



## Concordia Student Union – Council of Representatives

**CSU Regular Council Meeting – Agenda  
Wednesday, January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2011  
Room H-763, Time 6:30 PM, S.G.W Campus**

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Roll Call**
- 3. Approval of the Agenda**
- 4. Approval of the Minutes and Business Arising**
- 5. Chairperson's Report**
- 6. New Business**
  - a. Councilor opportunity for Student Athletes**
  - b. Tuition Campaign Outline**
  - c. Appointment – Councillor to Policy Committee**
- 7. Consent Agenda**
  - a. Report from University Bodies**
  - b. Report from Committees**
- 8. Question Period & Business Arising**
- 9. Announcements**
- 10. Adjournment**



## Concordia Student Union – Council of Representatives

CSU Regular Council Meeting  
January 11<sup>th</sup> 2011

1. The meeting is called to order at 6:41 pm.

2. Roll Call

**Executives:**

Melissa Fuller  
Hasan Cheikhzen  
Chad Walcott  
Lex Gill  
Laura Glover  
Jordan Lindsay  
Gonzo Nieto

**Councillors:**

Iain Meyer-Macaulay  
Anaii Lee-Ender  
Renee Tousignant  
Simon-Pierre Lauzon  
Yassine Chaabi  
Eduardo Alves  
Annie Thompson  
Sabrina D'Ambra  
April Underwood  
Lina Saigol  
Ail Moenck  
Omar Abdullabi  
Michaela Manson  
Melanie Hotchkiss  
Cameron Monagle  
Kyle Mcloughlin  
Eva-Loan Ponton-Pham  
Irmak Bahar  
Amer Muiny  
Ariel Dabora  
Nadine Atallah

3. Approval of the Agenda

**Lex Gill:** Add Emran's motion under new business point A. Councillor opportunity for student athletes.

**Kyle Mcloughlin:** Seconds.

**Melissa Fuller:** Remove JB appointments.



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**Morgan Pudwell:** Appointment to Policy Committee (Councillor) is now point 6 c).

**Chad Walcott:** Moves to approve.

**Iain Meyer Macaulay:** Seconds.

**Vote:** All in favour of approving the agenda: unanimous.

4. Approval of the Minutes and Business Arising

**Sabrina D'Ambra:** Her attendance is not recorded for December 14<sup>th</sup> and November 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Irmak Bahar:** Send out minutes on Friday before the meeting.

**Melanie Hotchkiss:** Lex Gill's name is spelled wrong in some of the minutes. She also clarifies a point she made during a November meeting.

**Emran Ghasemi:** Moves to approve.

**Second:**

**Vote:** All in favour of approving the minutes: unanimous. Nadine Atallah, Annie Thompson, Eva-Loan Ponton-Pham, Simon-Pierre Lauzon, Irmak Bahar abstain.

5. Chairperson's Report

**Chairperson:** Send official wording of motions to council secretary.

**Lex Gill:** Welcomes new Councillors. Asks Chairperson to give a brief intro to Robert's Rules.

6. New Business

a. **Emran Ghasemi:** Gives Councillors letters of support from Concordia athletes.

WHEREAS student athletes should be represented on Concordia Student Union's council of representatives.

WHEREAS Concordia student athletes have an integral role to play in Concordia Student Life

WHEREAS Concordia athletes represent the University provincially, nationally and internationally

WHEREAS school spirit at Concordia is rated below average compared to other universities across Canada

WHEREAS there is no official student athlete voice on council.

WHEREAS students contribute considerable financial assistance to athletics in Concordia



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BIFRT a new councillor position be created.

BIFRT this councillor position is reserved for concordia university student athletes

BIFRT students that participate on any concordia varsity team for atleast one season, be eligible to run for this position during the annual general elections.

BIFRT the policy review committee be tasked with defining the wording of the referendum question for the winter 2012 annual elections

BIFRT a special council meeting be called no later than February 15 2012, to ratify the referendum question.

BIFRT this referendum question is added to the Annual Election that will take place in March 2012

BIFRT the chief electoral officer of the Concordia Student Union, be responsible for students interested in running for the position are current student athletes

**Sabrina D'Ambra:** Seconds.

**Emran Ghasemi:** There is an absence of student athlete representation on the CSU. He is a member of the Concordia rugby team, which has a large impact on his life. Athletes represent Concordia and make the university proud,. They also raise the status of the university. Students rarely come to the games. CSU representation is very weak. The last Stinger to run and win an executive position was in 1997. To fix this, he proposes to add a seat on Council representative of athletes, which would act as a liason between rest of Concordia and the athletes.

He notes the accomplishments of various Concordia sports teams. We invest in athletics through a fee per credit, so it should be represented on CSU Council. Encourages Council to have an open mind in making this decision- their job is to represent all students. Introduces Jackie, a member of the woman's rugby team.

