



CSU Regular Council Meeting

Wednesday, February 8th, 2017

H-763, 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 11th RCM (edits)
 - b) Reports from Committees
 - c) Executive Reports
 - d) Chairperson's Report
- 5. Presentations & Guest Speakers**
 - a) AVEQ - Report on Health Insurance for International Students in Quebec
 - b) 7th Floor Renovations
- 6. Appointments**
 - a) Student Life Committee
 - b) Policy Committee
- 7. New Business – Informational**
 - a) Council Attendance
 - b) Consultation on Sexual Violence on Campus
- 8. New Business – Substantive**
 - a) Winter Orientation Post-Mortem
 - b) Health Insurance for International Students
 - c) Financial Report Presentation
 - d) CSU General Elections
 - e) Climate Clock
 - g) CSU Gifts
 - h) Finance Coordinator Report
 - i) Appointment Committee
- 9. Question Period & Business Arising**
- 10. Announcements**
- 11. Adjournment**

1. Call to Order

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), *Christina Massaro* (Arts & Science), *Agunik Mamikonyan* (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: *AlexanderMilton* (Arts & Science), *Julia Sutura Sardo* (Arts & Science)

2. Roll Call

J. Poirier Lavoie moves to excuse both J. Sutura Sardo & A. Milton from this meeting. Seconded by R. Gauthier.

For:10 Against:0 Abstain:0

R. Gauthier moves to excuse themselves from this meeting as of 21h30. Seconded by J. Poirier Lavoie

For:11 Against:0 Abstain:0

O. Riaz moves to excuse themselves from this meeting as of 19h30. Seconded by J. Poirier Lavoie.

For:10 Abstain:0 Abstain:1

3. Approval of the Agenda

J. Poirier Lavoie moves to approve the agenda. Seconded A. Bahr.

For:13 Abstain:0 Abstain:0

4. Consent Agenda

- a) Approval of the Minutes – January 11th RCM (edits)
- b) Reports from Committees
- c) Executive Reports

d) Chairperson's Report

5. Presentations & Guest Speakers

a) AVEQ - Report on Health Insurance for International Students in Quebec

Issac represents the research survey report done at Concordia University pertaining to the health insurance for international students in Quebec. The report states that Quebec's international students pay the highest level of health premiums in all of Canada. A couple of recommendations are made not only to bring awareness to the issue, but to help this student group find better and affordable insurance in Quebec.

b) 7th Floor Renovations

A. Muller states that the 7th floor renovations for a future student success center would hinder the Muslim Students Association Friday prayers.

The two MSA representatives, from their perspective, finds that this would be unfair for the already growing Muslim population as a result of the loss of room space.

One of the two representatives as well as to L. Marshall-Kiparrissis mention that the MSA never had a stable space up until recently due to constant changing around of locations.

S. Sahrane provides some religious context in the sense that the importance of Islamic prayers is to do them in the presence of others.

J. Poirier Lavoie wonders as to what the university is giving in return for the MSA for these renovations. Poirier Lavoie inquires at whatever leverage the MSA or the CSU has in these ongoing discussions.

L. Marshall-Kiparrissis states that for the meantime, on-going discussions are operating on a good-faith basis. However, in addition with A. Muller, state that the renovations are already behind schedule. Any CSU response would not only take the university administration re-consider, but to generate public awareness to this issue.

A. Muller presents the following motion. Seconded by J. Poirier Lavoie.

Whereas the 7th floor large lounge is a CSU space, and bookable through the CSU;
Whereas the 7th floor small lounge is a University space, bookable through the CSU;
Whereas the CSU and the MSA have an agreement granting the use of both lounges to the MSA for the purpose of the Friday Jumu'ah prayer;
Whereas Concordia is planning to renovate the 7th floor of the Hall building, and to implement there the Student Success Centre;
Whereas this new use of the 7th floor increases the population of the floor, pushing it close to or beyond floor capacity at peak times;
Whereas as part of the upcoming 7th floor renovations:
It has been suggested by Concordia that the MSA limits the attendance to its Friday prayers;
Concordia now plans to build a glass wall between the small and the large lounge to prevent increased attendance to the Friday prayer;
It is unclear whether the CSU would retain the ability to administer the booking of the small lounge;
Whereas the Jumu'ah is a congressional prayer;
Whereas there is large Muslim community at Concordia;
Whereas it is the responsibility of the University to ensure a safer and inclusive environment to its student body;

Be it resolved that the CSU support the MSA, and guarantee that there will be no limit imposed on attendance to the MSA Friday prayers;

Be it further resolved that the CSU opposes the construction of a separation wall between the 7th floor small and large lounge;

Be it further resolved that the CSU seeks to maintain its ability to administer the 7th floor small lounge;

In the event that the MSA assesses the need for increased prayer space, be it resolved that the CSU support the MSA in its efforts to acquire said prayer spaces.

