

**Minutes from a Meeting of the Concordia Council on Student Life
Held on October 24, 2014
Loyola AD-210, 10am**

PRESENT: Mr. Andrew Woodall (Chair), Ms. Lauren Broad (Secretary), Ms. Gemma Acco, Ms. Anna Barrafato, Mr. Ian Campbell, Ms. Katrina Caruso, Ms. Crystal Harrison, Mr. Daniel Houde, Mr. Steve Houde (replacing Mr. Darren Dumoulin), Ms. Mary-Ann Jirjis, Mr. Adrian Longinotti, Mr. Howard Magonet, Dr. Brad Nelson, Mr. Rohit Patil, Ms. Tanya Polleti, Ms. Dale Robinson, Dr. Cameron Skinner, Ms. Brigitte St-Laurent, Ms. Atosa Tangestanifar (replacing Ms. Stephanie Sarik), Mr. David Thirlwall, Ms. Lorraine Toscano, Mr. James Tyler Vaccaro.

ABSENT WITH REGRETS: Ms. Marie-Josée Allard, Mr. Patrick Boivin, Ms. Claudie Boujaklian, Ms. Kenza Iraki, Dr. Lisa Ostiguy, Mr. Bradley Tucker.

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

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Chair called the meeting to order. Mr. Magonet moved to approve the agenda. Ms. Barrafato seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

2. REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR

The Chair noted that since this was only the second meeting of the academic year, there were some new faces around the Council table. He invited everyone to introduce themselves.

The Chair noted that the meeting was extended to allow time for presentations and discussion regarding the CCSL Special Projects fall 2014 applications requesting over \$5,000.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

3.1 Approval of the Minutes from the Meeting of May 2, 2014

The Chair pointed out that there was an error under Item 5.2 of the minutes for the total amount of unused CCSL Special Project funds remaining from previous years. Mr. Woodall requested that the amount be amended to \$87,367.91, not including 2013-2014. As a point of interest, the Chair noted that since that meeting, he could now confirm that the amount of unused funds including 2013-2014 was slightly over \$94,000. This figure took into account approximately \$39,000 allocated to the Hive Café Solidarity Cooperative project from 2013-2014. Mr. Woodall stated that a discussion on the use of unused funds from previous years would be had at the sub-committee level, with recommendations being brought to the Council at a future meeting.

Dr. Skinner moved to approve the amended minutes from the meeting of May 2, 2014 and Mr. Houde seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

3.2 Approval of the Minutes from the Meeting of September 19, 2014

Mr. Vaccaro moved to approve the minutes from the meeting of September 19, 2014 and Ms. Robinson seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

4.1 Business Arising from the Minutes of May 2, 2014

There was no business arising from the minutes.

4.2 Business Arising from the Minutes of September 19, 2014

There was no business arising from the minutes.

5. REPORTS AND ITEMS OF INFORMATION

5.1 Sub-Committees

CCSL Special Projects:

Update on review of projects requesting \$5,000 and under

The Chair gave an overview of the sub-committee's review of Special Project applications requesting \$5,000 or less. He reminded the Council that there is \$165,000 in the fund, with \$20,000 earmarked annually for HoJo and \$10,000 earmarked for the Committee Participation Awards Program (CPAP). After taking into consideration the annual contribution to HoJo and the CPAP, the Special Projects Fund had a balance of \$135,000 to be allocated over two submission deadlines. The Chair said that the sub-committee reviewed new projects before recurring ones and that the breadth and depth of each project was carefully considered. The conversation of what should be done with the unused funds from previous years would take place at the sub-committee level at a future meeting, with any recommendations being brought to the entire Council for consideration.

Mr. Woodall provided a summary of the review meeting:

- 63 applications requesting \$5,000 or less were considered, with a total amount requested of \$144,262.94
- 53 projects were approved, with a total amount allocated of \$54,647
- 10 projects were declined; some will be asked to re-apply in the winter semester for various reasons
- There were 5 applications requesting over \$5,000, with a total requested amount of \$56,098.30
- Total amount remaining in the fund for requests over \$5,000 and winter 2015 applications was \$80,353
- The number of applications received was fairly typical, only slightly lower than fall 2013
- The sub-committee reviewed all new projects first, then recurring projects were considered
- It was noted that there was no clear trend regarding the number of project applications received in the winter semester versus the fall semester

Presentations by applicants requesting over \$5,000

Applicants requesting over \$5,000 presented their projects to the Council. A brief question and answer period followed each presentation. The Council considered each project individually before presenting a motion for each project. The Chair suggested that the Council begin with an arbitrary maximum amount of \$20,000 to allocate to the projects being presented that day, should they wish to approve funding, allowing for approximately \$60,000 to remain for all winter 2015 applications.

