

**Minutes from a Meeting of the Concordia Council on Student Life
Held on March 11, 2022
Virtual Meeting on Zoom**

PRESENT: Andrew Woodall (Chair), Lauren Broad (Secretary), Malcolm Asselin, Dianne Cmor, Margaret Colton, Lauren Farley, Matthew Fishman, Jordan Jerome-Pitre, Rosalie Lafrance, Laura Mitchell, Irene Petsopoulos, Thuy Trang Cao, Masoumeh Zaare.

ABSENT WITH REGRETS: Marie-Josée Allard, Temi Akin-Aina, Gaya Arasaratnam, Julie Foisy, Cassandra Lamontagne, Hemanth Lingraj, Elaine Cheasley Paterson, D’Arcy Ryan, Stephanie Sarik.

ABSENT: Gaelle Abou Issa, Paul Blouin, Annette Bowen, Melanie Burnett, Darren Dumoulin, Christian Durand, Katerina Ivanov, Nigel Jonathan Ochieng.

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

Andrew Woodall welcomed the Council to the meeting and noted that spring was in the air and that it was exactly two years since the university had closed for an anticipated two weeks at the start of the pandemic. The Chair noted that despite many difficulties, there had also been an opportunity to reflect on how the university operated. The Chair named the series of forums that had been created called “The Future of Concordia” and encouraged Council members to become involved. The Chair acknowledged the war raging in Ukraine and recognized the work that was being done by the Concordia community to offer aid and support. The Chair remarked that most of the meeting would be devoted to the CCSL Special Projects presentations and deciding on funding for each.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

3.1 Approval of the Minutes from the Meeting of November 26, 2021

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

3.2 Approval of the Minutes from the Meeting of January 21, 2022

The minutes from January 21, 2022 could not be approved without quorum.

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

4.1 Business Arising from the Minutes of November 26, 2021

There was no business arising from the Minutes of November 26, 2021.

4.2 Business Arising from the Minutes of January 21, 2022

4.2.1 Update on the CCSL Special Projects Unused Funds Competition

The Chair announced that in the absence of quorum, the update would be presented at the next Council meeting.

5. REPORTS AND ITEMS OF INFORMATION

5.1 CCSL Sub-Committees:

5.1.1 CCSL Awards: Outstanding Contribution Awards Update

The Chair reported that the sub-committee had met once and would meet again the following week. There had been a total of 29 nominations: 14 undergraduate students; 5 graduate students; 2 faculty; and 8 staff. The Engagement Awards Celebration was planned to be in-person at the Loyola Chapel on April 13, 2022. The awards to be presented were the CCSL Outstanding Contribution Awards, the LIVE Centre Volunteer Recognition Awards, the Sustainability Champion Awards and the EH&S Safety Awards.

5.1.2 CCSL Special Projects:

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

Andrew Woodall reminded the Council that there was \$145,000 available to distribute to special projects for the year, with one deadline in the fall and another in the winter. There were 63 applications received, 8 of which were ineligible. The sub-committee considered 49 applications requesting \$5,000 or less, for a total amount requested of just under \$110,000. The sub-committee approved 37 of these projects, for a total of \$47,300. One approved project had since cancelled, therefore \$21,884 remained in the fund to allocate to projects requesting over \$5,000.

Presentations by applicants requesting over \$5,000

The Chair informed the Council that the CCSL Special Projects sub-committee had reviewed the 6 proposals requesting over \$5,000 and had recommended an amount of funding with a rationale for each. Since quorum had not been reached, Andrew Woodall suggested that the Council discuss each project, using the sub-committee's recommendation as a starting point. The Council present at the meeting would agree upon a motion to put forth for each project according to the discussion. It was decided that the secretary of CCSL would send out the motions put forth following the meeting for all the voting members to submit their vote electronically. The results would be shared with Council members by email prior to the next meeting. The Chair asked for any Council member that was directly involved in a project to recuse themselves from the discussion and future voting on that 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 discussed each project, considering the recommendations from the sub-committee, providing their comments and concerns.

The following provides a summary of the discussion for each project and the motion put forth, as well as the result of each motion following the electronic vote.

***"Wellbeing Through Solidarity Mural Festival"*, presented by Camina Harrison-Chéry, Shivaane Subash and Christopher Djesus Vaccarella. Amount requested: \$15,000**

The Chair informed the Council that the sub-committee had been unanimously in favour of this project and recommended \$5,000.00, with the possibility that the Dean of Students Office could contribute funds as well. The sub-committee would have recommended more funding had there been more available to be disbursed. Due to their conflict of interest, Malcolm Asselin recused himself from the discussion and decision.

The Council was in full support of the project and felt that it was deserving of a larger allocation from CCSL. Members noted the wide reach of the project and the lasting impact it would have on Concordia students for years to come on both campuses.

Margaret Colton put forth the following motion, seconded by Lauren Farley:

Be it resolved that the project "Wellbeing Through Solidarity Mural Festival" be approved for \$10,000 of funding from the CCSL Special Projects Fund.

The motion was put to a vote electronically after the meeting, with the following results:

In favour: 11

Against: 0

Abstention: 7

The motion passed.