For:16 Against:0 Abstain:0

A. Tardif-Levesque, in response to MSA concerns about unilateral administrative action, states members of the CSU executive, when available or free, would be willing to mobilize and defend the rights of the MSA. S. Sahrane and J. Poirier echoes those sentiments in considering the current tense political climate and the fact that the university expects the CSU not to act.

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

For:14 Against:0 Abstain:0

6. Appointments

Meeting back to order at 19h42

a) Student Life Committee

R. Gauthier states that there is one spot open on the Student Life Committee.

V. Rydzewski moves to nominate themselves for the Student Life Committee. Seconded by

V. Rydzewski mentions that they are active on campus with the CSU Clubs Committee and the Political Science Student Association. V. Rydzewski mentions that they have more free time to commit to this committee.

For: 11 Against:0 Abstain:1

b) Policy Committee

S. Sahrane mentions that one seat has opened up for this committee. Essentially,

A. Manikonyan moves to nominate to J. Sutera Sardo for the Policy Committee. Seconded by C. Massaro.

J. Sutera Sardo motivations stems from being fully committed in facing current problems and issues at Policy Committee.

V. Rydzewski moves to nominate themselves for the Policy Committee. Seconded by C. Massaro.

V. Rydzewski states that even though they don't have the experience, their classes at Political Science provide enough of a backbone in figuring out through policy regulations

R. Young moves to appoint both J. Sutera Sardo and V. Rydzewski notwithstanding Standing Regulation 17 to the Policy Committee. Seconded by R. Young

S. Sahrane answers a question posed by J. Poirier Lavoie in opposition of the motion pertaining to council attendance to the Policy Committee in which simply members who are no longer interested can resign and communicate that message.

For:11 Against:3 Abstain:1

7. New Business – Informational

a) Council Attendance

L. Galbraith, pertaining to the consent workshops topic discussed at last meeting, provides a clarification in which councillors can not be punished or disciplined for any action preceding the implementation of law.

b) Consultation on Sexual Violence on Campus

L. Galbraith states that the Quebec Minister of Higher Education, Helene David, has called for consultations about sexual violence in 4 major cities in the province. According to Galbraith, this announcement has been fairly moot on campus and there has not been any effort by the university to acknowledge the issue. Right now, the main battle is how the consultation process would occur with the student associations across Quebec.

8. New Business – Substantive

a) Winter Orientation Post-Mortem

R. Gauthier presents the following motion. Seconded by M.-M. Gelinis-Deisle.

Be it resolved that Council approves the Winter 2017 Orientation Post-Mortem Report.

R. Gauthier presents the Winter Orientation Post-Mortem to Council. First, R. Gauthier mentions that many of successful events held during the Fall 2016 session were repeated this semester. Secondly, as for the planning process, they were laid out and organized last summer and highly recommends that future council years should do the same.

For:14 Against:0 Abstain:0

b) Health Insurance for International Students

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

A. Muller, in presenting the motion, essentially highlights and responds to the recommendations made in the Health Insurance for International Students in Quebec Report. The desire with this motion is to have more university student associations to be involved in generating awareness and allowing international students to have insurance while at school.

For: 14 Against:0 Abstain:0

c) Financial Report Presentation

T. David-Bashore moves to approve the CSU P8 Financial Report as presented to Council. Seconded by R. Young.

Firstly, David-Bashore states that the student fee revenues are not accurately presented because according to Concordia's financial services, most students will pay their tuition by mid-February.

In addition, revenues have not changed as they remain stagnant. Secondly, most of the budget allocated for elections have been spent. Thirdly, there were computer expenses to deal with the technical issues encountered by the CSU during this year. Fourthly, the Reggies Activity expense is purposely set to ensure to the government of Quebec that the student bar is paying its rent to CSU and the bar gets that money back. Fifthly, David-Bashore mentions that the CSU plans to finish the fiscal year with a \$20 000 surplus.

For: 14 Against:0 Abstain:0

d) CSU General Elections

L. Marshall-Kiparissis presents the following motion. Seconded by R. Young.

Whereas Standing Regulation 241 of the CSU Standing Regulations requires that the polling period for Annual General Elections end on the last Thursday in March;

Whereas Standing Regulation 293 of the CSU Standing Regulations requires that the nomination period for CSU General Elections begin 21 days and end 12 days before the polling period;

Whereas Standing Regulation 311 of the CSU Standing Regulations requires that the campaigning period for Annual General Elections being 10 days before the polling period and end the day before the polling period;

Whereas the current CSU CEO has advised modifications to the locations of polling booths as delineated in Standing Regulation 325 in order to maximize participation and visibility;

Be it resolved that in accordance with Standing Regulations 241, 293 and 311, the nomination period for the CSU 2017 Annual General Election period be February 27 to March 13, that the campaigning period be March 14 to March 27, and that the polling period be March 28 to March 30;

Be it further resolved that Standing Regulation 325 be withstood to add a polling booth to the second floor of SC and remove a polling booth from the AD atrium for the CSU 2017 Annual General Election period.

