Levkovskiy: Yeah, sure. I have three plans in my mind. Basically, those are things which I wanted to see as a student of McGill myself, right? First of all is working with mental health program. What I meant: I want to implement art therapy courses offered to students during midterm and final exam times when the students are in stress and want to release it. Second idea: I know you guys hold the food fights *(Note: the candidate is probably referring to Inter-Residence Masterchef competitions)* in 2017-2018, but not for the past 2 years. I think it's a great opportunity for different Faculties to come together and cook and present those dishes, speak about history of those dishes and the cultural background. Third event: I know many of you are graduating and I know you have the career fairs and such events, but I want to widen the horizon of what is offered. So, for example, we could do company tours, presentations of skilled professionals, and organize some kind of networking events for students.

* + - * + VP External: Hi! So, I'm not sure if you attended Work Your BA this year, but it does include networking events. Can you elaborate on what sort of networking events you plan to have, for whom, with whom, etc.?

Vasily Levkovskiy: Well, I've been to the networking events not long ago, like the biggest networking conference in Canada. Helps businesses to work in Russia and Kazakhstan and those regions. The guys over there organized excellent networking events. I was present there as a volunteer. What happened there was there were government officials requested to come and there were representatives of companies in the industry present there. People from many universities were present.

* + - Adam Amsel
      * Speech
        + Hello everybody. My name is Adam. I am currently the SSMU VP External, I'm running for AUS VP External. I'm in my third year of Philosophy and Economics. I am running on two major ideas: one is democratization and the other is a lot of experience that I have in the portfolio. In terms of democratization - so, the issues that come up a lot is consulting groups and the practices best there. For those who have done this work, email blasts do not work, and they're not the only things you can do. So, I'm really excited to explore best practices that I've learned from working with other groups. So, things like classroom announcements are really under-utilized, working through departmental associations, working through clubs, etc. Those are really good ways to get the messages out and actually bring more people to these things. Like, it'd be really nice to have more gallery members [at AUS Legislative Council], for example. In terms of experience… So, for community work, I work with the Milton-Park community all the time: it has a really big effect on our membership and the neighbours, so I'm excited to continue working with them. I'm working with SSMU's Community Engagement community, which now has a lot more capacity due to a lot of changes we've made this year. In terms of mental health, I was involved in some of the Wellness Hub advocacy work done this year. I'm really excited to move away from this idea that peer support is a substitute for proper mental health care. The events being run would be, sure, analytic and talk about some of the student efforts being done around harm reduction and sexual violence reduction. But I would really not emphasize the aspects of our mental health work which allows McGill to shift that work onto students. In terms of careers and the career committee, I'm really excited to work towards expanding things beyond just career fairs and actually into work-integrated learning. Basically, having volunteer experiences opportunities in the classroom - as part of your learning curriculum, you can go into a company or a non-profit organization and be assessed for the work you do in there. You get a lot of skills doing that. For commuters, I'm really excited to work not just with residences, but other organizations, too. And I'm happy to take questions.
      * Questions

*Trigger warnings: use of the word "Gh\*tto," profanity*

* 1. VP Social: All right, I just want everyone to bear with me for a second because this question does require a little bit of contextualization. I'm just going to quickly read an email that you sent to myself and a few other people. This email was regarding Frosh week noise in the Milton-Parc community, formerly known as the "McGill Gh\*tto." It was sent on Saturday, August 31, 2019 at 9:53 am. So it starts saying, *"Hi Harold and 'Big 4' Coords*," with "Big 4" being in air quotes - *"Any idea what I can tell them? I've received 4 emails and 3 calls for this effect."* It continues regarding the IOC: *"If the IOC is really serious about pushing SSMU out of its Frosh involvements, it needs to assume all responsibilities for its operations, not just the ones it likes."* It then continues to say… Um, sorry, it's a very long email, and I don't want to bore everyone with it so I'm just taking a few excerpts out of it. It then also says, *"Please let me know how we can work together. Again, if the intention is to seriously push SSMU out of all planning and piss on our offer to provide resources, that's literally fine. It's entirely your prerogative and we don't want to micromanage stuff. But recognize the full dimension of the responsibilities you undertake."* And it's then signed with a salutation that says, *"Happy Beach Day."* And that is it. Included in the email it also says, *"It becomes impossible to bring our communities together when we issued out a grand 'Fuck you' from Day 1."* In the next reply to it, it also says, continuing in the same email chain: *"We both know this will continue to be a problem with tomorrow's events bla bla bla re: the Frosh debriefs, immediate points need addressing as well."* And then it ends with a short bit saying, *"Or will this be pushed off yet another year while we claim we are 'too busy' to deal with the community's needs."* The reason why I'm bringing this email to attention is just because I know for a fact that this email was CC'd to several women of colour and people who identify as certain marginalized barriers. So, I guess my question is: what would you say to someone who has concerns about you fostering a rather hostile or possibly unsafe environment towards marginalized individuals, especially considering the elected individuals who are entering this incoming AUS executive do possess women of colour.
     + Adam Amsel: Yeah, thanks. So, I'm gonna hope that someone can extend my speaking time to respond, 'cause this was a long question, so I guess it's time for a long answer. I mean, in terms of equity work and what you touch on in the last bit, the reason why that email was sent is to recognize that communication relations are a part of harm reduction. So, 30% of our campus population is international students. Having these sorts of poor relations we have with Milton-Parc leads to increased calls to the police. I work with the police at station 38(? Ville de Montreal) a lot, mostly so that they can not be present in the neighborhood. International students, people of colour, BIPOC community, etc. are really not happy with police presence on campus and in Milton-Parc, so the idea of pushing Faculty Coordinators to take more action about that was effectively to make sure that our community relations allow students to remain safe and not have cops called on them. Especially international students: if they go to jail, the Dean of Students has to go and bail them out, like, they don't have a legal guardian here. Yeah, I mean, something that we've been working on this year is an MOA - a Memorandum of Agreement - for Frosh, which separates responsibilities between different Faculties, Campus Life Engagement, and the SSMU. I think that speaks to the fact that I take on a lot of the responsibilities. In the email that you cite, people from the Milton-Parc community knew my phone number and knew to call me because I put myself out there, I did door to door, and I made sure to foster good community relations. Again, in order to avoid the police being called, and it was a mass email sent to the entire Milton-Parc community to that effect. What else was touched on by your email… Yeah, I mean, I think it's just kind of frustrating that Faculties sometimes do want to talk about harm reduction and do a little bit of it, without necessarily understanding the full scope of it. There were other dynamics of that email that I'm sure you were aware of, with regards to Harold Center(?), mentioned by email in regards to being perhaps, like, gaps in communication between Campus Life Engagement, Faculty Associations, and SSMU. And it's something the VP Internals/Events/Socials touched on within IOC meetings is that there were frustrations directed at the plays, and a lot of that frustration was directed at Harold and not just at the Faculty associations.

