

**Minutes from a Meeting of the Concordia Council on Student Life
Held on October 23, 2020
Virtual Meeting on Zoom**

PRESENT: Andrew Woodall (Chair), Lauren Broad (Secretary), Abdul Qadir Ali, Dianne Cmor, Kaeleigh D’Ermo, Juliet Dunphy, Christian Durand, Lauren Farley, Matthew Fishman, Mel Habip, Misseny Kourouma, Eduardo Malorni, Laura Mitchell, Nell Perry, Irene Petsopoulos, Keroles Riad, D’Arcy Ryan, Michele Sandiford, Stephanie Sarik, Phoebe Tom, Dane Yvan Toualeu Djieukam, Hector Vega.

ABSENT WITH REGRETS: Anjali Agarwal, Marie-Josée Allard, Gaya Arasaratnam, Cassandra Lamontagne, Elaine Cheasley Paterson.

ABSENT: Temi Akin-Aina, Melanie Burnett, Amelia Candoleta, Darren Dumoulin.

GUESTS: Mary Burns (Minutes).

1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The Chair opened the meeting with Concordia’s territorial acknowledgement.

Irene Petsopoulos moved to approve the agenda. D’Arcy Ryan seconded the motion.

In favour: 14

Against: 0

Abstentions: 2

The motion passed.

2. REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR

The Chair noted that there would be no remarks in order to give adequate time to hear the CCSL Special Projects presentations.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 18, 2020

Keroles Riad moved to approve the minutes from the meeting of September 18, 2020 and Mel Habip seconded the motion.

In favour: 14

Against: 0

Abstentions: 2

The motion passed.

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 18, 2020

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

Andrew Woodall reminded the Council that there had been a discussion regarding the motion at the last meeting. The Chair noted the updates to the Discussion Document. A concern had been raised over the requirement for a group to get 50 signatures from the student body in order to be considered for approval by the Dean of Students Office. The feedback from the majority of Council members who voiced their opinion was that the 50 signature minimum should not be difficult to attain, given the size of the overall student population. Therefore this requirement remained unchanged. In response to another concern, the sub-committee membership would now include a Permanent Observer from the CCSL to make the number of sub-committees members a total of five people. The sub-committee would be expected to meet twice per fall and winter semester and as needed in the case of disbanding an existing student group. The final change was to

add further clarification on the criteria for how a student group would be considered for approval. These were based on the unifying values of Concordia, as outlined in the university's Values statement.

D'Arcy Ryan put forth the following motion, seconded by Michele Sandiford:

Whereas the Concordia Council on Student Life (CCSL) is the highest body in the university dedicated to student life;

Whereas the Dean of Students Office is responsible for accepting, recognizing and disbanding all student associations, groups and clubs;

Whereas the Dean of Students Office seeks a consultative body to assist in the accepting of new and disbanding of existing student associations, groups and clubs;

Be it resolved that:

The CCSL adopt a new consultative role in the process to accept new and disband existing student associations, groups and clubs as outlined in the Discussion Document on Accepting New and Disbanding Existing Student Groups presented at the October 23, 2020 CCSL meeting (see attached).

A discussion ensued. Kerolés Riad stated that they would vote against the motion as they felt there was no particular value to being recognized by the university as a student group and that a student group could exist without being officially recognized. They were concerned that the process would make it more difficult for groups to form, specifically the requirement to get 50 signatures from the student body. The Chair noted that it was not insignificant to be recognized by the university, as it would give student groups benefits such as access to booking space and to more potential funding. Mel Habip mentioned that if a group can form without being officially recognized, it should not be difficult to get 50 signatures after the group has formed.

The motion was put to a vote.

In favour: 14

Against: 1

Abstentions: 2

The motion passed.

The Chair informed the Council that they would report back on the progress of the new sub-committee before the end of the year.

4.2 Motion to Update the CPRP Eligibility Requirements

Andrew Woodall recalled that there had been a discussion regarding this issue at the September meeting. The motion that had been circulated to the Council prior to the meeting reflected the fact that the CCSL wished to acknowledge that many students maintain a part-time status due to their disability. Because of this, the Council wanted to recognize part-time students who were eligible for the Committee Participation Recognition Program (CPRP) as full-time status if they were registered with the Access Centre for Students with Disabilities (ACSD). The new consideration would allow the students affected to receive the maximum value of the CPRP, rather than a pro-rated amount based on a lower number of credits taken during their time on an eligible governing body.

Kaeleigh D’Ermo put forth the following motion, seconded by Mel Habip:

Whereas the Concordia Council on Student Life (CCSL) established the Committee Participation Recognition Program (CPRP) to recognize a student’s participation in university governance on Faculty Council, CCSL, Senate and the Board of Governors by means of a financial award;

Whereas the CCSL determines the amount of the financial award based on attendance as well as the student’s status as full-time or part-time;

Whereas some students with disabilities maintain a part-time status due to their disability;

Whereas the CCSL is committed to ensuring that a student is not penalized for a part-time status due to their disability;

Be it resolved that:

The CCSL update the Eligibility Requirements for the CPRP (see attached document) to recognize a student as full-time status for the purpose of the Committee Participation Recognition Program if they maintain a part-time status due to their disability. The student must be registered with the Access Centre for Students with Disabilities during the academic year for which they are to receive the financial award.

