

**Minutes from a Meeting of the Concordia Council on Student Life
Held on January 22, 2021
Virtual Meeting on Zoom**

PRESENT: Andrew Woodall (Chair), Lauren Broad (Secretary), Gerry Barrette, Amelia Candoleta, Kaeleigh D’Ermo, Juliet Dunphy, Lauren Farley, Matthew Fishman, Mel Habip, Rajiv Johal, Misseny Kourouma, Anne-Marie Lanctôt (replacing Gaya Arasaratnam), Eduardo Malorni, Laura Mitchell, Erin Mullins (replacing Temi Akin-Aina), Elaine Cheasley Paterson, Nell Perry, Irene Petsopoulos, Abdul Qadir Ali, Keroles Riad, D’Arcy Ryan, Michèle Sandiford, Phoebe Tom, Dane Yvan Toualeu Djieukam, Hector Vega.

ABSENT WITH REGRETS: Anjali Agarwal, Marie-Josée Allard, Christian Durand, Cassandra Lamontagne, Stephanie Sarik.

ABSENT: Melanie Burnett, Darren Dumoulin.

GUEST: Mary Burns (minutes).

1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

D’Arcy Ryan moved to approve the agenda. Irene Petsopoulos seconded the motion. The Council put the motion to a vote:

In favour: 15

Against: 0

Abstentions: 1

The motion passed.

2. REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR

Andrew Woodall thanked the Council for coming to the first meeting of 2021. They hoped that everyone had a restful and refreshing break. The Chair welcomed Gerry Barrette as a new member from Facilities Management and Rajiv Johal from the Library, replacing Dianne Cmor while she was on a leave until July 2021. The Chair thanked them for their participation on CCSL.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE MEETING OF NOVEMBER 20, 2020

Keroles Riad moved to approve the minutes from the meeting of November 20, 2020 and D’Arcy Ryan seconded the motion. The Council put the motion to a vote:

In favour: 16

Against: 0

Abstentions: 1

The motion passed.

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 20, 2020

4.1 Motion re: Annual Funding to HOJO

Andrew Woodall reminded the Council of the discussions held at previous CCSL meetings around the annual funding earmarked for the CSU Housing and Job Resource Centre (HOJO). At the November 2020 meeting, the Council mandated the Chair to prepare a motion regarding the annual funding to HOJO based on the concerns raised in these discussions.

The following motion was put forth by Kaeleigh D’Ermo, seconded by Michèle Sandiford:

MOTION TO CHANGE THE PROCESS FOR ANNUAL FUNDING TO HOJO

Whereas the Concordia Council on Student Life (CCSL) distributes funding annually to students and student groups through the CCSL Special Projects Fund;

Whereas the CCSL Special Projects Fund has a limited amount of funding available to be disbursed to a growing number of requests;

Whereas the Federal Government funded various housing and job initiatives at Concordia but withdrew this funding in the 1991-1992 academic year;

Whereas all these services were then incorporated into existing University functions except for support for students regarding off-campus housing;

Whereas the University recognized the importance of supporting students with off-campus housing via a privileged relationship between the CCSL and the CSU Housing and Job Resource Centre (HOJO);

Whereas all other student groups are expected to apply annually through the established process to the CCSL Special Projects Fund for new or existing student life projects;

Whereas the annual funding to HOJO was always open for revision;

Be it resolved that:

The HOJO be offered the opportunity to make an annual presentation to the CCSL at the first meeting of the academic year, including financials from the previous year and a request for funding in the current year, up to a maximum of \$20,000. The request for funding must include a detailed budget and description of the project for which the funding will be used. The CCSL will vote on the proposal based upon perceived need, impact and availability of funds. Any funds not allocated to the HOJO will be included in the total amount available to all students/student groups in the CCSL Special Projects Fund for that year. This will take effect during the 2021-2022 academic year.

A discussion ensued. D’Arcy Ryan asked whether, in the event that the motion did not pass, the allocation of funds would revert to the traditional practice of giving HOJO \$20,000 automatically every year. The Chair confirmed that it would. Lauren Farley commented that the motion was a fair compromise that would meet the needs of HOJO while also respecting the needs of the other applicants for special project funding. Kaeleigh D’Ermo approved of setting a presentation date for September, as it would give HOJO a structured timeline to follow. They asked whether there was a provision if HOJO needed to delay the presentation beyond the first meeting. The Chair stated that according to the motion, there would be no provision to delay the presentation, but that exceptional circumstances may arise that CCSL could consider at that time. Keroles Riad asked whether HOJO had been consulted about the motion. The Chair replied that they had reached out to HOJO twice in the last few months, but had not heard back from them. Keroles Riad wondered if it was necessary to include “based on availability of funds” in the motion and requested a friendly amendment to remove those words from the motion. The friendly motion was accepted and the motion was amended accordingly. The question arose whether HOJO could apply for regular special projects funding if they did not apply for and receive funding in September. The Chair confirmed that they could; in that case they would be competing with other applicants for the funds by the usual process. The Chair noted that if HOJO was approved for funding in September, it would not be fair for them to apply for additional funding through CCSL Special Projects Fund that year.

