



**STUDENT SERVICES**

Concordia Council on Student Life

**Minutes of the Concordia Council on Student Life  
Held on April 25, 2025 10:30am  
Meeting held at LOY PC 2.115**

**PRESENT:** Katie Broad (Chair), Lauren Broad (Secretary), Petra Alves (on behalf of Sarah Caille), Anna Barrafato, Elana Bloom, Melanie Burnett, Philippe Caignon, Maria Chitoroaga, Matthew Fishman, Julie Foisy, Nadia Hardy, Cassandra Lamontagne, Irene Petsopoulos, Sarah Rahimi, D'Arcy Ryan, Maria Safos.

**ABSENT WITH REGRETS:** Darren Dumoulin, Lauren Farley, Megan Fitzgibbons.

**ABSENT:** Leen Al Hijjawi, Moad Al Hjoog, Annette Bowen, Rushin Makwana, Erin Mullins, Maya Youngs-Zaleski.

**GUESTS:** Daniel Amico (Minutes).

**1. Approval of the Agenda**

Anna Barrafato motioned to approve the agenda, seconded by D'Arcy Ryan.

*The motion passed unanimously.*

**2. Remarks from the Chair**

Katie Broad started the meeting and thanked everyone for making time to join the last Council meeting of the academic year. She reiterated the importance of holding Council throughout the academic year and hoped that all members have found their time on the CCSL to be an enriching experience.

**3. Approval of the Minutes from the Meetings of March 21, 2025**

D'Arcy Ryan motioned to approve the minutes from the meeting held on March 21, 2025, seconded by Philippe Caignon.

*The motion passed unanimously.*

**4. Business Arising from the Minutes of March 21, 2025**

There was no business arising from the minutes of March 21, 2025.

**5. Reports and Items of Information**

**5.1 CCSL Sub-Committees**

**5.1.1. CCSL Special Projects Sub-Committee**



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### Final Reports: Big Hairy Ideas Projects 2022-2023

The Chair reminded the Council that as part of the guidelines for the Big Hairy Ideas Competition, the winners must submit a final report, which is then shared to the Council. Three reports were shared to the Council from the following projects: *Safe(r) Spaces*, *Concordia Re-tech Project: E-waste Reuse (CRT)*, and *BUYPOC*.

The *Concordia Re-tech Project (CRT)* did not spend their entire funding this academic year, as they encountered difficulties finding space to complete the project. They shared their intention to continue the project in the 2025-2026 academic year, which they were granted permission to do.

Because of ongoing changes in leadership, the *BUYPOC* project had claimed the final instalment of funding late in the winter semester, therefore were granted permission to continue spending in the coming months.

The *Safe(r) Spaces* project had spent the entirety of approved funding, however the required financial report had not been received. The Dean of Students Office will follow up again with the project organizer for the financial statement. Cassandra Lamontagne asked how much was allocated to this project, and as the report mentioned a large portion of the funding could not be used for its original plan due to the Co-Op Bookstore's closure, what happened with that allocated portion. Lauren Broad responded that the project was approved for \$45,000, and that all the funding had gone to honoraria. The Chair stated that the claimants would be contacted to clarify how the Co-Op Bookstore's closure had impacted the project.

The Council asked what items are required in their final report and suggested providing future competition winners a template for their report to help guide them and aid the Council when reviewing. Lauren Broad, Secretary of CCSL, responded that the claimants are asked to include in their report a financial statement and a summary of how the project went overall; any obstacles that were met, and any successes that they saw and the project's impact on student life. It was noted that the Dean of Students Office would prepare a template for the next competition, which would be reviewed by the Council prior.

#### 5.1.2. CCSL Awards Sub-Committee

The Chair shared that the Concordia Engagement Awards occurred the week prior and thanked the team of staff that helped plan it. She said that it was an exceptional event to recognize students, staff and faculty. She highlighted the CAPS team at the Student Success Centre for their engagement in nominating many recipients and noted that Christina Soulière-Gagliardi from Hospitality Concordia was nominated by the Dean of Students Office for her work that impacts student life. Biographies of all the Outstanding Contribution Award winners were posted on the CCSL's website for viewing.

#### 5.1.3. CCSL Student Groups Sub-Committee

A meeting was held to review the request by the Concordia Padel Club to become a registered group. It was noted that this was their first time requesting to become a registered student

group; they applied to be independent as they did not clearly fall under any particular umbrella association. The sub-committee recommended to the Dean of Students Office that the club's request be approved.

