



**CSU Regular Council Meeting**

**Wednesday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

**H-767, 18h30, S.G.W Campus**

**We would like to acknowledge that Concordia university is on the traditional territory of the Kanien'keha:ka (Ga-niyen-gé-haa-ga), a place which has long served as a site of meeting and exchange amongst nations. The Concordia Student Union recognizes, and respects the Kanien'keha:ka (Ga-niyen-gé-haa-ga) as the traditional custodians of the lands and waters on which we meet today.**

**1. Call to Order**

**2. Roll Call**

**3. Approval of the Agenda**

**4. Consent Agenda**

a) Approval of the Minutes – January 11<sup>th</sup> RCM

b) Reports from Committees

c) Executive Reports

**5. Presentations & Guest Speakers**

a) CEO Report

**6. Appointments**

a) Appointments Committee

b) Student Life Committee

**7. New Business – Informational**

a) CSU Investments

**8. New Business – Substantive**

a) BoG Transparency

b) Survey Web Application Developer Contract

c)Policy Committee Minutes

d)Mandatory Consent Training

e)CEO Bonus (closed)

**9. Question Period & Business Arising**

**10. Announcements**

**11. Adjournment**

## 1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order 18h37

## 2. Roll Call

Council Chairperson: *Caitlin Robinson*

Council Minute Keeper: *Caleb Owusu-Acheaw*

Executives present for the duration of the meeting were *Lana Galbraith* (Sustainability Coordinator), *Rachel Gauthier* (Student Life Coordinator), *Lucinda Marshall-Kiparissis* (General Coordinator), *Marcus Peters* (Loyola Coordinator), *Sophia Sahrane* (Academic & Advocacy Coordinator) and *Rami Yahia* (Internal Affairs Coordinator), *Aloyse Muller* (External Affairs Coordinator), *Thomas David-Bashore* (Finance Coordinator)

Executives absent for the duration of the meeting were: *None*

Councillors present for the duration of the meeting were, *Jason Poirier Lavoie* (Arts & Science), *Rowan Gaudet* (Arts & Science), *Robert Young* (Arts & Science), *Julia Sutura Sardo* (Arts & Science), *Christina Massaro* (Arts & Science), *Agunik Mamikonyan* (Arts & Science), *AlexanderMilton* (Arts & Science), *Sara Betinjaneh* (Arts & Science), *Veronika Rydzewski* (Arts & Science), *Brittany Jackson* (Arts & Science), *April Tardif-Levesque* (Arts & Science), *Marie-Maxime Gélinas-Delisle* (JMSB), *Omar Riaz* (JMSB), *Bronte Macfarlane* (JMSB), *Artem Mikhalitsin* (ENCS), *Alaa Alkirbee* (ENCS), *Meissa Thiam* (ENCS), *Mugisha Joyce Kakou* (ENCS), *Ahmed Badr* (ENCS), *Mikaela Clark-Gardner* (Fine Arts)

Councillors absent for the duration of the meeting were: *Louis Arrou-Vignod* (JMSB)

A. Mamikonyan moves to excuse C. Massaro from this meeting and A. Bahr from the last council meeting. Seconded by M. J. Kalou.

C. Robinson regrets not informing council at the last meeting of their respective absences.

For: 17      Against:0      Abstain:0

J. Poirier Lavoie inquires about possibility sending reasons of excusal to committee. The reasoning stems from the claim that Council tends to rubber stamp absences. C. Robinson replies that the issue has been brought up in the past four years and it has been defeated.

S. Sahrane states that there is room to refer this issue to Policy Committee, but the By-Laws and the Standing Regulations are fairly clear about absences.

A. Tardif-Levesque believes that it would be irresponsible to pry into the personal reasons for absences out of individual respect.

A. Mikhalitsin favours following the spirit and letter of the By-Laws and Standing Regulations, but remains adamant that councillors should act accordingly to their responsibilities to Council.

