

**Minutes from a Meeting of the Concordia Council on Student Life  
Held on April 7, 2017  
Loyola GE-110, 10am**

**PRESENT:** Andrew Woodall (Chair), Lauren Broad (Secretary), Gaya Arasaratnam, Théo Denieul, Juliet Dunphy (replacing Laura Mitchell), Lauren Farley, Chantal Forgues, Julie Gagné, Laura Gallo, Stavroula Karigiannis (replacing Annette Bowen), Christina Massaro, Beth McKenna (replacing Temi Akin-Aina), Lisa Ostiguy, Tanya Poletti, D'Arcy Ryan, Stephanie Sarik, Brigitte St-Laurent, Daniel Therrien, Lorraine Toscano.

**ABSENT WITH REGRETS:** Leo Dixon A, Anca Baban, Claudie Boujaklian.

**ABSENT:** Marie-Josée Allard, Darren Dumoulin, Rachel Gauthier, Jana Ghalayini, Emeric Guerrand-Anderson, Alexandre Klaponski, Armani Martel, Brad Nelson, Cameron Skinner, Rami Yahia.

**GUESTS:** Erin Mullins, Keroles Riad.

**1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The Chair noted that in the absence of quorum, the agenda could not be approved. The Council agreed to continue with the meeting, however acknowledged that no formal motions could be voted on.

**2. REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR**

The Chair congratulated several of the umbrella student associations for their successful elections and welcomed new executives who would official start their mandates as of June 1, 2017. The Chair praised the students and others from the Concordia community who had participated in the 5 Days for the Homeless Campaign from March 12<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> in the midst of a snowstorm. They noted the “Stand Together” events from March 13<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> organized by several departments at the university, including Campus Wellness & Support Services, the Multi-faith & Spirituality Centre, Theological Studies, Creative Art Therapies, the International Students Office and Jack.org Concordia. The events were designed to bring the community together and allow people to express how they were feeling in light of the recent bomb scare at the university and threat to the Muslim community.

**3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

**3.1 Approval of the Minutes from the Meeting of January 27, 2017**

The minutes from January 27, 2017 could not be approved without quorum.

**3.2 Approval of the Minutes from the Meeting of March 3, 2017**

The minutes from March 3, 2017 could not be approved without quorum.

**4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

**4.1 Business Arising from the Minutes of January 27, 2017**

There was no business arising from the minutes of January 27, 2017.

**4.2 Business Arising from the Minutes of March 3, 2017**

**Motion to Approve Annual Funding to HOJO**

A motion to approve the annual funding from CCSL to HOJO had been circulated by email to the Council and was tabled at the March 3rd meeting due to lack of quorum. Two questions had emerged from the discussion at the March meeting, for which the Chair was able to provide answers from the HOJO Coordinator. Council members wanted to know how often the amount of annual funding was reviewed by the CCSL. The Chair recalled that the annual funding had increased from \$15,000.00 to \$20,000.00 in January 2013 to expand HOJO services to graduate students and on the Loyola campus. Both of these goals were achieved and the additional funding from CCSL was now funding salary expenses to ensure that a Mandarin-speaking staff member was available five days a week at HOJO. The second question was what had happened to the 2015-2016 surplus reported by HOJO. The Chair reported that the previous year's surplus had been earmarked for the first phase

of HOJO's website project taking place in 2016-2017, as well as the second phase of the same project, planned for 2017-2018. The website project had taken much longer to begin than was anticipated, which explained under-spending on this budget item in 2015-2016 and the subsequent planned spending for 2016-2017 and 2017-2018. Without quorum a vote could not pass on the motion, therefore it was tabled for the May 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. Several Council members noted that an increase from \$0.21 per credit to \$0.24 per credit of the CSU fee levy allocated to HOJO had recently been approved and they wondered how this would affect the HOJO budget. Andrew Woodall said that they would follow up once again with the HOJO Coordinator for clarification so that an informed vote could take place at the May 5<sup>th</sup> meeting.

## **5. REPORTS AND ITEMS OF INFORMATION**

### **5.1 Presentation from the Big Hairy Ideas Competition: Waste Not, Want Not: A Complete Composting Cycle for the Concordia University Community**

The Chair welcomed Keroles Riad, applicant for the project "*Waste Not, Want Not: A Complete Composting Cycle for the Concordia University Community*", which was approved for \$35,000.00 of funding from the CCSL Big Hairy Ideas (BHI) Competition. The project was one of three approved for BHI funding in March 2016.

A brief question and answer period followed the presentation. Chantal Forgues asked for Keroles Riad to expand on the future plans for the project. They answered that a priority was to ensure the long-term sustainability of the project. Data on the first five months of the campaign revealed a notable increase in the amount that Concordians were composting. Keroles Riad attributed some of this success to the educational campaign, but also recognized the importance of accessibility. More composting bins were made available to the Concordia community, therefore more people choosing to compost. They stressed the impact of collaboration with departments such as Environmental Health & Safety (EH&S) and could see the rewards of combining education with improvements in infrastructure. Keroles Riad said that the goal for the second year of the project would be to produce educational campaigns during both the fall and the winter semesters.

