

**Minutes from a Meeting of the Concordia Council on Student Life
Held on September 18, 2020
Virtual Meeting on Zoom**

PRESENT: Andrew Woodall (Chair), Lauren Broad (Secretary), Anjali Agarwal, Abdul Qadir Ali, Marie-Josée Allard, Gaya Arasaratnam, Dianne Cmor, Kaeleigh D’Ermo, Juliet Dunphy, Lauren Farley, Matthew Fishman, Mel Habib, Misseny Kourouma, Eduardo Malorni, Laura Mitchell, Erin Mullins (replacing Temi Akin-Aina), Elaine Cheasley Paterson, Nell Perry, Keroles Riad, D’Arcy Ryan, Michele Sandiford, Phoebe Tom, Dane Yvan Toualeu Djieukam, Hector Vega.

ABSENT WITH REGRETS: Cassandra Lamontagne, Irene Petsopoulos, Stephanie Sarik.

ABSENT: Melanie Burnett, Amelia Candoleta, Darren Dumoulin, Christian Durand.

GUESTS: Mary Burns (Minutes), Sue Callendar (FASA), Aaliyah Crawford (FASA), Hamza Muhammad (ASFA), David Ronci (ECA).

1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The Chair opened the meeting with Concordia’s territorial acknowledgement. They explained the procedures for conducting the meeting virtually.

Nell Perry moved to approve the agenda. Michele Sandiford seconded the motion.

In favour: 14

Against: 0

Abstentions: 1

The motion passed.

2. REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair welcomed the members of CCSL to the first meeting of 2020-2021. Andrew Woodall explained that the Council was a parity committee with equal representation from students and staff/faculty as voting members. As the highest non-academic committee at the university, the CCSL would make recommendations regarding the quality of student life on campus. They highlighted the importance of student life as part of the post-secondary experience and as a partner to academic life. The Chair emphasized that this year in particular student life was of vital importance. Although the Council would conduct business based on Robert’s Rules of Order, the Chair was confident that its members would work more based on mutual respect and thoughtful dialogue. Andrew Woodall emphasized that voting and non-voting members alike were encouraged to participate fully in the discussions at Council meetings.

The Chair recalled some of the Council’s main priorities for the year: dispersing \$135,000.00 to student projects through the CCSL Special Projects Fund, \$20,000.00 to the CSU Off-Campus Housing and Job Resource Centre (HOJO) and \$10,000.00 to the Committee Participation Recognition Program (CPRP); honouring Concordia students, staff and faculty through the CCSL Outstanding Contribution Awards; and discussion of other topics related to student life.

Andrew Woodall wished to acknowledge the hard work of student leaders in successfully organizing their Orientation/Frosh events. This year the student associations had to operate virtually and they organized many engaging and successful activities. The Chair also acknowledged the efforts and initiatives of many departments, including the Student Success Centre, Campus Wellness and Support Services, Residence Life, the LIVE Centre and the Library.

The Chair said that the CCSL meetings were open to anyone wishing to attend and welcomed members and guests to present on issues relating to student life at the university. They invited the Council members to

introduce themselves. Andrew Woodall asked that if a Council member had a motion to put forth at a meeting, they send it to Lauren Broad at least ten days prior to the meeting so that it could be circulated and considered by the Council beforehand.

3. UMBRELLA ASSOCIATION MEET & GREET

The Chair informed the CCSL that the CSU, GSA and all faculty associations had been invited to join the meeting to introduce themselves and give a brief overview of their association's mission and plans for the year. Andrew Woodall was hopeful that the dialogue would also be the impetus for collaboration and/or support between the student associations and university departments. Student representatives from the following associations were present: ASFA, CSU, ECA and FASA. Each representative presented a brief overview of their association's plans and priorities for the upcoming year. The Chair thanked the representatives for their presentations.

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE MEETING OF MAY 8, 2020

D'Arcy Ryan moved to approve the minutes from the meeting of May 8, 2020 and Keroles Riad seconded the motion.

In favour: 14

Against: 0

Abstentions: 1

The motion passed.