*Question period elapses*

* 1. President: Motion to Extend [Candidate Adam Amsel's] Speaking Time by 2 Minutes **| PASSED**
     + Second mover: WIMESSA
     + Motion passes
  2. Questions, continued
     + VP Social's question, continued
       - Adam Amsel: In terms of my presence with regards to people of colour. I don't think, reading that email, there are specificities as to… "You, as a person of colour," and like, specifically targeted lacks of equity there. I do a lot of equity work in my position, I specifically work to uplift or grant access to resources in marginalized communities. I monitored and administered the Indigenous Solidarity Policy at the SSMU, so weaponizing equity language isn't perhaps the most productive. But like, yeah, I'm obviously very very open to working with all communities and all different groups to make sure their equity and access needs are being met.
     + VP External: Thank you for your speech. To what extent would you reach out for consultation? On days like today, SSMU Legislative Council and AUS Legislative Council are on the same day and this has happened three times consecutively. What are the issues that you would bring to classroom announcements, in terms of motions and stuff that is discussed in SSMU, considering that things are very complicated and complex, same with the AUS. How would you differentiate the role as an Executive and as an Arts Representative, [the VP External being] privileged as part of the Executive Committee on the AUS and holding a vote, as opposed to the other Arts Representatives?
       - Adam Amsel: This touches on best practices and representation structures. I'm obviously not going to be able to advocate or want to advocate for the same things here than necessarily to SSMU, because it's a different population, right. Like, you can't represent the entire student body while voting and claiming to be an AUS representative. Like, absolutely not. So, I think when it comes to classroom announcements, you have to listen to what the energy around campus is. So, for example, this year, it's not so much AUS setting its own priorities. It's pretty clear that students in Arts want to focus on issues of climate, right? So like, you try to bring people in on big issues and things there's a lot of energy behind, and as they get used to having these conversations and getting to know their Faculty associations, a lot of that work ends up getting done for you because a lot of people end up participating in their own democratic structures. In terms of what to bring to one [Legislative Council] or the other, I think oftentimes there's a lot of overlap, specifically when it comes to advocacy work. When it comes to communications for events and things like that, I'd say like, the big ones, where you start to get to know your association, and then you rely on working with the VP Communications and others so that, not necessarily smaller opportunities, but more niche opportunities, can be broadcast to them. But they're already in the habit of looking for those things, if that makes sense.
     + Arts Representative Andrew: I know earlier this year, during SSMU, you forcefully advocated for reducing AUS' representation from four seats [on SSMU Legislative Council] to one seat to be equivalent to other Faculties of a few hundred people. How can [AUS] Council trust you to be able to advocate for its interests when you wanted to reduce its representation?
       - Adam Amsel: Yeah, that's a really good question, and I knew it would come up. Again, there's a sort of different positionality that exists there. Like, I'm advocating for AUS, and not for the student body as a whole. I firmly believe within the larger bird's eye view context, there's questions of equity that come up when you give a voting block four seats, and those people already have the leisure time to be [SSMU] Clubs Reps, etc. Obviously, as an AUS Councillor [to SSMU], I'm not gonna move a motion to reduce the number of Arts seats.

