



**Arts Undergraduate Society of McGill University**

855 Sherbrooke Street W

Leacock B-12

Montréal, Québec H3A 2T7

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## **AUS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PUBLIC AGENDA**

1. Call to Order: 6:06 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: [September 24](#)
  - a. Motion to approve by VP Finance Weissman
  - b. Seconded by VP Communications Thomasson
5. Adoption of the Agenda
  - a. Movement to approve by VP Finance Weissman
  - b. Seconded by VP Social Pierotti
6. Announcements
  - a. This is an incredibly difficult time for many on campus. If you have had any experiences with harassment or discrimination on campus that you would like to share, here are some resources:
    - i. [AUS anonymous disclosure form](#)
    - ii. Extensive [Reporting Channels](#) at McGill
      1. Reporting channels under AUS, SSMU, McGill, and SPVM
    - iii. [Report a Security Guard to McGill](#)
      1. Can file a complaint specific to McGill Security or use their anonymous tip line.
    - iv. Feel free to reach out to our senators to voice concerns with security presence.
7. Unfinished Business
8. New Business
  - a. [Motion to Amend LAPSA Constitution](#)

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- i. Moved by: LAPSA VP External
    - 1. All amendments pertain to the restructuring of the executive committee. A few positions have been deleted, and LAPSA proposes to add a VP Academic, VP Social, and VP Events.
  - ii. Movement to adopt by VP Finance Weissman
  - iii. Seconded by VP Social Pierotti
  - iv. Motion passes with unanimous approval
- b. [Motion to Amend DESA Constitution](#)
- i. Added an equity and inclusion clause
  - ii. Added a conflict of interest clause
    - 1. Executive officers must disclose COIs to the rest of the executives to increase transparency.
  - iii. Introduce 2 roles
    - 1. Members at large, existing previously but never was added to the constitution.
    - 2. Portfolio associates to assist in the workload of certain portfolios.
  - iv. A more comprehensive plan for handling role vacancies and impeachment processes in a fair and timely way.
  - v. Movement to adopt by VP Finance Weissman
  - vi. Seconded by VP Academic Wright
  - vii. Motion passes with unanimous approval
- c. [Motion to Ratify Decisions of the Financial Management Committee](#)
- i. Decisions from the financial management committee
  - ii. 3 departmental budgets passed: DESA, HSA, PSSA
  - iii. Movement to adopt VP Social Pierotti
  - iv. Seconded by VP Communications Thomasson
  - v. Motion passes with unanimous approval
- d. [Motion to Oppose the Closing of Midnight Kitchen](#)

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- i. The Midnight Kitchen is a student catering service, used by many students.
- ii. SSMU recently laid off 5 staff members and 4 new staff members, creating a temporary closure of the service, with plans to restructure.
- iii. The removal of the employees and temporary closure left many students questioning why this decision was made, and leaves students who use the service in an inconvenient position.
- iv. This motion proposes that the AUS issue a statement in opposition to the restructuring of the service and the way the temporary closure was handled.
- v. This motion also proposes that the AUS representatives to SSMU work within all available channels to rehire employees and preserve the autonomy of the service.
- vi. Questions
  1. VP Finance Weissman (Question): As someone who previously sat on SSMU Service Review Committee (SRC) last year, during the performance review, we did not receive the information about the broken equipment or some of the other constraining issues mentioned. Who was this information provided by?
  2. SSA (Answer): All information shared in the motion was directly gathered from the staff of the Midnight Kitchen.
  3. VP Communications Thomasson (Question): In the motion, it states that Midnight Kitchen staff were paid \$10.00/hour less than staff working under comparable services, such as the People's Potato. Do we have access to information regarding their salary and the mandate they serve?
  4. SSA (Answer): Staff at the People's Potato receive around \$26.00 or \$27.00 per hour with a mandate to fulfill 4 meals

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per week. Whereas, Midnight Kitchen staff received \$19.00/hour for their labour to fulfill 5 meals per week. It is important to note that the Peoples' Potato have around double the staff and more resources.

