

**Minutes from a Meeting of the Concordia Council on Student Life
Held on March 6, 2020
SGW MB9 EFG, 10am**

PRESENT: Andrew Woodall (Chair), Lauren Broad (Secretary), Ashley Allen, Dianne Cmor, Juliet Dunphy, Lauren Farley, Matthew Fishman, James Hanna, Cassandra Lamontagne, Anne-Marie Lanctôt (replacing Gaya Arasaratnam), Eduardo Malorni, Laura Mitchell, Esther Morand, Arnau Payette, Nell Perry, Keroles Riad, D'Arcy Ryan.

ABSENT WITH REGRETS: Anjali Agarwal, Temi Akin-Aina, Marie-Josée Allard, Orenda Boucher-Curotte, Christian Durand, Ali Hassan, Shawn Moss, Elaine Cheasley Paterson, Tanya Poletti, Stephanie Sarik, Tori (Haitao) Zhang (replacing Nedgy Augustin).

ABSENT: Melanie Burnett, Erin Campbell, Stéphanie De Celles, Darren Dumoulin, Hector Vega.

1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

James Hanna 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.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

3.1 Approval of the Minutes from the Meeting of November 22, 2019

D'Arcy Ryan moved to approve the minutes from the meeting of November 22, 2019 and James Hanna seconded the motion.

In favour: 9

Against: 0

Abstentions: 3

The motion passed.

3.2 Approval of the Minutes from the Meeting of January 24, 2020

Eduardo Malorni moved to approve the minutes from the meeting of January 24, 2020 and Keroles Riad seconded the motion.

In favour: 10

Against: 0

Abstentions: 2

The motion passed.

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

4.1 Business Arising from the Minutes of November 22, 2019

There was no business arising from the minutes of November 22, 2019.

4.2 Business Arising from the Minutes of January 24, 2020

Motion to Approve the Annual Funding to HOJO

The Chair referred to the motion had been circulated to Council members prior to the meeting, to approve the annual funding of \$20,000.00 to HOJO. The Chair recalled that the CSU Off-Campus Housing & Job

Resource Centre (HOJO) offered students services that the university did not and that they had not collected the annual funding for the past two years as they had not required it. The presentation given to the Council in January requested that the funding for 2019-2020 go specifically towards the CSU's Homeshare Project, which would tackle the housing rental shortage problem that was facing many students in Montreal.

Several Council members questioned why the CCSL earmarked \$20,000.00 annually for HOJO and why they did not go through the usual application process as other student groups to request funding through the CCSL Special Projects Fund. Some members questioned the appropriateness of putting forth a motion without knowing the history behind CCSL's annual funding to HOJO. It was suggested to delay a vote until more information could be collected. Others wanted to move forward with a vote on the motion and to have a discussion at a later date about future years. They argued that HOJO was depending on the funding from CCSL for the current year and that it would be unfair to take that away from them without any previous notification. The Council agreed to vote on whether or not they wished to put forth the motion to approve the annual funding for HOJO.

The following motion was put forth by Keroles Riad, seconded by Esther Morand:

Be it resolved that the CCSL put forth and vote on the motion to approve annual funding earmarked for HOJO for 2019-2020.

In favour: 9

Against: 0

Abstentions: 3

The motion passed.

The Chair agreed that the Dean of Students Office would investigate the history behind the annual funding from the CCSL to HOJO and would report back to the Council at a future meeting for further discussion.

The following motion was put forth by Keroles Riad, seconded by Esther Morand:

Whereas the Coordinator of the CSU Off-Campus Housing & Job Resource Centre (HOJO) presented the HOJO 2018-2019 Annual Report and Financial Statement, and the 2019-2020 budget at the January 24, 2020 CCSL meeting; and

Whereas HOJO continues to provide valuable services to both undergraduate and graduate students at Concordia that are not being provided by any other offices; and

Whereas the annual funding provided to HOJO by CCSL is crucial for maintaining and improving the essential and unique services it provides to students at Concordia; and

Whereas the annual funding would be used to pay for the expenses related to the Homeshare Project, as outlined in the presentation to the CCSL at its January 24, 2020 CCSL meeting;

Be it resolved that:

The Concordia Council on Student Life approve the transfer of its annual contribution of \$20,000.00 to the Off-Campus Housing and Job Resource Centre via the CSU for its Homeshare Project.

A discussion ensued and Council members asked if support would be provided by HOJO to students who would be involved in the Homeshare Project. Furthermore, they questioned whether there was a legal responsibility on the university's part to ensure the security of Concordia students who may be involved. The Chair was unsure of any legal obligation, however they acknowledged a moral responsibility on the part of the university. They confirmed that the CSU was a completely separate legal entity from the university. Eduardo Malorni said that all legal liability would be on the CSU, however they recognized that the external community would naturally associate the university with any incidents that may happen. Eduardo Malorni reported that if HOJO were to want funding for this project from the CSU, they would have to make a formal request to the Board of Directors.

