



STUDENT SERVICES

Concordia Council on Student Life

**Minutes from the Meeting for the Concordia Council on Student Life
Held on March 10, 2023 10:00am
Virtual Meeting on Zoom**

PRESENT: Andrew Woodall (Chair), Lauren Broad (Secretary), Elana Bloom, Annette Bowen, Dianne Cmor, Matthew Fishman, Sumaiya Gangat, Adia Giddings, Victoria Gorman, Lawrence Khoury, Abigail Koff, Harley Martin, Laura Mitchell, Sarah Rahimi, Julianna Smith, Masoumeh Zaare.

ABSENT WITH REGRETS: Ashley Allen, Melanie Burnett, Margaret Colton, Julie Foisy, Cassandra Lamontagne, D'Arcy Ryan, Stephanie Sarik, Antoinette Scaringi, Amy Sharaf.

ABSENT: Paul Blouin, Sarah Caille, Lou Collin, Darren Dumoulin, Hua Ge, Nour Shbib.

GUESTS: Daniel Amico (minutes).

1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Sarah Rahimi moved to approve the agenda. Sumaiya Gangat 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 opened the meeting with Concordia's territorial acknowledgement. The Chair gladly remarked how our spaces were being used more often this academic year for student life events. Holi, the Festival of Colours, would be celebrated on the Terrace with the help of ECSGA. Nowruz, the Persian new year, would be happening on March 20th. The student election season was also occurring; CASA's were finished, CSU was currently in their campaigning period, as were other umbrella associations and subgroups. On the ballot for undergraduates, there will be a referendum question to increase the Student Services fee per credit amount by \$0.85. It was noted that this fee had not increased since 2009. The Chair encouraged the students to participate in the elections whatever their opinions were.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE MEETING OF JANUARY 20, 2023

Juliana Smith requested that the minutes be updated to reflect that she had sent her regrets. Sarah Rahimi moved to approve the minutes from the meeting of January 20, 2023, with the updated attendance, and Adia Giddings seconded the motion.

The motion was put to a vote:

In favour: 10

Against: 0

Abstentions: 1

The motion passed.

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF JANUARY 20, 2023

The Chair noted that the Council will table the discussion of incorporating the Sustainability Guidelines and Certification in the CCSL Special Projects Fund application process until the April meeting, given the time constraints from

5. REPORTS AND ITEMS OF INFORMATION

5.1 CCSL Sub-Committees

5.1.1 CCSL Awards

The Chair explained the purpose of the CCSL Outstanding Contribution Awards. The Council had received 26 nominations; 2 of which were not eligible, therefore 24 would be considered by the sub-committee. The nominees were comprised of 10 undergraduate students, 6 graduate students, 2 faculty members and 6 staff members. The sub-committee meeting would be the following Monday to decide on the recipients. All Council members would receive an invitation to the Concordia Engagement Awards Celebration happening at the Loyola Chapel on April 18th from 4-6pm. The sub-committee had also reviewed the guidelines and application process for the CCSL awards and would present their recommendations at the next CCSL meeting.

5.1.2 CCSL Special Projects: Update on review of projects requesting \$5,000 and less

The Chair reminded the Council that CCSL Special Projects Fund is \$165,000 each academic year. Of that, \$20,000 was earmarked annually for HOJO upon approval by the Council, following a presentation at the first meeting of each year. \$20,000 was also earmarked for the Committee Participation Recognition Program (CPRP) to give an honorarium to students for their participation in University governance. The remaining \$125,000 was for Special Projects funding in Fall and Winter terms. In the Winter semester, 68 applications were received, 9 of which were ineligible. 46 applications had requested \$5,000 or less, with a total amount requested of \$114,599.66. A total of 41 applications were approved, with just under \$41,000 being allocated to the projects. There was \$26,500 left in the fund for the 13 applications requesting over \$5,000. The total amount being requested for the 13 projects was \$143,601.13.

5.1.3 Presentations by applicants requesting over \$5,000.00

The Chair informed the Council that they would look at new project requests first and recurring projects last. The applicants were in the waiting room of the Zoom meeting, should any questions arise. The pre-recorded video presentations and application documents had been circulated to the Council for review prior to the meeting. The Chair would inform the Council what the sub-committee's recommendations were for each project. The impact on the larger population of Concordia students was a key aspect to consider. The Chair asked any Council member who was directly involved in a project to recuse themselves from the discussion and from voting on that 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.