**Jackie:** This will lead to further awareness of athlete programs, increase reputation of Concordia on an international level. Student athletes have to take 9 credits in a semester, most take 12-15. Student athletes often combine work, school, and training. Details her personal experience as a Concordia athlete. Has seen the rugby program grow. Concordia has been represented internationally- tournaments in Switzerland and Japan. It is an under utilized tool for the university. Athletic teams can provide representation and promotion throughout academic year on many different levels. Promoting the brand



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of Concordia University. Beneficial for the entire student body.

**Emran Ghasemi:** We also miss orientation because of training.

**Irmak Bahar:** Thinks it's great that students are interested in the Union. Concerned that this is not the best way to promote school spirit. As the CSU, they have a mandate to represent students but it's on the basis of Faculty. Adding another division would complicate things. A lot of students may feel that they are not represented. Isn't sure what doors this could open. There are other ways in which student athletes could be represented, like committees.

**Iain Meyer-Macaulay:** Representation of the Stingers is important on Council. There are Stingers in every faculty on campus. It's possible for them to run through those faculties. In terms of McGill having an athlete Councillor, it's partly due because they have a Varsity Council of athletics and we don't- could this be a better place to start?

**Simon-Pierre Lauzon:** Athletes would be voting twice- as an athlete and a member of a faculty. Acknowledges the problem, but does not think this is the best way to remedy it.

**Emran Ghasemi:** This is not an issue of the school spirit problem, but rather of having a Stinger in the Council room to help make decisions that are good for athletes.

**Lina Saigol:** Has a lot of respect for athletes. There is proportional representation on Council by faculty. Legally it doesn't make sense to have a specific position on Council just for athletes. Falls under student life.

**Cameron Monagle:** An athletic seat would open the door to other kinds of seats, including residence seats, etc. There are other problems with the wording of the motion. Council is being asked to approve something that hasn't been determined yet. Would like to see a broader mandate that doesn't necessarily include a solution.

**April Underwood:** Addressing this issue through the creation of a committee would be a good stepping stone. Events Committee recently had a meeting talking about working closely with SWARM to bring out athletics-interested crowd to CSU events. Athletes can always come to Council and address their concerns.

**Yassine Chaabi:** Stingers are as involved as Councillors and members of the CSU executive. They are important to Concordia because they represent the school on an international level. There is no reason not to give them a seat.

**Andy Filipowich:** Opposes this motion. Students can come voice their opinions and concerns. Having a vote doesn't necessarily mean you will have more power.

**Emran Ghasemi:** There should be someone representing athletes on the CSU. Student Life has done nothing for student athletes during the last few years. The amount of sacrifice they're giving to



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represent us on the field is high, so they don't have the time to come here and voice concerns.. Most student athletes don't have the time to run as a Councillor.

**Omar Abdullabi:** Emran raises a valid point. But is this the best way to address this concern? Is it complicating the process? Perhaps we could explore creative avenues to fix problem.

**Emran Ghasemi:** This would not complicate the process. The CEO will check who is in each faculty; it would not be hard to find out if they are an athlete as well. Someone can run for this position one season after playing for a Stingers team. This is not only to raise school spirit, it's to have them as part of the decision making group.

**Laura Glover:** Agrees that there should be something done, but maybe not a position on Council.

**Amer Muiny:** The CSU is the way for students to be represented. If a group wants to be represented, why not? Let's create a seat with no voting power but that can communicate with CSU. Should be representing all students at Concordia. In terms of the motion itself, he proposes to postpone it for now but keep the idea and make a better motion. Supportive of general idea, not of the motion itself.

**Melanie Hotchkiss:** Echoes concerns of having constituency-based seats- year to year figuring out who can have a seat. Something to look at- in terms of school spirit and athletics are not represented in the CSU. Find a way to fix this- committee? Events Committee. Collaboration between athletes and CSU- alternative solutions. Tonight not time or place to do this. Speaks of experience at Dawson College- creation of clubs- more involved and could promote themselves better. Not necessarily a solution for Concordia, but there are other options.

**Ariel Dabora:** We are all here because Concordia is a school to be proud of. Athletics is part of this. Irmak and Simon talking about what it means to be a councillor- being a councillor should be a student who wants to make a difference. Council should think about not only what the CSU can do for the Stingers, but also what we stand to gain through working with them. Is in support of the motion.

**Lex Gill:** Moves to refer the motion to Policy Committee. They could consider other ways for student athletics to be represented at the CSU.

**Nadine Atallah:** Seconds.

**Sabrina D'Ambra:** The time of the meeting be convenient for Emran and SWARM and Stingers to attend.

**Nadine Atallah:** Council should extend a formal invitation to Stingers and SWARM to attend the meeting.

**Chad Walcott:** Something that PC could look into is establishing a standing committee as the first step towards solving this problem.

**Vote:** All in favour of referring the motion to PC: 21, Irmak Bahar opposed.



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**Emran Ghasemi:** Moves to take a 10 minute recess.

