

**Minutes from a Meeting of the Concordia Council on Student Life
Held on September 17, 2021
Virtual Meeting on Zoom**

PRESENT: Andrew Woodall (Chair), Lauren Broad (Secretary), Gaelle Abou Issa, Marie-Josée Allard, Paul Blouin, Annette Bowen (replacing Amelia Candoleta), Thuy Trang Cao, Dianne Cmor, Margaret Colton, Christian Durand, Katerina Ivanov, Lauren Farley, Matthew Fishman, Julie Foisy, Jordan Jerome-Pitre, Rosalie Lafrance, Hemanth Lingraj, Laura Mitchell, Erin Mullins (replacing Temi Akin-Aina), Nigel Jonathan Ochieng, Elaine Cheasley Paterson, Irene Petsopoulos, D'Arcy Ryan, Stephanie Sarik, Masoumeh Zaare.

ABSENT WITH REGRETS: Gaya Arasaratnam, Cassandra Lamontagne.

ABSENT: Malcolm Asselin, Melanie Burnett, Jeremy Daneault, Darren Dumoulin.

GUESTS: Mary Burns (Minutes), Amine Ben Arous (ASFA), Kayla Charky (ECA), Callee Chesser (CASA), Emem Etti (FASA), Tavtej Singh Lehri (GSA).

1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

The Chair requested a friendly amendment to the agenda: Item 6.1 was removed as the representative from HOJO was not present.

Jordan Jerome moved to approve the amended agenda. Margaret Colton seconded the motion. The motion was put to a vote:

In favour: 11

Against: 0

Abstentions: 4

The motion passed.

2. REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair welcomed the members of CCSL to the first meeting of 2021-2022. 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 noted that until further notice, meetings would continue to take place on zoom and expressed hope that they would resume in person before too long. 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: disbursing \$145,000.00 to student projects through the CCSL Special Projects Fund and \$20,000.00 to the Committee Participation

Recognition Program (CPRP); honouring Concordia students, staff and faculty through the CCSL Outstanding Contribution Awards; collaborating with the Black Perspectives Office to hire two students to conduct research on existing systems in place at other institutions that support participation in university governance by underrepresented students; and discussion of other topics related to student life. CCSL was interested in accepting presentations from students and groups on issues and initiatives relating to student life and invited suggestions from Council for future meetings.

Andrew Woodall wished to acknowledge the hard work of student leaders in successfully organizing their Orientation/Frosh activities. There had been a combination of in-person and virtual events, all of which were well-attended and successful. They also noted the great work of Emilie Fjelstedt and the staff in the Student Success Centre regarding Concordia's Orientation and Welcome activities. The Chair also acknowledged the efforts and initiatives of many departments, including Security, Facilities Management and Environmental Health & Safety, who had worked tirelessly to ensure a safe return to campus for students, staff and faculty.

The Chair 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 one week 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 support between the student associations and university departments. Student representatives from the following associations were present: ASFA, CASA, ECA, FASA and GSA. 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 7, 2021

Jordan Jerome-Pitre moved to approve the minutes from the meeting of May 7, 2021 and Stephanie Sarik seconded the motion. The motion was put to a vote:

In favour: 13

Against: 0

Abstentions: 2

The motion passed.

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF MAY 7, 2021

There was no business arising from the minutes of May 7, 2021.

6. REPORTS AND ITEMS OF INFORMATION

6.1 Student Services and Recreation & Athletics 2020-2021 Financials and 2021-2022 Budgets

Laura Mitchell presented the Student Services 2020-2021 Year-End Statement and 2021-2022 Budget. They gave an overview of the sources of revenue, noting that the Student Services fee per credit of \$10.26 had not increased since 2009, which was a challenge as Student Services had become more involved in student life and continued to increase its offerings. Laura Mitchell noted that the budget continued to be conservative as they did not know what enrollment figures would be when creating the

budget. In 2020-2021, it was a concern that enrollment would be lower because of the pandemic, however it had been higher than anticipated. Furthermore, there were fewer costs associated with booking events and other onsite activities, because of the restrictions of the pandemic. Laura Mitchell remarked that the government had changed the method of distributing funds to Student Services. In the past they gave the money directly to Student Services, but currently the funds are given to Financial Services, who then distributes it to Student Services. There was a reduction in the funds in 2021-2022 year due to the fact that the Sexual Assault Resource Centre (SARC) had moved out of the Student Services sector. They explained that Student Services received a contribution from Continuing Education because their students made use of the services. Laura Mitchell noted that last year Student Services did not receive this contribution because of lower enrollment in Continuing Education, but in the 2021-2022 year we hoped to receive it. The University also contributed \$200,000 for Health Services because these services were used by faculty and staff, as well as students. Laura Mitchell highlighted that 90% of the budget was allocated to salaries. Salary and benefit increases had to be respected, despite no increase in the fee collected per credit. In order to keep up with these increases, the sector would need to inject funds from past surpluses to make up the difference. It was noted that these surpluses were quickly depleting. Laura Mitchell was proud to point out that in 2020-2021, Student Services hired 293 student employees and that \$935,000 went to salaries for student workers, adding to their financial security and professional development. They informed the Council that Student Services now had a dedicated budget analyst who would be instrumental in budget planning and predictions. Laura Mitchell encouraged the Council to contact them with any questions that might arise concerning the budget.

Elaine Cheasley Paterson asked why the budget for Multi-Faith and Spirituality Centre seemed higher than other units in the Dean of Students Office. Andrew Woodall explained it was because of the greater number of employees in that unit.

