

**Minutes from a Meeting of the Concordia Council on Student Life
Held on November 20, 2020
Virtual Meeting on Zoom**

PRESENT: Andrew Woodall (Chair), Lauren Broad (Secretary), Anjali Agarwal, Gerry Barrette, Amelia Candoleta, Kaeleigh D’Ermo, Juliet Dunphy, Christian Durand, Lauren Farley, Matthew Fishman, Mel Habib, Misseny Kourouma, Cassandra Lamontagne, Eduardo Malorni, Laura Mitchell, Elaine Cheasley Paterson, Nell Perry, Irene Petsopoulos, Abdul Qadir Ali, Keroles Riad, D’Arcy Ryan, Michele Sandiford, Phoebe Tom, Dane Yvan Toualeu Djieukam, Hector Vega.

ABSENT WITH REGRETS: Marie-Josée Allard, Gaya Arasaratnam, Stephanie Sarik.

ABSENT: Temi Akin-Aina, Melanie Burnett, Dianne Cmor, Darren Dumoulin.

GUESTS: Mary Burns (minutes).

1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

Keroles Riad moved to approve the agenda. Elaine Cheasley Paterson seconded the motion.

In favour: 15

Against: 0

Abstentions: 1

The motion passed.

2. REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR

The Chair thanked the Council for coming to the final meeting of 2020. They acknowledged that it had been a very challenging year, however despite the circumstances, there had been many remarkable achievements. There were extraordinary demonstrations of caring and helping one another get through the difficult times. The Chair remarked that both Open House events were very successful and well-attended. Health Services had done a heroic job of continuing services, including offering a flu vaccine program that was currently underway. The Sustainability Action Plan was launched after many years of planning and it was a very ambitious and comprehensive plan. There were several new offices created, notably the Equity Office, the Black Perspectives Office, as well as an Indigenous Direction re-launch plan coming in the new year. Andrew Woodall stated that Concordia should feel proud of these accomplishments and encouraged Council members to share their strategies for coping during the trying times.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE MEETING OF OCTOBER 23, 2020

Irene Petsopoulos moved to approve the minutes from the meeting of October 23, 2020 and Nell Perry seconded the motion.

In favour: 13

Against: 0

Abstentions: 3

The motion passed.

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 23, 2020

4.1 Discussion re: CCSL Special Projects Fund

The Chair reminded the Council that the amount allocated to the Committee Participation Recognition Program (CPRP) from the CCSL Special Projects Fund had been unchanged at \$10,000 per year for the past several years. The amount disbursed by the program had increased annually to approximately \$18,000 in 2019-2020. If every student on each of the recognized governing bodies were eligible in the 2020-2021 academic year, the cost would be approximately \$36,000. In previous years, the difference in the amount earmarked and the amount disbursed had been covered by unused funds in the CCSL Special Projects Fund. There had been discussion at previous CCSL meetings about the discrepancy, therefore a motion was prepared to increase the amount earmarked for the CPRP to an amount more in line with the average amount disbursed in recent years.

The following motion was put forth by Michele Standiford, seconded by Nell Perry:

***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 Councils, 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 the equivalent of six credits per year at the Québec resident undergraduate tuition rate for the year of participation;*

***Whereas** the Québec resident undergraduate tuition rate per credit has increased annually since the inception of the CPRP;*

***Whereas** the amount earmarked from the CCSL Special Projects Fund for the CPRP has not increased since the 2012-2013 academic year;*

***Whereas** if all students from the participating governing bodies were to be eligible for the CPRP in the 2020-2021 academic year, it would be equivalent to approximately \$36,000;*

***Whereas** the average disbursement of the CPRP over the past nine years has not exceeded \$20,000;*

Be it resolved that:

The CCSL increase the annual amount earmarked from the CCSL Special Projects Fund for the CPRP from \$10,000 to \$20,000, effective immediately. Any amount unused from the CPRP each year will be held in trust with other unused amounts from the Special Projects Fund.