A discussion ensued. Matthew Fishman noted that a student taking six credits who is registered with ACSD is considered to have full-time status by Enrolment Services as well. Michele Sandiford asked whether CCSL could recognize other part-time students as full-time and to give them full remuneration as well. D’Arcy Ryan noted that the national governing body for student athletes recognizes them as full-time with nine credits and they proposed that student athletes be included as well. The question was raised whether CCSL had the authority to ask other university bodies to follow this recommendation. The Chair suggested that Council vote on the motion as it exits, and that further discussion was warranted regarding these points.

The motion was put to a vote.

In favour: 14

Against: 1

Abstentions: 2

The motion passed.

The Chair noted that they would continue the discussion with D’Arcy Ryan and Michele Sandiford to consider the possibility of all eligible students receiving the full amount of the CPRP, regardless of their status as either full-time or part-time.

5. REPORTS AND ITEMS OF INFORMATION

5.1 CCSL Sub-Committees:

CCSL Special Projects: Update on review of projects requesting \$5,000 and less

Andrew Woodall reminded the Council that there was \$135,000.00 available to distribute for the year, with one deadline in the fall and another in the winter. For the fall 2020 submission, there were 34 applications received, of which 2 were ineligible. This was many fewer applications than usual, most likely in light of COVID-19. There were normally about 100 applications per semester. The sub-committee reviewed the 26 applications for projects requesting up to \$5,000.00. There was a total amount requested of \$60,653.54 and the sub-committee allocated \$33,645.00 to 19 projects. Seven projects were declined, some of which were encouraged to re-apply for the winter deadline after resolving specific issues. Andrew Woodall mentioned that

if the fund were split in half, there would be \$67,500.00 to allocate to projects each semester. The Chair emphasized that this was not a rule, but rather a guiding principle.

Presentations by applicants requesting over \$5,000

The Chair informed the Council that the Special Projects sub-committee had reviewed the six proposals requesting over \$5,000.00 and had assigned a suggested amount of funding with a rationale for each. Andrew Woodall proposed that a motion be put forth to include this amount as a starting point, followed by a discussion by the Council members. The Chair asked that if any Council member was directly involved in a project to recuse themselves from the discussion and voting on that particular project.

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 with a motion including the suggested amount from the sub-committee, followed by a discussion of each project individually, providing their comments and concerns.

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

“Climate Crisis AI Hackathon + Social, Environmental Impact R&D Mentorship Program”, presented by Timothy Pereira, Erin Rappaport and Alan Sarmasti. Amount requested: \$7,500.00

The Chair informed the Council that the sub-committee had suggested funding of \$1,000.00. The sub-committee felt that the group could try to get more sponsorship and noted that this project had received funding from CCSL for the past two years. They did, however, acknowledged the success of the project in past years and its far reach to many in the Concordia community.

Irene Petsopoulos put forth the following motion, seconded by Stephanie Sarik:

Be it resolved that the project “Climate Crisis AI Hackathon + Social, Environmental Impact R&D Mentorship Program” be approved for \$1,000.00 of funding from the CCSL Special Projects Fund.

The Council felt it was a very strong proposal and suggested approving \$3,000.00. They noted that the events were accessible, free and kept diversity in mind. They felt the budget was streamlined and did not have much room to be cut. Mel Habip requested to increase the amount approved to \$3,000.00 and the friendly amendment was accepted by the Council.

Be it resolved that the project “Climate Crisis AI Hackathon + Social, Environmental Impact R&D Mentorship Program” be approved for \$3,000.00 of funding from the CCSL Special Projects Fund.

In favour: 15

Against: 1

Abstentions: 0

The motion passed.

“Concordia Precious Plastic Project (CP3)”, presented by Sara Ordonselli and Wanda Stamford. Amount requested: \$32,900.00

Hector Vega recused himself from the discussion and vote, as they were directly involved in the project. The Chair informed Council that the sub-committee had been very impressed by the scope of this project and recommended funding of \$20,000.00. The sub-committee felt that the Concordia administration should offer more financial support to this project. The Council was very supportive of the project and noted the high quality of the presentation.

Nell Perry put forth the following motion, seconded by Keroles Riad:

Be it resolved that the project “Concordia Precious Plastic Project (CP3)” be approved for \$20,000.00 of funding from the CCSL Special Projects Fund.

In favour: 11

Against: 1

Abstentions: 4

The motion passed.

