

Minutes from a Meeting of the Concordia Council on Student Life

Held on May 5, 2017

SGW EV 2.184, 10am

PRESENT: Andrew Woodall (Chair), Lauren Broad (Secretary), Marie-Josée Allard, Gaya Arasaratnam, Lauren Farley, Chantal Forgues, Julie Gagné, Laura Gallo, Stavroula Karigiannis (replacing Annette Bowen), Christina Massaro, Laura Mitchell, Erin Mullins (replacing Temi Akin-Aina), Brad Nelson, Tanya Poletti, D'Arcy Ryan, Cameron Skinner, Brigitte St-Laurent, Atosa Tangestanifar (replacing Stephanie Sarik), Daniel Therrien, Lorraine Toscano.

ABSENT WITH REGRETS: Leo Dixon A, Anca Baban, Rachel Gauthier, Jana Ghalayini, Alexandre Klaponski, Lisa Ostiguy.

ABSENT: Claudie Boujaklian, Théo Denieul, Darren Dumoulin, Emeric Guerrand-Anderson, Armani Martel, Rami Yahia.

GUEST: Anna Timm-Bottos.

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Gaya Arasaratnam moved to approve the agenda. Julie Gagné seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

2. REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR

The Chair mentioned highlights from the Council from 2016-2017: \$135,000.00 allocated to student initiatives through the CCSL Special Projects Fund; \$20,000.00 pending approval at the meeting to go towards the CSU Off Campus Housing & Job Bank (HOJO); \$10,000.00 earmarked for the Committee Participation Awards Program (CPAP). Andrew Woodall noted the success of the Student Life & Community Engagement Awards Night held on April 13th.

The Chair congratulated Erin Mullins and the team at Advancement & Alumni Relations for the event they hosted to highlight student engagement. Andrew Woodall noted the Dean of Students Office held its annual Passing the Torch event that had taken place earlier in the week for outgoing and incoming student leaders. The Chair added that the Prep for Leadership event was being held the following week to welcome all incoming umbrella group executives. The Dean of Student Office also hosted the Alternative Spring Break Showcase in mid-March.

Andrew Woodall thanked Julie Gagné for their participation on the CCSL, as their two-year term as a Student Services staff representative would come to an end on August 31, 2017.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

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

Gaya Arasaratnam moved to approve the minutes from the meeting of January 27, 2017 and D'Arcy Ryan seconded the motion.

In favour: 8

Against: 0

Abstentions: 2

The motion passed.

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

D'Arcy Ryan moved to approve the minutes from the meeting of March 3, 2017 and Cameron Skinner seconded the motion.

In favour: 8

Against: 0

Abstentions: 2

The motion passed.

3.3 Approval of the Minutes from the Meeting of April 7, 2017

Julie Gagné moved to approve the minutes from the meeting of April 7, 2017 and D'Arcy Ryan seconded the motion.

In favour: 8

Against: 0

Abstentions: 2

The motion passed.

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

There was no business arising from the minutes of March 3, 2017.

4.3 Business Arising from the Minutes of April 7, 2017

Motion to Approve HOJO Annual Funding

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 and April 7th meetings 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 from the April 7th meeting 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. The question brought forth at the April 7th meeting was to know what the new fee levy was for, being collected by the CSU on behalf of HOJO. The HOJO Coordinator confirmed that the \$0.03 per credit per undergraduate student fee levy was earmarked for HOJO's participation in the CSU's Cooperative Student Housing Project.

Christina Massaro put forth the following motion, seconded by Laura Mitchell:

Whereas the Coordinator of the CSU Off-Campus Housing & Job Bank (HOJO) presented the 2015-2016 Financial Statement, Annual Report and the 2016-2017 budget at the January 27, 2017 CCSL meeting; and

Whereas HOJO continues to provide valuable services to both undergraduate and graduate students at Concordia; and

Whereas the annual funding provided to HOJO by CCSL is crucial for maintaining and improving the essential and unique services it provides to students at Concordia;

Be it resolved that:

CCSL approve the transfer of its annual contribution of \$20,000.00 to the Off-Campus Housing and Job Bank to the CSU.

