

**Minutes from a Meeting of the Concordia Council on Student Life
Held on January 21, 2022
Virtual Meeting on Zoom**

PRESENT: Andrew Woodall (Chair), Lauren Broad (Secretary), Annette Bowen, Margaret Colton, Lauren Farley, Jordan Jerome-Pitre, Rosalie Lafrance, Cassandra Lamontagne, Hemanth Lingraj, Laura Mitchell, Erin Mullins (replacing Temi Akin-Aina), Elaine Cheasley Paterson, Irene Petsopoulos, D'Arcy Ryan, Masoumeh Zaare.

ABSENT WITH REGRETS: Gaelle Abou Issa, Marie-Josée Allard, Dianne Cmor, Matthew Fishman, Julie Foisy, Stephanie Sarik.

ABSENT: Gaya Arasaratnam, Malcolm Asselin, Paul Blouin, Melanie Burnett, Jeremya Daneault, Darren Dumoulin, Christian Durand, Katerina Ivanov, Nigel Jonathan Ochieng, Thuy Trang Cao.

GUESTS: Mary Burns (Minutes).

1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The Chair opened the meeting with Concordia's territorial acknowledgement. They noted that in the absence of quorum, the agenda could not be approved. The Council agreed to continue with the meeting, acknowledging that no formal motions could be voted on.

2. REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR

The Chair explained the procedures for conducting the meeting virtually. The Chair wished everyone a happy new year and expressed hope that we would be out of the pandemic at some point in 2022. They announced that Nadia Hardy was the new Interim Deputy Provost and Vice-Provost, Faculty Development and Inclusion/Office of the Provost and Vice-President, Academic. The Chair congratulated the Student Success Centre for initiating a new study group pilot program for students. So far over 1000 students had applied, which indicated that it was a much-needed service. The Chair informed the Council that Homeroom was still accepting students. The program was specifically geared for first year students, but all students were accepted at that time. The Chair informed Council that the Dean of Students Office Engagement Team had met with the six major umbrella associations and all were planning activities for the winter semester, including many activities for Black History Month. The Chair congratulated all students, staff and faculty for continuing to be flexible in coping with the constant changes due to the pandemic.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE MEETING OF NOVEMBER 26, 2021

The minutes from November 26, 2021 could not be approved without quorum.

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 26, 2022

4.1 CCSL Special Projects Unused Funds Discussion Document

The Chair reminded the Council that at the last meeting there had been a discussion about how to use the accumulated unused funds from the Special Projects fund. There was approximately \$140,00.00 of unused funds. It was agreed that it was a good time to initiate another "Big Hairy Ideas" competition, similar to the competition that had occurred in 2015-2016, with a focus on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion. The Chair referred the Council to the discussion document that had been circulated before the meeting. It was hoped that the document could be finalized and a motion brought to the next Council meeting. The Chair

asked the Council for comments and questions concerning the document (see attached Addendum).

A discussion ensued. Elaine Cheasley Paterson suggested that the word “systemic” be included in the first bullet under the section “Proposed Structure”. They also suggested that the criteria should include efforts or actions that support the university’s Indigenous Directions Plan. The Chair agreed and added that a link to the plan can be included in the application. They pointed out that one of the criteria is that at least one currently registered student must be involved in the project. The Chair mentioned that collaboration between students and staff/faculty is an important requirement and that the project must be a new initiative and not replicate an existing service. Rosalie Lafrance suggested that a link to the Nine Strategic Directions also be included in the guidelines. The Chair agreed and added to include a link to the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Cassandra Lamontagne pointed out that there was already a Sustainability Fund available for projects and cautioned against including those goals in this competition. Cassandra Lamontagne asked if there had been any feedback from the three projects that had received funding in the previous “Big Hairy Ideas” competition that could potentially inform the process this time. The Chair noted that it was an excellent idea and that they would reach out to those groups for their feedback. The Chair thanked the Council for their suggestions and stated that they would update the document and bring a formal motion to the next Council meeting.

5. REPORTS AND ITEMS OF INFORMATION

5.1 Motion to Extend Research Project on the Inclusion of Underrepresented Students in Post-Secondary Governance

In the absence of quorum, the Chair asked the Council to agree in principle to the following motion:

MOTION TO EXTEND THE RESEARCH PROJECT TO IDENTIFY SUSTAINABLE FUNDING TO SUPPORT UNDERREPRESENTED STUDENTS’ PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNANCE AT THE UNIVERSITY

Given that the Concordia Council on Student Life (CCSL) approved a motion at the meeting held on January 22, 2021 to approve support for a research project to produce a user-friendly document that includes best practices for the inclusion of underrepresented students in post-secondary governance;

Given that the disruptions of the on-going pandemic have contributed to significant delays in moving forward with the research project;

Given that the CCSL maintains its strong support for the research project to meet its full potential;

Given that the newly initiated Equity Office has agreed to join CCSL and the Black Perspectives Office in supporting this project that will increase the potential success of the research project;

Be it resolved that:

The timeline for the research project in partnership with the Black Perspectives Office and the Equity Office to investigate existing systems in place at other institutions that support

participation in university governance by underrepresented students be extended into the 2022-2023 academic year. The written report and presentation to the CCSL will be completed by December 31, 2022.

The Council members agreed in principle and it was decided that the Council would vote by email before the next meeting.

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1 Points of Interest:

- FASA Town Hall January 21, 2022 from 11:00 am – 1:00 pm
- Launch of Sustainable Virtual Event Guide at the Digital Skills Share Un-Conference: January 28, 2022
- Return to classes on campus for all students: February 3, 2022
- CCSL Special Projects deadline: Monday February 7, 2022 at 5pm
- Engagement Awards (CCSL Outstanding Contribution Awards, Volunteer Recognition Awards, Sustainable Champions Awards and Safety Awards) deadline for nominations: Monday, February 14, 2022 at 5pm

7. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was scheduled for March 11, 2022, by Zoom, from 10:00 am to 1:30 pm. The next meeting time was extended for presentations for the Special Projects requests of over \$5000.00.

8. TERMINATION OF MEETING

In the absence of quorum, the Council agreed to terminate the meeting without an approved motion.