



STUDENT SERVICES

Concordia Council on Student Life

**Minutes of the Concordia Council on Student Life
Meeting held on April 24, 2026 10:00am
at SGW H-655**

PRESENT: Katie Broad (Chair), Lauren Broad (Secretary), Meghan Atherton, Anna Barrafato, Elana Bloom, Philippe Caignon, Zoë Erika-Okoye, Lauren Farley, Matthew Fishman, Julie Foisy, Nadia Hardy, Cassandra Lamontagne, Sabrina Lavoie, Brad Nelson, Maria Oliveira, Maria Safos, Christina Soulière-Gagliardi (on behalf of Sarah Caille), Karthikeyan Umesh.

ABSENT WITH REGRETS: Melanie Burnett, Dianne Cmor.

ABSENT: Maria Chitoroaga, Darren Dumoulin, Vanessa Massot, Erin Mullins, Maya Youngs-Zaleski.

GUESTS: Daniel Amico (Office of Student Life & Engagement), Michelle Dodds (Recreation & Athletics), Elisabeth Goodhue and Alanna Silver (The Hive Free Grocery Program), Noah Rubel and Alice Ross (Fine Arts Student Alliance).

1. Approval of the Agenda

Anna Barrafato motioned to approve the agenda, seconded by Philippe Caignon.

The motion passed unanimously.

2. Remarks from the Chair

Katie Broad started the meeting and thanked the Council for their participation throughout the year. With their work, they had contributed to making student life at Concordia diverse, vibrant and accessible. She specifically thanked the students for their participation on Council, all while balancing their schoolwork and other responsibilities, and encouraged them to continue getting involved in student life on campus.

3. Approval of the Minutes from the Meeting of March 13, 2026

Philippe Caignon motioned to approve the minutes from the meeting held on March 13, 2026, seconded by Maria Safos.

The motion passed unanimously.

4. Business Arising from the Minutes of March 13, 2026

4.1 Motion to approve updated CCSL Terms of Reference and Implementation Plan Outreach

Lauren Farley put forth the following motion, seconded by Nadia Hardy:



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Given that the Concordia Council on Student Life Terms of Reference replaced the CCSL Policy BD-9, as approved by the Board of Governors on June 19, 2020;

Given that the members of CCSL expressed their concern that the mandate carried over from the Policy to the Terms of Reference preserved an outdated mandate;

Given that the members of the CCSL agreed to strike an ad-hoc committee in the 2025-2026 academic year to review the Terms of Reference and to make recommendations to the Council;

Given that the CCSL reviewed these recommendations at the Council meeting held March 13, 2026:

Be it resolved that:

The Concordia Council on Student Life approve the proposed changes to the CCSL Terms of Reference and the Implementation Plan as presented at the meeting held March 13, 2026. The updated Terms of Reference and Implementation Plan will take effect as of April 24, 2026.

The Chair reminded Council that the updated CCSL Terms of Reference and Implementation Plan, which were presented at the Council meeting held on March 13, 2026, were created to modernize CCSL's mandate, improve impact measurement, and introduce annual priority-setting discussions. She thanked Nadia Hardy for her extensive work on the revision of CCSL's Implementation Plan.

The motion passed unanimously.

4.2 Plan for CCSL student representatives

The Chair shared that for several years, it had been difficult to fill all student representative seats. She explained that an outreach plan has been created by the Office of Student Life and Engagement. The plan included: a one-page recruitment document promoting participation on CCSL; more outreach through club fairs and orientation events; and enhanced support throughout the appointments procedure for the Concordia Student Union, Graduate Students' Association and Sustainable Concordia. It was recognized that promoting the appointments to students-at-large rather than executives would be essential to ensure the Council has a diverse representation from the student body.

5. Presentation by Recipients of CCSL Special Projects Funding

The Chair welcomed Alanna Silver and Elisabeth Goodhue from the Hive Free Lunch Program and invited them to present their project "*Hive Free Grocery Program*", which was approved for funding in the Winter 2026 semester through the CCSL Special Projects Fund. The Council was invited to ask questions and share comments. They discussed different opportunities for collaboration and brainstormed how to better improve the facilities and equipment that the Hive



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Free Lunch Program works with at the Loyola campus. The Chair thanked the presenters for their time.

The Chair welcomed Noah Rubel and Alice Ross from the Fine Arts Student Alliance (FASA) and invited them to present their project "*FASA FEAST: VA Food Initiative*", which was approved for funding in the Fall 2025 semester through the CCSL Special Projects Fund. The Council was invited to ask questions and share comments. Council members discussed food insecurity amongst students in the Faculty of Fine Arts specifically, accessibility challenges with the VA building, and opportunities for future collaborations amongst departments. The Chair thanked the students for their time.

