

**Minutes from a Meeting of the Concordia Council on Student Life  
Held on October 25, 2019  
Loyola AD 311, 10am**

**PRESENT:** Andrew Woodall (Chair), Lauren Broad (Secretary), Anjali Agarwal, Marie-Josée Allard, Ashley Allen, Orenda Boucher-Curotte, Melanie Burnett, Elaine Cheasley Paterson, Dianne Cmor, Stéphanie De Celles, Juliet Dunphy, Christian Durand, Lauren Farley, James Hanna, Steve Houde (replacing Darren Dumoulin), Cassandra Lamontagne, Eduardo Malorni, Esther Morand, Gabriella Pedicelli (replacing Matthew Fishman), Ahmadou Sakho, Stephanie Sarik, Lindsay Surerus, Hector Vega, Tori (Haitan) Zhang (replacing Nedgy Augustin).

**ABSENT WITH REGRETS:** Temi Akin-Aina, Gaya Arasaratnam, Laura Mitchell, Shawn Moss, Nell Perry, Tanya Poletti, Keroles Riad, D'Arcy Ryan.

**1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Ashley Allen moved to approve the agenda. Lauren Farley seconded the motion.

*The motion passed unanimously.*

**2. REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR**

The Chair opened the meeting with Concordia's territorial acknowledgement. The Chair noted that the main objective of the meeting was to view the presentations of the CCSL Special Project applications for requests of over \$5,000.00. They added that time would be very limited since there were eleven presentations. Despite this, the Chair was confident that the Council would work thoughtfully and efficiently in their decision making.

**3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

**3.1 Approval of the Minutes from the Meeting of March 15, 2019**

Eduardo Malorni moved to approve the minutes from the meeting of March 15, 2019 and Elaine Cheasley Paterson seconded the motion.

In favour: 3  
Against: 0  
Abstentions: 8

*The motion passed.*

**3.2 Approval of the Minutes from the Meeting of April 5, 2019**

Eduardo Malorni moved to approve the minutes from the meeting of April 5, 2019 and Orenda Boucher-Curotte seconded the motion.

In favour: 4  
Against: 0  
Abstentions: 7

*The motion passed.*

**3.3 Approval of the Minutes from the Meeting of May 3, 2019**

Eduardo Malorni moved to approve the minutes from the meeting of May 3, 2019 and Esther Morand seconded the motion.

In favour: 8  
Against: 0  
Abstentions: 3

*The motion passed.*

### **3.4 Approval of the Minutes from the Meeting of September 20, 2019**

Ahmadou Sakho moved to approve the minutes from the meeting of September 20, 2019 and Stephanie Sarik seconded the motion.

In favour: 4

Against: 0

Abstentions: 7

*The motion passed.*

### **4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

There was no business arising from the minutes of March 15, 2019, April 5, 2019, May 3, 2019 or September 20, 2019.

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

#### **5.1 CCSL Sub-Committees**

##### **CCSL Special Projects:**

##### **Update on review of projects requesting \$5,000.00 and under**

The Chair reported that the sub-committee had not been able to meet in order to decide on funding for applications requesting \$5,000.00 and less. They hoped that the review meeting would take place in the next week or so, once all sub-committee members had been confirmed.

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

Considering that the sub-committee had not met to decide on funding, the Chair provided the average amount approved over the past three fall semesters as a reference. If the Council decided to follow past trends, the Chair suggested that the Council set aside approximately \$25,000.00 for all applications being reviewed that day at the meeting. This would leave a balance of \$50,000.00 for fall applications requesting \$5,000.00 and less, plus \$60,000.00 for all winter 2020 applications. The Council decided to proceed with this amount as a flexible target in their decision making after the presentations were done.

The Chair noted some points for the Council to remember in their deliberations:

- New projects would be considered before recurring projects
- Extent to which the project engages students in social, political, educational or cultural awareness
- Impact on students (breadth and depth of the project)
- Clarity and appropriateness of the budget
- Need (other sources of funding, extravagance of expenses, etc.)

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 a discussion of each project individually, providing their comments and concerns, as well as a suggested amount for funding, if any at all.

The following provides a summary of the discussion for each project, as well as the motion put forth and approved.

##### **“SEIZE Conference 2020”, presented by Naomi Barney Purdie, Myriam Bélanger, Nicolas Aubin-Audet and Susie Lasalle. Amount requested: \$12,000.00**

Several Council members voiced their concerns around the organization of the project and questioned the viability of it taking place in March 2020, considering that no venue had been confirmed. The Council members were supportive of the themes of the conference, such as sustainable business development, however the application and presentation did not give them enough confidence in the project itself to warrant their support in funding.

