

**Minutes from a Meeting of the Concordia Council on Student Life**  
**Held on October 27, 2017**  
**Loyola GE-110, 10am**

**PRESENT:** Andrew Woodall (Chair), Lauren Broad (Secretary), Marie-Josée Allard, Gaya Arasaratnam, Andrea Cartile, Andres Diaz (replacing Annette Bowen), Christian Durand, Lauren Farley, Chantal Forgues, Leo Dixon A. Irudhayaraju, Paul Joyce, Terry Kyle, Lisa Ostiguy, Irene Petsopoulis, D'Arcy Ryan, Veronika Rydzewski, Stephanie Sarik, Cameron Skinner, Brigitte St-Laurent, Leyla Sutherland, Andrea Taylor (replacing Laura Mitchell), Daniel Therrien, Lorraine Toscano, Mark Underwood.

**ABSENT WITH REGRETS:** Temi Akin-Aina, Amy Caron, Tanya Poletti.

**ABSENT:** Melanie Burnett, Théo Denieul, Darren Dumoulin, Eamon Toohey.

**1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

D'Arcy Ryan moved to approve the agenda. Terry Kyle seconded the motion.

*The motion passed unanimously.*

**2. REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR**

The Chair welcomed the Council members and wished to acknowledge that Concordia University is located on unceded Indigenous lands. Andrew Woodall said they respected the continued connections with the past, present and future in the university's ongoing relationships with Indigenous and other communities within Montreal.

**3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 29, 2017**

Irene Petsopoulis moved to approve the minutes from the meeting of September 29, 2017 and Mark Underwood seconded the motion.

*The motion passed unanimously.*

**4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 29, 2017**

There was no business arising from the minutes of September 29, 2017.

**5. REPORTS AND ITEMS OF INFORMATION**

**5.1 CCSL Special Projects: Update on review of projects requesting \$5,000.00 and under**

The Chair recalled that the CCSL Special Projects Fund had \$165,000.00 annually to allocate as follows: \$20,000.00 earmarked for the CSU Off-Campus Housing & Job Bank (HoJo); \$10,000.00 earmarked for the Committee Participation Awards Program (CPAP); \$135,000.00 remaining to be allocated to student projects over two submission deadlines.

Andrew Woodall reported the following from the CCSL Special Projects sub-committee review meeting of projects requesting \$5,000.00 and less that had taken place earlier in the week:

- The sub-committee considered the breadth and depth of applications.
- New projects were considered first, then recurring projects were considered.
- There were 71 applications requesting \$5,000.00 and less to be considered, with a total amount requested of \$132,389.75.
- 56 projects were approved, with a total amount allocated of \$48,251.50.
- 15 projects were declined; some will be asked to re-apply in the winter semester if they are able to address various issues.
- There were three applications requesting over \$5,000.00, with a total requested amount of \$53,400.00. The project "Facilitating Concordia's Co-operative Food Service Economy" had been withdrawn.
- Total amount available for the projects requesting over \$5,000.00 and for all winter 2018 applications was \$86,748.50.

### **Presentations by applicants requesting over \$5,000.00**

Applicants requesting over \$5,000.00 presented their projects one after the other to the Council. A brief question and answer period followed each presentation. After all the presentations were done, the Council began with discussion of each project individually, giving their comments and concerns. The Chair noted that the Council should not concern itself with the amount remaining in the fund until after they had fully reviewed the projects, at which time the amounts allocated could be revised if necessary in consideration of winter 2018 applications.

#### **“BlocHacks”, presented by Chirine Mansour, Kinan Swaid and Abdulla Daoud. Amount requested:**

**\$9,000.00**

The Council was very supportive of the project and was particularly impressed with its partnership with the UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency. The CCSL appreciated that this was a new project using a very engaging process to address a real social concern. The Council questioned some of the expenses listed in the project’s budget, such as the prizes and gift bags, however it was noted that many of these expenses would be covered by in-kind donations and support from external sources.

Mark Underwood put forth the following motion, seconded by Lisa Ostiguy:

*Be it resolved that the project “BlocHacks” be approved for \$5,000.00 of funding from the CCSL Special Projects Fund.*

For: 15

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

*The motion passed unanimously.*

### **“Engineering & Commerce Case Competition 2018”, presented by Stephane Mailloux and Narek**

**Nazarian. Amount requested: \$15,000.00**

The Council acknowledged the opportunity for students to gain experience through the case competition and highlighted the collaboration between faculties. Although the Council supported the project, a common concern was the approximate doubling of its budget from previous years to allow for a more prestigious event.

Members of CCSL questioned the sustainability of the project over future years and would have liked to see support from student associations. The CCSL was also hesitant to provide financial support for expenses such as hotel accommodation for participants. The Council discussed the fact that it had funded the project for \$750.00 in 2016-2017 and that recurring projects would not usually receive more funding than in previous years. Despite this, the Council recognized the importance and impact that the project would have on Concordia students if it were able to expand as intended by the proposal.