A discussion ensued. D'Arcy Ryan wondered whether a clause should be added that the amount of funding would be revisited in four or five years, tied to indexation. The Chair remarked that the Special Projects fund was not indexed. Keroles Riad asked whether the unused funds in the Special Projects Fund were increasing or decreasing yearly. The Chair confirmed that the unused amount had been increasing yearly. Lauren Broad explained that every year there were projects that did not collect their funding for various reasons and that currently there was approximately \$114,000 in unused funds. Keroles Riad expressed concern that earmarking more funds toward the CPRP would take money away from supporting student projects and they suggested that the budget be revisited to provide more money for projects. The Chair agreed that it was an important point warranting further discussion. Nell Perry asked why some committees were included in the CPRP and not others. The Chair replied that the top-level governing bodies have historically been recognized as they are permanent standing committees. Without more certainty, the Chair agreed to look into the history of the program to determine how the committees were originally selected.

The Council put the motion to a vote:

In favour: 12

Against: 1

Abstention: 4

The motion passed.

The Chair recalled a discussion from the October meeting about awarding certain part-time students with full compensation from the CPRP. The question arose whether CCSL should consider giving all eligible part-time students the full amount of the CPRP, regardless of the reason for their part-time status. There were many compelling reasons why a student would hold a part-time status and it was suggested that they be remunerated equally if they met the eligibility requirements. The Chair confirmed that it would be financially feasible to do so. Considering that a motion had not been circulated prior to the meeting, which was the expected protocol, the Chair asked whether or not the Council wished to present a motion or if they would prefer to consider one at a future meeting.

D'Arcy Ryan moved to present a motion for a vote, seconded by Keroles Riad.

In favour: 17

Against: 0

Abstention: 1

The motion passed.

The following motion was put forth by D'Arcy Ryan, seconded by Keroles Riad:

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 Councils, 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 many students maintain a part-time status in order to meet the demands of family, work and other para-academic activities;

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

Be it resolved that:

All students, regardless of their status as full-time or part-time, receive the full amount possible through the Committee Participation Recognition Program (CPRP), which is equivalent to six credits per year at the Québec resident tuition rate for the year of participation. Students must meet all other requirements as outlined in the Eligibility Requirements (see attached). This change will take effect for eligible students participating in the 2020-2021 academic year.

In favour: 17

Against: 0

Abstentions: 1

The motion passed.

Andrew Woodall informed the Council that another decision on the allocation of the CCSL Special Projects Fund needed to be made, this time regarding the annual amount earmarked for the CSU Housing and Job Resource Centre (HOJO). They reminded the Council that the amount earmarked had fluctuated between \$15,000 and

\$20,000 over the years. The question had arisen whether CCSL should automatically fund HOJO every year based on their request and financial reporting, or should HOJO be required to apply for funding through the same process as all student groups. A discussion ensued. Eduardo Malorni asked whether there was a department at the university that offered similar services as HOJO. The Chair noted the Career Management Services (CMS) under JMSB and the Career And Planning Services (CAPS) under the Student Success Centre, which both helped students with employment. Laura Mitchell remarked that there was career input for students from the Experiential Learning Office under the Office of the Provost and Co-op programs as well. The Chair added that Residence Life helped students with the transition of moving out of Residence, but beyond that the university did not offer any formal off-campus housing service. Eduardo Malorni mentioned that in discussions with HOJO they confirmed that if HOJO did not receive funds from CCSL, its budget would have to focus on the day to day operations and there would be less money for new projects. The question was raised whether HOJO was associated with The Woodnote, a housing cooperative funded by Concordia students, community organizations and the governments of Canada and Montreal. Eduardo Malorni confirmed that HOJO is on the Board of The Woodnote but is not overseeing it. D'Arcy Ryan wondered if this could be a conflict of interest. The Chair offered to look into this as a point of interest. Mel Habip asked if The Woodnote could serve as a source of income for HOJO and Eduardo Malorni confirmed that it could not. Michele Standiford stated that it would be a gesture of goodwill for the university to put money into this issue, as other universities do, seeing that student housing was a critical concern. Lauren Farley remarked that CCSL was compensating for funds that should come from somewhere else within the university. Keroles Riad said that a change in the amount earmarked for HOJO was not necessary since the Special Projects Fund had a surplus of funds that could cover the amount. They suggested that CCSL give HOJO a timeline to ask for money each year. Lauren Farley wondered how CCSL could justify automatically funding HOJO when they do not do that for other groups. They suggested investigating other sources of funding from the university. Michele Standiford asked if there were other models at the university that combined student and university funding. The Chair said they were not aware of any and agreed that the university should consider its role and responsibility in off-campus housing. The Chair concluded by saying that they would prepare a motion based on the discussion and bring it to the next CCSL meeting in January for consideration.

