

**Minutes from a Meeting of the Concordia Council on Student Life  
Held on May 8, 2020  
Virtual Meeting on Zoom**

**PRESENT:** Andrew Woodall (Chair), Lauren Broad (Secretary), Anjali Agarwal, Marie-Josée Allard, Ashley Allen, Dianne Cmor, Juliet Dunphy, Lauren Farley, Matthew Fishman, James Hanna, Gaya Arasaratnam, Eduardo Malorni, Laura Mitchell, Shawn Moss, Elaine Cheasley Paterson, Arnau Payette, Nell Perry, Keroles Riad, D'Arcy Ryan, Tori (Haitao) Zhang (replacing Nedgy Augustin).

**ABSENT WITH REGRETS:** Stéphanie De Celles, Ali Hassan, Cassandra Lamontagne, Tanya Poletti, Stephanie Sarik.

**ABSENT:** Temi Akin-Aina, Orenda Boucher-Curotte, Melanie Burnett, Erin Campbell, Darren Dumoulin, Christian Durand, Esther Morand, Hector Vega.

**GUESTS:** Katie Broad, Mary Burns.

**1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

D'Arcy Ryan 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 acknowledged that this would be the last meeting of the CCSL for 2019-2020 and thanked members of the Council for attending the meeting virtually. They said the situation remained uncertain as to when the university campuses would reopen due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The Chair recognized the accomplishments of the Council over the past year, including the disbursement of funds through the Special Projects Fund, recognition of students, staff and faculty through the Outstanding Contribution Awards, acceptance of the new Student Services Mission and Vision. The Chair congratulated students for finishing the year in very unknown circumstances. They applauded Concordia staff, faculty and administration for their efforts in working remotely in order to continue to provide students with the best university experience possible.

**3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE MEETING OF MARCH 6, 2020**

Keroles Riad moved to approve the minutes from the meeting of March 6, 2020 and Nell Perry seconded the motion.

In favour: 12

Against: 0

Abstentions: 1

*The motion passed.*

**4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF MARCH 6, 2020**

**4.1 Annual Funding to HOJO**

The Chair recalled that at the March 6<sup>th</sup> meeting, several Council members had questioned why the Council continued to contribute an annual amount of \$20,000.00 to HOJO when there was a limited amount of funding available for an ever growing number of student projects. The Chair reported that the Dean of Students Office had gone through minutes from CCSL as far back as they had on file electronically, considering the university campuses remained closed, in order to clarify the history of how the annual contribution came to be. The minutes from May 1996 explained that in 1991-1992, employment services on campus for students was handled by the Canadian government. Employment Canada wanted to remove themselves from university campuses and at the time negotiated with universities in the province to take over the employment services. The settlement included seed money. Concordia agreed and Career and Placement Services (CAPS) was

established in Counselling & Development. The following agreements were made with CUSA, the undergraduate student union at the time:

- CAPS would handle graduating students and long-term career goals
- CUSA Job Bank would be responsible for “survival jobs”
- \$20,000.00 was given to CUSA to upgrade their job bank

The Chair explained that the minutes were limited from that point on and that it was unclear how the funding evolved into its current format. The Dean of Students Office would continue to research for clarity over the history of the funding over the course of the summer and would present their findings for consideration in the fall 2020 semester. Council members could then make a more informed decision around the annual funding given to HOJO from the CCSL.

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

### **5.1 Update on Ad-Hoc Committee on New Student Groups**

The Chair referred the Council to the document that was circulated prior to the meeting titled “Accepting and Disbanding New Student Groups” dated May 1, 2020 and summarized its content. A discussion ensued on the proposed changes to the process outlined in the document. The concern of privacy was raised with reference to collecting signatures from students to start a student group. Some worried about the security of these documents, however it was noted that once signatures were accounted for, the documents could be destroyed accordingly. Another concern was that collecting 50 signatures could become problematic depending on the size of the program association. It was suggested that the 50 signature minimum remain for non-program groups, however smaller groups could instead be required to get a proportion of the number of students in the program, or a number equivalent to quorum of the AGM as an alternative. The Chair noted the concerns raised and said that they would consider these in preparing a formal motion to present to the CCSL in the fall.

## **6. NEW BUSINESS**

### **6.1 CU Cares**

The Chair introduced Katie Broad, Coordinator of the LIVE Centre, who then gave a presentation to the Council on the new initiative CU Cares. CU Cares was born from the current reality of the pandemic, as a response to the impacts of the Coronavirus on the entire community. Katie Broad explained that the LIVE Centre had reached out to over 400 community organizations, asking them what their needs were, specifically virtual needs, with the intention of connecting Concordia students with safe volunteering opportunities. The Centre had also partnered with Alumni Relations and University Communication Services (UCS) to help promote the initiative more widely, and to include staff and faculty in the initiative. To date, over 400 individuals had signed up for opportunities such as making wellness calls to senior citizens who are isolated, face cover and mask making, shopping and delivery of food items. Katie Broad pointed out that over one-third of those who had signed up were students, which was quite remarkable and impressive, considering the stress and uncertainty experienced by students during this difficult time. They asked the CCSL to visit the website for more information and to contact the LIVE Centre with any ideas or suggestions for other opportunities for the initiative.

### **6.2 CU at Home**

Laura Mitchell gave a presentation to the Council members on another new initiative at the university, CU at Home. CU at Home’s goal was also to help the community cope during this difficult time by staying active, entertained, providing various learning opportunities and to break the isolation felt under quarantine. Laura Mitchell explained that the initiative included workshops, trainings, virtual art galleries and more for students, staff, faculty and alumni, as well as partners in the Montreal community. CU at Home was a hub for the many opportunities developing at the university through various departments, such as the Student Success Centre, Recreation and Athletics, Alumni, Campus Wellness & Psychological Services. Laura Mitchell added that new content was added online every Friday and welcomed everyone to share ideas and suggestions by getting in touch with them. It was noted that CU at Home could remain long after we were able to resume activity on the university campuses.

### **6.3 Points of Interest**

- The Chair noted that there would be some type of celebration for graduating students in mid-June, considering that convocation ceremonies would not be taking place. More information would be made available in the coming weeks.
- D'Arcy Ryan said that Recreation had organized an online tournament for Play Station 4 and Xbox video gaming to take place in late May to early June. Le Gym members could look forward to some classes being made available online.

### **7. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting would be held in September 2020, date to be confirmed.

### **8. TERMINATION OF MEETING**

D'Arcy Ryan motioned to terminate the meeting. Lauren Farley seconded the motion.

In favour: 10

Against: 0

Abstentions: 3

*The motion passed.*