Cameron Skinner put forth the following motion, seconded by Mark Underwood:

*Be it resolved that funding for the project “Engineering & Commerce Case Competition 2018” be considered in two parts: the recurring aspect of the project; and a one-time allocation of funding considering its expansion and growth from previous years.*

For: 14

Against: 1

Abstentions: 0

*The motion passed.*

Discussion continued on how much should be allocated for the recurring aspect of the project. It was agreed that this portion should be comparable to the previous year’s allocation, as well as the amount allocated to other competition projects that were approved for funding at the sub-committee level. The Council agreed that the applicant would be told in their approval email that should the ECCC reapply for funding in the 2018-2019 funding year, the CCSL would consider \$1,000.00 as its maximum threshold for support.

Andrea Cartile put forth the following motion, seconded by Terry Kyle:

*Be it resolved that the project “Engineering & Commerce Case Competition 2018” be approved for \$1,000.00 of funding from the CCSL Special Projects Fund in support of the recurring case competition that the Council has funded in previous years.*

For: 8

Against: 6

Abstentions: 1

***The motion passed.***

Discussion continued on how much to allocate to the project in support of its expansion from previous years. The Council agreed that a reasonable amount to allocate would be similar to that of the average requested or confirmed by the external sponsors listed in the project’s budget.

Stephanie Sarik put forth the following motion, seconded by Leyla Sutherland:

*Be it resolved that the project “Engineering & Commerce Case Competition 2018” be approved for an additional \$2,500.00 of funding from the CCSL Special Projects Fund as a special, one-time show of support given that the project is striving to expand its reach and impact on the Concordia community.*

For: 8

Against: 6

Abstentions: 1

***The motion passed.***

**“Social Economy Incubator”, presented by Marcus Peters. Amount requested: \$29,400.00**

The Council members were very interested in the project and saw a great need for supporting social initiatives at the university. The CCSL was discouraged to see a lack of willingness to collaborate with the university to share ideas and resources. The Council believed there was great potential for partnership on many levels to help bring the project to life. Another concern of the Council was the timeline of the project, noting that the applicant had set very high expectations on a very short time frame. Without confirmation from other major sources of funding, the Council worried about the probability of the project happening during the 2017-2018 funding year.

D’Arcy Ryan put forth the following motion, seconded by Lisa Ostiguy:

*Be it resolved that the project “Social Economy Incubator” be declined funding. The Council would recommend that the applicant reapply for funding in the winter 2018 semester after demonstrating a willingness to explore collaboration with the university on the project.*

For: 4

Against: 5

Abstentions: 6

***The motion did not pass.***

The Council decided to allocate enough funds to show their support and to help the project get started. The CCSL members agreed that it was not their role to micromanage a student project by telling them how to run the initiative. However, by providing major funding, the Council acknowledged that they might be inadvertently putting pressure on the university to move forward on a project that it is not prepared to support in terms of physical resources, such as space.

Lisa Ostiguy put forth the following motion, seconded by Stephanie Sarik:

*Be it resolved that the project “Social Economy Incubator” be approved for \$4,000.00 of funding from the CCSL Special Projects Fund.*

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstentions: 7

*The motion passed.*

## **6. NEW BUSINESS**

### **6.1 Points of Interest**

Brigitte St-Laurent was happy to inform the CCSL that the library was promoting its services for users with disabilities. They circulated information cards and said that more were available if anyone wished to display them in their department. It was noted that the newly renovated Webster Library had 22 different types of environments, offering specialized equipment and software for students with disabilities.

Mark Underwood informed the Council about the SPARK! Campaign, managed by the Dean of Students Office. The campaign was designed to map out student success and what that means to students. Data were being collected from students in their classrooms and on campus. Faculty would be consulted to find out their views on student success. The results of the findings would eventually be shared with the Student Services sector in an attempt to improve the services offered to students, helping them be successful. Lisa Ostiguy added that the funding for the SPARK! Campaign came from the Ministry of Education. The campaign was one of several projects that Student Services was investing these funds in to confirm its commitment to increasing student engagement.

Terry Kyle reported that the Dean of Students Office held a successful open house on October 23<sup>rd</sup> to bring awareness to students of its services, programs and departments. They added that the student group MUSCLE had offered their massage therapy services to students free of charge to help relieve stress and help capture an audience for providing information at the event. Terry Kyle suggested that other departments use their services at future events.

Several upcoming events at the university were noted:

- October 27: last home game for the Concordia Stingers men’s football team, vs. Laval. Any Concordia student attending early would receive a free hot dog and tuke.
- October 27: Concordia Stinger’s men’s hockey game. Any Concordia student attending early would receive a free hot dog and tuke.
- October 30: deadline for the Alternative Spring Break New Orleans participant applications and all team leader applications. It was noted that a small amount of funding was available to help subsidize trips for some students who were facing financial obstacles prohibiting their participation.
- November 6-10: Financial Literacy Week organized by the Financial Aid and Awards Office (FAAO), providing workshops with valuable financial information, as well as the chance to win a prize. It was noted that funding to support Student Services coming from the Ministry of Education was used to create promotional videos for FAAO.
- October 28: Concordia’s Open House, including the opportunity to tour both the Sir George Williams and the Loyola campus (including the only time to tour Residence).

## **7. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting was scheduled for November 24, 2017 at MB 9<sup>th</sup> floor, Conference Room CD, 10am.

## **8. TERMINATION OF MEETING**

Irene Petsopoulos motioned to terminate the meeting. Stephanie Sarik seconded the motion.

*The motion passed unanimously.*