

**Minutes from a Meeting of the Concordia Council on Student Life
Held on March 12, 2021
Virtual Meeting on Zoom**

PRESENT: Andrew Woodall (Chair), Lauren Broad (Secretary), Gaya Arasaratnam, Kaeleigh D’Ermo, Darren Dumoulin, Juliet Dunphy, Christian Durand, Lauren Farley, Matthew Fishman, Mel Habip, Rajiv Johal, Misseny Kourouma, Cassandra Lamontagne, Eduardo Malorni, Laura Mitchell, Nell Perry, Irene Petsopoulos, Kerolis Riad, D’Arcy Ryan, Michèle Sandiford, Stephanie Sarik, Phoebe Tom, Dane Yvan Toualeu Djieukam, Hector Vega.

ABSENT WITH REGRETS:, Anjali Agarwal, Temi Akin-Aina, Marie-Josée Allard, Gerry Barrette, Amelia Candoleta, Elaine Cheasley Paterson.

ABSENT: Abdul Qadir Ali, Melanie Burnett.

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. Michèle Sandiford seconded the motion. The Council put the motion to a vote:

In favour: 14

Against: 0

Abstentions: 1

The motion passed.

2. REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR

Andrew Woodall remarked that exactly one year ago the university community was informed that Concordia would close for two weeks due to the Covid 19 pandemic. They commented that twelve months later we were still in the midst of the pandemic and trying to determine how to respond, although thankfully we were no longer in crisis mode. The Chair remarked that the impact was profound and would be felt for years to come. The pandemic shone a light on the weaknesses and inequalities within our society. However, it had also shown us that we were resilient and reminded us that we existed in relationship to each other. They thanked faculty, staff and especially students for rising to the challenge and showing resilience and patience. They thanked the members of CCSL for contributing over and above their duties.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE MEETING OF JANUARY 22, 2021

Dane Yvan Toualeu Djieukam moved to approve the minutes from the meeting of January 22, 2021 and Mel Habip seconded the motion. The Council put the motion to a vote:

In favour: 13

Against: 0

Abstentions: 2

The motion passed.

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF JANUARY 22, 2021

4.1 Update on the Research Project with the BPO

The Chair reminded the Council that at the previous meeting a motion had passed to hire a student to do research on the obstacles facing marginalized students regarding their participation in university governance. The CCSL had approved using unused funds from the CCSL Special Projects Fund from previous years to cover

the cost of this. The Black Perspectives Office had agreed to hire another student on the same project. The Chair anticipated that the research project could be a summer job for the students and that they would be able to report their findings to the Council in the fall 2021 semester. The Chair noted that a professor would be invited to supervise the process.

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

The Chair reminded the Council that at the January meeting a motion was tabled to expand the Committee Participation Recognition Program (CPRP) for 2020-2021 only to include the board members of the CSU, GSA and the Faculty Associations at the graduate and undergraduate levels. The Council had requested more clarity regarding the timeline and which groups would be included. The Chair confirmed that the expansion of the CPRP would be for the 2020-2021 academic year only, after considering that most board members were already expected to attend all scheduled meetings throughout the year. Andrew Woodall informed the Council that in 2020-2021, there were approximately 75 unpaid board members from these associations and the amount needed to cover the proposed one-time expansion of the CPRP would be just under \$40,000. The motion had been revised accordingly and circulated to the Council prior to the meeting.

The following motion was put forth by Keroles Riad and seconded by Michèle Sandiford:

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 \$40,000 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), Engineering and Computer Science Graduate Student Association (ECGSA), Fine Arts Student Alliance (FASA) and the John Molson Graduate Students' Association (JMGSA). The Dean of Students Office will coordinate the disbursement of the funds, in accordance with the eligibility requirements of the CPRP.

The Council put the motion to a vote:

In favour: 10

Against: 1

Abstention: 2

The motion passed.

