



Arts Undergraduate Society of McGill University

855 Sherbrooke Street W

Leacock B-12

Montréal, Québec H3A 2T7

www.ausmcgill.com

AUS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PUBLIC AGENDA

1. Call to Order: 6:05 p.m.
2. Territorial Acknowledgement

The AUS would like to acknowledge that McGill University is situated on the traditional territory of the Kanien'keha:ka, a place which has long served as a site of meeting and exchange amongst nations. The AUS recognizes and respects the Kanien'keha:ka as the traditional custodians of the lands and waters on which we meet today

3. Roll Call
4. Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting: [October 8](#)
 - a. Motion to approve by President Rajan
 - b. Seconded by VP Finance Weissman
5. Adoption of the Agenda
 - a. Movement to approve by President Rajan
 - b. Seconded by VP Finance Weissman
6. Announcements
 - a. Arts Student Employment Fund (ASEF) applications are closing on November 1st at 11:59 pm.
 - b. Presentation from SSMU BoD member (SSMU President Dymetri Taylor) regarding Midnight Kitchen**
 - i. BoD structure: 8 elected, 4 appointed.
 - ii. Clarification: MK is under fee, fees are approved by the students and their mandate is 5 student meals/week.
 - iii. Before COVID, Monday-Thursday meal servings
 1. However, as it is a volunteer position, there was a lot of rollover → at that time, 3,55\$ fee. 20-21K\$
 - iv. Now, 8\$/student per semester.
 1. Until last year, it was 1 meal serving a week.

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2. This semester, 0-2 meal serving per week, information stems from the booking platform, showing use of the cafeteria.
3. Last year, in September, SSMU was in deficit. This had no impact on SSMU services.
4. SSMU started asking Services to have a 3-year plan (details vary) but had to have an idea of the direction.
5. For MK's plan, History of SSMU and Midnight Kitchen
6. After communications, 3 solutions : 1) it can become its own non-profit corporation, with its own audits, free to put in as many hours as needed and assign their budget as desired. 2) Become a department under SSMU, own budget, full-time employees with a manager in SSMU 3) Continue as previously.
7. To these 3 options, no response on MK's end.
8. Why are 4 meal servings not possible now: because of volunteer burnout and lack of trust of volunteers to take their shifts → with this in mind, SSMU wondered why this budget was not being used still.
9. This year: by the end of May, MK said that 4-5 meals / week is possible. But then through the booking system, SSMU only saw 2-3 meals/week.
10. SSMU did not hear from the student leadership of MK.
11. BoD therefore decided to lay off the 5 staff members in favor of the 5 meals mandate being hit in other ways.
12. Daily lunch services are being offered by SSMU (3 days this week due to Halloween programming) but next week and the weeks until the end of the week, at 10% of the cost of the MK budget.

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13. Application out for food and hospitality manager role, plethora of candidates, from Montreal, Quebec, International.
 14. Interviews this week through the 200 applicants and looking for a profile of someone who provides the backbone for *students* to run it.
 15. Offering part-time paid positions for students to work in once the hospitality manager is hired.
 16. Obstacle: Student Housing and Hospitality Services will take over the SSMU Cafeteria, and will try to shut down and food taken on by students.
- v. Questions:
1. (Q) VP Academic Wright: Can you explain what parts of the communication you are unhappy with and how you plan to solve it in the future?
 2. (A) SSMU President Taylor: no mention of what the interim period looks like. The communication does not mention politics as it was not in the considerations. The rationale behind the decision was to have better cost allocation.
 3. (Q) Sociology Students' Association (SSA): No dishwashers, had to wash by hand, even pre-COVID, the materials are hard to use. The building manager cannot unilaterally manage this, has SSMU done any good faith efforts to rectify this?
 4. (A) SSMU President Taylor: MK has a room on the 4th floor of the University Centre which can be a storage. There is also another space assigned for staff.
 - a. The building director was not informed of the MK's concerns.

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5. (Q) GSFSSA: 1) New caterers, how much money is being spent on them and where is the money from, MK fee?
6. (A) 36\$K coming out of MK fee and SSMU budget mix. Once finals end, no more MK fee.
7. (Q) GSFSSA: 2) How would the burn-out issue be rectified?
8. (A) SSMU: The expectation will be higher as it is a job, the hospitality manager is hired to not let the students think they're in charge of everything. Taking the burden of the students (contact with suppliers, conversations with Student Housing and Hospitality Services.
9. (Q) Philosophy Students' Association: How much were MK employees paid?
10. (A) SSMU: 196\$. Must prove their budget allocation and disclose services, and then services stopped doing this anymore. But the BoD was not informed, leading to a gap in understanding. The budget does not match the spendings.
11. (Q) Geography students' association: Food justice and vegan mandate by MK, how does SSMU continue this?
12. (A) SSMU: There would have to be a referendum in Fall 2026-2028 to evaluate satisfaction.
13. (Q) SSA: MK budget from last year, how is 100\$ surplus enough to justify shutting MK down?
14. (A) Appliances section is where this would be budgeted, the surplus is left aside. If there is inefficiency, you reorganize the budget. The surplus is not meant to be used, as it avoids deficit.
15. (Q) GSFSSA: Compared to People's Potato, which is bigger, has SSMU taken into account that the size of the MK kitchen is a cause for inefficiency?