"Improvement of CPR Workflow via Heart Simulator for Earth & Space Applications", presented by Rym Vasmine Chaid and Amanda Spilkin. Amount requested: \$7,400

The sub-committee suggested \$3,000.00, noting that Space Concordia received little to no support from the ECA and Gina Cody School of Engineering & Computer Science. The Council felt that the project did not really benefit student life at Concordia and suggested that these funds would be better put towards another project. Lauren Farley pointed out that a CPR program already existed at Concordia. The Council also acknowledged that Space Concordia had received \$11,000 in funding for a different project during the fall semester and \$5,000 for other projects in the winter semester.

Lauren Farley put forth the following motion, seconded by Malcolm Asselin:

Be it resolved that no funding be approved for the project "Improvement of CPR Workflow via Heart Simulator for Earth & Space Applications" from the CCSL Special Projects Fund.

The motion was put to a vote electronically after the meeting, with the following results:

In favour: 13

Against: 0

Abstention: 5

The motion passed.

"Concordia Forest School", presented by Isaac Smeele and Adalia Pemberton-Smith. Amount requested: \$11,000

The sub-committee appreciated the nature of the project but felt that it did not benefit student life at Concordia as per the mandate of the CCSL and therefore recommended not to fund the project. It was noted that most of the project would take place during the summer, which would fall into the next funding year. They believed that there were many unanswered questions about who would run the program, how the project would be organized and that the budget was not clear. The project seemed to be beyond the scope of the CCSL special project fund. The Council agreed with the recommendation of the sub-committee.

Lauren Farley put forth the following motion, seconded by Malcolm Asselin:

Be it resolved that no funding be approved for the project "Concordia Forest School" from the CCSL Special Projects Fund.

The motion was put to a vote electronically after the meeting, with the following results:

In favour: 12
Against: 0
Abstention: 6

The motion passed.

"Concordia's First Indigenous-centric Artist Residency", presented by Isaac Smeele and Adalia Pemberton-Smith. Amount requested: \$20,000

The sub-committee believed in the project and the benefits to a community in need, however felt that it was not a project that was appropriate for the CCSL to fund. The sub-committee recommended that the project not be funded by the CCSL, adding that it presented a much larger issue to be addressed by the university and the wider community. They noted that the bulk of the expenses for this project would be occurring in the next funding year. The Council agreed with the sub-committee's recommendation.

Lauren Farley put forth the following motion, seconded by Malcolm Asselin:

Be it resolved that no funding be approved for the project "Concordia's First Indigenous-centric Artist Residency" from the CCSL Special Projects Fund.

The motion was put to a vote electronically after the meeting, with the following results:

In favour: 12
Against: 0
Abstention: 6

The motion passed.

"Concordia Task Force to Combat Urban Inuit Homelessness", presented by Isaac Smeele and Adalia Pemberton-Smith. Amount requested: \$8,000

The sub-committee recognized the project as the start of something larger in scope and suggested allocating \$5,000 to the project. The sub-committee noted that the applicant could also apply for funding retro-actively in the fall, as the bulk of the project was planned to start in the following funding year. The Council agreed that the project addressed a very important issue but felt that the project was too large in scope and not feasible within the current funding year. The project required a great deal of planning that had not been put into place. The Council recommended that feedback be given to the applicant to help them put together a more feasible proposal.

Lauren Farley put forth the following motion, seconded by Malcolm Asselin:

Be it resolved that no funding be approved for the project "Concordia Task Force to Combat Urban Inuit Homelessness" from the CCSL Special Projects Fund.

The motion was put to a vote electronically after the meeting, with the following results:

In favour: 10
Against: 1
Abstention: 7

The motion passed.

The Chair noted that any of the three projects presented by Isaac Smeele and Adalia Pemberton-Smith may be eligible for the upcoming Big Hairy Ideas competition, which was hoped to be approved at the next Council meeting in April. The Council suggested that the applicants be informed of the possibility of the competition and encouraged to apply.

“Pay-What-You-Can Food Baskets”, presented by Neveen Sawouq and Donald Armstrong. Amount requested: \$15,000

The sub-committee was strongly in favour of the project and had suggested \$8,000 of funding. Matthew Fishman stated that their department had noticed long-term effects of the pandemic on students and said that the project would directly help with food insecurity among students. The Council felt that the project would benefit from a larger allocation from CCSL. It was noted that the same project was approved for \$15,000 in funding from the CCSL during the previous funding year.

Malcolm Asselin put forth the following motion, seconded by Jordan Jerome-Pitre:

Be it resolved that the project “Pay-What-You-Can Food Baskets” be approved for \$12,000 of funding from the CCSL Special Projects Fund.

The motion was put to a vote electronically after the meeting, with the following results:

In favour: 12
Against: 0
Abstention: 6

The motion passed.

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1 Points of Interest:

- March 7-11, 2022: 5 Days for the Homeless
- March 18, 2022: the Dean of Students Office meeting with the Big 6 (umbrella associations)
- April 13, 2022 at 4pm: Engagement Awards Celebration at the Loyola Chapel
- Ongoing: Future of Concordia consultations and task forces

7. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was scheduled for April 8, 2022 at 10:00 am, location (in-person or virtually on Zoom) to be confirmed.

8. TERMINATION OF MEETING

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