***“Art Matters, Students Matter: Increasing Artist Honorariums, Community Care, and Personal Sustainability Artist Talk 2023”*. Amount requested: \$8,000**

The Chair informed the Council that the Sub-Committee had suggested not to fund the project. It was noted that the budget showed a surplus from the current year to be carried over. Considering the limited funds available, the funding would be better allocated elsewhere. Elana Bloom asked for clarification regarding the approval process of projects by the Council if the sub-committee had recommended not to fund. The Chair responded that the applications with requests of such high amounts warranted a conversation by the entire Council, as had been decided by the CCSL several years before. Adia Giddings inquired if the project would still take place without funding from the Council, to which the Chair confirmed that he was confident it would. The Council agreed with the sub-committee’s recommendation.

Sumaiya Gangat put forth the following motion, seconded by Julianna Smith:

Be it resolved that no funding be approved for the project “Art Matters, Students Matters: Increasing Artist Honorariums, Community Care, and Personal Sustainability Artist Talk 2023” from the CCSL Special Projects Fund.

The motion was put to a vote:

In favour: 7

Against: 1

Abstention: 3

The motion passed.

***“Bezarre Mini Festival: Educational workshop series & Vogue Ball”*. Amount requested: \$7,387.50**

The Chair informed the Council that the sub-committee had suggested funding of between \$2,000 and \$3,000 for the project. QPIRQ was trying to get more students involved with the education and participation of ballroom, a subculture of drag which had strong links to BIPOC and Queer people. The sustainability of the event had been well thought through. The sub-committee noted that the project would have a strong impact, especially on marginalized communities, while managing a relatively smaller budget. Although it could be a barrier to participants, it was noted that the organizers may have to charge tickets for the event to add another source of revenue. It was suggested that the Council aid the applicants in finding a less expensive venue which would eliminate heavy costs. The Council agreed with the sub-committee’s suggested amount of \$3,000. Julianna Smith requested to raise the amount to \$4,000. Other Council members agreed to the change.

Julianna Smith put forth the following motion, seconded by Elana Bloom:

Be it resolved that the project “Bezarre Mini Festival: Educational workshop series & Vogue Ball” be approved for \$4,000 of funding from the CCSL Special Projects Fund.

The motion was put to a vote:

In favour: 8
Against: 2
Abstention: 1

The motion passed.

“PedalBox Gallery”. Amount requested: \$15,575.63

The Chair informed the Council that the sub-committee had suggested not to fund the project. The funding would go towards a bike that would be used for programming. It would be a collaboration with various student groups and community-based organizations, with an impact on approximately 500 students according to the application. Sustainability was at the project’s core; half of the funding would be for the bike and the other half would be for an honorarium for a Coordinator. The sub-committee found it to be an interesting project, however its impact did not seem as strong as the other projects. Elana Bloom agreed with the sub-committee and found the amount requested quite high. Julianna Smith recommended they apply to the Community Action Fund. The Council agreed with the sub-committee’s suggestion.

Elana Bloom put forth the following motion, seconded by Sumaiya Gangat:

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

The motion was put to a vote:

In favour: 10
Against: 0
Abstention: 1

The motion passed.

“Concordia Food Systems Map”. Amount requested: \$7,645

The Chair informed the Council that the sub-committee had suggested funding of \$3,000 for the project. The project was an interactive map and game on the theme of food sovereignty at Concordia, as well as the ways to get involved as community members. Sustainability was at the core of the project with the sustainable development goals. The project could potentially impact thousands of students. The budget was found to be reasonable. Dianne Cmor commented that \$10 value prizes would not be enough to attract students and have them engage with the content, considering the time and effort they put into the project and so perhaps they could have less prizes with a higher value. Adia Giddings asked if the \$2,000 honorarium is for one person or multiple people. Maggie Morrison and Shylah Wolfe joined the meeting to clarify that the honorarium would ideally be split among up to 10 artists, depending on the scale of the piece. A recommendation was made to lower the amount to \$1,500.

Sarah Rahimi put forth the following motion, seconded by Juliana Smith:

Be it resolved that the project “Concordia Food Systems Map” be approved for \$1,500 of funding from the CCSL Special Projects Fund.

The motion was put to a vote:

In favour: 4
Against: 6
Abstention: 1

The motion did not pass.

After further discussion, it was suggested not to fund the project based on the very limited funds available and the strength of the other applications being considered.

Elana Bloom put forth the following motion, seconded by Sarah Rahimi:

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

The motion was put to a vote:

In favour: 7
Against: 1
Abstention: 3

The motion passed.

“Art exhibition devoted to the commemoration of victims of the war in Ukraine”. Amount requested: \$5,500

The Chair informed the Council that the sub-committee had suggested funding of \$2,500 for the project. The project would be an anti-war art exhibit to commemorate the victims of the war in Ukraine. It was planned to be a week-long event, impacting approximately 1,000 students. The budget was found to be reasonable, though the high cost of security for the event was brought up by the sub-committee. The Council suggested finding a contact at the university to speak to the applicants about sponsorships, in light of the high cost of AV equipment. The Council agreed with the sub-committee’s suggested amount of \$2,500. Julianna Smith abstained from the vote.