L. Marshall-Kiparissis states that the motion is fairly administrative in terms of confirming the dates and responding to the CEO's

For: 13 Against:0 Abstain:0

e) Climate Clock

M. Peters presents the following motion. Seconded by R. Gaudet.

Whereas the CSU has been given the following mandates via referendum:

- That the CSU pressure Concordia University to 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 2016 by-elections]
- That the CSU oppose the Energy East and Line 9 pipelines as well as any form of tar sands development. [Adopted during the March General Election, 2016]

Whereas the CSU has been given the following mandates through the council of representatives:

- That the CSU stand in solidarity with the Unist'ot'en Camp and emphatically support their efforts to resist any pipeline project that crosses through their territory without free, prior and informed consent. [Adopted November 11, 2015]
- That our society transition towards being fossil fuels free by 2050. [Adopted October 8, 2014]
- That our university system be transformed to help in the transition towards a post-fossil fuel economy. [Adopted October 8, 2014]

- That the pipeline projects in Quebec be blocked, with the intention to stopping tar sands exportation. [Adopted October 8, 2014]
- That fossil fuel exploration and extraction projects on the territory of Quebec stop. [Adopted October 8, 2014]
- That the emission of dangerous levels of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere be recognized as a crime against our environment, and against humanity. [Adopted October 8, 2014]
- That the CSU favor the removal of Federal and Provincial subsidies to the fossil fuel industry and resource exploitation activity in Quebec's Plan Nord [Adopted April 8, 2015]

Whereas there is currently an initiative to construct a panel on climate change with a specific focus on elevating the personal narratives of those most affected by the crisis, and in opposition of resource extraction and unsustainable investing, in line with the aforementioned mandates

Whereas this initiative is a replication of previous effort involving the projection of a climate clock using data developed here at Concordia, and would lay the groundwork for investigating the possibilities of a permanent installation by one or more of the organizing parties

Be it resolved that the CSU council mandate the executive to seek funding to the amount of \$12,000 from the student endowment fund towards this initiative

The council approves a friendly amendment to state "to see funding to the amount up to \$12 000 from the student endowment fund towards this initiative."

For: 14 Against: Abstain:0

g) CSU Gifts

L. Galbraith presents the following motion. Seconded by

Whereas previous CSU executives have been offered trips to British Columbia by the University administration;

Whereas the CSU is currently entering the Request for Proposal process to select a new health care plan, with two health care plan providers having previously given small gifts to CSU executives in anticipation of the RFP;

Be it resolved that all CSU executives be mandated to describe in their monthly reports any and all gifts received courtesy of their position at the Concordia Student Union;

Be it further resolved that should the CSU or its executives be offered any benefit or gift (trips, donations, grants, etc.) that is offered with the required consent of the executive(s), the council will have final approval as to whether it can be accepted or not while taking into consideration the position book;

Be it further resolved that Policy Committee be mandated to draft clauses for the Standing Regulations to this effect.

For L. Galbraith, the purpose of the motion is to provide transparency and to prevent any administrative coercion and/or professional manipulation on the part of Concordia, internal or external organizations to sway opinion or action. \

L. Marshall-Kiparissis sees the positivity in this motion to eliminate or reduce any backroom talk amongst councillors and/or executives.

For: 14 Against:0 Abstain:0

h) Finance Coordinator Report

T. David-Bashore moves to approve the Finance Coordinator's Report. Seconded by J. Poirier Lavoie.

For: 14 Against:0 Abstain:0

i) Appointments Committee

M. Peters moves to table the Appointments Committee minutes. Seconded by A.Mamikonyan.

M. Peters states that the individual who applied for the student-at-large position of the Finance Committee may have some personal conflicts with the decision made by the committee.

L. Galbraith moves to go into a closed session. Seconded by R. Gaudet

For: 12 Against: 0 Abstain:1

A. Mikhalitsin moves to return back into open session. Seconded by J. Poirier Lavoie.

For: 14 Against:0 Abstain:0

For: 0 Against:12 Abstain:0

J. Poirier Lavoie moves to approve the Appointments Committee minutes. Seconded by A. Mikhalitsin.

For: 12 Against:0 Abstain:0

9. Question Period & Business Arising

Nil

10. Announcements

M. Peters states that there will be an accessibility audit event at the Loyola Campus at week from today in the G-Lounge at 2:00pm.

A.Muller mentions that next week there will be a Hip-Hop/Rap event against police brutality at the Belmont.

L. Marshall-Kiparissis states that the CSU COOP Housing project has been made officially public as of yesterday at Montreal City Hall. The building will be across the street from Park Lafontaine.

11. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 21h20.