The Council put the motion to a vote with the following amendment:

Be it resolved that:

*The HOJO be offered the opportunity to make an annual presentation to the CCSL at the first meeting of the academic year, including financials from the previous year and a request for funding in the current year, up to a maximum of \$20,000. The request for funding must include a detailed budget and description of the project for which the funding will be used. The CCSL will vote on the proposal based upon perceived need **and** impact. ~~and availability of funds.~~ Any funds not allocated to the HOJO will be included in the total amount available to all students/student groups in the CCSL Special Projects Fund for that year. This will take effect during the 2021-2022 academic year.*

In favour: 14

Against: 0

Abstentions: 3

The motion passed.

4.2 Motion to Fund Student Governance Participation Research Project

Andrew Woodall reminded the Council that in response to a request from FASA to expand the CPRP to their Board of Directors, a suggestion had been made to create and fund a research project addressing the issue of barriers facing marginalized students in participating in university governance. The Chair confirmed that there were unused funds available from previous years CCSL Special Projects Fund that could be put toward the expansion of the CPRP for one year, as well as for a research project. The Chair had consulted with FASA and Annick Maugile Flavien from the Black Perspectives Office, who expressed interest in collaborating on the research project. The Black Perspectives Office had agreed to allocate money to one researcher in addition to funds allocated by the CCSL.

The following motion was put forward by Keroles Riad, seconded by Mel Habip:

MOTION TO FUND A RESEARCH PROJECT TO IDENTIFY SUSTAINABLE FUNDING TO SUPPORT MARGINALIZED STUDENTS' PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNANCE AT THE UNIVERSITY

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

Whereas the CCSL recognizes that student participation in student group governance is a pathway to effective participation on University-level bodies;

Whereas the CCSL is committed to breaking down the barriers to student participation in governance;

Whereas the CCSL recognizes that there are financial barriers facing marginalized students that limit their participation in student governance;

Whereas the CCSL acknowledges that financial compensation will allow marginalized students to be more engaged early on in student governance, giving them important experience that could be used in University governance;

Whereas the CCSL recognizes that the CPRP cannot financially support students in the long-term beyond the governing university bodies already included in the CPRP;

Whereas the CCSL is interested in finding long-term, sustainable solutions that increase the participation of marginalized students in all facets of University life, particularly governance;

Be it resolved that:

The CCSL allocate \$4,500 from the unused funds of the CCSL Special Projects Fund to financially support a research project in partnership with the Black Perspectives Office to investigate existing systems in place at other institutions that support participation in university governance by marginalized students. The project will employ two marginalized students (one paid by CCSL and one paid by the BPO) to perform the research and they will be required to provide a written report and presentation to the CCSL no later than the end of the 2021-2022 academic year. The report should include best practices in supporting access to governance opportunities and tangible actions that can be taken.

A discussion ensued. Keroles Riad suggested including a professor in the research project as well. They recommended Zeynep Arsel from JMSB and suggested amending the motion to include the participation of a professor. The Chair agreed that it was an excellent idea, but did not want it to impede the process if they were unable to find a professor by including it in the motion. Elaine Cheasley Paterson recommended Kimberley Manning from the Simone de Beauvoir Institute, as they had been doing similar work there. The Chair agreed and thanked Elaine Chesley Paterson for the suggestion.

The Council put the motion to a vote:

In favour: 16

Against: 0

Abstentions: 2

The motion passed.

4.3 Motion to Expand the CPRP for 2020-2021 to Support Student Participation

Andrew Woodall reminded the Council that a representative from FASA had attended the September 2020 CCSL meeting, requesting that the Council extend the Committee Participation Recognition Program (CPRP) to include the FASA board members. They argued that it would help to build a pipeline to include more marginalized students in university governance. The question had arisen whether it was feasible to include the CSU, GSA and all faculty association councils in the CPRP. The Chair informed the Council that they had determined that there was enough money in the CCSL Special Projects fund to include faculty council student members in the CPRP for this year. The eligibility requirements would be the same for students sitting on faculty councils as it was for students on university governance bodies. The Chair reminded the Council that it would be a pilot project for this year only, and that the research component would help determine how it could be maintained in the future.