***“Jeux de sciences politiques”*, presented by Mr. Nathan Charpentier and Ms. Flora Magnan. Amount requested: \$15,000**

It was noted from the presentation that the amount requested from CCSL had been changed from \$15,000 to \$4,000. During his presentation, Mr. Charpentier provided an updated budget for circulation. The Council agreed that the project was very worthwhile and enjoyed the fact that it was being held at Concordia University. It was also their first time applying for funding. Ms. Caruso stated that at the sub-committee level, similar competitions had received anywhere between \$1,500 and \$3,500 and she suggested approving the lower amount for this project. Mr. Vaccaro recommended that the Council approve funding to cover the booking costs at Concordia. Ms. Acco added that it was often difficult for Arts & Science students to obtain funding for their projects, therefore the amount allocated by CCSL would have a great impact on the project.

Mr. Vaccaro put forth the following motion, seconded by Ms. Acco:

Be it resolved that the project “Jeux de sciences politiques” be approved for \$3,000 of funding from the CCSL Special Projects Fund.

For: 12

Against: 0

Abstentions: 1

The motion passed.

“Space Concordia Mission”, presented by Mr. Phillip Andreev and Mr. Mehdi Sabzalian. Amount requested: \$16,165

The members of CCSL agreed that the project was a valuable one, which would have a large impact on many students at Concordia. It would also bring media attention and good publicity to the university and would most importantly raise awareness about the CCSL. The concern was raised that this was a recurring project that continues to depend heavily on funding from CCSL, and some members of the Council felt that they should pursue more external sponsors. Ms. Poletti questioned why the group continued to expand their projects while appearing to not be able to sustain their existing ones. Dr. Cameron recommended that the CCSL Special Project Guidelines make it clear to applicants that they should not expect to receive funding year after year. The Chair noted that the guidelines do indicate that new projects take priority over recurring ones. The Council agreed to provide funding to the project, however a significantly lower amount than their requested amount, to make it clear that the group would have to depend less on the CCSL for its project’s survival.

Ms. Barrafato put forth the following motion, seconded by Ms. Tangestanifar:

Be it resolved that the project “Space Concordia Mission” be approved for \$3,000 of funding from the CCSL Special Projects Fund.

For: 12

Against: 1

Abstentions: 0

The motion passed.

“The Rooftop Garden Project”, presented by Ms. Gabrielle Caron. Amount requested: \$6,253.30

The Council was very supportive of this project and agreed that it should receive funding. It was considered a new initiative, as they had come for funding the previous year, but never received it as they were unable to secure a space for the project. Some members of CCSL worried that they would encounter similar obstacles with space this year, however Mr. Vaccaro argued that the university might be more inclined to assist the project if it had financial support from the CCSL. The Council agreed that this project would likely not need future funding if they were to receive enough to get the project going. Some members of CCSL felt that the applicant should look for other sources of funding, and the suggestion was made for the group to seek mentorship from university partners in how to make their project a reality. Mr. Magonet recommended that the Council approve an amount of funding for the project, and in addition, offer up to a decided amount of matching funds to encourage the group to seek external sources of funding.

Ms. Tangestanifar put forth the following motion, seconded by Ms. St-Laurent:

Be it resolved that the project “The Rooftop Garden Project” be approved for \$3,000 of funding from the CCSL Special Projects Fund, plus up to an additional \$1,500 in matching funds if the applicant is able to raise funds from other external sources. The funding will be contingent upon the applicant securing a space at the university and may be used for the material expenses of the project.

The motion passed unanimously.

