

**Minutes from a Meeting of the Concordia Council on Student Life**  
**Held on November 21, 2014**  
**SGW H-769, 10am**

**PRESENT:** Dr. Lisa Ostiguy (Chair, replacing Mr. Andrew Woodall), Ms. Lauren Broad (Secretary), Ms. Marie-Josée Allard, Mr. Patrick Boivin, Ms. Claudie Boujaklian, Mr. Ian Campbell, Ms. Katrina Caruso, Mr. Darren Dumoulin, Ms. Crystal Harrison, Mr. Daniel Houde, Ms. Kenza Iraki, Dr. Brad Nelson, Mr. Rohit Patil, Dr. Cameron Skinner, Mr. David Thirlwall, Mr. Bradley Tucker, Mr. James Tyler Vaccaro.

**ABSENT WITH REGRETS:** Ms. Gemma Acco, Ms. Anna Barrafato, Mr. Gordon Dionne, Ms. Mary-Ann Jirjis, Mr. Adrian Longinotti, Mr. Howard Magonet, Ms. Tanya Polleti, Ms. Dale Robinson, Ms. Stephanie Sarik, Ms. Lorraine Toscano.

**ABSENT:** Ms. Kate Soad Bellini, Mr. Charles Bourassa, Ms. Sharon Hunter, Ms. Leisha LeCouvie.

**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 motions could be put forth and voted on.

**2. REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR**

Dr. Ostiguy noted that she was replacing Mr. Woodall as Chair for the meeting, as he was attending Common Purpose, the Global Leadership Experience, hosted by Concordia. This was a leadership development program that would bring together students from around the world to explore the question of “what makes a city smart?”

The Chair reported that Ms. St-Laurent would no longer be on the Council, as she had recently left her position as the Director of Advocacy & Support Services. Ms. St-Laurent would be taking on the role of Special Project Manager at the Library. Dr. Ostiguy wanted to publicly acknowledge Ms. St-Laurent’s long-time contribution to CCSL, as well as to the Student Services sector. Although it would be sad to see her leave the sector, the Chair wished her well in her new role and was enthusiastic about the library project to expand and improve space.

Dr. Ostiguy was proud to say that Concordia’s football coaches had been identified as coaches of the year by the province. It was their first year coaching at the university, however they were Concordia alumni.

Recreation & Athletics would be hosting McGill in the men’s rugby team finals on Sunday, November 23, 2014. Members of the Council were encouraged to speak with Mr. Boivin if they were interested in getting tickets for the game.

The Chair spoke of the budget discussions at the university. She reported that the Voluntary Departure Program (VDP) had aimed to attract 150 Concordia employees, however only 90 employees had taken the offer. While this would help mitigate the budget challenges, the Chief Executive Officer of Concordia, Mr. Patrick Kelley, would continue to explore opportunities to minimize the impact of budget reductions at the university. The Chair noted that Concordia was not unique in its situation, with all Québec universities facing similar challenges.

Dr. Ostiguy was happy to announce that Ms. Nadine Montour, Coordinator of the Aboriginal Student Resource Centre, had submitted a report and been approved for a grant to receive additional funding from the provincial government to provide further support to Concordia’s aboriginal students. The university will receive an investment of \$45,100 each year for four years from this grant to support our aboriginal students.

The Chair wished to remind the Council that there were several positions on the sub-committees that remained vacant. The Special Projects sub-committee needed a faculty representative, not necessarily a member of CCSL. Dr. Ostiguy noted that if no one from CCSL were able to participate, she would investigate further with the academic deans to see if a faculty member from outside of CCSL was available. The CCSL Awards sub-committee was in need of three undergraduate students, a faculty member and a chair, all being members

of CCSL. Dr. Ostiguy asked for anyone interested to contact Ms. Broad, Ms. Harrison, Mr. Campbell and Dr. Skinner agreed to join the CCSL Awards sub-committee.

### **3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE MEETING OF OCTOBER 24, 2014**

The minutes from October 24, 2014 could not be approved without quorum.

### **4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 24, 2014**

There was no business arising from the minutes.

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

#### **5.1 HoJo Annual Report**

The Coordinator of the Off Campus Housing & Job Bank (HoJo), Ms. Leanne Ashworth, gave a presentation to the Council. She provided a summary of the HoJo Annual Report 2013/14 that had been distributed to the Council prior to the meeting, highlighting such items as their campaigns, resources, statistics and promotion. Ms. Ashworth had also provided the HoJo financial statement for 2013-2014, as well as the budget for 2014-2015. She was very enthusiastic that as of the fall 2013, they were receiving funding from graduate students as well as undergraduate students, therefore HoJo was now serving all Concordia students. Ms. Ashworth reported that HoJo was now working with a staff of eight people, which improved service and availability. A notable improvement was that HoJo had hired two mandarin-speaking staff to help ease the language barrier that so many international students face when arriving at Concordia.