The Council put the motion to a vote.

In favour: 5

Against: 0

Abstentions: 7

The motion passed.

5. REPORTS AND ITEMS OF INFORMATION

5.1 CCSL Sub-Committees

5.1.1 CCSL Awards: Outstanding Contribution Awards Update

The Chair reported that the sub-committee had met on February 25th to review the nominations for the CCSL Outstanding Contribution Awards. Stephanie Sarik had chaired the meeting, joined by Dianne Cmor, Eduardo Malorni and Nell Perry.

36 nominations had been received for 32 individuals, as some were nominated more than once. These included 22 students, 2 faculty members and 8 staff members. Awards will be given to 6 undergraduate students and 2 staff members who were nominated as a team. The Concordia Engagement Awards Night was scheduled for April 16th at the Loyola Chapel. All Council members would receive an invitation to the event. The Volunteer Recognition Awards, the Sustainability Champions Awards and the Safety Ambassador Awards would also be given out at the awards night.

5.1.2 CCSL Special Projects: Update on the review of projects requesting \$5,000.00 and less

The Chair reminded the Council that there was \$165,000.00 in the fund, with \$20,000.00 earmarked annually for HOJO and \$10,000.00 for the Committee Participation Awards Program (CPAP). After taking this into consideration, the CCSL Special Projects Fund had a balance of \$135,000.00 to be allocated over two submission deadlines.

The winter 2020 review meeting was held on February 21st. After all fall 2019 project allocations and considering several cancelled projects, the balance remaining for all winter 2020 requests was \$54,388.52.

- 74 applications requesting \$5,000.00 and less were considered, with a total amount requested of \$127,551.09.
- The review committee approved 67 projects for a total of \$44,017.53.
- There was \$10,371.00 remaining in the fund for the requests of over \$5,000.00.
- Any funds that are not allocated during this funding year will be held in trust with past years' unused funds.
- The total amount requested from the presentation to the Council was \$42,291.79

Presentation by applicants requesting over \$5,000.00

The Chair reminded the Council that they should consider both the breadth and depth of the project and its overall impact on student life at Concordia. They should consider the budget and other sources of funding as well.

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. The following presentations were made:

- *"Concordia AI R&D Climate Crisis Program"*, presented by Timothy Pereira. Amount requested: \$6,500.00
- *"Climate Change: Social Impacts"*, presented by Camina Harrison Chery, Hawa Keita, Natasha Guerriero. Amount requested: \$5,638.00
- *"CUTV Drone Pilot School"*, presented by Marcus Peters. Amount requested: \$5,025.00

- “SC ODIN’s FlatSat”, presented by Mario Sanchez and Vidhisha Patel. Amount requested: \$13,525.79
- “Datapalooza 2.0”, presented by Leora Bobrove. Amount requested: \$11,603.00

After all the presentations were done, the Council began by identifying the projects that they were not inclined to fund. The Council identified “CUTV Drone Pilot School” as a project that several Council members were not in support of funding.

“CUTV Drone Pilot School”

A recurring concern was that so few students would be impacted by the funding and furthermore that the knowledge and access they would acquire through training would leave with them after graduating from the university. The benefits to students who were trained in the pilot project would not have a lasting effect on the greater student population. Others felt that it was important to support students in their training and to promote new technologies that would help further the experience gained by Concordia students.

The following motion was put forth by James Hanna, seconded by Arnau Payette:

Be it resolved that the project “CUTV Drone Pilot School” be approved for \$500.00 of funding from the CCSL Special Projects Fund.

Discussion continued, with several Council members arguing that the project was still worthy of funding despite the fact that the students who would receive the training would eventually graduate and leave the university. Others would have liked to have seen a plan for how the individuals who receive the training would pass on their knowledge for the benefit of future students.

The motion was put to a vote:

In favour: 2
 Against: 4
 Abstentions: 5

The motion did not pass.

The following motion was put forth by Esther Morand, seconded by D’Arcy Ryan:

Be it resolved the no funding be approved for the project “CUTV Drone Pilot School” from the CCSL Special Projects Fund.

In favour: 3
 Against: 2
 Abstentions: 6

The motion passed.

The Council agreed to continue by discussing each project individually, providing their comments and concerns, as well as a suggested amount of funding, if any at all. Following the conclusion of the discussion, the suggested amounts would be reviewed and if acceptable to Council members, would be put to a vote one by one.

“Climate Change: Social Impacts”

The Council was very supportive of the project and praised the fact that it brought together CEED Concordia and the Refugee Centre. They noted the high impact and wide reach that the project would have on Concordia students and believed that the organizers were very well prepared and capable of making the project a success. After discussion, the suggested amount for the project was between \$4,000.00 and the full asking amount of \$5,638.00.