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16. (A) SSMU: SSMU offered 2nd floor kitchen space, and MK said no, so SSMU respected that.

17. Point of Order by AUS Representative to SSMU Cahill: 31k\$ + benefits.

c. Presentation from former Midnight Kitchen staff member (Anya Labelle)

- i. At the end of August, 5 employees. 30h/week work, according to SSMU, is part-time, but paid 19,15\$/hour.
- ii. SSMU delayed setting the contracts so many started working before the
- iii. Bad faith on SSMU's end: October 1st, SSMU changed the code without prior notice and removed the position. An unelected board made this decision (PGSS, or groups with similar mandates such as the people's potato have not been consulted).
- iv. The reason cited was that only a small number of the budget on kitchen repairs, staff payment, utilities. Tried their best to source things locally (Mac Campus, and other organizations)
- v. Last April: explained to SSMU the constraint with the report, but SSMU did not respond to the report.
- vi. The kitchen can only hold 7 people at a time so no possibility to bring volunteers. Suboptimal utilities.
- vii. Employees paid 5\$ less than the People's Potato.
- viii. The only difference between SSMU kitchen and MK is that it is not voted on by the student population (via referendum).
- ix. **Questions period:**
 1. (Q) 1) VP Finance Ben Weissman: any proof to substantiate the hours worked (a log)? 2) Was the Services Review Committee aware of the inefficiency of the utilities?
 2. (A) MK: 1) Hours submitted through WorkDay 2) MK submitted a report to SSMU with limitations of operations

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and they were reaching out. It would be SSMU's responsibility to bring it up to the Services Review committee.

3. Point of Information of VP Finance Weissman: It is usually the service's responsibility, not sending an agenda into the empty to SSMU, that's why it almost defaulted in SRC last year.
4. (Q) VP Comms PTT: 1) You stated that there were many complaints on the size of the space despite interest, but if there was an offer to give you a bigger space, why was it not accepted? 2) 180 hours spent on 2 meals a week, how do you justify that for half of the mandate?
5. (A) MK: 1) Not aware previously, requested SSMU release names/proposal. 2) Misunderstanding of where the hours were going are from a misunderstanding how kitchens work.
6. (Q) President Rajan: Why is it prioritized to do solidarity services when the McGill student mandate was not met?
7. (A) MK: Most of the solidarity servings were for McGill groups, and it is in the mandate to support other groups as well.
8. (Q) VP Academic Wright: Was there an action plan to serve 5 meals/week?
9. (A) MK: The decision to have 4 more staff members was to reach 4 meals/week. But it was never clearly stated because the operations were based on donations and volunteer work but the rigid plan was not doable; but increasing was a goal.
10. (Q) Philosophy Students' Association: can you walk us through a typical week in MK?

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11. (A) MK: Only did training shifts, never a full week but:
arriving at the kitchen between 9-10, so chopping by hand because no automatic choppers. Had to heat pots for hours on end. Once it was done, cleaned the dishes with a 'small sinks base' Sweeping everything and putting food back. Everyone had tasks on the side to order food, someone to manage finances, coordinating volunteers, social media outreach every week.
12. (Q) MUGS: Things like a new stove, was your budget for appliances able to be spent on some of the issues or did you see it only as a building manager thing?
13. (A) MK: The appliances had to be replaced, adding anything makes the kitchen smaller and the operations less efficient. The problem was bigger than just the appliances.
14. (Q) Arts Rep Cahill: 5-7% of the budget was going to food and the rest was volunteer donations, if the MK went up to 5 meals
15. (A) MK: Most produce from Macdonald Campus or from Montreal food bank to organisations only. But they don't have caps.
16. (Q) IDSSA: Were you aware of your responsibilities in terms of utilities?
17. (A) MK: Appliance and maintenance in the budget was for upkeep, not for transformation. MK's understanding is that it is the building manager's responsibility to upgrade.
18. (Q) RSUS: Do you understand the SSMU's rationale? How is this legal under SSMU Union to fire and change locks with no prior notice?

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19. (A) MK: I would be happy to hear from President Taylor explaining why the locks happened. MK's understanding is that usually they take a week's notice before firing.

20.(A) President Taylor: there is a clause of termination of employment, either notice of 1 week or paid in one week. SSMU still paid during the week. So, it does not violate clauses.

21. (Q) CSA: Do you know if you requested more space to be met with no response?

22.(A) MK: Not aware of the kitchen space offered. Couldn't guarantee pest-free space in the 4th floor space.

23.(Q) IDSSA: Is there someone who was responsible for communicating with SSMU, is there a record of SRC?

24.(A) MK: Everyone was responsible for monitoring the email inbox, not one person.

25.(Q) MESS: Attempted negotiation or conversation prior to termination?

26.(A) No.