## 3. Approval of the Agenda

C. Robinson requests to move to approve the Agenda.

For: 17    Against:0    Abstain:0

#### 4. Consent Agenda

- a) Approval of the Minutes – January 11<sup>th</sup> RCM
- b) Reports from Committees
- c) Executive Reports

#### 5. Presentations & Guest Speakers

- a) CEO Report

S. Moukhaiber, as the CEO from the recent CSU elections, presents the election report. Firstly and regrettably, S. Moukhaiber states that upon being appointed to the role, there was no information from the previous CEO go on. It was a learning process as S. Moukhaiber did the job. None of the councillors elected filled campaign expenses in time, but that wasn't a big of an issue. There were a few technical issues with ITSS Concordia in terms of bad coding on their part with email distribution. Overall, the election fairly ran well. Their main suggestion to Council for the next elections are to have a transitional training session between the outgoing and incoming CEOs.

L. Marshall-Kiparissis applauds the effort and work done by S. Moukhaiber considering the last-minute resignation of the preceeding CEO and the limited time to prepare for these past elections.

J. Poirier-Lavoie, in response to some of the concerns raised by not only S. Moukhaiber but highlighting on past errors with elections, would favour in establishing an official office role for the CEO position in a positive attempt to avoid these errors and faults in the future.

R. Gaudet raises concern with the section detailing the filing of election expenses pertaining to personal scheduling situation with final exams and the frequency of emails mentioned in the report. A. Tardif-Levesque raises similar concerns with their personal emails as well.

A. Mamikonyan would like to see a policy of anonymous comments or concerns be advocated to better perfect the electoral process during future election campaigns.

**L. Galbraith moves for a closed session. Seconded by R. Young.**

For: 13    Against: 3    Abstain:1

**R. Young moves to go back into open session. Seconded by J. Suter Sardo**

For: 17    Against:0    Abstain:0

L. Galbraith, for the next elections, would like for the CSU to push for more representation from Loyola especially from the pure sciences backgrounds. R. Gauthier echoes L. Galbraith's sentiments in terms of the CSU's mandate is to break down barriers in the effort to promoting diversity.

L. Galbraith advises for councillors to not be shy in expressing options and to encourage more free thought at council meetings and for them to mobilize their friends or fellow colleagues to run for CSU council seats.

M. Peters suggests that for the next elections the polling booths should be set up in the Hive Space and Free Lunch areas. According to Peters, there is a lot of foot traffic there to maximize more voter participation.

T. David-Bashore wonders about the posted electoral count. S. Moukhaiber replies back that only the yes votes are displayed.

R. Gauthier moves for a 15-minute recess. Seconded by J. Poirier Lavoie.

For: 17 Against:0 Abstain:1

### **Meeting back to order at 19h45**

L. Marshall-Kiparissis moves to approve Chief Electoral Officer's Report. Seconded by T. David-Bashore.

For: 14 Against:0 Abstain:1

J. Sutera Sardo notices that there are some gender-neutral mistakes in the minutes of January 11<sup>th</sup> 2017 and therefore acknowledge and advise to the Minute Keeper to correct them.

## **6. Appointments**

### a) Appointments Committee

M. Peters states that there is one seat on the committee due to a resignation. He states that there pressing issues at hand.

J. Sutera Sardo, from their current experience with the committee, states that it has been a great learning experience. J. Sutera Sardo encourages Council members to be involved with this committee.

A. Tardif-Levesque moves to nominate for themselves. Seconded by R. Young.

Citing work experience, A. Tardif-Levesque deems themselves as competent as well as being knowledgeable in bringing their insights to the committee.

For: 15 Against: 0 Abstain:1

### b) Student Life Committee

R. Gauthier, due to the resignation of former JMSB CSU councillor L. Arrou-Vignod, states that a seat has now opened up on the committee.

