



## **Report of the Arts Undergraduate Society (AUS) to the Students Society of McGill University (SSMU)**

SSMU Legislative Council: March 11<sup>th</sup> 2021

### **About Me (Stuff You Probably Already Know)**

- My name is Chip Smith (He/Him/Il) and I'm currently one of the four representatives of the Faculty of Arts/ Arts Undergraduate Society (AUS) to SSMU, this year.
- Hometown: Saint John, New Brunswick
- I'm in my fourth (and final) year double majoring in political science and history.
  - o Post-McGill plans are still a bit of a work in progress... I won't go into too much detail here!
- Email: [artsrep3@ssmu.ca](mailto:artsrep3@ssmu.ca)

### **General Business of the Arts Undergraduate Society**

- Applications for Spring 2021 Valedictorian are still ongoing! The deadline to apply is March 12<sup>th</sup> 2021 at 23:59 EST.
  - o You can find the link to apply, on the AUS VP-Academic's Report.
- Preparations for the 2021 fiscal year audit are ongoing!
- Our VP-Internal, Joy Hannam, is currently working with our Equity Commissioners, on a calendar for religious dates and holidays (as well as a statement regarding the value of equity and religious dates).
  - o Should be finalised, this week.
- EPIC is planning an event with SIC for a St. Patrick's Day-themed "pub crawl" (called "Get Shamrocked in Montreal"), on March 18<sup>th</sup>, from 20:00-21:30 EST.
  - o Check-out the event on Facebook!
- Grad Ball: Expect an announcement on the format, by April 1<sup>st</sup>!
- Frosh: Frosh Leader/O-Staff applications opened on February 22<sup>nd</sup>.
  - o Our VP-Social, Grace Jumbo, is currently working with the Secretary-General, with regards to hiring.

### **Departmental Updates**

- Economics Students Association (ESA)
  - o ESA's new website (<http://www.esamcgill.com/>) has been launched!
  - o The McGill Journal of Economics will be releasing its 2021 edition online, in the first or second week of April! Similar to the 2020 edition, it will contain a combination of academic research papers and op-ed pieces, written by economics students.
  - o Economics' peer-to-peer tutoring service, the "ESA Helpdesk", will be offering review sessions for core courses in both, the majors and honours streams!

- The review session's schedule will be posted on the ESA's website and Facebook page.
- German Studies' Association (GSA)
  - Kaffeestunde (for beginner and intermediate-level German speakers) continues to be held every second Monday, from 16:00-17:00 EST.
  - Zoomstunde (for advanced and native German speakers) is being held weekly, on Thursdays at 17:45 EST.
- Jewish Studies Students Association (JSSA)
  - Currently working on an event with Faculty, for later this semester.
  - Tutoring for Hebrew language courses is ongoing.
  - Sweaters have been distributed to students who requested them.
- Quebec Studies' Students Association (QSSA)
  - The next edition of « Montréal vu par... » ("Montreal as seen by...") will be hosted on March 17<sup>th</sup>, from 12:00-13:15 EST. This edition's guest speaker will be Dominique Ollivier (President of the OCPM).

### **Arts Undergraduate Society (AUS) Legislative Council Recap**

- AUS Legislative Council met on the evening of Tuesday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, for its biweekly meeting.
  - Will update orally as the meeting agenda was posted slightly late.
  - If you're ever interested in attending an AUS Legislative Council, feel free to email our Speaker, Cassia Nasralla ([speaker@ausmcgill.com](mailto:speaker@ausmcgill.com)), and she will send you the link!
- Next Meeting: Tuesday March 23<sup>rd</sup>, at 18:00 EST.

### **Faculty Council Updates**

- Faculty Council held its February meeting on February 16<sup>th</sup>, from 15:00-16:00 EST.
  - No official business was conducted as quorum was technically not met
  - Council members were briefed on some of the plans for hybrid learning, in Fall Semester.
    - Currently trying to organise a form on course delivery with Associate Deans Lach and Fronda, at AUS Legislative Council.
  - Had a lengthy discussion about the Faculty of Arts' plans to take over operations of the McGill Writing Centre.
  - Received an email from one of the graduate student representatives about possibly organising a "student caucus" (somewhat similar to Senate Caucus), for future Faculty Council meetings.
- Next Meeting: March 30<sup>th</sup> 2021, from 15:00-17:00 EST.

