



STUDENT SERVICES

Concordia Council on Student Life

**Minutes of the Concordia Council on Student Life
Held on November 21, 2025 10:30am
Meeting held at LOY PC 2.115**

PRESENT: Katie Broad (Chair), Lauren Broad (Secretary), Genevieve Alloï (replacing Matthew Fishman), Petra Alves (replacing Sarah Caille), Meghan Atherton, Anna Barrafato, Elana Bloom, Maria Chitoroaga, Dianne Cmor, Beatrice Doran, Zoë Erika-Okoye, Lauren Farley, Julie Foisy, Cassandra Lamontagne, Vanessa Massot, Graeme McGravie (replacing D'Arcy Ryan), Brad Nelson, Maria Oliveira, Maria Safos, Karthikeyan Umesh.

ABSENT WITH REGRETS: Melanie Burnett, Philippe Caignon, Nadia Hardy, Erin Mullins.

ABSENT: Darren Dumoulin, Maya Youngs-Zaleski.

GUESTS: Daniel Amico (minutes), Leanne Ashworth (CSU Housing & Job Resource Centre), Shatha Arslan and Maria Alejandra (Stingers Fair Trade Ambassadors), Antoine Beauchemin and Aliaa Sidawi (Career Counselling and Educational Transitions, SSC), Alex Oster (Office of Student Life and Engagement).

1. Approval of the Agenda

Maria Chitoroaga motioned to approve the agenda, seconded by Anna Barrafato.

The motion passed unanimously.

2. Remarks from the Chair

Katie Broad started the meeting and thanked Recreation & Athletics for hosting the meeting at the Perform Centre. She shared that as award season was beginning, there were a variety of awards to recognize students' academic achievements and community contributions. She encouraged staff and faculty to consider nominating students that they have worked with once the call for nominations begin.

The Chair reminded the Council that as the exam period and holiday season approached, community members may face difficult times regarding food insecurity; food insecurity initiatives would be available on campus, including food baskets at the People's Potato every Friday until Dec 19th and the Hive Free lunch on the Loyola campus. There were also healthy eating workshops hosted by CU Wellness, Health Services and the School of Health in the Perform Centre kitchen at Loyola.

3. Stingers Fair Trade Ambassadors Presentation

The Chair invited Shatha Arslan, Maria Alejandra and Zoë Erika-Okoye, Stingers Fair Trade Ambassadors, to present the Stingers Fair Trade Ambassadors Program. She invited the Council to ask questions and thanked them for their time.



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4. Approval of the Minutes from the Meeting of September 26, 2025

Brad Nelson motioned to approve the minutes from the meeting held on September 26, 2025, seconded by Vanessa Massot.

The motion passed unanimously.

5. Business Arising from the Minutes of September 26, 2025

5.1 HOJO: Updates on the Request for Funding

The Chair welcomed Leanne Ashworth, Manager of the CSU's Off-Campus Housing & Job Resource Centre (HOJO), to the meeting. She reminded the CCSL that at the last meeting, the project "Empowering Tenants: HOJO Rent Registry & Rent Control Project" was partially funded for \$12,895. To access the remaining requested amount of \$6,398, HOJO was required to clarify the following: to provide a more detailed timeline for the project, including plans for an extended project completion date if needed; to consult with University Legal Services on best practices on privacy matters; and to provide more details on the budget lines allocated towards the Outreach on-campus campaign, Workshops on Rent Control and Promotional Materials. Leanne Ashworth provided an update on these items. HOJO shared their questions and concerns to CSU's Legal Counsel, however as they are a separate organization from Concordia University, they are subject to different privacy regulations than the university. They confirmed that the program would be an opt-in one, where students choose to participate, upon reading the Terms and Conditions developed by CSU's lawyers. Students would create their own accounts and decide whether they consent to have their information shared on the website or not. She shared that the budget for outreach would be used for informational postcards and stickers and a standing banner, specifically for this project. Tabling events and workshops would be held to promote the program.

