

**Minutes from a Meeting of the Concordia Council on Student Life
Held on October 21, 2022 10am
Virtual Meeting on Zoom**

PRESENT: Andrew Woodall (Chair), Lauren Broad (Secretary), Genevieve Alloï (replacing Matthew Fishman), Elana Bloom, Melanie Burnett, Sarah Caille, Dianne Cmor, Lauren Farley, Julie Foisy, Sumaiya Gangat, Hua Ge, Adia Giddings, Abigail Koff, Cassandra Lamontagne, Harley Martin, Laura Mitchell, Sarah Rahimi, D'Arcy Ryan, Antoinette Scaringi, Julianna Smith, Masoumeh Zaare.

ABSENT WITH REGRETS: Margaret Colton, Stephanie Sarik.

ABSENT: Paul Blouin, Annette Bowen, Darren Dumoulin, Fawaz Halloum, Nour Shbib.

1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The Chair opened the meeting with Concordia's territorial acknowledgement.

D'Arcy Ryan moved to approve the agenda. Sarah Rahimi seconded the motion. The motion was put to a vote:

In favour: 11

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

The motion passed unanimously.

2. REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR

The Chair welcomed the Council to the second CCSL meeting of the year and explained the procedures for conducting the meeting virtually. They congratulated Cassandra Lamontagne and her team at the Office of Sustainability for the remarkable programming they organized for Campus Sustainability Month. The Chair said that considering the ongoing turmoil in Iran, the university had been putting together systems to support our Iranian students during this difficult time. Andrew Woodall recalled that the bulk of the meeting would be devoted to discussing the CCSL Special Projects applications requesting over \$5,000 and deciding on whether to fund them.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2022

Julie Foisy moved to approve the minutes from the meeting of September 30, 2022 and Adia Giddings seconded the motion. The motion was put to a vote:

In favour: 12

Against: 0

Abstentions: 1

The motion passed.

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2022

Andrew Woodall recalled that Lauren Broad had sent out a survey to all Council members to get their preference on the CCSL meetings being in-person or virtual. The Council was split almost equally between the two options, therefore the fall semester meetings would continue to be held virtually and the Chair hoped that the following semester would allow the Council to gather once again in-person. The survey had also asked for each Council member to confirm

their preferred pronouns, for accuracy in the minutes. Anyone who had not already submitted their response was asked to do so.

5. REPORTS AND ITEMS OF INFORMATION

5.1 CCSL Sub-Committees

5.1.1 CCSL Special Projects: Update on review of projects requesting \$5,000.00 and less

Andrew Woodall reminded the Council that \$20,000.00 was earmarked annually from the fund towards the Committee Participation Recognition Program (CPRP) and that HOJO had given a presentation at the September meeting, with a request for \$20,000 to put towards the Student Housing Engagement Project. The request was approved by the Council, therefore there was \$125,000.00 available to distribute to special projects for the year, with one deadline in the fall and another in the winter. There were 62 applications considered for the Fall 2022 deadline: 52 requesting \$5,000.00 or less and 10 requesting more than \$5,000.00. The sub-committee had reviewed the 52 applications for projects requesting \$5,000.00 and less and it approved 42 projects for a total of \$45,263.14. Ten projects were declined, some of which were encouraged to re-apply for the winter deadline after resolving specific issues. The total amount requested by the ten projects with asks over \$5,000 was \$160,842.00. Andrew Woodall mentioned that if the fund were split in half, there would be \$62,500.00 to allocate to projects each semester. The Chair emphasized that this was not a rule, but rather a guiding principle.

5.1.2 Presentations by applicants requesting over \$5,000.00

The Chair informed the Council that the Special Projects sub-committee had reviewed the ten proposals requesting over \$5,000.00 and assigned a suggested amount of funding with a rationale for each. He reminded the Council that because of the high volume of applications requesting over \$5,000, the applicants had been asked to submit a video presentation instead of presenting at the meeting in-person or virtually, as had been done in the past. These videos, along with their application documents, had been circulated to the Council for review prior to the meeting. The applicants were asked to make themselves available on Zoom for the meeting, should the Council have questions about the project. The Chair asked any Council member who was directly involved in a project to recuse themselves from the discussion and voting on that particular project.

The Council proceeded to invite the applicants into the Zoom meeting for questions, if there were any, for each project. Following the question-and-answer period, the Council discussed each project one at a time, allocating a suggested amount to each. After completing the process, the Council reviewed each project and made any adjustments based on the overall amount allocated thus far.