4.2 Discussion re: FASA Request for Funding Student Participation on the FASA Board

Andrew Woodall reminded the Council that representatives from FASA had attended the September meeting and made a request to CCSL to extend the CPRP to include students sitting on the FASA Board. The rationale was that marginalized students faced many barriers to participate in student governance, especially at the higher levels. These students could gain the required experience to sit on higher bodies by first sitting on their faculty association committee. The Chair emphasized that marginalized students' voices were necessary for making decisions on the higher level governing bodies. A discussion ensued. There was enthusiasm from the Council, but there was also concern that if CCSL agreed to this request from FASA, it would open the door to other requests and CCSL did not have the funds necessary to include every committee. The CCSL could not be a long-term solution to the problem. The question was raised whether it was fair to fund only groups that made requests. Nell Perry suggested offering conditional funding to FASA for the current year only. The Chair added that CCSL could offer funding to FASA to put together a "thought piece" on the issue, to help consider a long-term solution. They noted that it was a question that all bodies at the university needed to consider. The Council proposed that a research project could be undertaken by the university. Nell Perry worried that there was an immediate need at FASA and that the research project would take time. They recommended CCSL include FASA's board members in the CPRP for the current year. The Chair remarked that CCSL would need to have a method of handling other requests that would likely come to CCSL. Nell Perry suggested that \$10,000 be set aside as a pilot project for the current year only from the unused Special Projects Fund. The money could be distributed based on how many groups asked for funding. Elaine Cheasley Paterson noted that since FASA was an umbrella association, the Council could consider limiting the offer to other umbrella associations. D'Arcy Ryan wondered if such financial recognition should be covered by fee levies rather than CCSL funds. The Chair said that they would come up with a motion to address FASA's request, perhaps with a pilot project to extend CPRP eligibility. They would also create a proposal for funding a research project to study the issue and would present these to the Council at the January meeting. The Council agreed.

5. REPORTS AND ITEMS OF INFORMATION

5.1 CCSL Sub-Committees: Student Groups Sub-Committee

The Chair reminded the Council of the new committee that had been approved at the last CCSL meeting. The sub-committee would be consulted when needed by the Dean of Students Office in the process to accept new and disband existing student associations, groups and clubs. The composition of the sub-committee included the Dean of Students or a delegate, two students from CCSL, one Student Services staff member from CCSL and one permanent observer from CCSL. Andrew Woodall, Irene Petsopoulos and Matthew Fishman had all agreed to sit on the sub-committee and the Chair asked if any student members of CCSL were interested. Dane Yvan Toualeu Djieukam said that they would like to participate. Andrew Woodall requested that any other interested student contact Lauren Broad.

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1 Points of Interest

The Chair informed the Council that Dianne Cmor would be on a leave from the university beginning in January and would not be sitting on CCSL for the rest of the academic year. They thanked Dianne Cmor for their participation and commended them for all the work they had done to acquire textbooks for students through the Concordia Libraries. The Chair confirmed that a new representative from the Library would join the CCSL in January. Mel Habip wished the best of luck to all students and faculty with the upcoming examinations. Eduardo Malorni noted that the CSU Town Hall was a big success, with over 100 people attending. Keroles Riad invited members of the Council to join the upcoming virtual event “CU Compost Live Fireside Chat” on November 30th, featuring Marie-Claire Graf, President of Sustainability Week International. Joshua Amponsem and Keroles Riad were also scheduled to speak. Keroles Riad asked that the secretary of CCSL circulate the event details to the Council after the meeting. Elaine Cheasley Paterson announced the upcoming student relations initiative called “Fine Arts Stories” that may be of interest to CCSL members. D’Arcy Ryan reminded everyone that December 1st was National Giving Tuesday. Recreation & Athletics was participating, along with many other departments, to raise funds for student scholarships.

7. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was scheduled for January 22, 2021 by Zoom, from 10am-12:00pm.

8. TERMINATION OF MEETING

Mel Habip motioned to terminate the meeting. Lauren Farley seconded the motion.

In favour: 16

Against: 0

Abstentions: 2

The motion passed.