Sarah Rahimi put forth the following motion, seconded by Harley Martin:

Be it resolved that the project “Art exhibition devoted to the commemoration of victims of the war in Ukraine” be approved for \$2,500 of funding from the CCSL Special Projects Fund.

The motion was put to a vote.

In favour: 5
Against: 3
Abstention: 3

The motion passed.

“John Molson Undergraduate Case Competition”. Amount requested: \$7,500

The Chair informed the Council that the sub-committee had suggested not to fund the project. Though technically a new project since they have not come to CCSL for funding for a few years, it was noted that this was a well-established annual event, having received funding from the

CCSL in previous years. The week-long series of activities was expected to impact 67 students, costing about \$680 per student, and had basic-level considerations for sustainability. It was noted that almost \$40,000 of the budget was for rooms and catering, and that the John Molson School of Business was funding almost \$20,000. The sub-committee noted that the project would happen regardless of funding from the Council, as they have other considerable sources of funding. Matthew Fishman noted that they could have the cocktail on site with the support of an external sponsor. The Council agreed with the sub-committee's suggestion.

Sumaiya Gangat put forth the following motion, seconded by Julianna Smith:

Be it resolved that no funding be approved for the project "John Molson Undergraduate Case Competition" from the CCSL Special Projects Fund.

The motion was put to a vote:

In favour: 8

Against: 2

Abstention: 1

The motion passed.

"Transitional Housing Project". Amount requested: \$10,000

The Chair informed the Council that the sub-committee had suggested funding of \$6,000 for the project. Focusing on a subcategory of vulnerable students, the expected impact was 35,000 students. The budget was centered around honoraria that would support developing the project for rapid implementation. The applicants were working with the Refugee Centre and Campus Wellness, as it was still a pilot initiative. It had the potential for long-term impact. Elana Bloom questioned the impact being so high and asked for clarity about the budget, as they were asking for funding for a case worker, though Concordia had staff that were equipped for this type of work. Adia Giddings noted that there was potential for a high number of impacted students because it is not long-term housing, therefore more students would be impacted over the years, unlike typical residence sites. Sean Levis joined the meeting and noted that not every student may need transitional housing, however it would be a service that would be open to all undergraduate students. Once established, it would have a higher capacity for students and a better reach of funding from various sources. Future, sustainable funding would be for case workers from HOJO. Bartimeus, as a collaboration with Campus Wellness, would focus on the social work side of access to mental health and various issues for the pilot program. The HOJO case workers would specifically focus on finding safe housing for students. The Council agreed with the sub-committee's suggested amount of \$6,000. Julianna Smith abstained from the vote.

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

Be it resolved that the project "Transitional Housing Project" be approved for \$6,000 of funding from the CCSL Special Projects Fund.

The motion was put to a vote:

In favour: 7

Against: 1

Abstention: 3

The motion passed.

“CODY”. Amount requested: \$5,935

The Chair informed the Council that the sub-committee had suggested not to fund the project. The project was to create a robot located in the Hall building to help students access information related to Concordia. All the funding would be for the purchase of components to build the robot. The sub-committee admired their aspirations, however questioned the extent of their collaboration with the university and whether any prior approval had been sought out. Matthew Fishman stated that the team at the Birks Student Centre was well established to help students with such inquiries. Artificial Intelligence chatbots had been discussed multiple times at Birks and it was determined to be difficult to effectively create and have legitimate data. The Council also questioned the location of the robot in the Hall building rather than having it a completely virtual project. The Council agreed with the sub-committee’s suggestion.

Julianna Smith put forth the following motion, seconded by Harley Martin:

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

The motion was put to a vote:

In favour: 8

Against: 1

Abstention: 2

The motion passed.

“39th Annual Troitsky Bridge Building Competition 2023”. Amount requested: \$15,382

The Chair informed the Council that the sub-committee had suggested not to fund the project. The bridge building competition had been around Concordia for many years, though it had lost many sponsors during the COVID-19 lockdown. It was noted that, in the proposal, was a commitment to build financial sustainability into this project. Costing roughly \$450 per student, sustainability was considered regarding materials, however not for the larger event costs. There were issues with the original budget missing some confirmed sources of revenue, such as from the Dean of Students Office, however it had been updated with the final budget. Overall, the budget was not clear with too many unknown aspects. It was noted that the Gina Cody School of Engineering & Computer Science would put money into the project, with an amount only confirmed after other sources of funding had been confirmed. The Council agreed with the sub-committee’s suggestion.

Sarah Rahimi put forth the following motion, seconded by Lawrence Khoury:

Be it resolved that no funding be approved for the project “39th Annual Troitsky Bridge Building Competition 2023” from the CCSL Special Projects Fund.