### **5.2 Report from Campus Wellness & Support Services**

Gaya Arasaratnam, Director of Campus Wellness & Support Services, gave a presentation on the services and programs under the department. They touched upon three major points: what is health; current services and programs; and future plans. The Council was very pleased to hear about the important work being done on topics such as mental health and transgender support. The Council members encouraged Gaya Arasaratnam to collaborate with student groups to promote the department's programs and services to the wider student population. They confirmed that collaboration was welcomed and already taking place in many forms. Gaya Arasaratnam pointed out that they were privy to many different initiatives on campus and could help to connect various groups to collaborate on projects that have similar or the same priorities.

### **5.3 Report from Residence Life**

Lauren Farley, Manager of Residence Life, and D'Arcy Ryan, Director of Residence Life, gave a presentation on the services and programs under the department. D'Arcy Ryan highlighted the extensive training that the Residence Assistants receive on such topics as mental health, gender sensitivity and active inquiry. Lauren Farley noted that Residence Life provided an accessible cohort of the student population for those who were looking for a captive audience of students or to collaborate with groups of students. They added that the department had become more active on social media and through the use of TV screens to promote their activities.

### **5.4 CCSL Special Projects: Update on approved projects**

The Chair gave a summary of the CCSL Special Projects Fund for 2016-2017:

\$165,000 in the CCSL Special Projects Fund per year

\$20,000 earmarked annually for HoJo

\$10,000 earmarked annually for the Committee Participation Awards Program (CPAP)

Balance for the fall and winter semesters: \$135,000

Fall 2016

- There were 91 applications to be considered, with a total amount requested of \$288,499.69.
- \$80,030.66 was allocated to 69 projects

Winter 2017

- There were 84 applications to be considered, with a total amount requested of \$169,646.92.
- \$54,969.34 was allocated to 72 projects

Summary for 2016-2017

- 175 applications were received over two funding deadlines
- Total amount requested: \$458,146.61
- Total number of approved projects: 141
- Total amount approved: \$135,000.00

Andrew Woodall added that there had been a significant increase in the number of proposals over the last several years, a sign of the great involvement by students in student life at the university. However this also made the decision-making process more difficult. Not all the allocated funds would necessarily be collected, as some projects may be cancelled or may not claim the entire approved amount. Any unused funds would be earmarked for future projects. The accumulation of unused funds over several years was what allowed the Big Hairy Ideas Competition to take place. Keroles Riad asked whether the newly added requirement of having approved projects register for the Co-Curricular Record (CCR) had a positive impact. The Chair confirmed that it had been very successful and that the Dean of Students Office had seen a significant increase in the number of registered positions over the past year, largely as a result of this requirement for the CCSL funding.

## **6. NEW BUSINESS**

### **Points of Interest**

The Chair noted several upcoming events at the university:

- April 12, 2017: Shauna Janssen from the Theatre department would be putting on short plays on the Hall Terrace at 7:30pm
- April 13, 2017: last day of classes at the university
- April 13, 2017: the Student Life & Community Engagement Awards Night at the Loyola Chapel, 5pm
- June 5-7, 2017: spring convocation ceremonies

Beth McKenna reported that they would be leaving Advancement & Alumni Relations for a new position at JMSB. They introduced Erin Mullins, who would be taking over the role of Alumni Officer, Student and Young Alumni. Beth McKenna noted the Student Leadership Recognition Reception taking place on April 20<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-7:30pm at MB 10.121 and welcomed Council members to attend the event.

Chantal Forgues informed the Council that EH&S would be conducting consultations with the Concordia community on sustainability planning at the university. They asked Council members to visit the EH&S website to complete the online form and to submit their feedback by April 22<sup>nd</sup> on what they thought a sustainable university would look like and what it should include.

Lisa Ostiguy said that the Sexual Assault Resource Centre (SARC) would be hosting a gathering on April 13<sup>th</sup> for the Concordia community to review recent discussions between academic institutions and the government on new policies regarding sexual assault. They encouraged the Council members to visit the SARC website for more information. Lisa Ostiguy recalled that the findings from the Nation Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) data, presented by Jonathan Levinson at CCSL on November 25, 2016, emphasized that academic advising at the university could be improved. A working group including students and staff was created to look at what could be done to improve the service. Students out of the District 3 Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship had been exploring the use of artificial intelligence to assist students with their advising needs. Lisa Ostiguy said there would be various opportunities on campus for students and members of the university community to communicate their questions so that the working group could address how to best answer them. They welcomed any input or suggestions throughout the process.

## **7. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting was scheduled for May 5, 2017, 10am at SGW, EV 2.184.

## **8. TERMINATION OF MEETING**

In the absence of quorum, the Council members agreed to terminate the meeting without an approved motion.