Tanya Poletti suggested that in future years the Council decide on funding to HOJO earlier in the academic year, if possible. This would ensure that any approved funding be disbursed earlier in the fiscal year, allowing HOJO to plan accordingly in their spending. The Chair agreed, while pointing out that the CCSL was unable to make a formal decision until so late in the academic year because there had not been quorum at the previous two Council meetings. Andrew Woodall highlighted the importance of the CCSL's annual contribution to HOJO, considering that it was the university's only contribution to student housing other than Residence.

The motion was put to a vote.

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstentions: 2

The motion passed.

5. REPORTS AND ITEMS OF INFORMATION

5.1 Presentation from the Big Hairy Ideas Competition: Concordia University's Centre for Creative Reuse

The Chair welcomed Anna Timm-Bottos, applicant for the project "*Concordia University's Centre for Creative Reuse*", which was approved for \$45,000.00 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. Anna Timm-Bottos referred Council members to the cuccr.ca website for information on what type of donations would be accepted, or to send an email to reuse@concordia.ca. They confirmed the location of the Centre in the basement of the Hall building and said that although summer hours were reduced to one day per week, the Centre would be back to three days per week in time for fall orientation. Anna Timm-Bottos expressed the challenge of space capacity to meet the supply and demand for materials. They were hopeful to achieve their goal of becoming integrated in some way to all groups and departments on campus. Anna Timm-Bottos was proud that Concordia was serving as a model for other institutions across the country that were hoping to develop similar centres on their campuses.

5.2 Report from Recreation & Athletics

D'Arcy Ryan, Interim Director of Recreation & Athletics, gave a presentation on the services and programs under the department. Council members enjoyed the department's promotional videos for Stingers athletes, however agreed that more female athlete representation would be appreciated. It was suggested that gym membership fees for staff and faculty could be deducted automatically from their pay and D'Arcy Ryan said they would look into the possibility. Council members wondered if there were plans for the second floor of the Le Gym facility. D'Arcy Ryan said that there were many possibilities for use of the space, such as offering more group classes to alleviate pressure on the main floor. Unfortunately there were no funds available to move forward on any plans at that time. D'Arcy Ryan confirmed that the intramural leagues were a mix of students, alumni and external groups, and that the department would welcome any group that was interested in participating.

5.3 Student Services and Recreation & Athletics 2016-2017 Financials

Copies of the Student Services and the Recreation & Athletics Projected Year-End Statements 2016-2017 were circulated to the Council members. Tanya Poletti confirmed that although the university year-end was April 30th, the books would not be officially closed until mid-May. Tanya Poletti added that the 2017-2018 budgets were pending approval at the June Board of Governors meeting. They offered to return with the actual year-end statements for 2016-2017, as well as the approved 2017-2018 budgets at the September 2017. Tanya Poletti gave an overview of the report for Student Services. They said that the fee per credit paid by students for Student Services and Recreation & Athletics had not increased since 2009. Tanya Poletti explained that additional revenue from unanticipated government funding was put into an account to make up for future year's deficits.

Without this safety net, units would be in jeopardy of closing. It was pointed out that the majority of expenses were salary and that any surplus in salary was attributed to vacant positions. The projected surplus for the sector would be set aside for special initiatives in the following year. This would allow directors in the sector to move forward on innovation projects that would otherwise not be possible. D'Arcy Ryan gave an overview of the Recreation & Athletics report, noting that its revenue was similarly made up from a government grant and the Recreation & Athletics fee per credit, as well as a contribution from the university and departmental revenue. There had been a decrease in administration and recreation expenses, with a slight increase in athletics expenses. D'Arcy Ryan explained that they were taking the opportunity to look at the breakdown of the department, hoping to increase the recreation component and the services provided to students.

6. NEW BUSINESS

Points of Interest

Tanya Poletti congratulated all the graduates of 2016-2017 and reminded the Council that convocation would take place from June 5-7th, 2017 at Salle Wilfred-Pelletier. They added that anyone could attend on a first come, first served basis. If anyone were interested in being a part of the platform party, they should register through the Office of the Registrar website.

The Chair noted that the new student leaders would officially start their mandate as of June 1, 2017.

Andrew Woodall thanked everyone for their participation on the Council for the 2016-2017 academic year.

7. NEXT MEETING

The first meeting for the 2017-2018 academic year would be scheduled for September 2017, date to be confirmed.

8. TERMINATION OF MEETING

Cameron Skinner motioned to terminate the meeting. D'Arcy Ryan seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.