## **7. New Business – Informational**

### a) CSU Investments

L. Marshall-Kiparissis presents the following motion. Seconded by J. Poirier-Lavoie

Whereas Special Bylaw B States that “the student union may use its funds in the purchase of stock in any other company”

Whereas students have voted on the following resolutions through referenda:

- That the CSU endorse the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement against Israel’s occupation of Palestine until Israel complies with International Law and Universal Principles of Human Rights. [Adopted during the November by-election, 2014]
- That the CSU agree with Divest Concordia's demand that Concordia University remove all its investments that are currently tied to the fossil fuel and related industries and reinvest this money in a socially and environmentally responsible manner [Adopted during the November by-election, 2016]
- To actively support the fossil fuels divestment campaign until such time as Concordia University commits to full divestment from fossil fuels and related industries [Adopted during the November by-election, 2016]

Whereas the CSU has already begun the process of divesting its holdings from fossil fuels, companies complicit in Israeli apartheid, and other unsustainable industries (initiated in the fall of 2014)

Whereas the SSAELC fund committee was given a presentation by the firm Jaralowski Fraser on sustainable investments, and the firm has been open to tailoring an investment portfolio to the mandates of the CSU

Be it resolved that the CSU move a significant portion of its investments into a portfolio managed by the firm Jaralowski Fraser, with the total amount to be determined at the discretion of the SSAELC fund committee

L. Marshall-Kiparissis provides the run down for the motion in terms of fully complying with the mandate of the CSU accordingly with the divestment campaign, pro-Palestine efforts against Israel and other socioeconomic matters.

J. Poirier-Lavoie finds concern with the motion in not knowing enough information about the health and vitality of the fund in casting a vote. In addition,

S. Sahrane, in response to J. Poirier Lavoie, states that Policy Committee will be reviewing the Standing Regulations on the formation of the fund committee. However, she states that

M. Peters fairly doesn’t agree with J. Poirier Lavoie concerns and replies back that the CSU’s Standing Regulations as well as the committee’s mandate have been already entrenched by past action.

J. Poirier Lavoie strongly advocates for transparency and accountability from the fund’s activity and its committee members. Poirier-Lavoie rejects the established understanding that the committee has already been its mandate through vote and desires for more say either by Policy Committee or CSU Council. He recommends to Council to reconsider their vote for this motion in the hope of perfecting the structure of the fund committee.

R. Young call to question. Seconded by O. Riaz.

For: 16 Against: 1 Abstain:0

For: 14 Abstain:1 Abstain:3

## 8. New Business – Substantive

a) BoG Transparency

A.Muller presents the following motion. Seconded by R. Young

Whereas the Concordia University Board of Governors is the highest decision-making body of the University;

Whereas the open session meetings of the Board of Governors are barred to the public;  
Whereas Senate open session meetings are to the public;

Whereas a livestream in another room is the only means through which a non-Board member may watch the proceedings of the open session of the Board of Governors;

Whereas, as the events of December 14th, when a protest led to the Board meeting being relocated, proved that livestream is not a reliable means for the public to watch the proceedings of the Board;

Whereas transparency is a necessary condition to accountable governance;  
Be it resolved that the CSU condemn the decision of the Board of Governors to proceed with the meeting of December 14th, despite the fact that no livestream of the meeting was provided either for the press or the public;

Be it further resolved that the CSU demand that all open session meetings of the Board of Governors be open to the public, that sufficient seating be provided, and that presence of the student press be accommodated;

Be it further resolved that the CSU demand that all open session meetings of the Board of Governors be filmed and broadcasted online, and that these recordings be kept accessible online;

Be it further resolved that the CSU demand that all meetings of the Board of Governors shall end with a question period for the Concordia community;

Be it further resolved that the CSU demand that the minutes of the Board of Governors include the vote count when a vote is required on a motion, and that this vote count includes the name of the Governors who supported, opposed, or abstained on the motion.

A. Muller provides some historical context to this motion as it was previously presented to the Board of Governors about 5-6 years ago. At the time, the board was open to the idea, but eventually passed on its implementation. Going on by recent events, A. Muller finds the lack of transparency problematic for many reasons such as not knowing how each board member voted and the press media unable to do their job effectively and properly in reporting the facts.