*Question period elapses*

* 1. Speaker: Yeah, VP Social, how long do you want the extension?
     + VP Social: Well, how long do we have?
     + Speaker: Well, we can extend it forever, but I don't know if that's exactly conducive.
     + VP Social: I have a few more questions for the sake of transparency and freedom of information.
     + Speaker: Can I get a show of hands for people who want to ask a question? Maybe like a 3- to 4-minute extension?
  2. VP Social: Motion to Extend [Candidate Adam Amsel's] Question Period by Four Minutes **| PASSED**
     + Second mover: CSAUS
     + Motion passes
  3. Questions, continued
     + Arts Representative Andrew's question, continued
       - Adam Amsel: The motivation behind wanting to limit the number of [Arts] seats was based on best practices from other universities, and a lot of McGill's advocacy work at the Quebec-wide level. We always have one advocate, one vote because Anglophone communities in Quebec are underprivileged when it comes to representation in the vote. Again, I think this kind of speaks to my experience in working with other organizations and trying to introduce best practices because it's easy to see, "What does SSMU do? How can we bring that to the AUS?" or vice versa, but it's always nice to bring in as many voices as possible, and I think that's why community is in the VP External's mandate, right?
     + CSAUS: Thank you for running and putting your candidacy forward. So, I'm on SSMU's Nominating Committee as a Member-at-Large. In October, we were doing hiring for the Board of Directors, as you may be aware. You emailed… I believe it was Kyle Rubenok, at the time, who was spearheading the hiring cycle… asking for a particular one person interviewed past the deadline. Which, as a Member-At-Large, I'd never seen such interference before by a SSMU Executive in an independent process in the Nominating Committee. My question to you is: if elected as AUS External, how can we trust you to engage in best hiring practices for your Commissioners, and make sure that you're not just hiring your friends?
       - VP External: So, I wasn't on the hiring committee for that, right? In trying to recommend someone past the deadline, specifically that was a non-binary person of colour. We follow a mandate to try to promote equitable hiring practices and promoting opportunities to specific populations. So, the question that was asked to Kyle Rubenok [by me] in that case was, "Is there a possibility for this person to be interviewed past the deadline," not necessarily, "Hey, can you fast-track them to the top three interviewees?" Perhaps that didn't come across in the email. In terms of best hiring practices, yeah, I have sat on hiring committees. I don't sit on that one, but I have sat on hiring committees. I'm not gonna tokenize by being like, "Oh, the x percentage of whatever," but I have done extensive trainings on equitable hiring practices, as has everyone else on the SSMU Executive, and I have a full hiring team where all of my Commissioners and Coordinators have done excellent work. It speaks to my ability to hire people based on their skillset, and not just hiring bodies. I don't think I knew any of my staff before I started my position.
     + VP Social: So, I just want to say real quick: I wasn't trying to weaponize equity language or anything like that. The reason why I brought it up was because one of the people - one of the girls - who was CC'd on the email was extremely distressed after seeing that. Just a bit of context: Saturday, August 31, at 9:53 am was Beach Day and we were in the middle of bus loading 5000 kids, which caused the Coordinators a lot of time and effort. Frosh was extremely difficult, you guys know that I took a leave of absence for a month [after Frosh]. Reading that email was extremely difficult and it made her distressed for the rest of the day, and it made it difficult for her to continue her responsibilities for the rest of the day. I think there was a much more effective way and a much more respective way to communicate that to everyone on the email. My actual question, though, is: speaking on the equity thing… Obviously power dynamics and the golden rule and all that is a very prominent conversation within the Social-Internal events portfolio on campus for all Faculties. I think that that extends not just to my portfolio but also to all portfolios which should be expected from all Executives. What would you say to someone who is concerned about your understanding of power dynamics, given relations with people who have previously worked for you on your Committees?
       - Adam Amsel: Can you clarify, "People who have previously worked for me in my Committees"?
       - VP Social: People who have worked under you. I can personally attest that to anyone. I've been VP Social for two years. I hire hundreds of people, and I've never had one intimate relation with any of those people ever while they were employed for me.
       - Adam Amsel: First of all, I don't have any intimate relationships with my employees. In terms of equity work and experiencing power dynamics, I did a lot of the legwork on the [Interfaculty] Involvement Restriction Policy, as you know, as well as doing the liaison work back and forth. I'm currently involved in a huge amount of consultation sessions with sexual violence leaders on campus, equity leaders on campus, within a task force dedicated to sexual violence prevention on campus. I don't know if that's sufficient, but that's about as quintessential as you can get with sexual violence prevention best practices. I want to touch on the distressed workplace environment. I don't mean to get into a pissing contest, but you came into our offices and screamed at me and then screamed at (SSMU President) Bryan and he wasn't able to do his job that week. And he was actually so distressed that he was unable to continue doing Interfaculty relations for the rest of the year because you came into the office and screamed at him at that night, screamed at him and (SSMU Vice-President [University Affairs]) Madeline while they had gone out of their way to volunteer to do Drivesafe shifts when everyone else cancelled. Not that that necessarily defeats what you're saying, but it's a little tricky to talk about those best practices. I did not intend for that person to experience increased levels of emotional difficulty, and I really do apologize for that happening, I didn't know that. As I said, I was frustrated and distressed for students who may have had the cops called on them and then were arrested during Frosh for their first week in Montreal, not knowing anything about Canada. So that was the motivation there, but I'm happy to take more questions.
     + VP Social: I don't have a question, but I want to answer for myself about that because I knew you were going to say that.
       - Adam Amsel: Well, you yelled at me.
       - VP Social: First of all, as I said, literally three minutes ago, that I had taken a leave of absence. And when that happened, it was because SSMU had cancelled Drivesafe last minute on all the Faculties. As we all know, Drivesafe is the baseline recommendation for inclusivity and accessibility when it comes to Frosh. So, I was already-
       - Recording Secretary [Point of Order]: I think this is a question period for the candidates. I don't think this is a[n appropriate platform for this] discussion, per se.
       - Speaker: Yeah, I was just about to jump in on that one.
       - VP Social: Well, I mostly wanted to defend myself, but I can always defend myself later about that.
       - Adam Amsel: We can talk about this later.
       - Speaker: Yeah, I think this discussion is something best had outside of this forum.
     + IDSSA: My question just kinda comes from a lot of what the VP Social said. I understand that she's painted a one-sided picture, so I can't just believe everything being said. But at the same time, at least, just during this conversation, I felt really uncomfortable. And this position is a lot about community involvement. And also, correct me if I'm wrong, but you advocated pretty passionately about that SSMU motion banning profanity, and the official documents, which, I think there is a place for that and can be a good thing, but it can serve to foster fear mongering and a forcing hand, almost, and there's better ways to communicate the things you're saying to (VP Social) Kim. I guess, from what I'm seeing, you're not doing a great job right now building a community and creating a safe space. How is what's being presented now going to translate into your position?
       - Adam Amsel: That's totally fair. I do apologize for not conducing a safe space. In terms of the profanity motion, that was a lot about tone policing where I was arguing for that. That's a much longer conversation and you're encouraged to watch the SSMU Livestream to learn more about that, that's an interesting one. Yeah, that's fair. That was unprofessional and it's not important to get into a screaming match back and forth. I regret that this conversation came up. I guess it takes two to tango, but yes, that's probably something I should have shut down earlier. I'm sorry.
  4. Ece Naz Baris
     + Speech
       - Hello, everyone. I'm Ece, and I'm currently an Arts and Science student planning to transfer into the Arts Faculty this year. I'm an Economics and Technology(?) student. Before I start what I’m going to do if I'm selected [for the position], I want to start by saying what I did in the past two years. I started my campus involvement as Finance assistant in clubs and last year I had the chance to take part in different positions, such as VP Sponsorship from Desautels Tech Club, where I was involved in organizing summits and networking organizations, workshops, and events. After, I had the chance to serve as a Frosh Inclusivity Coordinator in my Faculty, in which I had a chance to learn more about inclusivity and in terms of mental health. What I can say is all of the past experiences that I had, especially being an Advisory Board Member for CAPS Career Office since last year, helped me to understand my weaknesses and helped me improve my organizational skills and interpersonal skills. Most importantly, [they helped in] maintaining the network that I had throughout the past two years. If I am selected, I will increase the number of internship and alumni relationship events. Because McGill has an alumni platform that you can find connections and past alumni information in, but none of the students ever use it. Most of anxiety that comes from our students is they don't know what to do after school. I'm gonna work closely with the VP Communications, VP Social, and the VP Internal to increase the number of events we are organizing, such as the Graduate School Fair and the Work Your BA workshops and series. What I can say is: if I'm elected, I’m going to create a safe and respectful environment within communities and ensure that all of the people in McGill and the students, especially the Arts community, are in a friendly environment positive about the future who knows about the Faculty resources.
     + Questions
       - ESA: Very good speech. A lot of people wonder - well, I wonder, and a lot of McGill students wonder - why we have a McGill bubble where we don't interact very much with other universities in Quebec. So, what would be your plan as VP External to extend our network?
         * Ece Naz Baris: Thank you for the question. I'm sorry for my excitement. And the thing is, I also noticed your concern back in time because what we have is… we're just more exclusive and I think we need to be more inclusive with other Quebec schools. What we can do is: I know our career fairs are super crowded, so I cannot say, "Let's make fairs with other universities," because every time I participate in these events, I see lots of interest and lines are super long. Maybe what we can do is, we can make collaborative events with speakers and alumni of the other universities, such as Concordia or UDEM, and have our alumni in a panel and inform our students. As well, we can open to other Faculties to increase awareness about this area.
       - VP External: Thank you for your speech. Would you be able to define Work your BA and some potential ideas that you have for it?
         * Ece Naz Baris: What we can increase the number of networking events. And what we can do is make speed networking. For specifically for the BA series, what we can do is increase number of advisors provided in these events. Because what I can say is that the lack of advisors in these series means that people can come to these events, but they cannot take full efficiency. We can also increase the number of alumni in these events and create the mentorship program by working closely with the VP Internal and VP Communications to reach alumni, as well as the VP Social to get the mentorship for these events. So before we start the events, we can be sure that all students in McGill know what to expect and are sure what they want at the end of it.
       - VP External: What are some ways that you hope to increase turnout at events?
         * Ece Naz Baris: What we can do is start by creating survey. I think that for the position next year, it's also important to create a sustainable environment for the next year's VP External and the AUS. We can make the survey beforehand (before we start) via the newsletter/listserv that we had. And we can learn about expectations for the events and series. By focusing on the demand, we can provide the different opportunities for different departments at McGill according to the interest.
  5. Jasmine Rochereul
     + Speech
       - Hi, everybody. I'm Jasmine. Also running for VP External. Big surprise! I am a U2 Political Science Major, Science Minor; trying to get into med school. I was born in Germany but my family's French, and I moved to the States in Maryland. All of that gives me a unique perspective into everything. I’m an international student but with five different things playing into it. That's the very weird way that I have unique perspectives. I also have only high school student government experience. I will admit: no student government experience here at McGill. I'm thinking outside the box because I was never in the box. Which leads me into what I’m trying to do in AUS as VP External. I looked at how many people voted in the last election and it was like 10% of AUS. I don't think that's enough. As VP External, I want to talk to other clubs and Faculties and see… because I know it's not just an AUS problem, it's a McGill problem. Together with the VP Communications, I'd figure out: (a) what students need - what are they looking for, and; (b) all the great things that AUS are already doing - what we've talked about, right? - manage to bring them all together. All the things the VP Comms and the other candidates brought up. Figuring out a new way to communicate these things to students already out there. If we can manage to figure out what students need and then figure out a way to ask and communicate efficiently with them. Because I don't think a lot of people read the listserv? Like they're really good. Like, VP Comms in the back, I read your listservs and they're great, but I know not everyone's reading them. So, if we can link the two, I think we can get engagement up.
     + Questions
       - VP Academic: In the past, AUS disbanded their International Student Affairs Committee, and it was dissolved under the VP External's portfolio. How do you plan on creating representation for international students on AUS and how you would engage them further?
         * Jasmine Rochereul: As an international student, when you come to McGill, you're really busy with all the stuff like adjusting to a completely different lifestyle. For me, there was a whole academic aspect that I had to adjust to and McGill doesn't account for that. I never wrote multiple choice exams. If we can figure out a way to help students transition into a different school system, then that gets them engaged. You help them, then they realize there's a system they can join and then they'll give back. I think through, again, similarly to what I was saying, connect people with resources to get them engaged. Show them there are great things happening and then they will kind of come in.
       - VP External: Would you be able to describe some of your priorities regarding student advocacy in both SSMU Legislative Council and AUS Legislative Council?
         * Jasmine Rochereul: In figuring out how to communicate to students, there has to be a period in which we figure out what they think is important. That's with the VP Comms: figuring out new ways to get those student voices in and having those student voices gives me an idea of what's happening with them now. Because I know that I have different friends that have no idea what's happening in the AUS, and they have very strong passions, like the climate, which is a pressing issue. And I think if we can figure out effectively what the students care about, then I would take what the students care about to Legislative Councils?
       - CSAUS: This may be the most pressing issue in your portfolio. I want you to pay very close attention before you reply. Do you enjoy your crabs boiled or steamed? *(Note: this is an inside joke owing to the fact that they are both from Maryland.)*
         * Jasmine Rochereul: I have to admit I'm vegetarian, so I can't really answer that. Because ethical reasons. But it's an important issue to ask and I wish I could answer it!
       - ESA: Same question - how would you connect to other universities?
         * Jasmine Rochereul: I think one thing to acknowledge is that there's a language barrier, in a way. Like, a lot of students do speak French, and a lot of people don't. So we need to find a way to account for that. I think in that case, Concordia's great to look at. I personally know that GSA (German Students' Association) does a lot of things with Concordia and I think having events with them on a smaller level can help students.
  6. VP Finance Candidates
     + Samuel Haward
       - Speech
         * Firstly, apologies, I'm a little bit frazzled. A lot of SSMU events got cancelled today. I'm going to talk more broadly about student government and why I'm running for VP Finance. To be honest, it's pretty much the reasons why I ran for SSMU [VP Finance last year]: institutionalized practices and processes that served upon constituent groups. Typically, you know, the life of a departmental association or a SSMU club that I've come to know is that they're able to function without too many hiccups around in their daily operation. But a lot of the time, there are processes and practices outlined in By-Laws, internal regulations, Constitutions, that are for some reason held as sacred above the operations of the groups. This is something I noticed at SSMU when I started there, and something that's the case with a lot of student associations at McGill. Essentially, the words "audit," "internal regulations," "legal," "financial," "By-Laws," and "Constitutional" are frequently used at some points in Councils. They really do affect the day-to-day running of student groups in the negative. Of course things like accounting principles are non-negotiable and apolitical, but many of the problems highlighted are an example of By-Laws and rules not representing the interests of associations. If you're at SSMU, an organization known for terrible By-Laws, huge bureaucracy, that kind of thing. What this year's taught me is that if the systems don't work for your student groups, you change the system, not force your student groups to accept the systems. On this note, in the last year, I've revised the processes for club banking at SSMU to make it much easy for clubs to change their signing officers. I reduced the processing time there. I've just come off of a month-long consultation with SSMU Services, which, from an accounting perspective, are identical to departmental associations. I have to keep their surplus and abide by general accounting principles, and we have a solution for going forward. That's the kind of attitude I'd like to bring to the AUS and the kind of work I'd like to do with the AUS. Thank you.
       - Questions
         * VP Finance [Point of Inquiry]: I just want to clarify - is this (a fellow VP Finance candidate asking a question) is in order for me to do?