5. SASSA (Question): Are we aware of why the SSMU decided to disband the service?
6. EASSA (Answer): We weren't provided a lot of information. Most notable was that the service was not efficient.
7. Speaker (for Point of Order): From the information I have been given, the reason for the resolution was that Midnight Kitchen had not been fulfilling their mandate. Their mandate stated that they were responsible for providing 5 meals per week, but recently, they have only been fulfilling 2 meals. Additionally, the majority of the budget was spent on salary and not food, which has been quite a contested point.
8. Councilor Cahill (Question): Can we receive more information regarding the recent staff who were hired? Did they start working already?
9. EASSA (Answer): There was a contract meeting with board members regarding hiring more employees. New employees were hired and started working. But with this termination, everyone was laid off.
10. Secretary General (Question): Do you have the public statement prepared? I believe it would be important for us to have one written out before voting on whether we should release one.
11. SSA (Answer): We do not have the final draft just yet. We were more focused on trying to figure out if this is something we are in agreement with. We are trying to

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gauge whether students are mainly for or against closing the Midnight Kitchen.

12. Speaker (for Point of Order): Clarifying that they are restructuring the service, with no intention of a permanent closure.

13. Secretary General (Question): The SSMU notice also mentioned that they would be paying severance. Have you received information on that?

14. EASSA (Answer): We have heard no further information on top of that.

vii. Debate Period:

1. VP Finance Weissman (Response): As someone who sat on SRC (Service Review Committee) last year, they were having HR meetings with SSMU throughout the previous year. All staff refused to restructure the program. When you get reviewed, that is your best opportunity to bring up issues, such as your equipment not working, as a reason to prove why you can't fulfill your mandate. Capital funding from SSMU could have also been a path to solve the equipment problems. They also had a large budget and donated a lot of money that could have been put towards fixing that equipment.

2. EASSA (Rebuttle): SSMU knew that they asked for new equipment. Another issue is that they lacked physical space for them to store the new equipment. Regarding the budget, Midnight Kitchen has a surplus every year despite the SSMU making statements that Midnight Kitchen is inefficient with its budget. Donating money is in line with their mandate. The Midnight Kitchen also receives a lot of

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free food, which explains why Midnight Kitchen did not spend much on food.

3. VP Communications Thomasson (Response): As the Faculty of Arts is the biggest faculty, representing over 8500 students, he wants to make clear that we represent all voices and values of everyone at the same time. It is hard to make blanket statements on every topic because we are speaking for such a large and diverse group of people. When releasing statements, we risk saying things that don't represent everyone.
4. EASSA (Rebuttle): Although it is important to oppose the shutdown and support those who were laid off. More importantly, the AUS should oppose how the SSMU handled the situation and how it does not represent a unionized perspective. The workers found out by going into their shifts that day, and were given no notice prior to that.
5. President Rajan (Response): As a councilor said previously, as there is no statement provided, it may be important to table this discussion. It is consistent with precedent that we have the statement made before making an informed decision.
6. VP Academic Wright (Response): It would also be important to clarify in the motion whether we state it is a closing or a restructuring.
7. IDSSA (Response): Can we also have a representative from SSMU explain their rationale for the restructuring? It would be useful to have SSMU's rationale in the motion, so that we can explain why the AUS opposes it.
8. CSA (Response): A clear comparison would be great.

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9. EASSA (Rebuttle): Friendly approval of the amendments to the motion.

10. Motion to table on the floor on the conditions of

a. October 29

b. Upon a statement being created

11. Movement to table by VP Finance Weissman

12. Seconded by VP Communications Thomasson

13. Motion passes with majority approval

9. Reports of Executive Officers

a. President

i. Missing completion of department trainings from: GSA, JSSA, SASSA, SASSS, WIMESSA

ii. Update from Curriculum Committee: Major revisions to the Bachelor of Arts. All revisions are proposals, and they are very welcome to feedback. We will continue these discussions throughout the year. Please take a look and let us know if you have any ideas. We may send out a survey to hear your feedback.

iii. Snax and Secretary General portfolios are running smoothly.

iv. We are still in the process of recruiting for the equity committee, please reach out if you are interested.

v. Arts 150 and 160 are still in high demand. Please plan room bookings accordingly.

vi. Questions:

1. Why do they plan to eliminate the Joint Honours?

a. HSA: From what it sounds like, it is mostly from an administrative side; it seemed like it was a nuisance on the Faculty side. They cited that sometimes students had to write two theses.

b. VP Academic Wright: It is believed that they want to increase the credit requirements for Majors and

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Honours programs. If this is true, it may be that it is impossible to complete the required number of credits for Joint Honours.

