

**Minutes from a Meeting of the Concordia Council on Student Life
Held on March 6, 2015
SGW H-769, 10am**

PRESENT: Mr. Andrew Woodall (Chair), Ms. Lauren Broad (Secretary), Ms. Gemma Acco, Ms. Marie-Josée Allard, Ms. Anna Barrafato, Ms. Kate Soad Bellini, Mr. Patrick Boivin, Mr. Daniel Houde, Ms. Kenza Iraki, Ms. Mary-Ann Jirjis, Dr. Joanne Locke, Mr. Adrian Longinotti, Mr. Howard Magonet, Dr. Brad Nelson, Dr. Cameron Skinner, Mr. David Thirlwall, Ms. Lorraine Toscano, Mr. James Tyler Vaccaro.

ABSENT WITH REGRETS: Mr. Charles Bourassa, Ms. Katrina Caruso, Mr. Gordon Dionne, Mr. Darren Dumoulin, Ms. Crystal Harrison, Dr. Lisa Ostiguy, Ms. Tanya Polleti, Ms. Dale Robinson, Ms. Stephanie Sarik.

ABSENT: Ms. Claudie Boujaklian, Mr. Ian Campbell, Ms. Sharon Hunter, Ms. Leisha LeCouvie, Mr. Rohit Patil, Mr. Bradley Tucker.

GUEST: Dr. Laura Mitchell.

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Chair called the meeting to order. Ms. Barrafato moved to approve the agenda. Mr. Magonet seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

2. REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR

The Chair welcomed Dr. Joanne Locke, Interim Director of the new Student Success Centre (SSC), as well as Dr. Laura Mitchell, who would become Director of the SSC as of mid-April 2015. The Chair recalled that at the last meeting a motion had passed to add the Director of the SSC as a new, permanent, voting member of CCSL. Mr. Woodall noted that the SSC would focus on supporting academic excellence, the new student experience, Career and Planning Services (CAPS), as well as “next-generation” skills.

The Chair wished to acknowledge the Concordia Student Union (CSU) for their exemplary work around issues of student housing. The CSU had demonstrated fine student leadership with its Housing Fair that had taken place on February 17, 2015 in the LB Atrium.

Mr. Woodall congratulated the Garnet Key Society for a very successful event they held recently, “Forces of Change”, a competition to challenge students to come up with an innovative project or idea that could change the future. Another notable student endeavour was the “African Model United Nations Conference”, a project that received funding from CCSL in the winter 2015 semester. The Chair encouraged the Council to help promote students and student groups that are doing great things at the university.

The Chair wanted to recognize the incredible leadership that the Muslim Student Association (MSA) had demonstrated in the face of intense media scrutiny surrounding the contents of the MSA library. He reported that the MSA would be meeting with Dr. Guylaine Beaudry, University Librarian, to assist them in developing a policy for choosing their own collection of books.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE MEETING OF JANUARY 23, 2015

Mr. Longinotti moved to approve the minutes from the meeting of January 23, 2015 and Mr. Vaccaro seconded the motion.

For: 10

Against: 0

Abstentions: 1

The motion passed.

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF JANUARY 23, 2015

There was no business arising from the minutes.

5. REPORTS AND ITEMS OF INFORMATION

5.1 CCSL Special Projects

5.1.1 Update on winter 2015 applications

The Chair reminded the Council that there is \$165,000 in the CCSL Special Projects Fund, with \$20,000 earmarked annually for the CSU Off-Campus Housing and Job Bank (HoJo) and \$10,000 earmarked annually for the Committee Participation Awards Program (CPAP). A balance of \$135,000 is to be allocated over two submission deadlines throughout the year. In the fall 2014 semester, \$66,347 was allocated to 58 projects. The CCSL Special Projects sub-committee met on February 20th to review the winter 2015 applications.

Mr. Woodall provided a summary of the review meeting:

- New projects were reviewed before recurring ones; the breadth and depth of each project was carefully considered.
- 67 applications requesting \$5,000 or less were considered, with a total amount requested of \$117,481.95.
- 53 projects were approved, with a total amount allocated of \$45,200.10.
- 14 projects were declined.
- \$23,452.90 remained in the fund, however the balance did not have to be allocated if the Council did not feel it was warranted.
- There was one application requesting over \$5,000, with a total amount requested of \$20,000.