Mr. Tucker congratulated Ms. Ashworth on the great work that HoJo was doing, adding that it was very impressive to hear about everything that they had achieved. Mr. Tucker remarked that the university had made a conscious decision to only promote residence and HoJo when it came to housing for its students. This provided a positive example of the university and students working together to address the needs of students. During her presentation, Ms. Ashworth had spoken about the problem of international students not knowing the importance of leaving the heat on in the winter when leaving the country for some time, to avoid frozen pipes. Mr. Tucker offered to have a notice sent to students from the International Students Office informing them of this important information.

The Chair echoed Mr. Tucker's support and thanked Ms. Ashworth for her informative presentation. Dr. Ostiguy pointed out to the Council that the HoJo sub-committee was looking for a Chair, as well as another representative from CCSL. Ms. Ashworth confirmed that the sub-committee met only periodically throughout the year, however found it very beneficial in providing their office with a contact from Student Services. The sub-committee assisted with planning on what items to report to the Council in their annual presentation.

### **6. NEW BUSINESS**

#### **6.1 Undergraduate Scholarship & Awards Committee**

The Chair reported that the Undergraduate Scholarship & Awards Committee (USAC) was in need of a representative from CCSL to sit on the committee. Ms. St-Laurent had previously held this position, but with her recent departure from CCSL, another member would have to be appointed. Dr. Ostiguy referred to the USAC mandate and membership document that had been distributed to the Council prior to the meeting. Mr. Thirlwall offered to join the USAC as the CCSL representative.

#### **6.2 Points of Interest**

Dr. Ostiguy said that the Concordia University Small Grants Program (CUSGP) was a program designed to provide financial support up to \$1,000 to students towards special projects meeting certain criteria. The program was funded by the offices of the President and Vice-Chancellor, the Provost, the Vice-President External Relations & Secretary-General, the Vice-President Research & Graduate Studies, the Vice-President Services and the Dean of Students Office. As of November 14, 2014, the CUSGP would no longer continue, and the funding would be redistributed through the CCSL Special Projects Fund. The reasoning behind the change was due to the fact that many projects were applying for funding from both the CUSGP and CCSL, and the group wished to reduce duplication. Furthermore, it was felt that the CCSL would have a better

understanding of student projects since its focus is student life, thereby would be more well equipped to make decisions on funding for these projects. The Chair noted that although students could previously apply for funding from the CUSGP for expenses such as conferences and personal or professional development, these were not considered eligible expenses according to the current CCSL Special Projects guidelines. She added that this issue would have to be addressed in order to find another source of funding at the university for such expenses, however it would not be an issue that CCSL would have to consider. Ms. Caruso asked approximately how much additional funding would go to the CCSL Special Projects Fund and the Chair replied that it would be a few thousand dollars yearly. Ms. Caruso recommended that the CCSL Special Projects sub-committee review the change at their upcoming meeting to consider how this may affect students who apply for funding from the university.

The Chair reported that Student Services and Recreation & Athletics had asked the CSU for the opportunity to put forth a question to students for an increase in their per credit fees. She added that there had not been an increase in the fees in over six years. The increase for the Student Services fee would amount to 90 cents per credit and the increase to the Recreation & Athletics fee would amount to 25 cents per credit. The Chair asked the Council members, specifically the student representatives, to provide any insight into how the sector could inform students about the reasoning behind the fee increase. Dr. Ostiguy said that the increase would be mostly to account for inflation, and even at that would not cover the full increase in costs. Ms. Caruso suggested creating an awareness campaign prior to the elections, to bring to light to how the services affect every student, building a stronger community. Ms. Harrison warned that relative to increases that student associations ask for, the increase from Student Services and Recreation & Athletics appears high. She anticipated that this might deter students from agreeing to the increase. The Chair thanked the students for their insight and asked that members of the Council consider other ways to help inform students of the reasoning for an increase. She hoped this could be discussed further at the next meeting in January 2015.

Dr. Ostiguy wished the student representatives good luck with the end of the semester and a happy holiday to all members of the Council.

#### **7. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on January 23, 2015 at Loyola AD-210 at 10am.

#### **8. TERMINATION OF MEETING**

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