D'Arcy Ryan presented the Recreation & Athletics 2020-2021 Year-End Statement and 2021-2022 Budget. They pointed out that it was similar to the Student Services budget in that the student fees for Recreation & Athletics had not increased since 2009. As well, administration and staffing made up the bulk of the expenses. D'Arcy Ryan noted that last year the department ended the year approximately \$200,000 under budget, largely because they could not open in person and offer many of their services due to the pandemic. An unfortunate consequence was that they could not hire as many students as they normally would. Departmental revenues decreased because they were unable to rent their spaces due to the pandemic. These factors have resulted in a projected deficit for 2021-2022. D'Arcy Ryan was confident that after the pandemic, the department would return to a balanced budget, if not a surplus. Recreation & Athletics was examining new avenues of revenue, for example, a pay-per-view option for watching athletics sports games. They were considering the challenge that the fee per credit had not increased, as they hoped to provide more services to students in the future, especially for recreation in terms of health and wellness programs. D'Arcy was hopeful that students would rally behind them to ensure that these important services could be provided by the professional staff within Recreation and Athletics.

The Chair thanked Laura Mitchell and D'Arcy Ryan for their presentations.

6.2 Committee Participation Recognition Program: Update on 2020-2021 Recipients

The Chair informed the Council that the Committee Participation Recognition Program (CPRP) was 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 Council. Students who were not paid to participate by their student group

and who attended enough meetings were eligible. The Chair noted that as of 2020-2021, \$20,000 was earmarked annually from the CCSL Special Projects Fund for the CPRP. The award was calculated based on the Québec resident tuition rate per credit for the year of participation. The Chair informed the Council that last year they offered a one-time only extension of the program, whereby the financial award was given to eligible students participating on their umbrella association council, as well as the CSU and GSA councils. In 2020-2021, the total amount distributed for participation on university governance bodies was \$22,709.94 for 48 students. The one-time contribution for student association councils was \$39,658.28 for 78 students.

6.3 CCSL Sub-Committees

6.3.1 CCSL Special Projects

Andrew Woodall explained that the CCSL Special Projects Fund was 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 had been previously earmarked annually to support the CSU Off-Campus Housing and Job Resource Centre (HOJO). In 2020-2021, CCSL approved a motion to require HOJO to present at the first CCSL meeting of the year, should they want to request the annual funding. CCSL would then vote on the amount awarded based on the presentation. Since HOJO did not attend the meeting, the \$20,000 would remain in the Special Projects Fund for all applicants. In addition, \$20,000 was earmarked annually for the Committee Participation Recognition Program (CPRP), as explained in the previous agenda item. The balance of the fund was available for student life projects. Last year there were 72 applications, which was lower than usual, most likely because of the restrictions of the pandemic. 61 projects were approved for a total allocation of \$150,000. Any unused funds at year-end would be held in trust and could be used for special initiatives related to student life, a decision that would be made by the Council. The Chair said that following both the fall and the winter submission deadlines, the sub-committee would review applications requesting \$5,000.00 or less online prior to a review meeting where decisions on funding for those projects would be made. 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. Margaret Colton had agreed to sit on this sub-committee as the staff representative. Andrew Woodall thanked Margaret Colton for her participation. Anyone from the Council interested in joining the sub-committee was asked to notify Lauren Broad.

6.3.2 CCSL Awards

The Chair explained that the CCSL Outstanding Contribution Awards recognized 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. Anyone from the Council interested in joining the sub-committee was asked to notify Lauren Broad.

6.3.3 CCSL Student Groups

The Chair explained that this was an advisory committee to give recommendations to the Dean of Students Office, when requested, to approve new student groups that did not fall under an umbrella association, as well as to disband groups when required. The committee's work will be focused on groups that do not fall under the umbrella associations, for example fee-levy groups. The committee was created to establish a more formal process for accepting new groups. The sub-committee membership included: two students from CCSL; one Student Services staff member from CCSL; and one permanent observer from CCSL. 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 FAAO Undergraduate Scholarship & Awards Committee

Stephanie Sarik explained that they were looking for a member of CCSL to sit on the Financial Aid & Awards Undergraduate Scholarship & Awards Committee. The committee was responsible for not only selecting recipients of some very high value financial awards, but also to review policy around the awards as needed. D'Arcy Ryan agreed to be the CCSL representative on the committee for the upcoming year. Andrew Woodall thanked D'Arcy Ryan for his participation.

7.2 Points of Interest

- September 20, 2021: Federal Elections with polling stations on campus
- September 21, 2021: Vaccination Clinic at Loyola Chapel
- September 24, 2021: Concordia Shuffle, operating virtually
- October 4, 2021: CCSL Special Projects deadline
- October 5, 2021: LIVE Centre Volunteer Fair, operating virtually
- October 21 & 23, 2021: Concordia Virtual Open House
- Student Service Station: operating on zoom every Wednesday throughout the fall semester

D'Arcy Ryan informed the Council that there was a Concordia Stingers football game that weekend at McGill, a soccer game that night and a rugby game on Sunday. They announced that the women's head hockey coach had been invited to be a coach at the Tampa Bay Lightning development camp.

8. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was scheduled for October 22, 2021 by Zoom, from 10am-1:30pm. The next meeting was extended to allow time for presentations for the Special Projects requests of over \$5,000.00.

9. TERMINATION OF MEETING

Stephanie Sarik motioned to terminate the meeting. Elaine Cheasley Paterson seconded the motion. The Council put the motion to a vote:

In favour: 7

Against: 0

Abstentions: 4

The motion passed.