“Great Northern Concrete Competition”, presented by Dylan Soonarane. Amount requested: \$5,600.00

The Chair noted that the sub-committee had recommended funding of \$5,000.00 for this project. The sub-committee was very supportive, however did not suggest the full amount requested because they did not support two items in the budget, namely a website fee and theme/spirit expenses, totalling about \$600.00.

Nell Perry put forth the following motion, seconded by Keroles Riad:

Be it resolved that the project “Great Northern Concrete Competition” be approved for \$5,000.00 of funding from the CCSL Special Projects Fund.

A discussion ensued. Michele Sandiford noted that this project would impact fewer people than *Climate Crisis AI* and wondered why CCSL would offer more to this project than that one. Keroles Riad commented that there were fixed costs involved in building a toboggan and the Chair added that the sub-committee gave support to this because it involved people from many faculties. Lauren Farley noted that most of the budget was for registration costs, not building costs. They felt it was a large registration fee for forty people. The Chair said that usually CCSL is not inclined to cover registration costs, but this year was unusual due to the pandemic. Nell Perry asked if CCSL could return to the *Climate Crisis AI* project after the other decisions had been made and consider if there was extra funds available to allocate to that project. The Chair agreed.

The motion was put to a vote.

In favour: 9

Against: 5

Abstentions: 2

The motion passed.

“Revel Application”, presented by Vincent Alexander, Juliano Iantomasi, Jacomo Delledonne. Amount requested: \$13,000.00

The Chair informed the Council that the sub-committee did not recommend any funding for this project, as they felt it was not in the spirit of CCSL funding. They also felt that it was created as a personal project. The Council was concerned that this project was more of a business proposal and also questioned how this application was different from other existing applications. There was concern about the efficacy of this application during the pandemic. The Council worried about security and privacy issues for its users.

D’Arcy Ryan put forth the following motion, seconded by Nell Perry:

Be it resolved that no funding be approved for the project “Revel Application” from the CCSL Special Projects Fund.

In favour: 13
Against: 0
Abstentions: 3

The motion passed.

“Engineering & Commerce Case Competition 2021 (ENGCOMM)”, presented by Kayla Charky and Shobhnit Singh. **Amount requested: \$10,239.86**

The Chair informed the Council that the sub-committee had recommended funding anywhere between zero to \$2,000.00, as they recognized this was a returning project and felt the budget was inflated with some questionable items. The Chair suggested allocating \$1,000.00.

Lauren Farley put forth the following motion, seconded by D’Arcy Ryan:

Be it resolved that the project “Engineering & Commerce Case Competition 2021 (ENGCOMM)” be approved for \$1,000.00 of funding from the CCSL Special Projects Fund.

A discussion ensued. There was concern among the Council that a large portion of the budget was devoted to “goody” bags and that shipping costs were prohibitive and environmentally wasteful. For this reason, several members did not want to fund the project at all. Matthew Fishman felt that CCSL should not be giving more than the President’s Office and the faculties, and that registration fees should be included in their budget to offset costs. It was noted that registration fees were mentioned in the presentation but not included in the budget. The Chair agreed that CCSL would give them feedback about the environmental impact and focus of their spending.

The motion was put to a vote.

In favour: 7
Against: 6
Abstentions: 2

The motion passed.

“Concordia SAE Aero Design”, presented by Philippe Larouche. **Amount requested: \$6,000.00**

The Chair informed Council that the sub-committee was very supportive of the building aspect of this event, and recommended funding of \$3,000.00. They suggested that the funding should not go towards hotel or travel expenses if that portion of the event were to happen. The Council agreed.

Michele Sandiford put forth the following motion, seconded by Mel Habip:

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

In favour: 13
Against: 1
Abstentions: 1

The motion passed.

The Council returned to the project “*Climate Crisis AI Hackathon + Social, Environmental Impact R&D Mentorship Program*”, as agreed, to consider additional funding beyond the \$3,000.00 already approved.

Michele Sandiford put forth the following motion, seconded by Mel Habip:

Be it resolved that the project “Climate Crisis AI Hackathon + Social, Environmental Impact R&D Mentorship Program” be approved for an additional \$1,000.00 of funding, for a total of \$4,000.00 of funding, from the CCSL Special Projects Fund.

In favour: 12

Against: 2

Abstentions: 1

The motion passed.

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1 Points of Interest

- October 23, 2020: Trivia Night fundraising event for Centraide Campaign
- October 24, 2020: Virtual Open House for prospective undergraduate students
- November 2020 is financial literacy month, with a special page included on the FAAO website
- Week of October 19, 2020 is Open Access Week at the Concordia Library, promoting the availability of open textbooks

7. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was scheduled for November 20, 2020 by Zoom, from 10am-12:00pm.

9. TERMINATION OF MEETING

D’Arcy Ryan motioned to terminate the meeting. Irene Petsopoulos seconded the motion.

In favour: 13

Against: 1

Abstentions: 1

The motion passed