L. Marshall-Kiparissis states in a recent editorial in the Link about the lack of transparency of the university's Board of Directors. In addition, McGill's SSMU has done an effort in pressuring their university's administration to be more public with having a press room and meeting proceedings are fairly public.

For: 17      Against:0      Abstain:0

b) Survey Web Application Developer Contract

**M. Peters presents the following motion. Seconded by R. Young.**

Whereas the CSU is pursuing an open-access approach to a general undergraduate survey which will be launched with the intent of benefiting student groups

Whereas the work plan and contract delivered to council have been drafted in collaboration with the potential developer, CSU IT Coordinator, CSU GM, executive, and Loyola committee, and outlines a process of developing a web application towards this end

Whereas the student endowment fund was set up in 1999 with the purpose of funding projects to the benefit of the student population at Concordia, collecting over \$1 million, of which approximately \$190,000 of accumulated interest is available for funding and has yet to be allocated

Be it resolved that the executive be mandated to pursue funding from the student endowment fund for the proposed financing the survey developer contract to the amount of \$17,000

M. Peters mentions, as supporting information for the motion, that this has been a long time coming in terms of acting on the intentions of the fund. For M. Peters, the fund since 1999 has never been used and it would be pointless if the CSU did not act on it when the money is presently there to gather more information about student interests on campus.

J. Poirier Lavoie appreciates the long-term and scalability of the project in terms of the knowing more about the school population and its interests.

For: 17      Against:0      Abstain:0

c) Policy Committee Minutes

**S. Sahrane moves to approve the Policy Committee minutes as well as the following motion to the CSU Standing Regulations. Seconded by A. Milton.**

Whereas Standing Regulation 214 states that all Council members shall complete a minimum of three (3) hours of consent training.

Whereas this training is mandatory for students holding decision-making positions within the CSU.

BIRT Standing Reg 214 be amended from:

“Prior to October 1st of their mandate, each Council member shall complete a minimum of 3 hours of consent training” To:

“Prior to October 1st of their mandate, each Council member elected during Annual Elections must complete a minimum of three (3) hours of consent training, and that Council members elected during By-Elections must complete the same consent training prior February 1st.”

BIFRT the following be added to the amended Standing Regulation 214::



- a) Failure to attend consent training by the deadline set for Council members elected during the Annual Elections and By-Elections, shall count as two absences from Regular Council Meetings.
- b) Consent training shall always be scheduled at the same time as an expected Council meeting (Wednesdays, 6:30pm), as Council members must have that time reserved for Council.
- c) The Executive team shall give a minimum of three weeks notice to Council members, as to the date and time of their mandatory consent training.”
- d) Excusals shall be assessed the same way as Regular Council meetings excusals (refer back to Chapter VII of the Standing Regulations). If Council members are granted an excusal from their assigned consent training, then they shall attend the next scheduled consent training.”

A. Mamikonyan wonders at the time & scheduling requirement mentioned in the motion as well as a potential conflict with accepted excuses for absences with council.

S. Sahrane replies that the time & scheduling was purposely set to give enough time to accommodate for academics, employment and the established CSU by-laws and Standing Regulations with the frequency of committee meetings. L. Galbraith and J. Sutera Sardo echoes their sentiments mostly on providing the positive social return on the financial investment of bringing in coordinators to run the workshops.

R. Gauthier emphasises on the thought-based approach with the motion itself and adds that the scheduling should benefit all councillors to complement the existing academic calendar.

T. David-Bashore mentions, in providing some context, that consent-training has taken a bigger financial piece than budget.

M. Clark-Gardner finds great value with the motion in terms of quickly profiting from the workshop lessons to move forward throughout a councillor’s mandate.

J. Sutera Sardo and S. Sahrane highlights the efforts made in the motion to compel councillors to do their part and to not try to wiggle out of their responsibilities. L. Galbraith adds to the compliment in stating that the CSU should and must disassociate from those individuals that feel compelled not to comply with their responsibilities as CSU councillors.

