

**Minutes from a Meeting of the Concordia Council on Student Life
Held on November 25, 2016
SGW EV 2.184, 10am**

PRESENT: Andrew Woodall (Chair), Lauren Broad (Secretary), Leo Dixon A, Amir Aghdam (replacing Brad Nelson), Temi Akin-Aina, Gaya Arasaratnam, Anca Baban, Patrick Boivin, Annette Bowen, Chantal Forgues, Laura Gallo, Rachel Gauthier, Jana Ghalayini, Alexandre Klaponski, Laura Mitchell, Jason Poirier Lavoie, Tanya Poletti, D'Arcy Ryan, Maria Safos (replacing Stephanie Sarik), Cameron Skinner, Brigitte St-Laurent, Daniel Therrien, Rami Yahia.

ABSENT WITH REGRETS: Marie-Josée Allard, Claudie Boujaklian, Lisa Ostiguy, Lorraine Toscano.

ABSENT: Théo Denieul, Darren Dumoulin, Julie Gagné, Emeric Guerrand-Anderson, Sharon Hunter, Armani Martel.

GUEST: Beth McKenna.

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Patrick Boivin moved to approve the agenda. Gaya Arasaratnam seconded the motion.

The Chair requested to remove item 5.2 from the agenda, as Terry Kyle was unable to attend the meeting for the presentation.

The amended motion was put forth to approve the agenda with *Report from the Dean of Students Office* removed.

The motion passed unanimously.

2. REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR

The Chair welcomed Council members to the final CCSL meeting of 2016, saying a highlight from the year was that Concordia athletes were increasingly found on the list of All Canadians, a great source of pride for the university. Andrew Woodall introduced Amir Aghdam and Maria Safos, replacing Brad Nelson and Stephanie Sarik respectively at the meeting. The Chair reminded the CCSL that traditionally, those representing voting members would take their voting role for that meeting, however this might be something the Council would want to confirm when reviewing the CCSL mandate.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE MEETING OF OCTOBER 28, 2016

Rachel Gauthier moved to approve the minutes from the meeting of October 28, 2016 and Jason Poirier Lavoie seconded the motion.

In favour: 13

Against: 0

Abstentions: 1

The motion passed.

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 28, 2016

There was no business arising from the minutes of October 28, 2016.

5. REPORTS AND ITEMS OF INFORMATION

5.1 Presentation on the National Survey on Student Engagement (NSSE) Findings

The Chair welcomed Jonathan Levinson from the Office of Institutional Planning & Analysis to the Council meeting. Jonathan Levinson gave a Power Point presentation on the 2014 NSSE findings, explaining that the data should not be read as a report card, but that it was simply the aggregated responses from Concordian students who took the survey, compared to other institutions.

Following the presentation, a discussion ensued that included whether or not academic advising at Concordia was giving its students the support they needed. Jonathan Levinson said that the survey showed that Concordia did not have a problem with undergraduate student engagement at this point, however the issue was with academic advising. Some Council members questioned whether requiring a student to see an advisor was beneficial, or if could it also have negative implications for some students. A point was raised that there could be a link between academic advising and retention, which should make it of great importance to the university. Jonathan Levinson reminded the Council that diversity among Concordia's student population was a source of strength and pride for the university, which was why they felt it was important to emphasize improvements in its own performance from year to year, rather than comparing to other institutions. The Council agreed that it would be important to determine the need for academic advising for students and to survey them to find out their true experiences. Andrew Woodall said that they would share some of the information heard at the meeting with the Associate Academic Cabinet, in their discussions on retention and advising. The Power Point presentation would be shared with Council members for their information following the meeting.

5.2 Report from the Student Success Centre

Laura Mitchell, Director of the Student Success Centre (SSC), gave a Power Point presentation on the services and programs that fell under the Centre. They recalled that the SSC was one-and-a-half years old, created following the restructuring of several departments under the Student Services sector. A discussion followed the presentation, with Council members sharing their positive feedback from students about the many services offered by the SSC. Laura Mitchell said that the SSC was building relationships with high schools and cegeps, creating a strong link to potential students and introducing them to the Centre, which coordinates programing for new students. Some Council members shared their concern that it was unclear to students which department they should consult for particular issues and Laura Mitchell emphasized the importance of communication and partnership between offices. They added that while one office may be more equipped than another to meet a specific need, it was crucial to direct students to the appropriate department. Laura Mitchell pointed out that some faculties may offer similar services for their own students, however all Concordia students were entitled to use the Student Services departments, a benefit of paying the Student Services fee.

5.3 CCSL Sub-Committees

5.3.1 CCSL Special Projects

The Chair reported that the Special Projects sub-committee had met in October for the first of two full-day review meetings. They would meet again in late February to review winter applications. Although the sub-committee reached quorum at the first meeting, there remained vacant seats. It was noted that the following positions needed to be filled: one undergraduate student, one graduate student, one student from Continuing Education (or another undergraduate student), and one faculty member, not necessarily from CCSL. The Chair asked anyone interested to contact the secretary of CCSL.

5.3.2 CCSL Awards

The Chair reported that the Awards sub-committee would meet for a two or three hour meeting sometime in late February or early March 2017. It was noted that Patrick Boivin would chair the sub-committee once again, however the following positions remained vacant: three undergraduate students, one graduate student, and one faculty member from CCSL. The Chair asked anyone interested to contact the secretary of CCSL.

6. NEW BUSINESS

Points of Interest

Tanya Poletti wished the students good luck in their upcoming exams.

Beth McKenna said that Alumni Relations would be randomly giving out gifts to students the following week, such as coffee cards for themselves and a friend, in an effort to engage with students. They would be at MB Atrium and at the Loyola campus.

Brigitte St-Laurent reported that the third of four phases of the Library transformation was almost complete. There was no confirmed opening date at the time, however they were sure that it would be a wonderful improvement for the Concordia community. Students would be able to enter by the main staircase in the

Library Building. Brigitte St-Laurent had brought cards listing the services offered to students, for Council members to display in their respective areas.

Rachel Gauthier recalled that they had requested a more detailed financial statement from the department of Recreation & Athletics at the September CCSL meeting. The Chair acknowledged the request and said that they would connect Rachel Gauthier with Patrick Boivin to discuss further.

7. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was scheduled for January 27, 2017, 10am at Loyola, GE-110.

8. TERMINATION OF MEETING

Alexandre Klaponski motioned to terminate the meeting. Cameron Skinner seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.