Speaker: I mean, I allowed other candidates to ask questions to candidates, but it wasn't questions to candidates they were also running against. So, I'm not sure.

Samuel Haward: If it's all right with Council, I can answer.

* + - * + VP Finance: You referred to "systems" in broad terms. Sort of "unsynchronized" in broad terms and "regulations" in broad terms. I'm wondering if you could speak to specific things you would be looking at synchronizing and specific practices and issues with the systems in place.

Samuel Haward: Yeah, absolutely. I had a chance to read the memo given to departmental associations in first semester. One of the things it highlighted firstly was in quotes - this is word-for-word - "it was given the basis of opinion on the audit." That actually has nothing to do with departmental associations. That has to do with cash transactions and is common with every student association. In fact, the SSMU audit has that word for word and you'll never be able to remove that from the audit. It has nothing to do with rollover year on year. Another thing it says, "The By-Laws don't have a provision for rolling over surpluses year on year and (a) it's not a common practice for non-profit organizations." It is common practice for student associations at McGill, and it's done at the SSMU, it's done in EUS, and we have systems for doing so. Essentially, what we do is we roll up every departmental surplus and deficit for the year, place it into a fund for the audits. The audits say, "Okay, what did the departments do this year?" And then we roll it back into the departments, once the audit period is over. Because when you move money to a department, it's not actually transferring cash. Like, the cash isn't moving out of the bank account. Those are technically liabilities. So there's no impact on your net assets and there should be no impact for the audit as long as your organization isn't consistently running cash surpluses.

* + - * + VP Finance: I'm already aware that most AUS departments don't actually run cash surpluses. Their surpluses are in the form of… they come from unspent departmental allocations. There's no possibility to create two accounting transactions if the cash never actually came in and the revenue never actually existed beyond being a budget allocation.

Samuel Haward: Right, that's what I just said: they're liabilities, essentially, and you have to treat them like that. My best example is of a SSMU service, 'cause it's functionally identical [to an AUS departmental association]. When cash comes in for a SSMU service, so cash comes into SSMU… Let's say we allocate that to MSERT - $20,000 for the year - and then MSERT only spends $15,000. We roll over the $5000 to the next year. That's a liability: MSERT can call up that debt any time. They can have that available. Yeah, it's not cash. You should treat it like a liability.

* + - * VP External: Motion to Extend [Candidate Samuel Haward's] Question Period by Two Minutes **| PASSED**
        + Second mover: CSAUS
        + Motion passes
      * Questions, continued
        + CSAUS: Thank you, Sam, for being here today. As part of my work on as an AUS Councillor, I sit on the AUS Financial Management Committee, which is tasked with doling out grants based on Special Project Funds, a little bit of the Journal Funds. Especially with the Special Projects Fund, there seem to only be a couple of departments that take advantage of it. What would you do, if elected, to ensure that departments know these funds exist for them to utilize?

Samuel Haward: That's actually something I did at the SSMU this year to work on funding. There were a very small number of groups taking significant amounts of funding. And it wasn't necessarily because they deliberately monopolized the funding, it was that not everyone was aware that this was available. So, that's something you have to work with the cross-exec departments, and that's a very good point of collaboration between the VP Finance and the VP Communications. This year at the SSMU, I worked with the SSMU Vice-President (Student Life) and the Vice-President (Communications) to advertise our funds to groups across campus. Happily, I can say that our fund utilization at the SSMU has been highest it has ever been in recent years.

* + - * VP External: Thank you for your candidacy. My question has to do with giving financial independence to departments. In the way you describe SSMU clubs and services, from my understanding, they have their own credit cards and bank accounts. Services are gonna get that soon, from my understanding. For clubs, how similar or different do you see that process to departments at AUS? And do you think that financial independence is necessary for departments at AUS?
        + Samuel Haward: I think flexibility is always helpful for student groups. Obviously, you have to create processes on the backend, and that's a lot of work, especially at the AUS, where you don't necessarily have a large staff like you do at the SSMU. So, there are limits as to how flexible you can make dept associations. That being said, there are certain things that can be done. Because departmental associations aren't necessarily their own bank accounts - they're lines within the AUS accounting software - you can help out. It's very easy to help out in a more transparent way. Regarding potentially have credit cards available for departmental associations, that's something I'd have a look at: seeing if they could be similarly to SSMU services To go with the route of individual bank accounts would probably be a lot of overhead and a little bit too difficult for the AUS to manage. But, certainly, one of the things I'd be focusing on this year is making things as flexible as possible, as long as there's a process on the backend.
      * VP Finance: What would you do in the event that a departmental association had ran a deficit during a particular year? Would you retroactively remove that in the second year's departmental allocation?
        + Samuel Haward: No, the rollover would only work if your departmental association would carry over both surpluses and deficits. So, that's something to work on with the departmental VP Finances. That's something that is done - again, [at SSMU], where I currently work - to understand what are the needs of each association for the year. If there's a forecast deficit or some other funding is needed, you can work on that case by case. Essentially, yes, if a department runs a deficit, you have to roll that over, as well.
    - Stefan Suvajac
      * Speech
        + Hello, everybody. This year, I worked hard to ensure that all cheque requests made online are collectables within 7 days, ensuring samosa sales can be held at no cost, synchronized previously unsynchronized budgets, and rebuilding the entire bookkeeping structure so that it is representative of its financial statements. We've passed an ambitious Sustainability and Ethical Procurement Plan that provides 50% more funding to departments, translating to $51,000 over three years, in order to implement its provisions. We have solicited $50,000 from the university to ensure that that students in need can pursue their desired out-of-the-classroom learning opportunities in light of programs supporting these opportunities disappearing. I'm running on three particular platforms: [1] Institutional memory. One of the biggest challenges faced by AUS is a lack of memory. I view myself as uniquely positioned to facilitate the continuity of institutional knowledge, those unique and specific institutional lessons associated with AUS which needn't to be relearned. We learn a lot every year, but we have a difficulty of communicating that year after year and that's great value in ensuring that continuity. [2] Improving accessibility to departmental executive and VP Finances. I'm committing to ensure that departmental executives receive monthly reports on spending and revenue. Providing more accessible budget planning documents and building a cheque request form which is accessible to multiple funds and compatible with multiple documents at the same time. As well as implementing, in addition to office hours, a 24/7 additional feedback form on the AUS website. [3] Sustainability: building on the progress we have this year and working with community organizations like C-JAM and Divest McGill to divert some funds in the newly outlined Financial Management Committee budgets to these programs. [4] Working with our new EEO and accessible employment measures to continue promoting the opportunities that we're hoping to do this year. I'll finalize by saying we need to build a new inventory for SNAX and we have a deep system of administrative processes and ideas which are unique to this organization and which require a deep knowledge of this organization, and we can build upon these significantly in the coming year. Thank you, I humbly ask for your support.
      * Questions
        + CSAUS: My question: as you are obviously aware, I sit on your [Financial Management] Committee as a Legislative Councillor. I was wondering - I'm sure you are aware about the funds - how can you ensure… What will you do, if re-elected, to publicize those funds and to make sure that every department has a chance to utilize those funds, and not just the same couple of departments each time?