The following motion was put forward by Michèle Sandiford, seconded by Dane Yvan Toualeu Djieukam:

MOTION TO INCLUDE UNPAID BOARD MEMBERS OF CSU, GSA AND FACULTY ASSOCIATIONS TO THE CPRP FOR THE 2020-2021 ACADEMIC YEAR

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 recognizes that there are financial barriers facing students, particularly marginalized students, that limit their participation in student governance;

Whereas the CCSL acknowledges that students gain valuable experience by participating on their faculty association council, which will allow them to access higher levels of governance at Concordia and beyond;

Whereas the CCSL recognizes the importance of having students' voices heard by the members of the upper administration at the university;

Be it resolved that:

The CCSL allocate up to \$35,000 from the unused funds of the CCSL Special Projects Fund to provide financial compensation to unpaid board members for their participation on the following councils for the 2020-2021 academic year only: Concordia Student Union (CSU), Graduate Students' Association (GSA), Arts and Science Federation of Associations (ASFA), Commerce and Administration Students' Association (CASA), Engineering and Computer Science Student Association (ECA), Fine Arts Student Alliance (FASA), John Molson Graduate Students' Association (JMGSA). The Chair of Students Office will coordinate the disbursement of the funds, in accordance with the eligibility requirements of the CPRP.

A discussion ensued. Keroles Riad stated that when they sat on the GSA council they were paid an honorarium of \$50. Lauren Broad noted that the motion included the phrase "unpaid board members" which would ensure that the CPRP would only be given to unpaid students on the councils. D'Arcy Ryan was concerned that since the proposal was for the current year and councils were in progress, some students may have inadvertently disqualified themselves by missing meetings. The Chair stated that it was a student's responsibility to attend meetings regardless of financial compensation. Michèle Sandiford agreed and noted that most councils had their own attendance requirements. Lauren Broad confirmed that the amount given for the CPRP was the equivalent of six credits at the Québec resident tuition rate. The amount for the current year was approximately \$525. If a student were to join the council later in the year, the amount would be pro-rated. Keroles Riad noted that if the research was to be completed by the end of the 2021-2022 year and this motion was for the current year, there was a one year gap in the timeline. They suggested that CCSL propose the motion for the 2021-2022 year and to fund only FASA for the current year. Michèle Sandiford asked whether \$35,000 would be enough to cover the current year and the following year. The Chair noted the concerns raised by the Council members and proposed that they table the motion until the next meeting when they would have more information regarding the timeline of the research project.

Keroles Riad moved to table the motion and Elaine Cheasley Paterson seconded the motion. The Council put the motion to a vote:

In favour: 15

Against: 0

Abstentions: 2

The motion passed.

5. REPORTS AND ITEMS OF INFORMATION

5.1 CCSL Sub-Committees

5.1.1 CCSL Outstanding Contribution Awards

The Chair informed the Council that the call for nominations for the CCSL Outstanding Contribution Awards had gone out to the university through various promotional channels. The deadline for nominations was Monday, February 15, 2021. They encouraged the Council members to disseminate the information through their various networks. The Chair noted that it would not be possible to gather for the usual awards ceremony, however the Dean of Students Office would plan to do something special to honour the recipients. The Chair informed the Council that Stephanie Sarik was chairing the sub-committee to select the winners and that the

sub-committee was still missing one graduate student. Any graduate student from the Council interested in joining the sub-committee was asked to notify Lauren Broad.

5.1.2 CCSL Special Projects Sub-Committee: update on review process

The Chair informed the Council that the winter deadline for CCSL Special Projects was Monday, February 8, 2021 at 5:00 pm. The Chair announced that the sub-committee had met to review the application process and examine the guidelines in order to refine and improve them. The work was in progress and would be presented at a future CCSL meeting. The Chair also informed the Council that one more student representative was needed on the Student Groups sub-committee, recently created to act as a consultative body for applications for new, and the disbanding of existing, student groups. Any student from the Council interested in joining the sub-committee was asked to notify Lauren Broad.

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1 Points of Interest

- January 22, 2021: deadline for students to select the pass/fail option
- January 25, 2021: Waste Not, Want Not Fireside Chat, with guest speaker Dr. Erlijn Van Genuchten, on the topic of how to adopt a mindful approach to fight the waste and climate crises
- January 25-29, 2021: The Clubs Among Us, hosted on Zoom by the DoS Office to offer the opportunity for students to learn about student groups through their umbrella associations at the university
- February 8, 2021: CCSL Special Projects Fund application deadline
- February 15, 2021: CCSL Outstanding Contribution Awards nomination deadline
- April 15, 2021: Non-Academic Awards for graduating students nominations deadline

7. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was scheduled for March 12, 2021 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.

8. TERMINATION OF MEETING

D’Arcy Ryan motioned to terminate the meeting. Kaeleigh D’Ermo seconded the motion. The Council put the motion to a vote:

In favour: 15

Against:

Abstentions: 2

The motion passed.