7. Unfinished Business

a. [Motion to Oppose the Restructuring of Midnight Kitchen](#) (amended)

i. [AUS to SSMU Draft Statement](#)

b. Moved by: SSA VP External

i. Debate on the motion:

1. AUS Senator Baybayon: In the written statement, it is within SSMU's right to restructure; the statement does not take this into consideration.¹

a. Under section 5 of the SSMU Constitution, any decisions has to be passed through the BoD because

¹ Likely referring to the section: "No actions the Board takes without the consultation of and democratic consent from the student body are legitimate." in the final paragraph of the Statement draft.

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it bears the legal and financial responsibilities. It is therefore its right to restructure.

2. Rebuttal - SSA: Why is it that we cannot solve this problem multilaterally, why not coordinate with previous MK staff?
3. VP Communications PTT: Do you believe that this truly represents the people? That the wording is something Arts students stand by?
4. VP Academic Wright: AUS taking a stance on such a divisive issue is too contentious and not representative.
5. Rebuttal - SSA: While there are concerns on both sides, SSMU's BoD unilaterally took the decision.
6. Point of Order President Rajan: Rewording from 'AUS / Undergraduate student body' but more 'AUS Legislative Council'
7. Point of Debate President Rajan: The wording might be too strong.
8. Rebuttal - SSA: We did not get a point before the LC on the wording.
9. Re:Rebuttal President Rajan: The agenda was sent this morning and only made accessible to President Rajan the day of the LC.
10. Point of Information by IDSSA External to have the statement co-written and call a GA to be able to say Arts Students not just AUS LC.
11. Rebuttal - President Rajan: We would need 150 signatures, but also a quorum in the GA so it would not be possible. Can be co-written, drafting the statement with friendly/unfriendly amendment, or a committee.
12. Sec-Gen: It will not be possible to come to a consensus on the wording.

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- ii. Motion to move to vote by VP Comms PTT
 - 1. Motion to move to online voting by VP Academic Wright
- iii. Motion to create an ad-hoc committee to revise the language of the statement
 - 1. Passed (majority vote)
 - a. Motion to include VP Comms and original movers on the committee:
 - i. SSA and EASSA + VP Comms AUS
 - ii. Motion to have a form for committee recruitment by President Rajan.
 - c. Movement to adopt by VP Finance Weissman.
 - d. Seconded by EASSA VP External Jarrett Liao.
 - e. Motion passes with unanimous approval.

8. New Business

- a. [Motion to Ratify Decisions of the Financial Management Committee \(FMC\)](#)
 - i. Seconded by Senator Keith Baybayon
 - ii. (POI) VP Finance Weissman: Invitation to vote in favor or else half of the budget isn't approved.
 - iii. Motion is passed.
- b. [Motion to Amend GSFSSA Constitution](#)
 - i. Motion is passed.
- c. [Motion to Temporarily Suspend the AUS VP External](#)
 - i. Rationale: Reduce financial burden while the investigation on log without pay.
 - ii. President Rajan clarification: There is recourse if the committee finds that the mandate is not being met. There is a pro-rata compensation for work.
 - iii. VP Weissman addition: from an economic standpoint, it is a better incentive to move this in LC to avoid delaying participation in the

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meetings. Strained relationship with SUS led to an MoA amendment, and now AUS gets less than 50% because there wasn't a 50/50 effort for Grad Fair.

- iv. No one was blindsided.
- v. Point of Information IDSSA: If this motion is passed, who would be contributing to Grad Fair?
- vi. (A) President Rajan: Most of the work should already be done, considering we are one week away. However, VP Comms PTT has already taken on tasks, and the Board is filling gaps.
- vii. (Q) PSA: What is the hourly wage and how many hours are logged on average a week?
 - 1. (A) President Rajan: All executives are able to log 9.5h/week with a cap (excl. President) , 16.10\$/hour.
- viii. (Q) IDSSA: Does the MoA issue affect the whole AUS or only staff?
 - 1. (A) VP Finance Weissman: not a big impact on department budget but the organization at large and relationships with other faculties.
- ix. Motion to Temporarily Suspend the AUS VP External: passed

d. [Motion to Ratify the AUS 2025-2026 Annual Operating Budget](#)

- i. Tabling for the next meeting.

9. Reports of Executive Officers

- a. [President](#)
- b. VP Internal - no report
- c. [VP Finance](#)
 - i. Going forward, please give 5 business days before departmental sales.
 - ii. Some missing interfaculty department applications, please submit by 31st October : MESA, MPSA, CAMP
- d. [VP External](#)
- e. [VP Academic](#)

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- f. [VP Communications](#)
- g. VP Social - no report
- 10. Reports of Arts Representatives to SSMU
 - a. [Arts Representatives to SSMU](#)
- 11. Senator Report
 - a. [Senators](#)
- 12. Reports of Committees and Departmental Associations
 - a. [DESA](#)
 - b. [IDSSA](#)
 - c. [EASSA](#)
 - d. [GSA](#)
 - e. [MESS](#)
 - f. LAPSA
 - g. [PSA](#)
 - h. [MUGS](#)

Unfinished business: LAPSA, MUGS, GSA departmental report,

- 13. Question Period
- 14. Next Meeting Time and Date: **November 12, 6 pm LEA 232**
- 15. Adjournment: 8:59 pm.