Stefan Suvajac: Thank you for that question. I think it fits in with what I said about making more accessible and more readily communicated budget planning documents. I think… in the beginning of every year, we have our departmental orientation workshops. We need to communicate clearly that these funds exist. We need to create emails that are sent out to people letting them know these funds exist and giving them clear instructions on how to apply. Often, there are significant questions about, "How do we apply? What are the limits? What are these funds for?" And they are often unaddressed. So one thing I wanted for this year, and something that'll absolutely be implemented for next year: clear documents in the initial phases of budget development and clear instructions on how to apply and what funds are available.

* + - * + CSA: I tried to apply for the FMC (Financial Management Committee) over break, and I eventually got the link from a friend. But - this might be partially VP Communications, partially VP Finance - the information in the link for the FMC application is not on the website; I couldn't find it anywhere. I had to ask my friend, who gave me the link. What can you do to ensure… You know you're saying that you're going to spread awareness for these funds, but I kind of see that they are not super accessible. How do you plan to specifically approve this? Including please update website.

Stefan Suvajac: Yeah, I completely agree. This is part of a larger process where a lot of the information on the website doesn't reflect current practices. Mostly, I try to focus on internal budgeting and financial structures, and this is a big problem. There are departments that apply mostly because they know how to apply and they've already done it before, and that shouldn't be the case. So the specific measures obviously involve looking up what are the current criteria that we use in administering the fund, and going on the website to see putting that info above the individual funds. Making specific pages for the special, supplementary, and journal fund so that people know exactly what is factually an FMC fund and not just generally "FMC" and "AUIF," and also removing acronyms from this - they're a problem, too. I have problems with them, too

* + - * + MUGS: Thank you for your candidacy. I'd just like to ask what do you think is the best balance between insuring AUS' financial sustainability and equality concerns with regards to low-income students?

Stefan Suvajac: I think the right balance is examining what are the concrete needs of low-income students when it comes to specific areas of concern. So, is it careers that we're talking about, is it tuition payments, or is it living costs? And then looking at what is the existing infrastructure in the university, which we can either build on or improve. And from there, developing concrete processes that allow us to build on or improve those things. So, the correct balance is bringing specific concerns that we're looking to address and then being very concrete about the funding that we're looking to provide for next year.

*Question period elapses*

* 1. WIMESSA: Motion to Extend [Candidate Stefan Suvajac's] Question Period by Two Minutes **| PASSED**
     + Second mover: ASA
     + Motion passes
  2. Questions, continued
     + WIMESSA: Thank you for your candidacy. I had a question concerning events that happened last semester. So, I think everyone knows that you took a trip offered by an off-campus organization funded by a political lobbying group - the Maccabee Task Force - to Israel-Palestine. At the time, AUS passed a motion condemning the trip and asking you to not go on the trip. And I believe when asked about this and how it would affect any constituents who would be upset by you going on the trip, you said that you didn't really think that you could really represent these people. I'm just wondering… First of all, if this kind of thing comes up again, are you gonna be willing to take a trip from an off-campus group funded by political lobbying group? And how do you think this affects your capacity to serve your constituents?
       - Stefan Suvajac: Thank you for your question, I'll break it down into two parts. [1] Over the course of the entire process over the winter semester, I did everything I could do to ensure that the core operations of my job functions and my concrete ability to serve departments and constituents day-to-day was not impacted. I continued helping departments, I continued having discussions, even with people who were affected by the trip, as was expected and as should be the case. On that front, I think that it's important to recognize and to note that it's not the case: that there is no lapse in our service to departments. [2] I can commit, concretely, to not taking a trip like this in the future. A part of institutional memory is understanding what can go wrong and what we can do to make sure that doesn't happen again. This caused a lot of unnecessary trouble in the organization - though productive dialogue - I think things that shouldn't have happened… And I wouldn't take a trip like this again. While I don't necessarily apologize for doing it, I wouldn't do it again.
  3. WIMESSA: Can you clarify why it is that you wouldn't take the trip again but you don't apologize for taking it? Is it simply because you've already taken the trip so you don't need to take it again? What's the reasoning, because I don't quite understand the reasoning behind that.
     + Stefan Suvajac: Thank you for the opportunity to clarify that. I had a personal feeling and belief about the trip, and I wouldn't apologize for those personal feelings and sentiments. I am trying separate myself for what I do for students and what I do in my personal life. And I apologize, for example, if there were lapses in services or failures on that end. I wouldn't apologize for my personal beliefs. However, as an official, I can commit to not doing something like that again. And that, to me, is how I am committing to this: to, institutionally, not do something like that again.
  4. WIMESSA: Just again, to clarify, you're saying that you want to separate the personal from institutional. I just want to understand. When you took this trip as AUS VP Finance, did you take it as AUS VP Finance or in your own personal capacity? If you took it in your own personal capacity, how does this change in the future? How exactly do you plan on separating that?
     + Stefan Suvajac: I maintain, as I have in the past, that there is a clear distinction between AUS VP Finance and Stefan Suvajac. That's up for discussion, but we're not going to get into that discussion. For me, it's ort of put like this: as a person, who sits in an organization, I wouldn't want to see that organization go through that same thing again. And as a person who also holds that role, though there is a distinction, I wouldn't want to do anything in my personal life to do contribute to something happening like that again.
  5. VP Internal Candidates
     + Gabriel Paquette
       - Speech
         * Hi, everyone. I'm Gabriel. This year, I was the VP Events of Solin Hall. I'm a Urban Systems and Computer Science major and my first year. As a VP Events, I planned a lot of large events. I got event permits for those events; did a lot of work with that. I worked with other residences to host those events, which are relevant to this position. Few things I'd prioritize as VP Internal: [1] The room booking process. I talked to (VP Internal) Maheen about that earlier. I heard there's a lot of room for improvement and I'd work on that. Like, talk to departments about that too. [2] Increasing the bond between departments and the AUS. I would talk to each department and get to know them. I would also encourage collaboration between the departments for events and other working things. That would be interesting to do. That's pretty much all I have to say. I'm a hard worker and I'm good at working at others. I'm organized. Which are all important. Yeah.
       - Questions
         * VP Internal: Hi, Gabriel. Thanks for your candidacy. My question is about the room booking process that you mentioned. How exactly what you reform it, what are the flaws you see in the process currently?

VP Internal: From what I saw, there are a lot of spreadsheets and emails that you have to go through. I'd talk to McGill - like, in charge - and work with them to work on it.

* + - * + JSSA: I want to preface this question with… This question is posed for everyone running for VP Internal. I just want to say it once 'cause I don't want to sound repetitive. The past few years, a lot of executive trainings or other events that the AUS has run have fallen on Jewish holidays, which has been extremely difficult for the JSSA executives to attend and for all executives who are Jewish in any other AUS [departmental] executive team. My question for you is how would you - and all VP Internal candidates - work to make sure that these trainings or any crucial, essential events don't happen on any Jewish holidays, Muslim holidays, and holidays that would come into conflict with the Equity By-Laws?

Gabriel Paquette: For every event I plan, or the AUS would plan, to look at that. Definitely for every holiday or other things. I know that part of my portfolio is to work with them with that, like all the departments' needs are met.

* + - Joy Hannam
      * Speech
        + Hello, all. My name is Joy Hannam. I'm in my third year in International Development Studies. Having held a variety of positions, like being a Floor Fellow, a Residence Life Facilitator, and, this year, an AUS Equity Commissioner, I am excited to be running for VP Internal. Some of the things I want to do to enhance include: [1] creating infographics on alcohol permits for events and timelines for room bookings, [2] smooth out things like trainings with the Equity Commissioners on this matter, [3] making accessibility information for clubs when they book rooms, [4] collaborate with the McGill Office of Sustainability to create a sustainable guide for event planning, [5] increase support and advertising for FEARC (AUS First-Year Events, Academic, and Representative Council) by having a proactive approach at the beginning of the year, and; [6] implement a calendar with all the bookings posted on the website. Moreover, I'm excited for what I could bring to the table and I thank you all for listening.
      * Questions
        + JSSA: Same question as asked before (How would you work to make sure that these trainings or any crucial, essential events don't happen on any Jewish holidays, Muslim holidays, and holidays that would come into conflict with the Equity By-Laws?)

