



External Affair Committee report

The External Affairs Committee met on Thursday, October 1st, as an introductory meeting. The committee discussed several things, including:

- Affordability survey and housing updates
- Food security programs/food pick-ups
- Sponsorships
- Community engagement

As part of the effort to negotiate meaningfully with STM and UTILE, we are currently designing an affordability survey that will likely be discussed at the next Legislative Council as a plebiscite question. The committee received an update on the UTILE project from the Vice-President of External Affairs. This survey potentially will be a joint project with several faculties.

Regarding food security, the Vice-President (External Affairs) proposed a food program similar to the pilot breakfast program at AUS on a rotational basis across faculties. The faculties agreed to come back with a more concrete financial and tabling plan regarding this.

Regarding sponsorships, each faculty reported confusion about who had contacted whom. An internal list of sponsors is in the planning process, so all faculties can pool resources and avoid double-emailing organizations. The faculties have also pointed out that it makes no sense to negotiate separate deals with the same companies for each faculty. This is potentially a gap across all faculties currently, and one that the SSMU can help create.

In terms of community engagement. It is understood that all faculties have some form of charitable initiative or committee that focuses on community engagement. It was proposed that all of the faculties pool their resources together and potentially collaborate on something big this year, towards the winter semester. These discussions are still in the brainstorming stage.

Given that not all members were present and a member at large was also missing, this meeting was only an introductory meeting. Next meeting is set for the week of October 19th. The External Affairs Commissioner is actively looking to fill the rest of the vacancy.

THE EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

ROLLING AGENDA & MEETING NOTES

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First Meeting: October 1, 2026 (2:00-2:30 PM)

Second Meeting:

First Meeting: Oct 1, 2026 2:00PM-2:30PM

1. MEMBERS ATTENDANCE

- ☐ Abigael Rondeau, EA Commissioner
- ☐ Harry Wang, SSMU VP EA
- ☐ Janya Rajpal, AUS VP External
- ☐ Charley Letham, AUS Arts Rep
- ☐ Khaleel, SUS VP Sustainability
- ☐ Ella, SUS VP External
- ☐ Hector Giraud, Eng Rep
- ☐ Cindy, Political Campaigns Coordinator (note taker)
- ☐ Nina, Arts & Sciences VP External
- ☐ Aries MacDonald, Education VP External
- ☐ Mack Faulkner

2. COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

- Introductions
- General Overview of the Role of Committee
 - o [Committee Terms of Reference](#)

3. Agenda

- ☐ Affordability survey and housing updates
- ☐ Food security programs/food pick-ups
- ☐ Sponsorships

Vice-présidence (affaires externes) de l'AÉUM
SSMU Vice-President (External)

*Située sur les territoires traditionnels des collectivités Haudenosaunee et Anishinaabe.
Located on Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe, traditional territories.*

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☐ Community Engagement

4. PROJECTS AND PROGRESS

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5. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REMINDERS

6. Minutes

2:11 PM:

Harry wants this council to focus on affordability

Many houseless people in the Milton Park area

Harry spoke with most faculty members about how we can collaborate

UTILE 260 McGill students housed in St. Laurent

Explore other projects with Utile

Lots of issues with data collection; the last survey was conducted in 2023. A lot of the info wasn't really useful

We're missing significant data, and without this data, we're unable to negotiate with utile

Utile asked SSMU if we wanted to take on our own project

- Mack says that the area in particular was on the high-end side
- Harry needs numbers in order to provide services
- Also in the midst of negotiating with STM
- Hector brought up the point that, for the building six years ago, the price was \$1.4 million for 260 units
- 2028: The building will be finished, which houses 280 students
- If we want to pursue this, Harry and Abi will try to draft some questions for the census

2:23: Food insecurity

- Harry is hoping to do something in October/December
- The AUS is starting a breakfast program
 - Taking inspiration from this idea and taking some of SSMU's funding, like the solidarity fund, to provide this service

2:24: Janya

- Each day 150 students were being handed items from the breakfast program
- 800 units of food items as part of the pilot program
- AUS Ordered food from InstaCart
- Outside Leacock 132
- Using AUS funds, they want to expand to places like Steward Bio and McMed
- Fruit snacks (vegan), granola bars, and juice boxes

2:26:

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- 200 people lining up at UC every day for free food pantry program, whereas last year it was about half that
- SSMU tabling with AUS to promote food program
- If other faculties want to work on this program, they can consult Frances Li (AUS Arts Senator)
- University Affairs and External Affairs can collaborate on this together
- The food pantry is still active on Tuesdays and Fridays
 - Looking at 100 people per day
- AUS Breakfast program is 8-9am and ran 23rd and 24th of September
 - Since it's a pilot program, they were testing it out, but it will continue after Reading Week

2:33: sponsorship @ community engagement

- Waiting to hear back after frosh
- Janya is supposed to handle all sponsorships within AUS with a boxing studio (offering 1 free class to all AUS students)
 - Montreal Allouettes gave 50% off discount
 - Janya is trying to organize sponsorships under her Sponsorship coordinator
- Ella also has a sponsorship committee with SUS, and wants to centralize sponsorships amongst all faculties
- Maybe an internal list amongst all the faculties
- Nicholas wants to verify that it's science students coming in so that they can get the science discount, but if it's a discount that runs across faculties, we could centralize it and make it broader to make a McGill-wide discount
- CRI has awful rules about who is allowed to do applications

2:43: Community engagement

- Harry's idea is to pour our resources together to do something big
- Khaleel has a committee that hosts a charity event every semester
 - Could make it a faculty event or collaborate with EA
- Aries: The charity committee for external is mostly just the execs on council
 - They do apartment crawls
- Janya: Arts has an engagement committee, starting from scratch, because the by-laws were just rewritten
 - Food drive at shelter?
- Harry wants to do a big campaign for community engagement together

2:49: Meeting adjourned