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF MAY 8, 2020

5.1 Motion on Role for CCSL in Accepting New & Disbanding Existing Student Groups

Andrew Woodall explained that historically the Dean of Students Office (DoS) has held the responsibility to approve new and disband existing student groups that do not fall under an existing umbrella association. This was brought to CCSL last year with the intention of revising the process to include input from CCSL. The Chair referred to the Discussion Document *Accepting New and Disbanding Existing Student Groups* dated September 18, 2020. Ideally, student groups would fall under umbrella associations as much as possible. However, if a group did not fit under any umbrella, the updated process would begin with the group being asked to provide a constitution and by-laws, complete a questionnaire, and to collect signatures from 50 students in favour of the creation of the group. If the DoS felt that consultation with the Council would be helpful, it would bring the file to a CCSL sub-committee for consideration, after which the Dean of Students office would make a decision and report back to the group. In order to disband an existing group, the same sub-committee may be consulted by the DoS for a recommendation. A discussion ensued. Keroles Riad was concerned that it might be difficult for some smaller departmental groups to collect 50 signatures. Other Council members noted that given the size of Concordia's student population, 50 signatures was not unreasonable. There was also concern that two meetings per year might not meet the needs of new groups who would have to wait to be approved. It was suggested that there be some flexibility in the number of meetings per year. It was suggested to have an odd number of members on the sub-committee to avoid a tie vote.

The Chair noted the recommendations made by Council members and proposed that they table the motion until the next meeting so that the document could be updated accordingly. Keroles Riad moved to table the motion and Michele Sandiford seconded the motion.

In favour: 13

Against: 0

Abstentions: 4

The motion passed.

5.2 Annual funding to HOJO

The Chair recalled that last year, 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 summarized 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. At that time, \$20,000.00 of seed money was given to CUSA to upgrade their job bank. A few years later, funds became available from the Student Life Initiative Fund, and again \$20,000.00 was earmarked to HOJO. The funds were not intended to be part of their operating budget and had to be requested every year. HOJO was also required to submit an annual report and financial statement to the Council. In 2002, CCSL proposed that the funds to HOJO be reduced to \$15,000.00 during the 2003-2006 budget cycle, which passed. In 2012, HOJO requested an increase back to \$20,000.00 to increase operations at Loyola and service the needs of Graduate students . This was agreed upon for the duration of the 2012-2015 budget cycle, with the understanding that the amount may be revised based on future budget restrictions. In 2017-2018 and 2018-2019, HOJO did not require funding and so the annual amounts were put into a holding account until a time the Council could decide how to use the funds. In 2019-2020, HOJO requested and received \$20,000.00.

The Chair invited discussion. Several members agreed that the allocation to HOJO should not be automatic, but that HOJO should make a request every year by the same process as all other applicants to the CCSL Special Projects Fund for new initiatives, not for operating costs. Members noted that HOJO is in a “grey zone” – not quite a student group, but also not a university department. It was agreed that the Centre is an indispensable resource for students. It was suggested that before any motions were made, CCSL invite HOJO to present their case for the annual funding. The Chair agreed that they would speak with HOJO and CSU, and to create a document that would be brought to CCSL at a future meeting.

6. REPORTS AND ITEMS OF INFORMATION

6.1 Committee Participation Recognition Program: Update on 2019-2020 Recipients

Andrew Woodall reported that the program previously known as the Committee Participation Awards Program (CPAP) was renamed the Committee Participation Recognition Program (CPRP) to avoid any confusion with the CCSL Outstanding Contribution Awards. The program offered a financial award given annually to eligible students for their participation in student governance on any of the following governing bodies: CCSL; Senate; the Board of Governors; the faculty councils; and the School of Graduate Studies. Students who are not paid by their student group and who attend enough meetings are eligible. The Chair noted that \$10,000.00 was earmarked annually from the CCSL Special Projects Fund for the CPRP. The award was calculated based on the Québec resident tuition rate for the year of participation. In 2019-2020, the total cost of the CPRP was \$18,166.38. In 2020-2021, if all the student representatives from each eligible governing body were to receive the financial award, it would cost over \$36,000.00. The current allocation of \$10,000.00 was clearly not enough to meet the potential expenses of the fund. In addition, tuition increased every year and that was not factored in to the amount earmarked annually. Andrew Woodall stated that they would prepare a motion to present at a future meeting to increase the annual amount earmarked for the CPRP to an amount more in line with the current amount dispersed in recent years.

The Chair wished to consider students who were registered with the Access Centre for Students with Disabilities (ACSD). If a student was registered part-time because of their disability and was registered with the ACSD, the Chair proposed that CCSL recognize them as full-time when calculating the CPRP. They said that they would prepare a motion to present at a future meeting to formalize the proposed change.

