




Arts Undergraduate Society  
*of McGill University*

# State of the Society

AUS Legislative Council  
Sep. 13th, 2017



# Welcome to the AUS - About Your Role

- Representing your constituents (all students in your dept., not just your exec) in AUS Decisions;
- Holding AUS Executives accountable;
- Sitting on an AUS or Faculty Committee;
- Active engagement at Legislative Council, Committee Meetings + beyond.
- Bringing your ideas on how to make the AUS better.

# What is the AUS

- The representative of all 8,000 students in the Faculty of Arts
- A corporation and registered non-profit, with an approximate net worth of \$250,000 and yearly budget of \$900,000.
- Governed by the AUS Constitution, By-Laws, and Memorandum of Agreement.
- L'Association Etudiante de la Faculté des Arts de Premier Cycle de l'Université McGill

# What the AUS Does

- Represents students
- Hosts events
- Offers services

# Representation

- AUS Council
- AUS Committees
- Representation at SSMU
- Departmental Associations
- FEARC
- Faculty of Arts Committees
- Selection Committees
- Student Services
- McGill Administration
- Academic Rights Support
- Libraries

# Events

- Frosh
- Bar des Arts
- Quebec City Trip
- Nuit Blanche
- Grad Ball
- Prof Talks
- Wine & Cheese Events
- AUS Teaching Awards
- Grad Fair
- Work your B.A.
- Dean's Breakfast
- EmbrACE week
- AUS Departmental Fair
- Many more wonderful events put on by you all!

# Services

- Arts Lounge
- Handbook / Agenda
- Essay Centre
- Employment on Campus (ASEF + AUS positions)
- Computer labs
- Funding for departments + infrastructure
- Laptop lending program
- French conversation circles
- Arts Undergraduate Theatre Society
- Website
- AUS Equity Team
- Listserv
- Journals
- Lockers
- SNAX
- AIO (in conjunction with McGill)
- First-year letter
- Charity + philanthropy
- Post-grad opportunities
- Way way more

# The AUS Team

- Executive Committee
- Arts Senators
- Assistants
- You + your exec



# Your AUS Exec

- **President (Erik):** manages exec team + assistants, official spokesperson, oversees Elections AUS, Council, corporate responsibilities.
- **VP Academic (Madeline):** runs AUS' academic programs and services, leads AUS -> Faculty representation.
- **VP Communications (Maria):** writes listserv, manages AUS website + media, oversees Fine Arts Council + Francophone Commission.
- **VP External (Catherine):** represents AUS at SSMU, runs sponsorship, in charge of alumni relations and post-grad opportunities.
- **VP Finance (Noah):** manages AUS finances, chairs FMC, AUIF, handles taxes.
- **VP Internal (Rebecca):** liaises with departments, oversees all AUS spaces, oversees FEARC and AUsec.
- **VP Social (Nathan):** Runs Frosh, chairs EPiC, runs BdA
- **Arts Reps (Corinne, Jenn, Kevin):** Hold exec accountable, represent Arts at SSMU.

# How the AUS is Funded

- **AUS Base Fee:** Our general membership fee, non-opt-outable. It funds AUS' operations, events, departments, and FMC. \$13.50 for B.A. \$6.75 for part-time & B.A.&Sc.
- **Arts Undergraduate Theatre Society:** This funds the operations of the Arts Undergraduate Theater Society. Non-opt-out-able; per semester: \$1.00 for B.A. \$0.50 for part-time & BA&Sc.
- **Arts Student Employment Fund:** Opt-outable fee that funds work-study and many (often research focused) positions across campus. \$6.00 for B.A. \$3.00 for part-time & B.A.&Sc.
- **Arts Computer Lab Fund:** This fee goes towards computer lab resources for AUS members who contribute to this fee. It can fund improvements both to the Ferrier lab and to the lab in the Arts Lounge. Opt-out-able. \$7.85 for full time BA \$3.93 for part-time and BA&Sc.
- **Arts Undergraduate Improvement Fund:** opt-outable fee that funds the Arts Lounge, improvements to the Library, and other infrastructure improvements on-campus. \$16.00 for B.A. \$8.00 for part-time & B.A.&Sc.
- **Arts Internship Office Fee:** non-opt-outable 5 year fee running through 2020, supporting the AIO while they raise an endowment. \$14.00 for B.A. \$7.00 for part-time & B.A.&Sc.

# Brief History of the AUS

- Current form founded in 1993 (we're turning 25!)
- Accredited in 2003
- Present structure since 2008
- Financial turmoil of 2011 & 2014-15

# Financial History of the AUS

- 2008 to 2012, failed to provide audit to government
- Also didn't pay taxes during this time- government seized \$120,000.
- McGill withheld student fees for 2012-2013
- In late 2013 taxes were paid and audits submitted, ultimately fees were released.
- Gov't returned the money in 2013, which has been since held in a GiC.
- AUS ran a \$50k surplus in 2013, \$100k in 2013-14
- AUS ran a loss of \$60k in 2014-15
- 2015-16 ran a small profit ~\$10k, stabilized finances.
- 2016-17 broke even, but without SNAX, a loss. Frosh ran a deficit.
- Presently, we've got approximately \$200k in AUS assets, most of that in liquid savings.

# The Past 12 Months

- Unusually high executive turnover
  - Resignation of VP Finance, Arts Rep, incoming VP Internal, VP External
- 2015-16 frosh ran a massive deficit (~\$20k), masked as slight surplus.
- Last year ran a slight overall surplus (vs \$25k projected), but this is exclusively due to SNAX becoming profitable for the first time.
- Simultaneously, as an institution the AUS remained fairly strong
- Communications portfolio expanded
- Francophone engagement dramatically increased within the AUS
- New tools and resources for departmental associations
- Renewed focus on equity and inclusivity within the AUS
- Lounge overhaul - new couches + pool table

# Our Present State

- Solid, but not yet guaranteed
  - The AUS as an institution remains strong
  - Financially, we're slightly less well funded than two years ago
  - However, financial systems stronger.
  - Large surplus in infrastructure and technology
- Much more modern than 2 years ago.

# Going Forwards

- Modernizing the society
  - Digital cheq reqs, etc.
- Setting a strong foundation for the future
- Expanding & exploring the AUS' role on campus
- Creating the AUS for the next quarter century

Here's to a great year!

