

**Minutes from a Meeting of the Concordia Council on Student Life
Held on May 6, 2022
Virtual Meeting on Zoom**

PRESENT: Andrew Woodall (Chair), Lauren Broad (Secretary), Malcolm Asselin, Annette Bowen, Elaine Cheasley Paterson, Dianne Cmor, Margaret Colton, Lauren Farley, Matthew Fishman, Julie Foisy, Jordan Jerome-Pitre, Hemanth Lingraj, Laura Mitchell, Irene Petsopoulos, D'Arcy Ryan, Stephanie Sarik, Masoumeh Zaare.

ABSENT WITH REGRETS: Gaya Arasaratnam, Cassandra Lamontagne.

ABSENT: Gaele Abou Issa, Temi Akin-Aina, Marie-Josée Allard, Paul Blouin, Melanie Burnett, Thuy Trang Cao, Darren Dumoulin, Christian Durand, Katerina Ivanov, Rosalie Lafrance, Nigel Jonathan Ochieng.

GUESTS: Sabrina Catalogna (minutes), Harley Martin (Incoming CSU Student Life Coordinator).

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 everyone to the last council meeting of the 2021-2022 academic year. They reflected on the year, noting that \$145,000 was dispersed in project funding and that there had been an increase in applications from the previous year. Eight students, staff and faculty were awarded the CCSL Outstanding Contribution Award at the Engagement Awards Celebration, which were held in person once again at the Loyola Chapel. Food baskets purchased from Le Frigo Vert were donated to students in need on behalf of all recipients. They recalled past presentation and topics that were reviewed at council meetings. They also noted that funding had been earmarked for a Big Hair Ideas competition that would take place the following academic year.

3. Approval of the Minutes from the Meeting of April 8, 2022

The minutes from April 8, 2022, could not be approved without quorum.

4. Business Arising from the Minutes of April 8, 2022

4.1 Discussion document: Financial compensation to the CCSL Outstanding Contribution Award recipients

The Chair recalled that a motion cannot be made without quorum, but that a poll could be done and then sent by email to include those who were not present. The Council decided to proceed with the poll to start the conversation of whether to provide a financial component to CCSL Awards.

The following poll was launched with nine voting members: Should the CCSL provide a financial reward to the CCSL Award recipients?

In favour: 4

Against: 3

Abstention: 2

The Chair continued the discussion by explaining that the CCSL annual budget of \$165,000 would not increase each year, as it comes from the Students Services fee and government transfers. Each year, \$20,000 was allocated to the Committee Participation Recognition Program (CPRP) to recognize student participation on several university governing bodies: the CCSL, Senate, Board of Governors and the Faculty Councils. \$20,000 was earmarked annually to the CSU Housing and Job Resource Centre (HOJO) on the agreement that they make a formal request at the first Council meeting of each academic year. If HOJO did not make the request, the amount would be allocated back to the CCSL Special Projects Fund for all student projects. The Chair asked the Council to consider if they wanted to use a portion of the remaining \$125,000, normally used for the CCSL Special Projects Fund, for the financial reward for award recipients.

Masoumeh Zaare asked how many students typically receive the CPRP and what the amount was. Lauren Broad responded that for the 2021-2022 academic year it would be \$545.04 per person, since the amount was equivalent to six credits at the Québec resident tuition rate for that year. The number of students would still need to be confirmed for the present year, however Lauren Broad noted that in the previous year, 48 students had received the CPRP, for a total of \$22,709.94.

The following poll was launched with nine voting members: Should the amount required for the financial reward be taken from the CCSL Special Projects budget of \$125,000?

In favour: 1

Against: 5

Abstention: 3

The Council recognized the benefits of receiving a financial reward, but believed that it should not come from the CCSL budget: another source of funding would need to be found. The Chair noted that a larger conversation would be needed to find this. The Student Services fee had not increased in 13 years and the University was in deficit coming out of the pandemic. They noted the Dean of Students Office would reach out to other departments, such as Alumni for with potential donors, however it would be a challenge considering an endowment fund would be required. They asked the Council to share their thoughts, ideas and a suggested amount per recipient.