S. Sahrane moves to friendly amend the motion to include “e) in the event that a council member does not complete their three (3) hours of consent training after February 1<sup>st</sup>, their council seats will be up to a vote for their removal.” Seconded by J. Sutera Sardo.

J. Sutera Sardo moves to amend the motion to include a sub clause for the motion that states “that the Judicial Board cannot rule on the motion itself, that it is limited to Council, and it being added to the Judicial Code of Procedures” and another one in which “the Chief Electoral Officer’s directives include consent-training for candidates in CSU elections” Seconded by A. Mamikonyan.

S. Sahrane denotes that the latter clause would lead to a logistical nightmare as previously discussed at Policy Committee. For Sahrane, the issue is the level of expectation between election candidates vs. elected councillors.

L. Galbraith moves to refer J. Sutera Sardo’s proposed amendment(s) to the Policy Committee. Seconded by J. Poirier-Lavoie.

L. Galbraith states that since the amendment touches on the powers of the Judicial Board and not enough information from the amendment isn’t sufficient enough to make a proper decision, it would be best to refer to the Policy Committee. J. Poirier-Lavoie echoes their sentiments.

For: 16      Against:0      Abstain:0

**R. Young moves to call the question. Seconded by J. Poirier-Lavoie**

For: 16      Against:0      Abstain:1

A. Mamikonyan wonders what happens now for those councillors, in terms of consequences who failed to attend the consent trainings under the old model of Standing Regulations. S. Sahrane replies back that the existing Standing Regulations will be applied and Council will act accordingly in disciplining those affected councillors.

d) Mandatory Consent Training

**Nil**

e) CEO Bonus

**T. David-Bashore moves to go into closed session. Seconded by M. J. Kalou.**

For: 15      Against:0      Abstain:0

**J. Poirier-Lavoie moves to award a bonus of 400\$ to the Chief Electoral Officer. Seconded by R. Gaudet.**

For: 14      Against:0      Abstain:3

**T. David-Bashore moves to return back into open session. Seconded by J. Poirier-Lavoie**

For: 16      Against:0      Abstain:0

**T. David-Bashore moves to ratify the motions made in closed session. Seconded by J. Sutura Sardo.**

For: 15      Against:0      Abstain:0

## **9. Question Period & Business Arising**

**Nil**

## **10. Announcements**

J. Poirier-Lavoie mentions about completing a program of non-profit management and calls out on CSU councillors in aiding in the effort. Examples include making confidential statements about each councillor's work with the CSU and completing informational surveys.

J. Sutura Sardo states a panel on Indigenous Peoples in Quebec on January 31<sup>st</sup> 2017 at 5:00pm. In addition, J. Sutura Sardo is organizing a workshop on Anti-Racism for First Voices Week

L. Galbraith states that First Voices Week commences on January 30<sup>th</sup> 2017. More information will be provided on their Facebook page. On February 3<sup>rd</sup> 2017, there will be the Transitions Conference on Food on Campus along with a networking event in the hopes on knowing more

B. Jackson states a friend and themselves are starting up a Triathlon Club at campus. More events will be made when available on a future Facebook page.

A.Muller states that a pilot project will be started in conjunction with the International Students Office in terms of helping students in figuring out how to get involved within the Concordia community.

L. Marshall-Kiparissis states that the Art History Graduate Students Association having a conference entitled “No Neutral Art, No Neutral Art Historians” depicting and understanding Canada’s colonial art history this weekend.

L. Galbraith states that there will be a community gathering on February 6<sup>th</sup> with a “Now What?” discussion following the successful efforts in fighting the tuition increases for international students.

J. Sutura Sardo states Homa Hoodfar returns to Concordia University on February 20<sup>th</sup> to discuss the experiences in Iran, gendering authority and the safeguarding of academia. Brunch will be served.

## **11. Adjournment**

**Meeting adjourned at 21h13.**