“CSU Speaker Series 2014-2015”, presented by Mr. Anthony Garoufalís-Augér. Amount requested: \$7,680

The Chair said that funding for this project had been debated many times in the past, and that they had been denied funding from CCSL in the 2013-2014 academic year. He recalled that the proposal in the previous year had been very unorganized and the budget was not clear. A discussion ensued on the whether or not the Council felt that speaker series such as this one should receive funding. The Chair said that the Special Projects sub-committee would look at this issue and make a recommendation to the Council. Ms. Poletti raised the on-going issue of whether or not projects such as the CSU Speaker Series should continue to receive funding year after year. She questioned why they were not charging a nominal entry fee for people to

attend the event, thereby reducing the dependence on funding from sources such as CCSL. Several student representatives voiced their opinion that introducing an entry fee would make it very difficult for organizers to get students to attend such events. The Council doubted if the CSU Speaker Series could ever become self-sustainable and tried to focus their deliberations instead on the overall impact of the project on student life at the university. A main concern raised by the Council was the project organizers commitment to paying huge speaker fees, without taking into account such things as non-residence tax fees. The Council wished to support the project without supporting the high speaker fees, therefore decided to direct their funding to booking expenses.

Ms. Harrison put forth the following motion, seconded by Mr. Vaccaro:

Be it resolved that the project "CSU Speaker Series 2014-2015" be approved for \$2,200 of funding from the CCSL Special Projects Fund for the room booking, set up and security expenses.

For: 10

Against: 0

Abstentions: 3

The motion passed.

"2015 John Molson MBA International Case Competition", presented by Mr. Roberto Blanc and Ms. Rasha Dergham. Amount requested: \$11,000

The Chair recalled that this project had been approved for \$2,000 in the 2013-2014 academic year, but had not claimed the funding. The Special Projects sub-committee recommended that the project be declined funding as they felt that it did not really need funding from CCSL, since they appeared to be very capable of finding external sponsorship. Ms. Barrafato argued that the Council should not punish the applicants for being very organized and sophisticated in their proposal. She felt that the Council should instead encourage and reward this type of project. Mr. Longinotti expressed his support of the volunteer aspect of the project, adding that many students would benefit from access and exposure to the business world. Although the Council felt that it should not concern itself with prestige from being associated with such a large event, it also recognized the importance of the CCSL being known within the university and wider community.

Mr. Vaccaro put forth the following motion, seconded by Mr. Longinotti:

Be it resolved that the project "2015 John Molson MBA International Case Competition" be approved for \$3,000 of funding from the CCSL Special Projects Fund for the food for volunteers expense. \$1,000 of the funding will come from the 2014-2015 fund, while \$2,000 will come from the approved amount from the 2013-2014 academic year that was never claimed by the applicant.

The motion passed unanimously.

6. NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Robinson announced that Counselling & Development would be holding a Stress Clinic that day from 10am-2pm in H-440. On November 14, 2014 there would be a Career Clinic where students would complete a short self-assessment, followed by feedback from a career counsellor or career advisor.

Ms. Tangestanifar reported that the week of November 24, 2014 was Financial Literacy Week. The Financial Aid & Awards Office (FAAO) would have a table in the EV building to give out brochures with advice for students on how to budget. From November 25-28th, the FAAO would be giving two workshops daily; Budgeting To Your Values and Student Banking 101. More information was available on the FAAO website. Mr. Vaccaro suggested that Ms. Tangestanifar send this information to the Communications Coordinator at the CSU and he would send it out in their newsletter to undergraduate students. It was noted that the undergraduate newsletter could be used to promote any events.

Ms. Barrafato said that the Concordia University Part-time Faculty Association (CUPFA) would be hosting the next MicroTalk event entitled “*Equity and Engagement*” on October 29th at 6:30pm in the EV building during Campus Equity Week. She directed the Council to the website *cupfa.org* for more information.

Ms. Poletti reminded the Council that October 28, 2014 was fall convocation and she wished to congratulate all the students who were graduating. Ms. Poletti also noted that November 8, 2014 was the Concordia Open House.

Ms. Toscano announced that the Concordia Stingers football team would be playing against Ottawa the following day. A win would mean the team would secure a spot at nationals.

The Chair reported that there were still vacant positions on both the Special Projects and Awards sub-committees. The Special Projects sub-committee needed one Student Services staff member and one faculty member. The CCSL Awards sub-committee needed one faculty member and three undergraduate student representatives.

7. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on November 21, 2014 at SGW, H-769 at 10am.

8. TERMINATION OF MEETING

Dr. Nelson motioned to terminate the meeting. Dr. Skinner seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.