



STUDENT SERVICES

Concordia Council on Student Life

**Minutes from the Meeting for the Concordia Council on Student Life
Held on April 14, 2023 10:00am
Virtual Meeting on Zoom**

PRESENT: Andrew Woodall (Chair), Lauren Broad (Secretary), Ashley Allen, Elana Bloom, Melanie Burnett, Matthew Fishman, Julie Foisy, Sumaiya Gangat, Adia Giddings, Victoria Gorman, Lawrence Khoury, Abigail Koff, Cassandra Lamontagne, Harley Martin, Laura Mitchell, Sarah Rahimi, Masoumeh Zaare.

ABSENT WITH REGRETS: Sarah Caille, Dianne Cmor, Margaret Colton, Hua Ge, D'Arcy Ryan, Stephanie Sarik, Antoinette Scaringi, Julianne Smith.

ABSENT: Paul Blouin, Annette Bowen, Lou Collin, Darren Dumoulin, Nour Shbib.

GUESTS: Daniel Amico (minutes), Andrea Taylor.

1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Sarah Rahimi moved to approve the agenda. Adia Giddings seconded the motion.

The motion was put to a vote:

In favour: 10

Against: 0

Abstentions: 1

The motion passed.

2. REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR

The Chair started the meeting with a Territorial Acknowledgement. He remarked how we were nearing the end of the semester, though campus life was still at a high with elections and the transition between student executives and with, exams and assignments,. The Chair hoped that all the Council members were safe during the power outage from the week prior. Concordia Precious Plastics Project (CP3), a CCSL-funded initiative, visited Bordeaux, France to receive the ENLIGHT Global Citizenship Award for their innovative sustainable initiative. Space Concordia's Rocketry Division erected the world's most powerful student-built rocket engine. It was noted that Adelina Feo was named the new Manager of Concordia's Access Centre for Students with Disabilities (ACSD) and that Effrosyni (Faye) Diamantoudi was named as the new Dean of Graduate Studies. Furthermore, Susan Edey was recently named Senior Director, Office of Community Engagement.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE MEETING OF MARCH 10, 2023

Sarah Rahimi moved to approve the minutes from the meeting of March 10, 2023, seconded by Julie Foisy.

The motion was put to a vote:

In favour: 9

Against: 0

Abstentions: 2

The motion passed.

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF MARCH 10, 2023

4.1 Motion to Update the CCSL Special Projects Application and Guidelines

The Chair reminded the Council about the previous discussions to update the Special Projects Fund application and guidelines to better reflect sustainability approaches. The Office of Sustainability had prompted the Council regarding the issue, resulting in the motion that was presented below.

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

Given that Concordia has a stated commitment to sustainability as well as to Equity, Diversity and Inclusion and to decolonization and indigenization;

Given that social, economic and environmental sustainability are included in the guidelines and evaluation criteria for projects seeking support from the CCSL Special Projects Fund;

Given that the Office of Sustainability has developed a Sustainable Event Guide and Certification program encouraging all community members to hold more socially and environmentally sustainable events, both on-line and in-person;

Given that a requirement for all student event organizers to seek Sustainable Event Certification may pose an unreasonable barrier to entry for CCSL Special Project Funding;

Given that safety training is required through Environmental Health & Safety (EHS) for the purchase of certain equipment and regulated goods;

Be it resolved that:

The CCSL Special Projects Fund Guidelines and Application Form be updated effective at the start of the 2023-2024 funding year to include the EHS Guideline for Training Requirements and Sustainable Event Guide & Certification information, as well as the Sustainability Checklist, as noted in the appended documents.

The motion was put to a vote:

In favour: 11

Against: 0

Abstentions: 1

The motion passed.

5. REPORTS AND ITEMS OF INFORMATION

5.1 CCSL Awards Sub-Committees

5.1.1 Update on the award recipients for 2022-2023

Julie Foisy informed the Council that the subcommittee had met and reviewed the nominations. The deadline for nominations to be submitted was February 13th, 2023. They received 29 applications, which consisted of 12 undergraduate nominations (2 of which were incomplete), 6 graduate nominations, 3 faculty nominations and 5 staff nominations. 2 undergraduate students, 2 graduate students, 2 faculty and 2 staff were selected to receive the CCSL Outstanding Contribution Award. It was noted that one of the staff recipients would receive the Lifetime of Giving Award. The Chair reminded the Council that the Concordia Engagement Awards Celebration was on Tuesday, April 18th at the Loyola Chapel. Julie noted that although she chaired the subcommittee, it was a true team effort and that Lauren Broad was instrumental in helping the whole process.

5.1.2 Review and recommendations for the guidelines and application process

The Chair recalled that Council member Masoumeh Zaare brought up the idea of financially compensating award recipients in the previous academic year. The subcommittee had met to discuss and to make recommendations.

Leading the conversation, subcommittee member Harley Martin noted that financial compensation would have to come from the annual CCSL budget. Therefore, the subcommittee decided these funds would be better used to support student life projects. In addition, when considering that the CCSL Outstanding Contribution Award nominations were submitted by a nominator from the Concordia community, rather than by the nominee themselves, the subcommittee found that this would negate the expectation of financial compensation, in contrast with scholarship or bursary applications. Furthermore, the subcommittee had reviewed the application process and recommended updating the form to include a mandatory field for nominators to give sufficient details to support their nomination. The change would hopefully result in better quality nominations. The Council agreed with the recommendations and Andrew Woodall said that a proper motion would be circulated for consideration prior to the next meeting in May.

5.2. Update on collaborative research project with the Black Perspectives Office

The Chair reminded the Council about their decision to compensate student board/council members who were not being paid for their role as a student leader. This decision was for one year, and designed to generate conversations about diversity and representation in student governance. In order to have a longer-term impact on the issue, CCSL agreed to fund a research project with the Equity Office/BPO to hire two researchers for the Fall 2023 semester to look into barriers to and best practices of increasing inclusion in student governance.

6. NEW BUSINESS

Cassandra Lamontagne noted that there was a new sustainability initiative led by Concordia University. With the help of community members, this effort would aim to decarbonize the campus. Matthew Fishman shared that students would receive an email regarding the June convocation within the next few weeks. He added that Bourse Perspectives' application process will begin in May, starting with communications to students to apply.

7. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was scheduled for May 5, 2023 on Zoom at 10:00am.

8. TERMINATION OF MEETING

Julie Foisy motioned to terminate the meeting. Adia Giddings seconded the motion.

The motion was put to a vote:

In favour: 11

Against: 0

Abstentions: 1

The motion passed.