Joy Hannam: The way I would approach that would be, of course, looking at the holidays and what would align, and having a backup day for Equity trainings. So if there is conflict, which there shouldn't be 'cause I looked at the calendar - then it shouldn't be a big problem. Like the other candidate mentioned and I mentioned, working with Equity Commissioners to smooth out those bumps in the road.

* + - * + VP Internal: Could you speak a little bit as to how you think past experiences help you in this role?

Joy Hannam: In my past experiences of AUS Equity Commissioner and in my roles with Floor Fellow-ing and Resident Life Facilitating and as well as with on-campus clubs, I have a good understanding of event planning and of student leadership, which would help with the First Year Council as well as the event booking and what constituents want to see in terms of booking events and how to make that process easier for them.

* + - Adanis Sidhu
      * Absent; candidate was removed from the ballot
    - Ruofan Wang
      * Speech
        + Good evening, everyone. I'm Ruofan, and I'm the VP External of MUGS (McGill Undergraduate Geography Society). Over the past year serving my department and on [AUS] Legislative Council has made me appreciate how important the role of the AUS is for all departments, but also how there's still room for improvement. Now, of course, VP Internal is not always a glamorous post, but it is an important one. Departmental associations are the lifeblood of the AUS, and a lot of really awesome events couldn't happen without the room bookings, liquor permits, and venues that make them a reality. What I'm proposing is simple: making it easier for students to take advantage of AUS' resources. First, this means addressing problems. My first priority will be working with departments that have been displaced by McGill's eternal construction in order to find them office space. Even though space is a premium on campus, I think that makes it more important than ever to keep pressuring the administration on this particular issue. Another priority will be to continue (VP Internal) Maheen's work on booking forms and giving more public-facing information about room availability. And finally, helping departments have successful food sales. Though to me, it's amazing that they've resumed in Leacock, many of our departments are in other buildings, and I'll explore the possibility of allowing food sales in other areas of campus, such as Burnside. Secondly, this means proactive communication. As VP Internal, I will work to improve training sessions every year, both by splitting them by positions and ensuring there is always a backup in order to accommodate any religious observances. I also intend to personally reach out to departments throughout the year and make sure all their concerns are addressed and brought up to the AUS Executive as a whole. And, third, it means inclusion. The McGill student body is diverse and AUS can play a huge role in helping these events reflect that diversity. I will update the department handbook to make sure that every department has resources to ensure inclusive events. Thank you.
      * Questions
        + VP Internal: Thank you for your speech. My question is with regards to booking spaces to make room for departmental associations. So, we've had a lot of trouble this year with that. BdA has had a tough time with that as well. So, could you speak to how exactly would you pressure the administration. What strategies would you use? How would your pressure be different to what we did this year?

Ruofan Wang: Absolutely. First, I believe that McGill never gets anything done without anyone putting intense pressure on them. And I think one part might be doing a more public campaign: making sure more people in the Faculty of Arts are aware of this terrible logistic mess that McGill has imposed on a lot of AUS departments and trying to see if getting more students involved in the process - maybe a petition writing campaign - would help pressure the administration and make sure that they actually do room bookings. Otherwise, I also think we should definitely persist with anything that's happened this year. Like, keep sending emails and keep meeting with administration and make sure that they keep this issue in their mind, even if they intend to ignore us.

* + - Victor Wang
      * Speech
        + Hi, my name is Victor, and I’m running for VP Internal. To begin - passengers, your attention, please. Just wanted to begin today's speech by saying thank you for this opportunity. I'm a little new to this AUS family, but I'm excited to share my skills and to join this community. With a strong understanding of McGill and Montreal environment, I'm excited to help feature some first year pride. With three years' experience in organizing first year events and orientations, I hope to be the foundation of First Year Council to provide support and guidance when others are doubtful through panels, trips, or all that is helpful. Like an attendant with peanuts and club soda, I will be a constant peers to reach their club quotas. I did just that, four years in the past, facilitating over fifty annual clubs to make success last. I believe my leadership experience will lend to AUS' success. I can't wait to learn more about what makes McGillians passionate and keep that passion long-lasting. Before we take off, gotta make sure that all systems are OK. I'm appreciative of the opportunity I had to work as Councillor for the Newcomer Information Center in an office space. I will be diligent and responsible making room booking and updating permits to manage time. Once again, to keep this plane flying, let's realize the impact. As our steps are tracked, we must make sure we talk to each other and keep up with facts. With Environment Council, let's work to question all our investments. Tighten your seatbelts, this won't be a short trip, but we can all have the window seat when we're fully equipped. One of my proudest achievements is organizing a feminist conference. Three years in the making, guest speakers are awesome. But through it all, I've learned that teamwork is important from top, down to bottom. Love learning and we'll make that freedom happen. I appreciate your time. Thank you, have a safe flight, and goodnight.
      * Questions
        + JSSA: The question that I posed before. (How would you work to make sure that these trainings or any crucial, essential events don't happen on any Jewish holidays, Muslim holidays, and holidays that would come into conflict with the Equity By-Laws?)

Victor Wang: To address your question, I think there is a simple solution of just having clear communication. Making sure that when we are planning things, we keep in minds that all different groups are accommodated. I think it's great that we have such a connective space where we can have that communication. But also making appropriate accommodations for students in case an unforeseen issue arises.

* + - * + Secretary General: How would you say your experience as [a SSMU] Associate Senator has helped, and what do you want to bring from that role into the position of AUS VP Internal?

Victor Wang: So, this year, I was an Associate Senator for the SSMU. Through that experience, it's been extremely rewarding, in fact, that I've had the opportunity to interact with like-minded peers who have had more experience than me both in student government at McGill and in the university space. I also had the opportunity to learn about the abundance of student issues to be aware of… Y'know, when I come into a new environment, I ensure that I know what the current student concerns are. I also sit on, for example, the McGill Writing Center Advisory Committee, and other committees which has given me more of an opportunity to learn about McGill as a whole and how operations work in the school.

* + - * + VP Internal: My question for you is what do you think are the big issues or flaws in the VP Internal portfolio, and how are some ways you plan to combat those things? What can we do better?

Victory Wang: To enhance the portfolio in the future, I really hope to see a more equity-based approach. Interacting with Councillors who are planning events, making sure that everyone has the appropriate accommodations to make those events happen and successful, etc. I've heard a variety of questions and concerns today about the complexity and logistics of room bookings. About that, I've had experience in creating systems to help clarify those issues, and I think that's something I would love to pursue.