5. REPORTS AND ITEMS OF INFORMATION

5.1 Student Services and Recreation & Athletics 2019-2020 Financials and 2020-2021 Approved Budgets

Laura Mitchell presented the Student Services 2019-2020 Year-End Statement and 2020-2021 Approved 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 had greatly increased 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 expected that enrollment would be lower because of the pandemic, however it was higher than anticipated. Furthermore, there were fewer costs associated with booking events and other onsite activities, because of the pandemic. Laura Mitchell pointed out a significant change in the budget due to the fact that the International Students Office (ISO) had moved from Student Services to Enrollment and therefore reported to a different sector. The ISO budget was transferred out of the Student Services sector and the university adjusted their contribution accordingly. They explained that Student Services received a contribution from Continuing Education because their students made use of the services. Laura Mitchell noted that this amount was lower in 2020-2021 because of the lower enrollment in Continuing Education. They highlighted that the vast majority of the budget was allocated to salaries. They mentioned that capital requests were much lower in the current year because most staff were working from home. Laura Mitchell encouraged the Council to contact them with any questions that might arise concerning the budget.

Keroles Riad asked why the university contribution had been reduced so significantly, while expenses had still increased. Laura Mitchell offered to get this information from the budget analyst and report back with the answer.

D'Arcy Ryan presented the Recreation & Athletics 2019-2020 Year-End Statement and 2020-2021 Approved Budget. In reviewing the 2019-2020 year-end actuals, they pointed out that the government grant per full-time equivalency (FTE) had remained the same at 21.6%. The Recreation and Athletics fee had similarly not increased for 10 years, however, increased enrolment in 2019-2020 led to a slightly higher revenue than expected in that category. In 2019-2020 there had been some lost revenue as a result of closing the campuses in March last year. The budget showed a small deficit for that reason, which was absorbed by the university. The expenses increased slightly in administration, due to the addition of a new role. While the expenses in Recreation remained quite stable, Athletics managed to lower its expenses slightly. The 2020-2021 approved budget reflects changes due to the pandemic, considering the closure of the campuses. The departmental revenues were drastically reduced, as were the associated costs. As with Student Services, a large proportion of the budget in Recreation & Athletics was for human resources, which were not needed in the usual manner with the closure. The anticipated revenue from student fees was projected conservatively, but with the hope for a strong registration again in 2020-2021. D'Arcy Ryan hoped to have slightly more departmental revenue at the end of the year due to some initiatives such as renting out equipment, as well as some cost-cutting measures in all three categories of expenses. D'Arcy Ryan anticipates the budget for 2021-2022 will be more typical of a normal year as the campuses open up again.

The Chair noted that it was always challenging to prepare the budget for the university fiscal year, beginning on May 1st, as we would not know what the FTEs would be until the fall semester. Keroles Riad noted that the university appeared to be saving money, while students were still paying the same amount in fees. D'Arcy Ryan pointed out that the university made the decision to credit students half of the Recreation & Athletics fee in the current year. This was not reflected in the budget because it was prepared before the university made the decision.

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

5.2 CCSL Sub-Committees:

5.2.1 CCSL Awards: Outstanding Contribution Awards Update

The Chair reminded the Council that one of CCSL's initiatives was to recognize students, staff and faculty who had gone above and beyond their roles to contribute to student life, through the CCSL Outstanding Contribution Awards. The awards were being distributed in the current year as usual, however without the usual in-person event held at the Loyola Chapel. There were 32 nominations received: 26 students, 2 faculty and 4 staff. The sub-committee were scheduled to meet on March 25th to review the nominations. Andrew Woodall 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 representative. Any graduate student from the Council interested in joining the sub-committee was asked to notify Lauren Broad.

5.2.2 CCSL Special Projects:

Update on the review of projects requesting \$5,000 and less

The Chair reminded the Council that each year there were two deadlines for students to apply for CCSL Special Projects funding for projects that enhance student life at Concordia. The total amount available to be distributed was \$165,000. There was \$20,000 earmarked for HOJO, however they were not requesting these funds for 2020-2021. The amount had been added back in to the fund for the winter 2021 applications. \$20,000 was also earmarked for the CPRP. The winter deadline had passed and the sub-committee had met to review the applications. There were fewer applications than in previous years, no doubt a result of the pandemic. A total of 37 applications were received requesting \$5,000 or less, with 35 projects approved for a total of \$54,152.85 allocated.

Presentations by applicants requesting over \$5,000

There were 3 applications requesting amounts greater than \$5,000, for a total requested amount of \$68,300. There was currently \$29,202.15 remaining in the fund to disburse. The Chair informed the Council that the Special Projects sub-committee had reviewed the three proposals requesting over \$5,000 and had assigned a suggested amount of funding with a rationale for each. Andrew Woodall proposed that a motion be put forth with the recommended amount as a starting point, followed by a discussion by the Council members. The Chair asked that for any Council member that was directly involved in a project to recuse themselves from the discussion and voting on that particular project.