The Chair reported that he had been approached by FASA with a request for the CCSL to consider recognizing student association governing bodies within the CPRP. FASA was concerned that BIPOC students faced more financial barriers that would deter them from participating on governing bodies. The Chair invited discussion. Some members noted that it is important to encourage the inclusion of marginalized and BIPOC members on governing bodies and that financial recognition would be an incentive for them. It was suggested that

eventually a fee levy could be created to subsidize such a fund. The Chair thanked Council and FASA for the discussion and recognized the importance of the issue. Andrew Woodall agreed to put together a document for discussion at a future meeting.

6.2 CCSL Sub-Committees

6.2.1 CCSL Special Projects

Andrew Woodall explained that the CCSL Special Projects Fund is to be dispersed annually in support of student projects that enhance or contribute to the quality of student life at the university in a social, political, educational or cultural context. There was \$165,000.00 available annually, with one application deadline each semester. Of that total, \$20,000.00 was earmarked annually to support the CSU Off-Campus Housing and Job Resource Centre (HOJO) and \$10,000.00 was earmarked annually for the Committee Participation Recognition Program, a financial award given to eligible students for their participation on one or more of the eligible governing bodies at the university. The balance of \$135,000.00 is available for student projects. The Chair said that following both the fall and the winter submission deadlines, the sub-committee would make decisions on applications requesting \$5,000.00 or less online prior to a review meeting. The Council itself would receive presentations by applicants requesting an amount over \$5,000.00. The sub-committee membership included: the Dean of Students as the Chair; four undergraduate students; two graduate students; one student from Continuing Education (to be replaced by an additional undergraduate student should this be vacant); one faculty member (not necessarily from CCSL); one Student Services staff member (not necessarily from CCSL); and the Secretary of CCSL as a voting member. Anyone from the Council interested in joining this sub-committee was asked to notify Lauren Broad.

6.2.2 CCSL Awards

The Chair explained that the CCSL Outstanding Contribution Awards recognize Concordia students, staff and faculty who have gone above and beyond their expected role at the university, making an exceptional contribution to student life or services. The sub-committee membership included: the Dean of Students or a delegate as Chair; three undergraduate students; one graduate student; one faculty member from CCSL; and one Student Services staff member from CCSL. The sub-committee would review the nominations online prior to a review meeting in late February or early March. Stephanie Sarik was confirmed once again as the Chair of the sub-committee, and Misseny Kourouma has agreed to join as one of the undergraduate student representatives. Anyone from the Council interested in joining the sub-committee was asked to notify Lauren Broad.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 CCSL Representative for the FAO Undergraduate Scholarship & Awards Committee

The Chair informed Council that D'Arcy Ryan had agreed to be the representative on this committee for the upcoming year. Andrew Woodall thanked D'Arcy Ryan for his participation.

7.2 Update from the Library Regarding Access to Textbooks

The Chair invited Dianne Cmor from the Concordia Libraries to address Council. Dianne Cmor informed Council that there have been many questions from faculty and students regarding the availability of textbooks in the Library. Under normal circumstances, the library would purchase textbooks and put them in course reserve rooms for students to access. Due to the restrictions of the pandemic, the reserve rooms were closed therefore it was not possible to offer the service to students. Because books have to be quarantined for at least 48 hours, it was not possible to do quick, short-term loans. Despite much effort, publishers would not sell e-textbooks to the Library. The result was that students were bearing an additional financial burden if they had to buy all their textbooks. Diane Cmor ensured the Council that the library was looking into alternatives and was encouraging faculty to switch textbooks when possible, but it was a long process. They confirmed that the Library did offer a scanning service within copyright rules, but that it was limited. Dianne Cmor offered to answer any questions and thanked Council for any suggestions it may have to offer. The Chair thanked Dianne Cmor for the presentation.

7.3 Points of Interest

The Chair informed Council that the Concordia Shuffle, done virtually this year, was starting that day and would continue for one week. They noted that September 30th was Orange Shirt Day, to honour survivors of residential schools and recognize the continued journey toward reconciliation. The Chair acknowledged that it was Rosh Hashana and wished everyone a happy new year. Nell Perry informed the Council that Sustainable Concordia was looking for new board members and invited anyone interested to contact them directly or to find more information through the Sustainable Concordia Facebook page.

8. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was scheduled for October 23, 2020 by Zoom, from 10am-1:30pm. The next meeting was extended to allow time for presentations for the Special Projects requests of over \$5,000.00.

9. TERMINATION OF MEETING

D'Arcy Ryan motioned to terminate the meeting. Keroles Riad seconded the motion.

In favour: 13

Against: 0

Abstentions: 1

The motion passed.