* + - Haidee Pangilinan
      * Retracted her candidacy before Council started
  1. Results of the 2020 AUS Executive By-Elections
     + VP Communications
       - **Shuchita Das - 25**
       - Sasha Delouvrier - 10
     + VP External
       - **Libby Williamson - 13**
       - Adam Amsel - 10
       - Vasily Levkovskiy - 7
       - Jasmine Rochereul - 3
       - Ece Naz Baris - 2
       - Aye Cham Myayh Pan Mort Aung - 1
     + VP Finance
       - **Stefan Suvajac - 20**
       - Samuel Haward - 15
     + VP Internal
       - **Joy Hannam - 15**
       - Ruofan Wang - 12
       - Victor Wang - 7
       - Gabriel Paquette - 1
  2. AUS VP Finance Presentation and Q&A About the Cashbox
     + Questions
       - VP External: Have you found the money?
         * VP Finance: No.
       - CSAUS: I wanted to thank the VP Finance for bringing to our attention. Brief update as to whether a commission will be struck?
         * VP Finance: As someone who regulates the money, I don't make that decision. It would be up to Legislative Council or the Secretary General team. I'm not sure what to say about that… if the organization feels that it is necessary… We'll continue to figure out precisely what went wrong. It is extremely unlikely to happen again. Like I said, it would be the prerogative of Legislative Council, the Financial Management Committee, and/or the Secretary General Team. I wouldn't want to be involved to keep the process independent.
       - MUGS: On the topic of funds that are missing: will this have an impact on operations at the AUS?
         * VP Finance: No, other than institutionalizing changes to make sure this doesn't happen again.
       - DESA: Hi, I'm worried because recently, our department did turn our cashbox into the AUS office the week before reading week, and I was wondering if it's okay to disclose which departments' cashboxes are missing. I just want to know about my department.
         * VP Finance: I can read you a list of departments. Like I said, there will be no impact on the organizations themselves. If you've raised money, all of that will continue to go through. It will just show as a deficit, but one that will be difficult to rectify or change. The list of departments whose cash was impacted… the list is in the office. I can go grab it if you want. I think it should be read, I just don't have it on me.
         * Speaker: Can you post it on the [AUS Legislative Council] Facebook group?
         * VP Finance: Yes, I'll do that. I know that ten departments are on the list, and DESA is one of them.
  3. Open Forum on how the AUS Should Respond to COVID-19
     + This open forum discussion point was brought to the speaker by councillors in [this](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1YcZD-Qv8nye1G7RiRUEErqWoJ4XZCn7jHvD8iCe6z9k/edit?usp=sharing) document.
     + Questions
       - MUGS: Obviously, the spread of COVID-19 is a major threat to McGill University and the world. Especially at McGill, a lot of students are wondering what are happening to our classes and midterms. Will finals and graduation be impacted? That's somewhere where the AUS needs to take leadership. We should encourage the exec to discuss this with the university administration and get information out via the listserv. This ambiguity is messing with people's summer plans, and plans after university, so I think information to the Arts students is our first and foremost priority.
       - Arts Senator Henrique: Just for clarification, there is a Senate meeting on Thursday, March 26 coming up, and a group of student senators submitted a question to the admins about many different things, especially concerning accommodation requirements to instructors for students, final exams involving a great gathering of people at the gym, any potential impact on students wishing to graduate this semester, and the procedure for classes moving online. If the admin does not respond as soon as we'd like, they will be mandated to provide an answer at the next Senate meeting. Hopefully, they'll provide enough responses before then.
       - VP External: For the purposes of the minutes and Council, I'd like to read the recent email sent by the DPSLL: *"In order to evaluate how today’s coronavirus (COVID-19) announcement from the Quebec government will impact campus operations and academic activities, the University is suspending classes and exams on Friday, March 13. The University is also cancelling all on-campus events likely to attract more than 250 participants, effective now through to Sunday, March 15. Other University operations are expected to be carried out normally on Friday, March 13. Employees should work from home if [any symptoms of COVID-19 apply to them.]"*
       - Gallery (Samuel Haward): I think everyone who saw the press conference this morning was in a bit of shock. It wasn't expected by the university or by the execs. We're definitely going to admin for answers. I'd just like to note that while I'm here (in his capacity as SSMU VP Finance), with SSMU Legislative Council being at the same time, that beginning today, SSMU services will suspend their in-person operations. They'll be online. That will be a small disruption happening for now. The purpose of the cancellation of classes is to evaluate what to do going forward. Hopefully, a decision is reached for next year and affects a lot of students. That's essentially the gist of today's announcement that it's not a good idea to keep going as is without university to take stock and discuss this.
  4. New Business
     + CSAUS: I move to move 10.1, 10.2, and 10.5 (all departments' independent election request motions) together as a package **| PASSED**
       - Second mover: ASA
       - CSA: I move an amendment. I talked to WIMESSA but the CSA will be signing onto WIMESSA's opt-out so we need to include CSA.
         * Friendly amendment
       - Motion passes
     + [Motion to Approve WIMESSA’s Independent Elections](http://ausmcgill.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Motion-to-Approve-WIMESSA_s-Independent-Elections.docx) **[late] | PASSED**
       - Motion passes
     + [Motion for AHCSSA Elections Exemption](http://ausmcgill.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Motion-for-AHCSSA-Elections-Exemption.docx) **[late] | PASSED**
       - Motion passes
     + [Motion to Approve AUIFC Decisions](http://ausmcgill.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Motion-to-Approve-AUIFC-Decisions.docx)**[late] | PASSED**
       - Moving (VP Finance)
         * This motion is to approve the decisions of the Arts Undergraduate Improvement Fund Committee. $200,000 which is directed to LPC which received, I believe, just over $100,000. All the information is before you I'm happy to take questions.
       - Questions
         * MUGS: Can you elaborate what "LPC" is on the spreadsheet?

VP Finance: The Library Partnership Committee is chaired by the VP Academic, primarily for students and the [Humanities and Social Sciences] Library to put together projects which advances the needs of students and concerns of students. This year, the proposal included hand dryers throughout the whole university *(Note: the VP Finance meant "throughout the whole McLennan and Redpath library)*, baskets in bathroom stalls for laptops, de-stress stations, a visual art collection to display Indigenous art, a green wall, quiet pods, noise cancelling headphones, etc.

VP Academic: To clarify, the hand dryers are only for McLennan-Redpath.

* + - * No debate
      * Voting
        + Motion passes
    - [Motion to Ratify IR Committee](http://ausmcgill.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Motion-to-Ratify-IR-Committee.docx) **[late] | PASSED**
      * Moving (VP Internal)
        + The IRP stipulates that we have to pass the members of the Involvement Restriction Committee, which are all Equity Commissioners and AUS executives. We were supposed to do this in September, but we're doing it now
      * Questions
        + CSAUS: [1] When we were discussing the IRP, it had come up that we had not ratified the Committee. Was there any reason we delayed this until now? [2] Will this be the Involvement Replacement Committee for Frosh 2020?

VP Social: For your first question, there is no excuse. I genuinely just forgot to ratify it, so I apologize. I take full responsibility. I forgot to the point that I was unaware of this until the other execs brought it up recently. As for Frosh 2020, as per the IRP, because the incoming executive happens in August 2020 and the executives' current term ends on April 2020, the incoming executive will stand in as the Involvement Restriction Committee and be ratified as such. Any cases that need to be extended throughout the year, the executives are going to be the acting Involvement Restriction Committee ratified in September. With that being said, usually there are no IR cases during the summer. During Frosh, we evaluated in September so that we could give the VP Social Committee enough time to rest, reconvene, and go through those incidents. We can table those cases until the first session of Legislative Council, ratify the incoming execs, and move forward.

* + - * No debate
      * Voting
        + Motion passes
    - [Motion for ASA Elections Exemption](http://ausmcgill.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Motion-for-ASA-Elections-Exemption.docx) **[late] | PASSED**
      * Motion passes
    - [Motion-to-Temporarily-Add-Arts-Senators-to-AUS-Executive-Work-Study-Contract-2020](http://ausmcgill.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Motion-to-Temporarily-Add-Arts-Senators-to-AUS-Executive-Work-Study-Contract-2020.docx) **[late] | PASSED**
      * Moving (Arts Senator Henrique)
        + So, this motion concerns the Work Study agreement with the university. This agreement was set up two years ago by the current SSMU University Affairs, and it's expiring soon. I'm moving to extend it for another two years and it's easier to add a temporary clause repeatedly, because to make it permanent, we'd need to change it to the AUS Constitution.
      * Questions
        + Secretary General: I was wondering if the current Work Study program is only if Senators are eligible for work study program. Is that staying the same or just including eligible regardless?

Arts Senator Henrique: It's staying the same. It's pretty much the exact same motion as two years ago: it still depends on the Senators' eligibility to be in Work Study. And given that's the case, then they get compensated through the AUS.