## **6. New Business**

### **6.1. CCSL Policy & Terms of Reference**

The Chair reminded the Council that CCSL is currently mandated under BD-9 *Concordia Council on Student Life*. Accordingly, there were adjustments that needed to be addressed, and an overview of the entire policy was deemed appropriate. The Dean of Students Office and Legal Counsel reviewed the policy and decided to transfer the policy to a Terms of Reference which has been reviewed and approved by the Office of the Provost and Vice-President, Academic. Consequently, CCSL will no longer report to the Board of Governors but instead the Office of the Provost and Vice-President, Academic.

Additionally, CCSL would no longer develop and evaluate budgets to the Board of Governors, as it has not been done since at least 2012. A student representative from Continuing Education was removed as they no longer financially contribute to CCSL; the seat will be added to CSU, raising their seats on Council to seven.

D'arcy Ryan asked if students could have a two-year term. Maria Chitoroaga agreed and said it would help with continuity. Nadia Hardy responded that student appointments across the University are only for one year, and it helps preserve the Concordia Student Union's position each year. She reiterated that CCSL should not make that decision, as it prevents incoming leadership from making their own decisions. Nonetheless, CSU can still reappoint the same people the following year if they choose. The Chair asked if there is something that CCSL can do for CSU to better facilitate the appointment of student representatives on CCSL. This academic year, seats were never filled. Maria Chitoroaga responded that the challenge CSU faced this past year was that their Board of Directors lacked consistent participation and attendance in their own council meetings, losing quorum often. When asked if this issue has been addressed by CSU, Maria Chitoroaga responded that the CSU Bylaws have been changed, requiring the CSU Councilors to attend and participate in their committees in order to receive their honorariums.

The permanent observer position designated for Student Accounts was removed from the Terms of Reference, as the Birks Student Service Centre sits on CCSL as a permanent observer, representing Student Accounts. It was added to the Terms of Reference that delegates were permitted to sit on behalf of a colleague that is absent, voting by proxy. Cassandra Lamontagne asked what the difference was between members of the public and invited guests. Lauren Broad explained that members of the public were always welcome to join Council meetings, and that guests join the meeting for a specific purpose such as presentations. Nadia Hardy suggested that the difference between closed session and open session be outlined in the Terms of Reference for those unfamiliar with Roberts Rules. She also suggested that *members of the public* be changed to *members of the Concordia Community*.

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Elana Bloom asked how CCSL's Mandate, specifically section 2.b., would be applied. She also asked what type of research would be done, as set out in section 2.c. of the Mandate. The Chair responded that this proposal included beginning this work in September to research it. There would be more flexibility in adjusting the Terms of Reference once CCSL no longer directly reported to the Board of Governors, and Council can autonomously make changes as seen fit. She explained that in order to facilitate the Board of Governor's approval of repealing BD-9, it is preferable to keep the initially proposed Terms of Reference close to the current policy.

Julie Foisy stated that in regard to student participation, though it is not in CCSL's mandate to appoint the students, being the highest non-academic governing body, Council should explore a more sustained student participation approach. Nadia Hardy recognized the concern and suggested that if the Terms of Reference are approved, this can be researched.

The Chair shared that as the Terms of Reference has been approved by the Office of the Provost and Vice-President, Academic, the Senate Steering Committee would review and approve it in May. Then the dossier would be presented to the Governance and Ethics Committee of the Board for discussion and recommendation. The final recommendation would be presented to the Board of Governors in June. If fully approved, the Terms of Reference would be put into place for the 2025-2026 year. The Chair reassured the Council that they would have the opportunity to review the Terms of Reference and discuss the mandate and purpose of CCSL for future years, as needed.

**7. Points of Interest**

The following items were shared with the Council:

- Spring Convocation would be from June 9th to the 11th. Staff members were encouraged to take the opportunity to attend.
- The Chair thanked the student representatives that were present at the meeting, Maria Chitoroaga and Sarah Rahimi, for taking the time to attend the Council meetings and represent student life on campus. She hoped that it had been a fruitful experience and that they saw the value in attending. Their consistent attendance was appreciated.
- Nadia Hardy noted that it had been a difficult past year at Concordia, particularly for the Dean of Students Office. She recognized that while the Dean of Students was on leave, Katie Broad had done a remarkable job chairing CCSL and managing the Dean of Students Office as Acting Dean of Students. She had successfully fulfilled the mandate of the office, and she was both thanked and applauded for her work.

**8. Next Meeting**

The next meeting was scheduled for September 2025; the date, time and location were to be confirmed.



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#### **9. Termination of Meeting**

D'Arcy Ryan invited the Council to tour the facilities of the Perform Centre and the School of Health after the meeting. Sarah Rahimi motioned to terminate the meeting, seconded by Julie Foisy.

***The motion passed unanimously.***