Report of the Arts Undergraduate Society (AUS) to the Students Society of McGill University (SSMU)
SSMU Legislative Council: March 11th 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.
  - 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

General Business of the Arts Undergraduate Society
- Applications for Spring 2021 Valedictorian are still ongoing! The deadline to apply is March 12th 2021 at 23:59 EST.
  - 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).
  - 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 18th, from 20:00-21:30 EST.
  - Check-out the event on Facebook!
- Grad Ball: Expect an announcement on the format, by April 1st!
- Frosh: Frosh Leader/O-Staff applications opened on February 22nd.
  - Our VP-Social, Grace Jumbo, is currently working with the Secretary-General, with regards to hiring.

Departmental Updates
- Economics Students Association (ESA)
  - ESA’s new website (http://www.esamcgill.com/) has been launched!
  - 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.
  - 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)
  o Kaffeestunde (for beginner and intermediate-level German speakers) continues to be held every second Monday, from 16:00-17:00 EST.
  o Zoomstunde (for advanced and native German speakers) is being held weekly, on Thursdays at 17:45 EST.

- Jewish Studies Students Association (JSSA)
  o Currently working on an event with Faculty, for later this semester.
  o Tutoring for Hebrew language courses is ongoing.
  o Sweaters have been distributed to students who requested them.

- Quebec Studies’ Students Association (QSSA)
  o The next edition of « Montréal vu par… » (“Montreal as seen by…”) will be hosted on March 17th, 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 9th, for its biweekly meeting.
  o Will update orally as the meeting agenda was posted slightly late.
  o If you’re ever interested in attending an AUS Legislative Council, feel free to email our Speaker, Cassia Nasralla (speaker@ausmcgill.com), and she will send you the link!
- Next Meeting: Tuesday March 23rd, at 18:00 EST.

**Faculty Council Updates**

- Faculty Council held its February meeting on February 16th, from 15:00-16:00 EST.
  o No official business was conducted as quorum was technically not met.
  o 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.
  o Had a lengthy discussion about the Faculty of Arts’ plans to take over operations of the McGill Writing Centre.
  o 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 30th 2021, from 15:00-17:00 EST.

**Committee Business (Personal)**

- AUS Constitution and Bylaw Review Committee (CBRC)
  o CBRC last met on February 20th, from 13:00-14:00 EST.
    ▪ Discussed amendments to the AUS Constitution, proposed changes to our MOA with McGill, and the Secretary-General portfolio.
  o Next Meeting: I actually don’t know… I think March 13th.
- 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)
  o BOMCOM last met on February 26th, 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.
  o Next Meeting: March 12th, from 13:00-13:30.
  o Will be reporting to Legislative Council on April 8th!

- SSMU Steering Committee
  o As previously mentioned, Steering Committee last met on March 7th, to approve the motion and notice of motion for tonight’s Legislative Council.
  o Next Meeting: March 19th, from 14:30-15:00 EST.

- Faculty of Arts Info-Tech Fund Committee
  o Info-Tech Fund Committee had its last meeting on December 18th 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.
  o AUS’ proposal to use the “Computer Lab Fund” to purchase new laptops for the laptop lending program was approved!
  o 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
  o Curriculum Committee met on February 22nd, 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.
  o Next Meeting: March 29th 2021, from 14:30-16:30 EST.

**Personal/ Miscellaneous Business:**

- Office Hours
  o Tuesday (10:30-11:30 EST) and Friday (15:00-16:00 EST) or by appointment!
    ▪ Zoom link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4563867039
  o If those times don’t work for you, feel free to email me (artsrep3@ssmu.ca) and we can find a time to chat!

- Transition
  o 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.
  o Met separately with both of the incoming Arts Representatives, following the “Winter 2021 SSMU General Assembly”.
  o 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 9th, 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 Kurku, I attended the “Sexual Violence and Responding to Disclosures Training”, on February 27th.
    - 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