Esther Morand put forth the following motion, seconded by Ahmadou Sakho:

*Be it resolved that no funding be approved for the project “SEIZE Conference 2020” from the CCSL Special Projects Fund.*

For: 11  
Against: 0  
Abstentions: 1

***The motion passed.***

**“Compétition Québécoise d’Ingenierie 2020”, presented by Philippe Lorange, Alex Stojda and Itamar Keren. Amount requested: \$15,000.00**

The Council was very supportive of the project and was impressed with the presentation. There was some concern expressed that only engineering students would benefit from the competition, including some that were not Concordia students. It was noted that such a large-scale competition would benefit Concordia as a whole by bringing attention to the university itself.

James Hanna put forth the following motion, seconded by Lauren Farley:

*Be it resolved that the project “Compétition Québécoise d’Ingenierie 2020” be approved for \$5,000.00 of funding from the CCSL Special Projects Fund.*

For: 10  
Against: 2  
Abstentions: 0

***The motion passed.***

**“Katalis - Concordia”, presented by Walid Berbara, Andrew Davis and Sarah-Denise Luemba. Amount requested: \$8,000.00**

The Council felt that this was a very worthy project to support and recognized their effort to connect and empower members of underrepresented communities locally. It was noted that the majority of expenses were to send students to Haiti, however the funding requested would cover the local initiatives described in the application and presentation.

Esther Morand put forth the following motion, seconded by Anjali Agarwal:

*Be it resolved that the project “Katalis - Concordia” be approved for \$3,000.00 of funding from the CCSL Special Projects Fund.*

For: 6  
Against: 4  
Abstentions: 2

***The motion passed.***

**“Loyola Speaker Series”, presented by Victoria Pesce. Amount requested: \$7,000.00**

Seeing that the application was submitted on behalf of the Concordia Student Union (CSU), several student representatives removed themselves from the room for the discussion and abstained from voting. The Council members felt that the presentation was not very informative and that the presenter was not able to answer all of their questions concerning the speakers and logistics of the speaker series. A main concern raised was the variance between the amounts paid as honoraria for the guest speakers. Some Council members expressed that they would have liked to see the CSU and faculties contribute more to the project.

Lauren Farley put forth the following motion, seconded by Juliet Dunphy:

*Be it resolved that no funding be approved for the project “Loyola Speaker Series” from the CCSL Special Projects Fund.*

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstentions: 6

***The motion passed.***

**“Nowruz Project”, presented by Reihan Ebrahimi and Hadi Jamali. Amount requested: \$8,070.00**

The CCSL agreed that the project was a great way to bring many diverse groups together at the university in a positive and uplifting way. It was noted that the project would offer several days of various events that could reach many students across campus. The Council raised a concern around safety at events including guest speakers that may or may not pose a security risk. It was noted that all events on campus are vetted by the Security department and measures would have to be put in place if any risks were identified ahead of time.

Esther Morand put forth a motion to approve the project for \$6,000.00, however no one seconded the motion.

Ahmadou Sakho put forth the following motion, seconded by Elaine Cheasley Paterson:

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

For: 7

Against: 4

Abstentions: 1

***The motion passed.***

**“Theology in the City 2019 – Resilience & Hope in a Time of Suspicion and Fear”, presented by Guylaine Lemay and Scott Royle. Amount requested: \$10,000.00**

The Council members were concerned that not enough outreach had been done to connect with specific departments at the university, such as the Aboriginal Student Resource Centre (ASRC) and the Faculty of Fine Arts, despite the presenters’ belief that it had been done. The CCSL felt that the department of Theology itself stood to benefit more from the project than the Concordia student population as a whole. They noted that the project appeared to be led by the department of Theology rather than by students.

Orenda Boucher-Curotte put forth the following motion, seconded Elaine Cheasley Paterson:

*Be it resolved that no funding be approved for the project “Theology in the City 2019 – Resilience & Hope in a Time of Suspicion and Fear” from the CCSL Special Projects Fund.*

For: 10

Against: 1

Abstentions: 1

***The motion passed.***

**“The Hive Café/Woodnote Collaboration”, presented by Calvin Clarke and Chloe Williams. Amount requested: \$6,500.00**

The Council was very supportive of a collaboration between the Hive Café and the Woodnote Co-operative, however it was highlighted that the request for funding was for a market feasibility study to see if the collaboration would be a sound investment. The Council felt that while performing a feasibility study was a responsible thing to do, it acknowledged this was not something that the Council had ever supported in the past.