“Concordia AI R&D Climate Crisis Program”

The Council was supportive of the project, but acknowledged that Concordia AI had received \$6,000.00 in the fall semester for a similar project. They felt it was important to ensure that other student groups were able to benefit from funding as well. After discussion, the suggested amount for the project was \$2,500.00.

“SC ODIN’s FlatSat”

Overall the CCSL was supportive of the project, however several Council members were hesitant to approve a large amount of funding for the project since Space Concordia had received \$10,000.00 in the fall 2019 semester for another project. Again, the Council felt that funding should be more evenly distributed amongst student groups. Furthermore, some felt that Space Concordia was well-established enough to seek more financial support from external sponsors. After discussion, the suggested amount for the project was between \$0 and \$4,000.00.

“Datapalooza 2.0”

The Council had several concerns about the project, mainly relating to the logistics and coordination of the event. It was felt that the project organizers were unaware of the complexities of organizing such a large scale event, and it was apparent in their lack of knowledge of costs. It was also noted that sustainability had not been considered in planning the event. A few Council members recognized that there was a huge gap in the learning industry of data science, an issue that the project was aiming to address. This was seen as a positive impact on Concordia students, not to be dismissed. After discussion, it was suggested not to fund this project.

Throughout the discussion of all projects, the Council was very aware of the limited amount of funds remaining and acknowledged that they would likely want to fund much more than the suggested amounts, if it were available. Keroles Riad raised the concern that by funding only a small portion of the requested amount, the project would not have the ability to reach its full potential. They argued that it would be more effective to fund the full amount requested to a fewer number of projects. Keroles Riad felt that the Council should reconsider how it distributed the funding to address this very real issue, and to increase the amount of funding per project while reducing the number of projects that were approved. The Chair noted this recommendation for future discussion.

The following motion was put forth by Keroles Riad, seconded by Esther Morand:

Be it resolved that the project “Climate Change: Social Impacts” be approved for \$5,638.00 of funding from the CCSL Special Projects Fund.

In favour: 8
Against: 3
Abstentions: 0

The motion passed.

The following motion was put forth by D’Arcy Ryan, seconded by Ashley Allen:

Be it resolved that the project “Concordia AI R&D Climate Crisis Program” be approved for \$4,733.00 of funding from the CCSL Special Projects Fund”.

In favour: 4
Against: 7
Abstentions: 0

The motion did not pass.

The following motion was put forth by James Hanna, seconded by D'Arcy Ryan:

Be it resolved that the project "Concordia AI R&D Climate Crisis Program" be approved for \$4,000.00 of funding from the CCSL Special Projects Fund".

In favour: 5

Against: 6

Abstentions: 0

The motion did not pass.

The following motion was put forth by Eduardo Malorni, seconded by Esther Morand:

Be it resolved that the project "Concordia AI R&D Climate Crisis Program" be approved for \$3,000.00 of funding from the CCSL Special Projects Fund, with the remaining amount of \$1,733.00 approved for the project "SC ODIN's FlatSat".

In favour: 1

Against: 8

Abstentions: 2

The motion did not pass.

The following motion was put forth by Lauren Farley, seconded by Esther Morand:

Be it resolved that the project "Concordia AI R&D Climate Crisis Program" be approved for \$3,000.00 of funding from the CCSL Special Projects Fund".

In favour: 9

Against: 2

Abstentions: 0

The motion passed.

The following motion was put forth by Lauren Farley, seconded by Keroles Riad:

Be it resolved that the project "Datapalooza 2.0" be approved for \$733.00 of funding from the CCSL Special Projects Fund", with the remaining amount of \$1,000.00 approved for the project "SC ODIN's FlatSat".

Esther Morand requested to amend the motion to the following, and the amended motion was accepted and put to a vote:

Be it resolved that the project "Datapalooza 2.0" be approved for \$1,000.00 of funding from the CCSL Special Projects Fund", with the remaining amount of \$733.00 approved for the project "SC ODIN's FlatSat".

In favour: 8

Against: 2

Abstentions: 1

The motion passed.

6. NEW BUSINESS

The Chair encouraged the Concordia community to continue to follow public health recommendations that were issued regarding the emerging Covid-19 virus. They encouraged people to wash their hands, not to touch their face and to take necessary precautions to stay safe. The Chair directed Council members to the FAQ page on the Concordia website for updates on how the university was addressing the issue and for answers to many questions. They encouraged individuals to be aware of any symptoms they may be having, especially if they had recently returned from travel.

7. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was scheduled for April 3, 2020, Loyola AD-311, 10am.

8. TERMINATION OF MEETING

D'Arcy Ryan motioned to terminate the meeting. Esther Morand seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.