

Minutes from a Meeting of the Concordia Council on Student Life
Held on November 24, 2017
SGW MB 9 BC, 10am

PRESENT: Andrew Woodall (Chair), Lauren Broad (Secretary), Gaya Arasaratnam, Annette Bowen, Amy Caron, Andrea Cartile, Théo Denieul, Doug Gardhouse (replacing Stephanie Sarik), Paul Joyce, Terry Kyle, Laura Mitchell, Erin Mullins (replacing Temi Akin-Aina), Irene Petsopoulos, D'Arcy Ryan, Veronika Rydzewski, Cameron Skinner, Leyla Sutherland, Mark Underwood.

ABSENT WITH REGRETS: Marie-Josée Allard, Melanie Burnett, Dianne Cmor, Christian Durand, Lauren Farley, Chantal Forgues, Leo Dixon A. Irudhayaraju, Lisa Ostiguy, Tanya Poletti, Daniel Therrien, Lorraine Toscano.

ABSENT: Darren Dumoulin, Eamon Toohey.

GUESTS: Leanne Ashworth, Johnny El Hage.

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Terry Kyle moved to approve the agenda. Leyla Sutherland seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

2. REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR

The Chair began the meeting with Concordia's territorial acknowledgement and continued by noting several world events that marked 2017. Some highlights from Concordia were acknowledged, such as the approval of a sustainability policy and the increased accountability that students were having for one another's safety during Orientation/Frosh activities.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE MEETING OF OCTOBER 27, 2017

Mark Underwood moved to approve the minutes from the meeting of October 27, 2017 and Andrea Cartile seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 27, 2017

There was no business arising from the minutes of October 27, 2017.

5. REPORTS AND ITEMS OF INFORMATION

5.1 HOJO Presentation of 2016-2017 Annual Report & Financial Statement and 2017-2018 Budget

The Chair recalled that the CCSL contributed \$20,000.00 annually to the CSU Off-Campus Housing and Job Bank (HOJO) to support the vital services it provided to students. They welcomed Leanne Ashworth, Coordinator of HOJO, who gave a presentation to the Council. Leanne Ashworth noted that the acronym HOJO had been updated to the Off-Campus Housing and Job Resource Centre to give a more clear understanding to students of HOJO's purpose. The presentation provided the Council members with information on the many services provided, statistics on several features of the centre, as well as the financials for HOJO. Leanne Ashworth confirmed that many international students who are coming to study at Concordia are cheated out of money before they even arrive, through online offers for work or housing opportunities. One of the Centre's main goals is to help students prevent this from happening. After going over the HOJO financials from 2016-2017, as well as the budget for 2017-2018, Leanne Ashworth confirmed that the CSU would not be asking the CCSL for its annual contribution this fiscal year. An unanticipated increase in other sources of revenue had put HOJO in a favourable financial position, allowing them to proceed as planned without the CCSL's contribution. Leanne Ashworth was hopeful that the 2017-2018 funding would be used instead to support other great student initiatives. The Chair thanked Leanne Ashworth for the presentation and for the continued excellence in services provided by HOJO to Concordia students.

5.2 Presentation by the Dean of Students Office: the SPARK! Campaign

The Chair welcomed Mark Underwood and Johnny El Hage to the meeting and recalled that funding for their present work had come from innovation funds designated to the Student Services sector by the Ministry of Education. The two Concordia students were hired to work on the SPARK! Campaign out of the Dean of Students Office. They gave a Power Point presentation, explaining that the intention was to understand how and why students engage in activities that support their success. With this understanding, a campaign would be launched to inform staff and faculty of resources available to them to support their work in student engagement, as well as to develop outreach strategies to encourage students to become more engaged in such activities. A lively discussion ensued following the presentation and several members of the Council noted the campaign's link to initiatives they were currently working on as well. Mark Underwood pointed out that the technology they used to collect data, through Meetingsift.com, was an easy and interactive way to capture students' attention. It allowed them to gather data easily in a classroom setting using the students' mobile phones. Mark Underwood pointed out that this was a very preliminary presentation of the information gathered and that now they would work on analysing the data in order to launch a campaign around student engagement in the future. Despite the crude data, a few recurring themes were noted such as the students' desire for a nap space on campus, as well as being in an emotional state of feeling overwhelmed and like crying. The Chair thanked Mark Underwood and Johnny El Hage for the presentation. Members of the Council were encouraged to email the students directly at spark@concordiaorientation.ca for more information on the campaign and for potential collaboration.

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1 Student Success Centre: Update on Next Generation Skills

Laura Mitchell gave a brief update to the Council on the Student Success Week held during October by the Student Success Centre (SSC). The SSC focused on student engagement, asking students questions such as "What does success mean to you?" and "What personal or professional skills would you like to develop?". Laura Mitchell noted that funding for development of the Next Generation Skills came from a donation from a previous Board of Governors member who was interested in helping students transition from student life to the outside world. They added that while Concordia does a wonderful job assisting students during their time at the university, many finish their degree feeling that they may be lacking in real-world skills necessary for their success following their post-secondary experience. Laura Mitchell acknowledged that undergraduate students lacked services similar to the existing Grad Pro Skills, which offered professional development workshops and resources designed for graduate students. Laura Mitchell reported that Andrea Taylor was the Project Coordinator for Next Generation Skills and that they had already met with many Concordia staff to build key relationships for connecting students with existing services. Andrea Taylor continued to meet with students, staff and faculty to identify the soft and hard skills that were recognized as necessary for student success during and after their university life. It was anticipated that Andrea Taylor would provide a more detailed presentation of findings to the Council in the winter semester.

6.2 Campus Wellness & Support Services: Update on the Review on Student Health and Well-being

Gaya Arasaratnam provided the Council with a brief update on the Student Health and Well-being Review Committee, commissioned by President Alan Shepherd. They noted the committee's mandate to examine the following six areas that contribute to a healthy campus environment:

- Classroom environments where both well-being and intellectual rigour thrive
- Policies and procedures that support student well-being
- Services and supports for students related to health and well-being
- Opportunities for personal growth and development
- Physical spaces that promote well-being and accessibility
- Connections to campus

Gaya Arasaratnam reported that the review committee had been discussing these domains with approximately 36 Subject Matter Experts from the university. Several Ideas Cafés were held in November for the university community, in which many interesting and thoughtful ideas were expressed. Recommendations were to be given to the President by December 18th and their review would take place in the winter 2018 semester. Gaya Arasaratnam advised Council members to email deputyprovost@concordia.ca with any recommendations or suggestions.

6.3 Points of Interest

Several upcoming events at the university were noted:

- November 24-26: men and women's basketball and hockey games. The women's basketball and hockey teams were both ranked top 10 in the league.
- November 29-30: Rapid HIV testing Clinic from 12-4pm in H-711, by the CSU and Health Services.
- December 1: "Don't Buy That" at the Hive, a DYI holiday gift event by the Dish Project and the Concordia University Centre for Creative Reuse (CUCCR).
- December 9: holiday skate party with the Concordia Stingers at the Loyola campus.

Terry Kyle said that the Dean of Students Office was looking to hire work-study student staff for their lunchtime reception coverage at the SGW office during the winter semester. They asked Council members to refer eligible students to their office.

Amy Caron noted that a survey from Facilities Management had been circulated to the Concordia community in an effort to gain valuable feedback from its users. They encouraged everyone to participate in the survey.

7. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was scheduled for January 19, 2018 at Loyola GE-110, 10am.

8. TERMINATION OF MEETING

Paul Joyce motioned to terminate the meeting. Cameron Skinner seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.