Applicants requesting over \$5,000 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.

***“Pay-What-You-Can Food Baskets”*, presented by Georgia Hawkins-Seagram and Tasha Zamudio. Amount requested: \$15,000**

The Chair informed the Council that the sub-committee had suggested funding of \$15,000, as it was a new project that addressed a very real and serious issue. They argued that it would have a direct and important impact on students. The Council agreed.

Kerolos Riad put forth the following motion, seconded by Mel Habip:

Be it resolved that the project “Pay-What-You-Can Food Baskets” be approved for \$15,000 of funding from the CCSL Special Projects Fund.

The Council put the motion to a vote:

In favour: 12

Against: 0

Abstentions: 3

The motion passed.

“Space Concordia Special Projects XRD-21 Advance Propulsion System, presented by Pierce Reid. Amount requested \$23,300

The Chair informed the Council that Space Concordia had already been approved in the current year for 5 projects for a total of \$15,000. The sub-committee thought it was an interesting project, but had some concern that a great deal of CCSL funding was going to Space Concordia. The sub-committee recommended funding the project for \$5,000. Mel Habip added that they felt that the project was purely a scientific project that did not impact student life. Some council members felt the money would be better spent on the other project by Space Concordia that was requesting funding, “*Base 11 Challenge*”.

Irene Petsopoulos put forth the following motion, seconded by Mel Habip.

Be it resolved that the project “Space Concordia Special Projects XRD-21 Advance Propulsion System” be approved for \$5,000 of funding from the CCSL Special Projects Fund.

The Council put the motion to a vote:

In favour: 5

Against: 6

Abstention: 4

The motion did not pass.

“Base 11 Challenge, presented by Brandon Burke, Oleg Khalimonov and Niv Turecki. Amount requested \$30,000.00

Noting the same concern of repeated funding for Space Concordia and possible other sources of funding, Andrew Woodall informed the Council that the sub-committee had recommended not to fund the project. Discussion revealed that many Council members felt that the project would make better use of the funds, relative to the other Space Concordia project, because of their record of success and evidence of a solid plan for the future. Cassandra Lamontagne was concerned that this project did not focus on sustainability as well as the previous project did. The Chair commented that it would be important to give feedback to Space Concordia that they should coordinate internally when making requests to CCSL for several projects during the same funding year.

Kerolés Riad suggested giving all the remaining funds to the project “*Base 11 Challenge*”. Mel Habip agreed. Lauren Broad confirmed that there was \$14,202.15 remaining in the fund.

Kerolés Riad put forth the following motion, seconded by Mel Habip:

Be it resolved that the project “Base 11 Challenge” be approved for \$14,202.15 from the CCSL Special Projects Fund.

The Council put the motion to a vote:

In favour: 7

Against: 5

Abstention: 4

The motion passed.

The Chair confirmed that the CCSL should put forth a motion to make it official that the other Space Concordia Project would not receive any funding.

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

Be it resolved that no funding be approved for the project "Space Concordia Special Projects XRD-21 Advance Propulsion System" from the CCSL Special Projects Fund.

The Council put the motion to a vote:

In favour: 8

Against: 2

Abstention: 6

The motion passed.

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1 Points of Interest

- March 19, 2021: Sustainability Champion Awards deadline.
- March 21, 2021: "How is nanotechnology affecting your wine, gut and climate?" Public Scholars event hosted by Keroles Riad and 4th Space.
- April 15, 2021: Convocation non-academic medals and awards application deadline.
- Sustainability Living Lab was looking for participants for stakeholder consultations and offering funding to students for projects.
- The Library and the FAAO had given 400 bursaries of \$200 each to students to purchase textbooks.
- Recreation and Athletics had been awarded funding for the female apprentice coach award. Erica Porter would join as a female assistant coach in the women's hockey programme.

7. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was scheduled for April 9, 2021, by Zoom, from 10am-12:00pm.

8. TERMINATION OF MEETING

Juliet Dunphy motioned to terminate the meeting. Kaeleigh D'Ermo seconded the motion. The Council put the motion to a vote:

In favour: 13

Against: 1

Abstentions: 2

The motion passed.