

**Minutes from a Meeting of the Concordia Council on Student Life
Held on April 9, 2021
Virtual Meeting on Zoom**

PRESENT: Andrew Woodall (Chair), Lauren Broad (Secretary), Anjali Agarwal, Genevieve Alloï (replacing Matthew Fishman), Annette Bowen (replacing Amelia Candoleta), Kaeleigh D'Ermo, Lauren Farley, Mel Habib, Rajiv Johal, Misseny Kourouma, Anne-Marie Lanctôt (replacing Gaya Arasaratnam), Eduardo Malorni, Laura Mitchell, Erin Mullins (replacing Temi Akin-Aina), Nell Perry, Irene Petsopoulos, Keroles Riad, D'Arcy Ryan, Michèle Sandiford, Stephanie Sarik, Pheobe Tom, Dane Yvan Toualeu Djieukam.

ABSENT WITH REGRETS: Marie-Josée Allard, Juliet Dunphy, Christian Durand, Cassandra Lamontagne, Elaine Cheasley Paterson.

ABSENT: Abdul Qadir Ali, Melanie Burnett, Darren Dumoulin, Hector Vega.

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

In favour: 13

Against: 0

Abstentions: 1

The motion passed.

2. REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR

Andrew Woodall welcomed the Council to the penultimate meeting of 2020-2021. The Chair remarked that the Engagement Awards celebration event would take place on April 22, 2021 and that Council members would receive an invitation by email shortly. The Chair informed the Council that CASA, ASFA, CSU and FASA have had their elections for the upcoming year. The Chair extended congratulations to Eduardo Malorni for being elected General Coordinator of CSU for 2021-2022.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE MEETING OF MARCH 12, 2021

Dane Yvan Toualeu Djieukam moved to approve the minutes from the meeting of March 12, 2021 and D'Arcy Ryan seconded the motion. The Council put the motion to a vote:

In favour: 15

Against: 0

Abstentions: 1

The motion passed.

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF MARCH 12, 2021

4.1 Follow up on Budget Presentation: Clarification on the Decrease in University Contribution to the Student Services Annual Budget

The Chair reminded the Council that the annual budgets for Students Services and Recreation & Athletics had been presented at the last meeting. A question had arisen regarding the decrease in the university contribution to the Student Services budget. Laura Mitchell provided the following clarification:

It was noted that the 2019-2020 Year-End actuals reported a contribution of \$2,038,262 from the University, while the same line budgeted only \$563,215 for 2020-2021. This reduction was due to the following particular circumstances and changes in the current year, and did not result in any reduction or loss of services to students:

\$900,000 was transferred to Enrolment Services for the International Students Office, which changed its reporting last year from Student Services to the Office of the Registrar. \$200,000 was accounted for by staff salaries who also transferred to Enrolment Services, given a recent restructuring in Student Services. Their tasks were now conducted by other Student Services staff members. \$375,047 that would normally come from what is called 'one time only' Provost fees to support SARC, ACSD and Health Services were not required to be transferred in the current year, as special government envelopes of money came in to support SARC and ACSD, while no one being on campus reduced the needs of Health Services.

The Chair thanked Laura Mitchell for the clarification.

5. REPORTS AND ITEMS OF INFORMATION

5.1 CCSL Sub-Committees:

5.1.1 CCSL Awards: Outstanding Contribution Awards Update

Stephanie Sarik informed the Council that the sub-committee had met on March 25 and the discussion had been robust and enthusiastic. It was a challenge to sort out the greatest from all the worthy nominations. The committee selected 5 students and 2 staff members for awards for 2021. At the sub-committee meeting Misseny Kourouma had raised a concern that the sub-committee decided to bring to the Council, given that the mandate for selecting award recipients had not been reviewed in quite some time. Misseny Kourouma noted that in 2021 there were no graduate students selected to receive an award. They believed that there was a difference in the contributions to student life made by undergraduate and graduate students, and that the selection criteria should be revised to take that into consideration. Stephanie Sarik agreed that the kind of contribution made by a graduate student may look different but is no less impactful. They noted that it would be important to also consider the context of inclusivity, and that there is a need to be more specific about the kinds of contributions that would be considered in this context. Stephanie Sarik asked the Council to reflect on this and hoped that any updates to the guidelines or criteria could be put into place before the next round of nominations. The Chair thanked the sub-committee and suggested that they could present a formal document addressing this to present at the May meeting.