The motion was put to a vote:

In favour: 9

Against: 0

Abstention: 2

The motion passed.

“Menstrual Equity Event”. Amount requested: \$19,400

The Chair informed the Council that the sub-committee had suggested funding of \$4,000 for the project. A CSU initiative, the project would promote awareness of menstrual equity, while

continuing the effort for more discussions with Facilities Management to provide this service to the Concordia community. Thousands of students would be impacted, with the number increasing should it become part of the future Concordia structure. Most of the funding would be for free products given to people to learn about the project. The sub-committee supported the initiative and agreed that it should be taken on by Facilities Management. CCSL was currently the only funder for this project, along with in-kind donations. Elana Bloom suggested giving the project more funding and highlighted that the organizers were already collaborating with Campus Wellness & Support Services. Julianna Smith suggested having Facilities Management take on the cost of the project, as the CSU has had to take on funding menstrual products without the support from the university. Elana Bloom noted that the CSU had worked hard on the project and would not want to see momentum lost with decreased funding. The Chair stated that he would be happy to speak with Facilities Management about any future plans of supporting menstrual equity on campus. The Council agreed with the sub-committee's suggested amount of \$4,000.

Sumaiya Gangat put forth the following motion, seconded by Elana Bloom:

Be it resolved that the project "Menstrual Equity Event" be approved for \$4,000 of funding from the CCSL Special Projects Fund.

The motion was put to a vote:

In favour: 9

Against: 1

Abstention: 1

The motion passed.

"CSU Mural Project". Amount requested: \$19,400

The Chair informed the Council that the sub-committee had suggested funding of \$5,000 for the recurring project. The goal of this project was to have murals around the campus to represent student life and the diversity of our student body. The applicants had requested funding in the fall, however the locations of the murals were unclear and they were asked to re-apply for the winter deadline. The 7th floor of the Hall building would host the three murals. It was noted that the sub-committee was supportive of this project in the fall as well. The Council agreed with the sub-committee's suggested amount of \$5,000. Julianna Smith recused herself from the discussion and abstained from the vote as one of the applicants for the project.

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

Be it resolved that the project "CSU Mural Project" be approved for \$5,000 of funding from the CCSL Special Projects Fund.

The motion was put to a vote:

In favour: 6

Against: 1

Abstention: 4

The motion passed.

"Ramadan Iftar meal fund". Amount requested: \$10,000

The Chair informed the Council that the sub-committee had suggested funding of \$3,000 for the project. The project would serve student meals during the month of Ramadan, as many

students would be far from their homes and communities. It appeared that the applicants had not thought through sustainability. The project was expected to reach approximately 6,000 students, amounting to roughly \$9 per meal. The sub-committee felt it would have a significant impact on students' lives. Sumaiya Gangat suggested raising the amount to \$5,000, noting that not only Muslim students would benefit from the free meal. Dianne Cmor added that the applicants should consider the opportunity to educate non-Muslim students during the event. Julianna Smith suggested the applicants collaborate more with the Multi-faith and Spirituality Centre (MFSC), to which it was noted that \$400 had been provided from MFSC. Harley Martin suggested that if all the funds were not allocated right away, additional motions could be made to add to the amounts already allocated to the other projects. This would help eliminate any feeling of the Council being swayed to allocate the remaining funds to the CSU-led projects. Julianna Smith abstained from the vote.

Sarah Rahimi put forth the following motion, seconded by Harley Martin:

Be it resolved that the project "Ramadan Iftar meal fund" be approved for \$5,000 of funding from the CCSL Special Projects Fund.

The motion was put to a vote:

In favour: 6
Against: 0
Abstention: 5

The motion passed.

"Aerodesign". Amount requested: \$12,250

The Chair informed the Council that the sub-committee had suggested not to fund the project. As a chapter of the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE), the applicants aimed to design and build a plane together and travel for the competition. The costs would be approximately \$925 for each student, with in a high impact for the students involved. There were aspects of sustainability in the designing portion of the project. The budget had \$21,000 to travel to Florida and compete and it was noted that the Council did not fund these type of travel costs. It was noted that there was no faculty funding. Given the limited funding of the Council and the impact of other proposals, the sub-committee suggested not to fund this project. The Council agreed with the sub-committee's suggestion. Julianna Smith abstained from the vote.

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

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

The motion was put to a vote.

In favour: 8
Against: 0
Abstention: 3

The motion passed.

6. NEW BUSINESS

No new business was discussed.

7. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was scheduled for April 14, 2023 by Zoom at 10:00am.

8. TERMINATION OF MEETING

Julianna Smith motioned to terminate the meeting. Sarah Rahimi seconded the motion.

The motion was put to a vote:

In favour: 6

Against: 1

Abstentions: 4

The motion passed.