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

***“Indeterminacy Festival 2023: Sustainable Transformations”*. Amount requested: \$20,000.00**

The Chair informed the Council that the sub-committee had suggested funding of between \$3,000.00 and \$6,000.00 for the project. It was noted that the main events of the project would take place in the next funding year. The sub-committee supported the project and thought the funding could be best used towards the honoraria for student artists or sustainability interns. The Council agree with the sub-committee’s suggested amount of \$6,000.00.

Adia Giddings put forth the following motion, seconded by Antoinette Scaringi:

Be it resolved that the project “Indeterminacy Festival 2023: Sustainable Transformations” be approved for \$6,000.00 of funding from the CCSL Special Projects Fund.

The motion was put to a vote.

In favour: 7
Against: 3
Abstention: 3

The motion passed.

“SPEX: Space Exploration Conference 2022”. Amount requested: \$11,842.00

The Chair informed the Council that the sub-committee had recommended between \$1,000.00 and \$3,000.00. The Council agreed that the Engineering and Computer Science Student Association (ECA) and the Gina Cody School of Engineering and Computer Science Faculty should contribute financially to the project. The Council felt that the applicants could find other sources of funding. The Council agreed that financial and environmental sustainability was a concern, but acknowledged their attempt to research different ways to become more environmentally sustainable.

Sarah Rahimi put forth the following motion, seconded by Sumaiya Gangat:

Be it resolved that the project “SPEX: Space Exploration Conference 2022” be approved for \$1,000.00 of funding from the CCSL Special Projects Fund.

The motion was put to a vote.

In favour: 9
Against: 2
Abstention: 1

The motion passed.

“Dollar per Foot Challenge”. Amount requested: \$20,000.00

The Chair recalled that the project was a new take on an old project for which the CCSL had funded in the past, namely the Starsailor rocket. The Council worried about the continued reliance of Space Concordia on funding from the CCSL and were discouraged that they continued to come to the CCSL for funding despite repeated recommendations over the years to become more financially sustainable. The Council asked that funding be accompanied by the recommendation to put any prize winnings towards the project so that Space Concordia would not be reliant on the CCSL in future years. The Council felt strongly that the faculty needed to be more involved financially in these types of large-scale projects.

Sarah Rahimi put forth the following motion, seconded by Hua Ge:

Be it resolved that the project “Dollar per Foot Challenge” be approved for \$3,000.00 of funding from the CCSL Special Projects Fund.

The motion was put to a vote.

In favour: 7
Against: 4
Abstentions: 1

The motion passed.

“Concordia Mural Project”. Amount requested: \$20,000.00

The Chair noted that this was a recurring project, having received \$10,000.00 in funding from the CCSL in the previous funding year. While the sub-committee was supportive of the project, it questioned whether certain locations were confirmed for the project. They noted that the Guadagni Lounge had been included in the budget of the previous year’s project. They felt there were too many uncertainties in the details of the application and therefore recommended not to fund the project. They suggested that the applicant return in the winter semester with a request including more details. The Council agreed with the recommendation of the sub-committee.

Adia Giddings put forth the following motion, seconded by Antoinette Scaringi:

Be it resolved that no funding be approved for the project “Concordia Mural Project” from the CCSL Special Projects Fund.

The motion was put to a vote.

In favour: 8
Against: 0
Abstentions: 3

The motion passed.

“Project Global”. Amount requested: \$9,000.00

The sub-committee recommended that the Council not fund this project, as they felt that the impact of this project was very limited given the cost and that it was not in the spirit of the fund. They noted that sustainability was not addressed in the application and that the budget was not clear: the expenses they were requesting to be covered by the funding were not included in the budget. It was also noted by the Council that the expenses to be covered were for the portion of the project happening in Montreal, which would benefit the students coming from other universities rather than Concordia’s own students.

Antoinette Scaringi put forth the following motion, seconded by Julie Foisy:

Be it resolved that no funding be approved for the project “Project Global” from the CCSL Special Projects Fund.

The motion was put to a vote.

In favour: 11
Against: 1
Abstentions: 0

The motion passed.

“Concordia Th3rdPlace”. Amount requested: \$20,000.00

The Chair said that the sub-committee was unsure whether this project was a business venture, which would make it ineligible for funding. While they acknowledged the need for programs and support systems to address student isolation, the sub-committee felt that the project was not in the spirit of the CCSL and recommended not to approve funding. It was also noted that the applicant would be applying for funding from the CCSL Big Hairy Ideas Competition, which some considered to be “double-dipping”.

Abigail Koff put forth the following motion, seconded by Sumaiya Gangat:

Be it resolved that no funding be approved for the project “Concordia Th3rdPlace” from the CCSL Special Projects Fund.