The Chair thanked Leanne Ashworth before she left the meeting and explained that HOJO would be contacted the following week with the Council's decision.

Brad Nelson put forth the following motion, seconded by Maria Chitoroaga:

Be it resolved that:

The Concordia Council on Student Life approve the balance of requested funding of \$6,398.00 to the CSU Off-Campus Housing and Job Resource Centre (HOJO) for the "Empowering Tenants: Concordia Student Rent Registry & Rent Control Awareness Project".

The motion passed with two abstentions from student representatives closely involved with the project.



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6. Career Counselling and Educational Transitions Presentation: What Can I Do with My Degree?

The Chair welcomed Antoine Beauchemin and Aliaa Sidawi from Career Counselling and Educational Transitions to the meeting. They presented the upgraded online resource *What Can I Do with My Degree?* to the CCSL. The Council was invited to ask questions and share comments. A discussion was held on managing students' expectations for job opportunities and how to maintain a reasonable scope of the project. Members were very impressed and enthusiastic about the resource. The Chair thanked them for the presentation.

7. Reports and Items of Information

7.1 National Survey on Student Engagement Presentation

Katie Broad welcomed Alex Oster to the meeting. He presented the National Survey on Student Engagement, with a focus on the results from Concordia University. The Council was invited to ask questions and share comments. Questions were raised on the survey's sample size and how the data presented was relative to the data of other universities. Alex Oster suggested that he share the full dataset with the Council, including surveys from previous years, if possible. The data was held with the Institutional Planning & Analysis Office. The Chair thanked Alex Oster for his time.

7.2. CCSL Sub-Committees

7.2.1. CCSL Special Projects Committee

The Chair reminded the Council that there was \$165,000 available in the CCSL Special Projects Fund each year. \$19,293 had been approved for HOJO this year and \$20,000 was earmarked for the Committee Participation Recognition Program (CPRP). The remaining \$125,707 remained for the CCSL Special Projects Fund, with two application deadlines per year. There were 45 applications submitted at the fall 2025 deadline.

The total amount requested for the 45 fall applications to be reviewed was \$147,743.26: 39 applications were for projects requesting \$5,000 or less (for a total of \$93,664.51) and 6 applications were for projects requesting over \$5,000 (for a total of \$54,078.75). The sub-committee approved 38 projects for a total amount approved of \$67,855.08: 33 projects for \$5,000 or less (for a total of \$53,855.08) and 5 projects for over \$5,000 for (for a total of \$14,000), leaving a balance for the winter semester of \$57,851.92.

All applicants had been notified by email of the decisions. Those who were declined were provided with the reason(s) why and given a list of alternative sources of funding at the university. Some were encouraged to reapply in the winter semester after addressing certain issues. The Chair shared that some students or groups that were approved for funding may be invited to give a presentation on their project to the Council in the winter semester.



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The Chair informed the Council that the sub-committee was missing two undergraduate student representatives and one graduate student representative. She encouraged interested members to reach out to Lauren Broad, Secretary of CCSL.

8. New Business

There was no new business at the meeting.

9. Points of Interest

The following items were shared with the Council:

- Hospitality Concordia's Holiday Markets were from November 17th – 21st and had been very successful. The Concordia Food Coalition's Farmers Market was on the 21st of November, as well as the Concordia Student Union's poster sale.
- Hospitality Concordia's Community Holiday Lunches would be held on December 2nd from 11:45am-1:15pm at the Loyola Jesuit Conference Centre and on December 11th from 11:45am-1:30pm at SGW in the MB-9 Conference Centre.
- Julie Foisy shared that December 4th is the next *Wear Concordia* campaign to receive a free coffee and a rebate at the Concordia Bookstore for anyone wearing Concordia merchandise.
- Dianne Cmor shared that five new AI learning modules would be available to students through the Library.

10. Next Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for January 23, 2026 at 10am at SGW-H-655.02.

11. Termination of Meeting

Julie Foisy motioned to terminate the meeting, seconded by Maria Chitoroaga.

The motion passed unanimously.