- c. VP Finance Weissman: They were also citing that they want to promote students taking classes in the smaller departments to reduce the stress on the 4 departments in the highest demand.

b. [VP Internal](#)

- i. Currently compiling journal lists and departmental training attendance. Please make sure I have all of the information from your departments so that you can receive your budget allocations.
- ii. Hiring for FEARC is happening after the break. We had 15+ applicants, so the recruitment process was quite a success.
- iii. The internal commissioner will also be hired after break.

c. VP Finance

- i. The 3 departments that passed FMC will get their allocation rolling within the next few days.
- ii. Every department that did not pass will have revision proposals sent to you over the next few days.
- iii. October 10th is the next deadline for FMC. I highly suggest you have your budgets submitted for that one, as your budgets must be presented to LC by October 31st. Could put your funding behind a month if not.

d. [VP External](#)

- i. Grad fair planning is going great. 60 graduate schools will be in attendance. Registration is now closed.
- ii. Mental health week will take place during December, including lots of fun events to help you mentally prepare for finals! Sign-up sheets will be released next month.

e. [VP Academic](#)

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- i. Arts Student Employment Fund is now open. Please tell everyone!!
  - ii. Writing Centre hiring is still in the works. The Writing Centre should be up and running after break.
  - iii. Peer tutoring has started - please see the report for steps to booking an appointment.
- f. [VP Communications](#)
- i. Thank you to everyone who filled out the directory. If you are still looking for your link, please reach out.
  - ii. Listserv is getting 50-60% open rate. Recently, had an email with an over 90% open rate. Previous years usually only received 40% opening rate.
  - iii. Grad fair promotion is going well.
  - iv. Laptop lending is open.
  - v. Canva Pro is open to all departmental VP Communications.
  - vi. Student resource list is coming together.
- g. [VP Social](#)
- i. 4aBDA this week, please come!
  - ii. After break, EPIC will be in the works.

10. Reports of Arts Representatives to SSMU

- a. [Arts Representatives to SSMU](#)
- i. Went over updates from all of the committees they sit on.
  - ii. Discussed the motions that passed at the previous LC.
  - iii. Upcoming motions on the Student Service Fee and the First Year Fee to be presented at the next LC.

11. Senator Report

- a. [Senators](#)
- i. Meeting with Angela Campbell right now.
  - ii. Keith's projects are coming along regarding Accessibility Study Spaces and McGill's Independent Study Away Program.

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- iii. Maggie is interested in making sure students feel protected against violence, specifically sexual violence.

12. Reports of Committees and Departmental Associations

a. [PSSA](#)

- i. Hiring under all portfolios is complete!
- ii. Organized various events such as a pizza lunch post Arts Orientation and Back to School event to expand the interest in the department .
- iii. Lots of events in the works, including fall research wine and cheese, debate night, alumni roundtable, and more.
- iv. President is trying to expand collaboration with grad students and a mentorship program is in the works!

b. [SSA](#)

- i. Planning the first GA – will be regarding strike happening in November.
- ii. Has been hosting weekly thesis writing drop-in sessions with the U3+ Rep on Fridays –planning on extending to other departments
- iii. All reps have contacted various departments to gather interest about the Honours Fair happening in the Winter semester → please tell your associations' execs to verify their emails!
- iv. BDA tabling set for November 13th.
- v. Planning stages for various upcoming events, including a Halloween movie night and a wine and cheese event.

c. [RUSS](#)

- i. Various opportunities to help spread the Russian language: Russian Help Desk, Russian Movie Night, Russian Conversation Club, and Translation club.
- ii. Lots of events coming up, including Russian evening, Slavic folklore night, and more.
- iii. In the process of hiring U0/U1 reps.

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d. SUMS

- i. Hiring for coordinator positions is soon to be finalized.
- ii. Apartment crawl upcoming.
- iii. Planning an Actuarial Career Fair, 4 companies confirmed so far.
- iv. Working on Pi Day early in advance.
- v. Math help desk has tutors all hired, and the schedule is posted.

13. Question Period

a. Amendment to SSA's report:

- i. General meeting about strike organizing location change:
  1. This event will take place on Thursday, October 9 at 6:30  
**PM at Cite des Hospitalieres (251 Pine Avenue).**

14. Next Meeting Time and Date: October 29, 6 pm LEA 232

15. Adjournment: 7:32 pm.