The motion was put to a vote.

In favour: 10
Against: 1
Abstentions: 1

The motion passed.

“DINAH’s Healing”. Amount requested: \$20,000.00

The Chair explained that the sub-committee was very supportive of the project, however they questioned whether it was a community project rather than a Concordia project and therefore what impact it would have on Concordia students. The sub-committee recommended not to fund the project. After further discussion, the Council agreed that while the quantity of students impacted by the project was not huge, the depth of impact would be great. The Council felt that the budget was very high, however they acknowledged that the services and professionals involved gave it merit.

Laura Mitchell put forth the following motion, seconded by Antoinette Scaringi:

Be it resolved that the project “DINAH’s Healing” be approved for \$3,000.00 of funding from the CCSL Special Projects Fund.

The motion was put to a vote.

In favour: 9
Against: 4
Abstentions: 0

The motion passed.

“Fall Iron Ring Ceremony and Cocktail”. Amount requested: \$15,000.00

The Chair said that the sub-committee recommended to fund the project for \$5,000.00 considering the importance of the ceremony for engineering students. However, they were disappointed to see that the faculty was not providing financial support for such a significant

event, noting that the only other source of funding was the ECA. The Council also felt very strongly about the need for faculty support. After further discussion, the Council decided against funding for the project.

Adia Giddings put forth the following motion, seconded by D'Arcy Ryan:

Be it resolved that no funding be approved for the project "Fall Iron Ring Ceremony and Cocktail" from the CCSL Special Projects Fund.

The motion was put to a vote.

In favour: 11
Against: 2
Abstentions: 0

The motion passed.

"Roller Skating Club". Amount requested: \$15,000.00

The sub-committee questioned whether the expenses of the project were for basic operating costs of the group, which were not something that the fund would support. The financial sustainability of the project was a concern raised by the sub-committee. The budget appeared to be quite high, which made them question the club's viability. The Council agreed with the sub-committee's recommendation not to fund the project.

Harley Martin put forth the following motion, seconded by Hua Ge:

Be it resolved that no funding be approved for the project "Roller Skating Club" from the CCSL Special Projects Fund.

The motion was put to a vote.

In favour: 10
Against: 1
Abstentions: 2

The motion passed.

"Making/Meat/Matter: A Tabletop Role-playing Game". Amount requested: \$10,000.00

The Chair explained that it was not clear to the sub-committee whether the project was an academic project, in which case it would not be eligible for funding. The sub-committee wondered about other sources of funding for graduate students for the project. They felt that the project was not in the spirit of the fund and recommended not to approve funding.

Harley Martin put forth the following motion, seconded by D'Arcy Ryan:

Be it resolved that no funding be approved for the project "Making/Meat/Matter: A Tabletop Role-playing Game" from the CCSL Special Projects Fund.

The motion was put to a vote.

In favour: 10
Against: 1
Abstentions: 1

The motion passed.

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1 Points of Interest:

- October 21, 2022: Women's Hockey vs. Université de Montreal at 7:30pm. The home opener would take place on October 30 at 3pm vs. Bishop's University.
- October 22, 2022: Concordia Open House from 10am-4pm
- October 24, 2022: Convocation at Place des Arts
- October 25, 2022: Launch of the Stingers Roast fair-trade coffee brand on campus. Free samples available from 8am-11am on October 25 at Loyola Faro Café SP Building and October 26 at SGW EV Atrium
- October 27, 2022: last Farmer's Market outside of the LB Building

The Chair wished the students good luck on their midterm exams that were currently underway.

Laura Mitchell was proud to announce that the first Policy on Mental Health for students was in its first draft. The draft took input from several groups, including the CSU, GSA, the Equity Office, Health Services and others. The draft policy would need to go through Senate and various unions for approval. A simultaneous call for action was taking place to create guidelines to substantiate the policy.

Dianne Cmor reported that the Grey Nuns study space had re-opened after being closed throughout the pandemic due to poor air quality. There were also eleven more study rooms available for students.

Julie Foisy informed the Council of On-the-Spot-Help available with the Student Success Centre Learning Specialists: Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 1-3pm in-person (Hall 7th floor) and online Mondays and Thursdays from 1-3pm. Details:
<https://www.concordia.ca/students/success/learning-support/specialists.html#drop-in>

7. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was scheduled for December 2, 2022 by Zoom at 10:00am.

8. TERMINATION OF MEETING

Julie Foisy motioned to terminate the meeting. Hua Ge seconded the motion.

In favour: 13
Against: 0
Abstentions: 0

The motion passed unanimously.