* + - * No debate
      * Voting
        + Motion passes

CSAUS: Motion to move 10.7 (Motion to Temporarily Clarify FMC Supplementary Funds 2020) from the floor **| PASSED**

* 1. Motion passes

* 1. [Motion to Temporarily Clarify FMC Supplementary Funds 2020](http://ausmcgill.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Motion-to-Temporarily-Clarify-FMC-Supplementary-Funds-2020.docx) **[late] | PASSED**
     + Moving (Arts Senator Henrique)
       - We repeatedly ratify financial decisions made by the FMC in Council, but we have no way of transparently knowing which departments are being allocated supplementary funds. Any motion from the FMC in the future should include an appendix that lists the departments that have applied and are being granted supplementary funding and the accumulated amount. Advocating for the constituents' awareness - the awareness for departments that do not know how to apply. This way, they could realize that they can apply for supplementary funding, if necessary.
     + CSAUS: I seconded the motion to move it from the floor and I move to add this motion to the agenda **| PASSED**
       - Motion passes
     + No questions
     + Debate
       - VP Finance: It's important to note that all motions do have a list of which departments kept the funding. It's a transparent process in that aspect. It could be made more transparent, though, I agree.
       - CSAUS: I think it is a good idea to add cumulative. I want to echo the sentiments of the VP Finance. I sit on FMC and I want to commend the VP Finance who's taken extraordinary steps to add accountability for its constituents. There's pizza at every meeting and the pizza often accommodates a multitude of dietary options. This motion is equity-sustained and allows for more open transparency.
     + Voting
       - Motion passes
  2. Executive Officer Reports
     + [President](http://ausmcgill.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/AUS-President-March-12th-Leg-Council-Report-.docx) **[late]**
       - Additions
         * I want to thank everyone for their advocacy work this year.
       - Questions
         * CSAUS: I'm curious as to the MOA negotiations. Is there a timeline when MOA will be brought to Council? Even next membership? When that is gonna take place?

President: The timeline is vague because the DPSLL can't commit to a solid timeline. It'll probably the first Council in September of next year, maybe the second one. It'll probably be presented then because it should be finalized in May.

* + - [VP Academic](http://ausmcgill.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/VP-Academic.pdf) **[late]**
      * No additions
      * Questions
        + MUGS: For the course instructor strikes - any information on that and the possible impacts on the undergraduate student body?

VP Academic: I have not received communication from the administration about this. I'm not aware of this. Could you provide more details?

MUGS: Their union was called, but they were calling for a strike mandate this week because their collective bargaining talks with the university broke down. None of them have more information on this. I'm just asking the entire Council. Does anyone have more information?

VP Academic: I could reach out to the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs and hopefully give Council an update.

Secretary General: Is this the AGSEM union?

MUGS: I believe it's the course instructors and lecturers' union.

ASA: It's both AGSEM and course instructors unions. They made a Facebook post a few hours before Council. I follow them both and they mentioned both participating and supporting… I don't know what that means in its entirety.

* + - * + IDSSA: Your spreadsheeted with "IDSSA" being highlighted on the Peer Tutoring… Is that relevant

VP Academic: It's not.

* + - VP Communications
      * Report
        + Hi everyone. I know I have not been here this semester, I just needed to take a little leave of absence. But I'm here today! I sent out the listserv. We're supposed to be having an event for Fine Arts Council (FAC) but it looks like it's going to be cancelled with the development of everything [related to COVID-19] and what the university is doing. Other than that, not much going on in their portfolio. Gonna send out the hiring listserv. That's it.
      * No questions
    - [VP External](http://ausmcgill.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/VP-External.pdf)**[late]**
      * Additions
        + If you have seen me with my phone, it is only because of SSMU Legislative Council.
      * No questions
    - [VP Finance](http://ausmcgill.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/VP-Finance.docx)**[late]**
      * Additions
        + That should say "AUIFC," not "LPC."
        + Regarding the ASEF motion, there was a meeting with the DPSLL, and the university will contribute $50,000 a year to match any funds raised to the change of fee to the EEO.
      * Questions
        + Recording Secretary: I'm asking a question as a student. First of all, congratulations on your re-election. Secondly, if campus does end up shutting down, will employees under your portfolio, such as SNAX employees, be receiving paid leave? Just because I know that when SNAX's opening was delayed because of construction in the Fall semester, the Fall cashiers were not given paid leave. I was also wondering if those Fall cashiers could be given paid leave after the fact? Thank you.

VP Finance: I'll be honest, this is not something I thought about. I'll have a meeting with the SNAX manager and assistant manager and with the AUS execs. The budget does allocate hours with the assumption that store would be open from October to May. So, this is accounted for. The process of when these hours would be paid out to employees would be determined with no hours or backing the amount of work done there - it would have to be an arbitrary amount to averages. September wasn't accounted for in the budget so the AUS won't be able to retroactively pay the Fall cashiers.

* + - * + CSAUS: I also want to congratulate you on your re-election. Is there any updated timeline as to when SNAX will be taking card?

VP Finance: I really can't provide an update. SNAX doesn't even have a proper inventory system, so the priority would be to make it properly. No updates since last meeting.

* + - VP Internal
      * No additions
      * Questions
        + ESA: How would the potential university closure or some classes closing affect departmental elections?

President: The only aspect of elections that will affect is campaigning. All votes will happen online. I guess you can physically campaign, but there'd be a more limited audience.

* + - * + ESA: When it comes to signatures on nomination kits, it might be more difficult because most people pass it around class. Were there ways to get electronic signatures? Is this constitutional or legal?

President: I'll speak to Elections AUS about it. This may be our last AUS Legislative Council, so such matters will be voted for via Executive Committee.

* + - * + VP External: Will samosa sales and table booking be an issue, since personal hygiene and all?

VP Internal: Yeah, that's a question I'm asking myself. With the wine and cheeses coming up, samosas, tabling…. I will communicate any changes to departments. For departmental associations, if you want to cancel any of your bookings, please get in touch with the assistants or me.

* + - VP Services
      * Additions
        + VP Academic: AUS Essay Center has moved their operations online.
      * Absent
    - [VP Social](http://ausmcgill.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/VP-Social-late.docx) **[late]**
      * Left early
  1. Reports of the Arts Representatives and Senators
     + [Arts Representatives](http://ausmcgill.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Arts-Representatives.pdf) **[late]**
       - No additions
       - Questions
         * VP Finance: Do we know how much the Fiat Luxe fee would have raised if it were ratified by referendum?

Arts Representative Andrew: It was approximately a $16 opt-out-able fee. It would be that much for around 90% of students.

VP Finance: Is that per semester or year?

Arts Representative Andrew: I don't remember, but I can get back to you.

Speaker: In the Fall, when SSMU spoke to us, it might be in the slides.

* + - Arts Senators
      * Arts Senator Chloe Kemeni
      * Arts Senator Henrique Mecabo
        + Report

As this is the last meeting of the year, I will say what's upcoming in Senate. Not much, but the work on updating the assessment policy is continuing. It is fully translated by SSMU and it is currently being reviewed by an external French speaking reviewer so that all students can be consulted about this. This is now especially important since the current feedback form that just went up is one text book on a website. They don't go into depth or highlight/specify any specific article. This has been an ongoing debate we continue to hold. I formally submitted a request for a status of what's happening with coronavirus. Arts Senator Chloe will have her Black Students Bill of Rights motions voted on and hopefully approved. If the meeting is to be helped, that's quite important, because that was her main personal project for the year.

* + - * + No questions
  1. Reports of Departmental Associations
  2. Question Period
     + AGELF: If this is actually the last meeting and we're planning to create a motion and we want to do that before the end of the year, could that be done on the Facebook page?
       - President: In between Council sessions, the exec has the right to vote on motions. What we'll do is email that to me at president.aus@mail.mcgill.ca and us as an executive can convene and vote on the motion.
       - Secretary General: I did want to clarify that the exec doesn't have the power to vote regarding the Constitution of the AUS in the By-Laws. The departmental By-Laws and Constitutions they can vote on, but the AUS Constitution they can't.
     + MUGS: AUS events are being cancelled or postponed. Are the events being organized by departments should be cancelled or postponed?
       - President: No. Departments can do whatever they want for events, we just advise you to follow public health guidelines. If, for any reason, you do need to cancel your event due to the pandemic, please reach out to us and we can help you navigate contractual issues with venues and suppliers, and we can help lessen the financial burden.
     + ASA: Given that McGill is taking a few extra days about transitioning to online, should they come to the conclusion that in-person classes are not safe right now? First they would assume that we should all be cancelling the events, yes? Because I know we don't have a Legislative Council to discuss the events about that.
       - President: I leave that to the individual department, and I caution you that if classes are not safe you cancel [your event], but ultimately, it's to your discretion
  3. Next meeting is 26 March at 6:00 pm
  4. Adjournment
     + VP Internal: Motion to Adjourn
       - Second mover: CSAUS
       - Motion passes
     + Adjourned at 8:55 pm

Appendices

[Appendix A – AUIFC Funding Proposals](http://ausmcgill.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Appendix-A-AUIFC-Funding-Proposals.xlsx)