The Council felt that it would not be an appropriate use of the CCSL Special Projects Fund. The CCSL noted that should the collaboration itself be approved following the study, it may consider supporting a future request for funding.

Stephanie Sarik put forth the following motion, seconded by Esther Morand:

*Be it resolved that no funding be approved for the project “The Hive Café/Woodnote Collaboration” from the CCSL Special Projects Fund.*

For: 8  
Against: 0  
Abstentions: 4

***The motion passed.***

**“CASA Leadership Summit in Collaboration with ECA and ASFA”, presented by Karina Bosca and Zach Eichler. Amount requested: \$7,000.00**

The Council members felt that the application and presentation did not capture them enough to warrant support for the project. They believed that the budget focused too heavily on food and drinks, despite the claim from the presenters that they had already reduced these costs. While the Council saw value in holding a summit on leadership, the timing of the project was problematic. The Council felt that this project would be much more beneficial to Concordia students in the fall semester, as they were taking on their leadership roles. The Council wished to encourage the applicants to reconsider the timing and organization of the project and to reapply in the next funding year.

Esther Morand put forth the following motion, seconded by Lindsay Surerus:

*Be it resolved that no funding be approved for the project “CASA Leadership Summit in Collaboration with ECA and ASFA” from the CCSL Special Projects Fund.*

For: 10  
Against: 0  
Abstentions: 2

***The motion passed.***

**“Base 11 Space Challenge”, presented by Oleg Khalimonov. Amount requested: \$34,450.00**

The Council members were very supportive of the project and questioned only how much funding they were willing to approve. Several members of the Council wished to give the full amount requested, noting the excellent presentation and impressive achievements to date of Space Concordia. Other members argued that the group would continue to be dependent on funding from the CCSL should they continue to approve funding each year. They felt that more corporate sponsorship was a viable option to further fund the project.

Orenda Boucher-Curotte put forth the following motion, seconded by Esther Morand:

*Be it resolved that the project “Base 11 Space Challenge” be approved for \$10,000.00 from the CCSL Special Projects Fund.*

Discussion continued on the amount put forth in the motion. Eduardo Malorni suggested an amendment to the motion to increase the amount approved to \$15,000.00. The amended amount was rejected.

The motion was put to a vote as originally stated.

For: 7  
Against: 4  
Abstentions: 1

***The motion passed.***

**“ConcordAI R&D Mentorship Program & Climate Change AI Hackathon”, presented by Timothy Pereira. Amount requested: \$12,934.98**

The CCSL acknowledged the outstanding reputation earned by ConcordAI for their past events and wished to support the project. The Council was particularly pleased to see how inclusive the hackathon was and how many diverse communities were represented by the participants and experts involved. Several Council members reported having heard very positive feedback from participants.

Esther Morand put forth the following motion, seconded by Orenda Boucher-Curotte:

*Be it resolved that the project “ConcordAI R&D Mentorship Program & Climate Change AI Hackathon” be approved for \$6,000.00 of funding from the CCSL Special Projects Fund.*

For: 8  
Against: 3  
Abstentions: 1

***The motion passed unanimously.***

**“Waste Not, Want Not”, presented by Keroles Riad. Amount requested: \$10,000.00**

The Council members acknowledged the great work that had been accomplished by this initiative over the past several years. It was noted that several university departments, such as Facilities Management and Environmental Health & Safety, had played a significant role in the success of the compost campaign on campus. The CCSL pointed out that there had been a roll-over of funds from previous years, which could influence the perceived need for continued funding. The Council deliberated over the fact that most expenses appeared to be operating costs, however still wished to support the project with funding.

Lindsay Surerus put forth the following motion, seconded by Orenda Boucher-Curotte:

*Be it resolved that the project “Waste Not, Want Not” be approved for \$1,000.00 of funding from the CCSL Special Projects Fund.*

A discussion ensued on the proposed amount of funding, with Esther Morand suggesting an amended amount to approve of \$4,000.00. The amended amount was rejected.

The motion was put to a vote as originally stated.

For: 10  
Against: 2  
Abstentions: 0

***The motion passed unanimously.***

## **6. NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business discussed.

## **7. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting was scheduled for November 22, 2019, 10am at SGW, GM 340.10.

## **8. TERMINATION OF MEETING**

Orenda Boucher-Curotte motioned to terminate the meeting. Eduardo Malorni seconded the motion.

***The motion passed unanimously.***