Malcolm Asselin began the conversation, stating that between \$500 and \$1,000 would be a reasonable amount for a financial reward. Stephanie Sarik said that they volunteered on a national association and that not everyone received a stipend. They agreed with the amount of \$500. Masoumeh Zaare suggested \$2,000, as their research had shown that other Canadian universities were offering between \$2,000 and \$5,000 for similar awards. They recognized that financial compensation may result in more nominations, which could ultimately help students continue their studies, attend workshops and develop their skills. Masoumeh Zaare noted that for staff, a financial reward would be a motivation to go above and beyond their job requirements. A lengthy discussion ensued. Some Council members noted that the CCSL awards were only one of four of the Engagement Awards. Stephanie Sarik questioned how a financial reward for CCSL would affect the other awards being given. Lauren Farley suggested that staff award recipients should be offered training or skill development opportunities by Human Resources, rather than financial compensation. Stephanie Sarik asked when the CCSL Awards criteria were last reviewed. They added that monetary compensation was attractive, but with no funds currently available, Stephanie Sarik wondered what else could be offered. Malcolm Asselin responded that with unpaid internships and an increasing wage gap, students, staff and faculty were all affected. They said that although financial compensation should not be the only motivation for their contribution, financial compensation tends to be required to attract people. They fully supported finding funds for students who go above and beyond. Diane Cmor

indicated that they did not feel comfortable with the term “compensation” and asked that should the motion move forward, the Council would refer to it as a recognition or reward. Lauren Farley stated that they were not convinced of the idea of a financial reward at all, as it was not the basis for the award. Jordan Jerome-Pitre also questioned the spirit of the award and felt that a further discussion would be needed.

Two additional voting members joined the meeting during the discussion, allowing the Council to reach quorum. The Chair confirmed that the motions on the agenda could now be passed.

Approval of the agenda

Irene Petsopoulos put forth a motion to approve the agenda and the motion was seconded by Jordan Jerome-Pitre. The motion was put to a vote.

In favour: 11
Against: 0
Abstention: 0

The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of the Minutes from the Meeting of April 8, 2022

Malcolm Asselin put forth a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting of April 8, 2022 and the motion was seconded by Jordan Jerome-Pitre. The motion was put to a vote.

In favour : 9
Against: 0
Abstain: 2

The motion passed.

Andrew Woodall thanked the Council members for sharing their thoughts and suggestions. It was decided that some type of further recognition for the CCSL award recipients should be considered.

The following motion was put forth by Malcom Asselin and seconded by Hemanth Lingraj:

Be it resolved that the CCSL give further recognition to the CCSL Outstanding Contribution Award recipients.

The motion was put to a vote.

In favour: 7
Against: 1
Abstain: 3

The motion passed.

Masoumeh Zaare asked if the recognition would only be for recipients in the following year or would it be retroactive for 2021-2022. The Chair explain that any such motion would need to be put forth by another voting member, considering that Masoumeh Zaare was a recipient of the award in 2021-2022. Andrew Woodall noted that any additional recognition would begin with a the review of the program. They mentioned it was the right direction to take, however the timeline and capacity for this was a concern. The Chair confirmed that the CCSL would review the nominations process, speak with stakeholders on how they interpret an outstanding contribution. Masoumeh Zaare stated they were not clear on the nomination process. Andrew Woodall explained that currently a recipient would need to

be nominated by someone else from the Concordia community. Andrew Woodall gave this as an example of a criteria that could be changed to be in line with other awards, like the non-academic graduation awards.

The following motion was put forth by Malcolm Asselin and seconded by Hemanth Lingraj:

Be it resolved that the CCSL do a full review of the current CCSL Outstanding Contribution Awards program.

The motion was put to a vote.

In favour: 9

Against: 0

Abstention: 2

5. Reports and Items of Information

There were no reports or items of information.

6. New Business

The Chair wished Gaya Arasaratnam well as they were taking a new position as Director of Student Wellness at the University of British Columbia. The Chair announced that Elaine Cheasley Paterson and Irene Petsopoulos had completed their terms on CCSL and would not be returning in the fall. Andrew Woodall thanked them and all the student Council members for their participation over the year.

Points of Interest

- May 19, 2022: The LIVE Centre Volunteer Fair from 11am-2pm at the EV Atrium
- June 6, 7 & 9, 2022: Concordia Convocation ceremonies to be held at Place des Arts

7. Next Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for September 2022. The date and location would be confirmed in the fall.

8. Termination of Meeting

Irene Petsopoulos motioned to terminate the meeting. Elaine Cheasley Paterson seconded the motion. The motion was put to a vote:

In favour: 11

Against: 0

Abstention: 0

The motion passed unanimously.