5.1.2 Presentation for request over \$5,000

***“Concordia Student-Run Food Group Documentary Project”*, presented by Mr. Erik Chevrier. Amount requested: \$20,000.**

A brief question and answer period followed Mr. Chevrier’s presentation. The Council proceeded with a discussion of the project.

The Council was in agreement that the project was very worthwhile and expressed their support. A concern of the Council was that almost all of the project expenses were honoraria for film editing services provided by Mr. Chevrier and Ms. Kim Gagnon, as outlined in the proposed budget. Dr. Nelson commented that the quality of the website would be of great importance, adding that film editing services are expensive by industry standard. The Council debated whether or not these services should be considered honoraria or salary, which is not an eligible expense. The Council agreed that the services would be considered honoraria because there was a distinct end-date, and also that the payee would be issuing an invoice for the hours worked within a designated time frame. The Chair noted that any funding allocated would have to be claimed within this academic year, as outlined in the CCSL Special Projects Guidelines. Furthermore, the Council discussed the importance of sustainability of the project and ensuring that it would hold a long-term place at the university. Ms. Barrafato questioned whether or not the project was part of Mr. Chevrier’s academic research, which would make it ineligible for funding. The Chair responded that although Mr. Chevrier may use some of the data revealed through the project for his research, the project itself was not part of his dissertation, therefore there was no real conflict. The members of the Council proposed limiting funding to Ms. Gagnon’s honorarium, so there would be no question of conflict that the funding was furthering Mr. Chevrier’s dissertation. Mr. Woodall said that there were approximately 22 weeks of funding within this academic year, which would end May 31, 2015. Ms. Toscano confirmed that the academic year would actually end on April 30, 2015. Given this, the Council determined that 18 weeks of funding would be eligible for funding.

A discussion ensued, further exploring the question of sustainability and ownership of the website. The Council agreed that with funding approval, Mr. Chevrier would be asked to provide the Council with a concrete plan for the sustainability of the project, as well as how he intended to institutionalize the project within the university to ensure its continued accessibility to the Concordia community.

Dr. Nelson put forth the following motion, seconded by Mr. Magonet:

Be it resolved that the project "Concordia Student-Run Food Group Documentary Project" be approved for \$10,800 of funding from the CCSL Special Projects Fund. The funds are to be used to pay the honorarium of Ms. Kim Gagnon for film editing services: 40 hours per week, for 18 weeks, at a rate of \$15 per hour.

For: 10

Against: 0

Abstentions: 1

The motion passed.

6. NEW BUSINESS

The Chair reported that the Student Services sector would not be going for an increase in its per credit fee this spring for a number of reasons. The CSU has agreed to define the process, within this term, of putting the question of a fee increase to students in a referendum. Mr. Woodall added that the discussion at CCSL in previous meetings had been very helpful for the Student Services Directors in identifying ways to inform students of the services available to them. He thanked the Council for their input.

The Chair announced that the CCSL Awards sub-committee, led by Mr. Boivin as Chair, would meet on March 9, 2015 to review the nominations for the CCSL Outstanding Contribution Awards. Twenty nominations were received, including thirteen students, five faculty members and two staff members. The awards night would be held on April 9, 2015 at the Loyola Chapel, and all Council members could expect to receive an invitation in mid-March.

Mr. Woodall wished the men's basketball team good luck, as they would be facing McGill in the conference finals at Bishops University that night.

The Sustainability Champions Awards Gala would take place on March 12, 2015.

The Alternative Spring Break (ASB) Showcase would be held on March 27, 2015 in the Centre for Teaching and Learning, FB-620. The Council members would receive an invitation by email to the event, hosted by the Dean of Students Office.

The Chair informed the Council that the deadline for nominations for the non-academic Special Graduation Awards would be March 31, 2015. He recalled the list of awards and asked the Council to spread the word and encourage the nomination of students who had achieved great things.

Mr. Woodall informed the Council that Forces Avenir is a Québec-wide initiative that recognizes, honours and promotes the commitment of students in projects that contribute to the development of socially conscious, active and responsible citizens who are both dedicated to their community and to the world. The Chair referred the Council to the Dean of Students website or forcesavenir.ca for more information. He noted that in addition to financial support, the program could provide students with great publicity and visibility.

The Chair reminded the Council that elections for the faculties, the CSU and the GSA would be taking place at the end of March and he encouraged students to go out and vote.

7. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on April 10, 2015 at 10am, Loyola AD-307.

8. TERMINATION OF MEETING

Ms. Bellini motioned to terminate the meeting. Ms. Acco seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.