5.1.2 CCSL Special Projects: Recommendations for Guidelines and Review Process

The Special Projects sub-committee had prepared a document detailing their discussion to review the guidelines and processes used to evaluate special project applications. The document had been circulated to the Council prior to the meeting and it provided recommendations for the Council to consider. The Chair invited the Council to provide feedback on the document.

D'Arcy Ryan stated that they appreciated the time and effort that went into the document and agreed that it was time for some changes. They expressed some reservations about giving the sub-committee the authority to make decisions for projects requesting more than \$5,000 and felt this was too much responsibility for the sub-committee. They added that including the input of the entire Council would provide broader points of view and that it was an important part of the learning process for students to make presentations at CCSL. D'Arcy Ryan agreed that the CCSL should set a maximum amount applicants could request from the fund. Stephanie Sarik stated that it was important for CCSL to set a clear indicator of how much it would fund a project. This would be helpful for both applicants and the review committees. They also suggested that the Council review the definition of "student life" in the current context in order to clarify the meaning of "contribution to student life". Mel Habip stated that the sub-committee should have the ability to reserve the right to disqualify projects that clearly do not meet the criteria. They were concerned that a cap of less than \$30,000 might limit creativity or stop a project from being created. Misseny Kourouma expressed concern that if the sub-committee were to decide if an application warranted the opportunity to make a presentation

to the Council for requests over \$5,000, the applicant may not be notified in enough time to prepare for a presentation, given the narrow timeline of the funding period. Michèle Sandiford noted that funding an entire project should be limited to requests for small amounts of funding such as \$500, because the small amounts could add up quickly. They also felt that students should continue to be required to have other sources of funding and that it showed how committed they were to the project. Keroles Riad said that the guidelines should be transparent regarding what size project would be funded only up to 50% and what size could be funded the full amount of the request. For example, projects requesting less than \$1,000 could possibly be considered for full funding. They also noted that CCSL should be mindful of how much extra work they are asking students to do when making presentations for requests over \$5,000 that are unlikely to be awarded that much. They also recommended that CCSL refer to Cassandra Lamontagne and Nell Perry to suggest concrete ideas regarding increased sustainability requirements and considerations for projects. Keroles Riad also suggested that CCSL formalize the current rating system that was used to evaluate projects at the sub-committee. They recommended including the system on the website so that applicants would be aware of the assessment process. Keroles Riad expressed concern that many projects include inflated budgets, and it was the responsibility of CCSL to request more realistic budgets. They suggested using \$20,000 as a cap for funding. Dane Yvan Toualeu Djieukam asked if there could be a way to put every application from the same association under one form to help distribute the funds more evenly. Andrew Woodall agreed that was an important consideration. The Chair thanked the Council for the discussion and stated that a more formal document will be presented at the May meeting.

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1 Points of Interest

- April 15, 2021: Deadline for non-academic graduation medals and awards.
- April 22, 2021: Engagement Awards webinar celebration. Invitations will be going out shortly to all CCSL Council members. The prizes for these awards will be made by CUCCR.
- April 24, 2021: Examination period begins.
- June 17, 2021: CU Celebrate Class of 2021, an online celebration in lieu of Convocation.

7. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was scheduled for May 7, 2021, by Zoom, from 10am-12:00pm.

8. TERMINATION OF MEETING

Michèle Sandiford motioned to terminate the meeting. Mel Habip seconded the motion. The Council put the motion to a vote:

In favour: 11

Against: 1

Abstentions: 1

The motion passed.