6. Motion For Additional Funding for Food Insecurity Initiatives

The Chair introduced a proposal arising from the University Food Security Committee. An annual allocation of \$25,000 from the Student Emergency and Food Fund (SEFF) would be directed to the CCSL Special Projects Fund over a four-year period (2026–2030) to support student-led initiatives that target food insecurity and expand the availability and variety of affordable food on campus.

Elana Bloom put forth the following motion, seconded by Brad Nelson:

WHEREAS food insecurity continues to be a significant barrier to student wellbeing, academic success, and equitable participation in campus life at Concordia University;

WHEREAS sustainable, dedicated funding is required to support impactful, evidence-informed initiatives aimed at reducing food insecurity on campus;

WHEREAS an agreement has been established whereby \$25,000 from the Student Emergency and Food Fund (SEFF) will be allocated annually to CCSL for a period of four years, from 2026-2027 to 2029-2030;

WHEREAS this annual allocation represents an additional funding source for CCSL and is intended to strengthen student-led efforts addressing food insecurity at Concordia:

Be it resolved that:

As of Fall 2026, the CCSL shall allocate \$25,000 annually from the SEFF contribution to its overall CCSL Special Projects Fund towards food insecurity focused projects.

This earmarked funding shall be considered supplementary, and shall not preclude the allocation of additional CCSL funds to support food insecurity initiatives where appropriate. The CCSL Special Projects sub-committee shall be responsible for the allocation of these funds.

In accordance with existing CCSL Special Projects requirements, all food insecurity



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related funding applications must:

- a. Declare all other sources of funding;*
- b. Demonstrate the intended impact on the student community.*

The availability of these additional funds shall be promoted in Fall 2026 along with the community-wide call for applications.

The CCSL shall review the implementation and impact of this funding allocation on an annual basis to ensure alignment with student needs and the objectives of the CCSL.

The Council was invited to discuss the motion. Nadia Hardy asked what the plan would be if there were any unused funds. Katie Broad noted that while it would be likely that the full amount of the funds would be fully allocated to various projects, considering the applications previously submitted to the Special Projects Fund, any unused funds would roll over to the next year's amount of funding dedicated to food insecurity projects. Julie Foisy asked if the availability of these additional funds would be promoted separately from the regular Special Projects Fund. The Chair replied that there would be a unique promotion for this fund, however applicants would apply through the same process online application form at the same fall and winter deadlines.

The motion passed unanimously.

7. CCSL Priorities for 2026-2027

The Chair opened the floor for a discussion on what priorities or themes that the Council would like to see in the next academic year. Nadia Hardy noted that considering the presentations and the previous motion to receive funding from the SEFF for CCSL Special Projects, it would be interesting to measure the impact of food insecurity projects, both quantitatively and qualitatively. Cassandra Lamontagne added that Sarah Caille had developed a project on how to measure the impact of food insecurity projects across campus. The Council agreed that it would be beneficial to promote food insecurity initiatives through a centralized hub, with one tracking system to organize them and maximize their efficiency.

The Chair reminded the Council that a discussion was held at the last meeting about the Guadagni Lounge. It was agreed that there was an opportunity to support that space through the CCSL to transform it into a more welcoming space for social gatherings and possibly as another location to get food. Lauren Farley shared that there were many students in Residence at Loyola that would greatly benefit from a better social space. Cassandra Lamontagne added that as the mental well-being of students was a growing concern that affects all areas of the University, ensuring there was access to affordable food and a comfortable social space for students at Loyola was crucial.

Julie Foisy reiterated that there was not currently a parity of students and staff at Council, and that filling the student representative seats should be a strong priority.

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Maria Safos shared that her office, the Financial Aid and Awards office, had seen a rise in potential students returning to school later in their lives, in need of financial support. The Chair and Lauren Farley agreed that there was also a rise in students older than the typical 18-25 years of age range and discussed how the University could better support their unique needs and more complex issues. Regarding housing mature students, Sabrina Lavoie shared that the University had been approached before by developers to build a housing unit for mature students and graduate students with families, however a housing development project could only be considered once the University alleviated its difficult financial situation.

Members of the Council emphasized the importance of collaboration across departments and student groups to address these challenges.

8. New Business

There was no new business at the meeting.

9. Points of Interest

The following item was shared with the Council:

- Recreation and Athletics successfully passed an increase in their undergraduate fee levy for the first time in 16 years, with part of the success due to the creation of an ad-hoc committee. Sabrina Lavoie and Lauren Farley thanked the Council for its support on the initiative.

10. Next Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for September 2026; the date, time, and location would be confirmed in the summer months.

11. Termination of Meeting

Julie Foisy motioned to terminate the meeting, seconded by Nadia Hardy.

The motion passed unanimously.