**Vote:** All in favour of taking a 10 minute recess: unanimous.

Meeting is reconvened at 8:05 pm.

**Chad Walcott:** BIRT that this document be supported by Council, as recommended by the External & Campaigns committee, as a broad political framework for the next three months of the tuition campaign leading up to a general assembly proposing a CSU-wide strike

BIFRT that any feedback be sent to the External & Campaigns committee for expansion, modification and enrichment of this plan, and that the External & Campaigns committee be responsible for adopting future changes to the plan as a result of changes to political or logistical circumstances.

**Nadine Atallah:** Seconds.

**Nadine Atallah:** Thanks External Committee and Chad. Contentious point was strike and dates, but she has come to realize that it's the only way they can move forward.

**Tomer Shavit:** The dates in question- were those dates chosen because they are also being done by other universities?

**Chad Walcott:** Yes, they were coordinated with other universities. They will be moving towards strike mandates around the same time. Would not strike by themselves- looking to join a larger movement within the province.

**Lex Gill:** March 22<sup>nd</sup> will be a big demonstration. Students voting on this motion have several weeks to talk about the strike.

**Irmak Bahar:** Amendment to motion. Add BIFRT regarding departmental organizations being in solidarity.

**Eva-Loan Pontom-Pham:** Seconds.

**Chad Walcott:** Considers it friendly.

**Emran Ghasemi:** International students could get deported from the country. There are other ways of approaching this.

**Cameron Monagle:** Is an international student and knows that this is not how it works. You're still registered as a full time student. Your legal status is therefore not threatened.

**Nadine Atallah:** It's beyond the students' control.

**Kyle Mcloughlin:** It's our right to go on strike as members of the union.



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**Emran Ghasemi:** Take leadership in contacting the government in regards to ensuring the safety of international students.

**Chad Walcott:** 2005 saw the most post-secondary schools in QC go on strike, and no international students were deported.

Everything is done strategically to put max amount of pressure on government.

**Omar Abdullabi:** International students fear that they could get in trouble. Maybe there could be advertising addressing this concern, as it's a widely held concern.

**Nadine Atallah:** Friendly amendments:

Be it further resolved that the CSU work in conjunction with CISA to address the concerns of international students when it comes to student strikes.

Be it further resolved that the CSU conduct a research into potential backlash international students can experience as a result of a student strike from a legal, not a historical point of view.

**Lex Gill:** A student union not a labour union, but has distinct status. Nowhere in legislation is the right to strike, but they usually do have a very real political ramification. The union is bound by the vote of the members, and can't do otherwise but support it.

**Irmak Bahar:** Involved with FEM (Free Education Montreal). FEM put resources and time into these issues over the summer and have prepared extensive research documents that address every question that has been asked and more. Approach her or go to [www.freeeducationmontreal.org](http://www.freeeducationmontreal.org).

**Michaela Manson:** Calls question.

**Ali Moenck:** Seconds.

**Vote:** Melanie Hotchkiss opposed.

**Vote:** All in favour of the motion and amendments as they are currently worded: unanimous. Motion carried.

**Melanie Hotchkiss:** Hopes that all Councillors get in touch with the External and Campaigns Committee. There are legitimate concerns brought up. Need councillors to be involved.

**Lex Gill:** Events at Reggies, call-ins, sleep-in.

6.C- Appointment to Policy Committee

**Morgan Pudwell:** Bruno is no longer a Councillor, so there is an opening. She gives a brief description of the Policy Committee.

**Melanie Hotchkiss:** Nominates Omar.





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**Omar Abdullabi:** Accepts.

**Vote:** All in favour of appointing Omar to Policy Committee: unanimous.

7. Consent Agenda

a. University Bodies

**Omar Abdullabi:** C- policy for Engineering students. For international students it is difficult to repeat a course.

**Cameron Monagle:** Board meeting tomorrow in H767.

b. Reports from Committees

**Laura Glover:** Winter orientation is happening. They need volunteers.

Sustainability committee has 2 effective meetings since December. A draft of the Sustainability Plan will be ready sometime in February.

8.

**Tomer Shavit:** JB appeal still has not been treated. A lot of Councillors think they don't have any authority over this. They can remove a member with 2 thirds majority vote. Two weeks ago requested information from JB Chair regarding last year's JB hearing. She hasn't forwarded the information.

**Michaela Manson:** Unfortunate that it's taken so long for this appeal to be treated. Hopefully this will be treated soon.

9.

**Ali Moenck:** Invites everyone to the Interfold first issue launch party.

**Irmak Bahar:** Winter Camp training session being organized for mob organizations at McGill this weekend.

**Lex Gill:** University is offering \$500 bursary for students taking intro French courses.

**Gonzo Nieto:** Moves to adjourn.

**Eduardo Alves:** Seconds.

**Vote:** All in favour of adjourning: unanimous

8:56.