### **Committee Business (Personal)**

- AUS Constitution and Bylaw Review Committee (CBRC)
  - CBRC last met on February 20<sup>th</sup>, from 13:00-14:00 EST.
    - Discussed amendments to the AUS Constitution, proposed changes to our MOA with McGill, and the Secretary-General portfolio.
  - Next Meeting: I actually don't know... I think March 13<sup>th</sup>

- Expecting a significant number of departmental constitutions which will need approval, ahead of being presented to Legislative Council.
- SSMU Building and Operations Management Committee (BOMCOM)
  - BOMCOM last met on February 26<sup>th</sup>, for our biweekly meeting.
    - Discussed plans for small interior work in the UC, “Lifeline” charger stations, space for Studentcare, and clients for the UC and 3501 Peel.
  - Next Meeting: March 12<sup>th</sup>, from 13:00-13:30.
  - Will be reporting to Legislative Council on April 8<sup>th</sup>!
- SSMU Steering Committee
  - As previously mentioned, Steering Committee last met on March 7<sup>th</sup>, to approve the motion and notice of motion for tonight’s Legislative Council.
  - Next Meeting: March 19<sup>th</sup>, from 14:30-15:00 EST.
- Faculty of Arts Info-Tech Fund Committee
  - Info-Tech Fund Committee had its last meeting on December 18<sup>th</sup> 2020, in order to fulfil the mandate of the committee, plan for the short and long-term future, and spend some money!
    - Attended along with our VP-Finance, Stefan Suvajac.
  - AUS’ proposal to use the “Computer Lab Fund” to purchase new laptops for the laptop lending program was approved!
  - Had lengthy discussions on the future of the Ferrier Computer Lab and the how best to promote the “Info-Tech” and “Computer Lab” funds.
- Faculty of Arts Curriculum Committee
  - Curriculum Committee met on February 22<sup>nd</sup>, for its monthly meeting.
    - Reviewed and approved program and course changes in ARTH, CANS, INDG, INTD, RUSS, SWRK, and SOCI.
    - Had a lengthy discussion on the “dual-track system” and on the Freshman Program.
    - Next Meeting: March 29<sup>th</sup> 2021, from 14:30-16:30 EST.

**Personal/ Miscellaneous Business:**

- Office Hours
  - Tuesday (10:30-11:30 EST) and Friday (15:00-16:00 EST) or by appointment!
    - Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4563867039>
  - If those times don’t work for you, feel free to email me ([artsrep3@ssmu.ca](mailto:artsrep3@ssmu.ca)) and we can find a time to chat!
- Transition
  - Hoping to finish writing my Exit Report, by the end of this week.
    - Will update if this is done before Legislative Council.
    - It’s getting slightly long and I was not productive over reading week.
  - Met separately with both of the incoming Arts Representatives, following the “Winter 2021 SSMU General Assembly”.
  - Still no update regarding when/how the vacant Arts Representative position will be filled!

- I met with someone who was interested in running for the position and I've heard of a few names through the grapevine.
- Currently working to transition Yara Coussa, one of the incoming Arts Representatives, into her role!
  - Hoping to have her attend some of my committees and meetings, over the course of the next few weeks.
- Personal
  - Attended the “teaching and learning Forum with Student Leaders” with Prof Chris Buddle, Dr Laura Winer, and Prof Fabrice Labeau, on March 9<sup>th</sup>, from 10:00-11:00 EST.
    - Subjects: Return to in-person learning for Fall 2021 and a “check-in” on Winter semester.
    - Office Hours for Tuesday were pushed to 11:00-12:00 EST.
  - Along with Councillors Collins and Councillor Kurkcu, I attended the “Sexual Violence and Responding to Disclosures Training”, on February 27<sup>th</sup>.
    - Huge “thank you” to the Anti-Violence Coordinators for organising and running the webinar!
  - Over the past few weeks, I've had a few meetings with candidates who are currently running in the upcoming “SSMU Executive Elections”!
    - **GOOD LUCK TO EVERYONE RUNNING!!**
  - Currently working on wrapping-up a few elements in the portfolio, ahead of the transition.
    - You \*might\* see another motion from me, before the year is up.

Thank you for a **WONDERFUL** year, everyone!

Keep in-touch and stay safe!



Respectfully Submitted,  
Chip Smith, Arts Representative to SSMU