



## Concordia Student Union – Council of Representatives

### **CSU Regular Council Meeting – Agenda**

**Wednesday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

**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. Ratification of Council Seating Distribution Presidential Decree**
  - b. Ratification of Revised Judicial Board Code of Procedures**
  - d. CUSACorp By-Laws**
  - c. Motion Regarding Solidarity with Syria**
  - e. Motion Regarding Referral to Policy Meeting Regarding SGM's**
  - f. Discussion regarding minimum agreement**
  - g. Motion for Public Consultation to Review CSU Policy**
  - h. Appointment – University Senate (1)**
  - i. Collective Agreement**
  - j. Motion regarding continued support of the CSU of the Student Strike**
- 7. Consent Agenda**
  - a. Executive Reports**
  - b. Report from University Bodies**
  - c. Report from Committees**



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8. **Question Period & Business Arising**
9. **Announcements**
10. **Adjournment**

### CSU Regular Council Meeting March 14 2012

1. **Call to Order**

The meeting is called to order at 6:48pm

2. **Roll Call**

Executives:

Lex Gill  
Chad Walcott  
Morgan Pudwell  
Laura Glover  
Melissa Fuller  
Hasan Cheikzan  
Jordan Lindsay  
Gonzalo Nieto

Councillors:

Simon-Pierre Lauzon  
April Underwood  
Anaii Lee-Ender  
Sabrina D`Ambra  
Tally Shaaked  
Ali Moenck  
Emran Ghasemi  
Fares Jandali Rifai  
Yassine Chaabi  
Museb Abu-Thuraia  
Kyle Mcloughlin  
Renee Tousignant



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Irmak Bahar

### **3. Approval of the Agenda**

Motion to approve the agenda: unanimous.

### **4. Approval of the Minutes and Business Arising**

**VOTE:** all in favour of approving minutes: unanimous, Rene Tousignant, Eva-Loan Ponton Pham, Sabrina D’Ambra abstain.

### **5. Chairperson’s Report**

**Chairperson:** Bylaw 10.1 says that any Councillor who misses 3 meetings (unexcused) has resigned. A number of Councillors fall under this category. Ariel and Anthony: 3+ absences (unexcused), while Emran and Fares have new information regarding their absences which could put them under the 3 absences mark. Temporary reprieve?

**Lex Gill:** We can wait until the next meeting, give them their rights.

**Michaela Manson:** Is this a motion to maintain status quo?

**Lex Gill:** Presents this as a motion. BIRT that Emran and Fares be granted their voting rights pending review of their attendance.

**Michaela Manson:** Seconds.

**Vote:** All in favour: unanimous, Emran abstains.

**Kyle McLoughlin:** Other 2 councillors, do they count toward quorum?

**Chairperson:** No, quorum is based on voting members.

**Tomer Shavit:** Wondering if he provided Council with the report in accordance to 10.2 of new bylaws. Chairperson must verify membership status of CSU.

**Lex Gill:** This is part of the new by-laws, asks that it be done for the next meeting.

**Tomer Shavit:** There is an executive who is not a student. This is grave because they have been collecting salary when they’re not a member. Morgan isn’t a member.

**Lex Gill:** Can we do this for next meeting?



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**Nadine Atallah:** Moves that the Chairperson produce this report within the next 48 hours.

**Morgan Pudwell:** Seconds.

**Simon-Pierre Lauzon:** How much time do you need?

**Lex Gill:** Amend the motion to if at all possible within 48 hours.

**Nadine Atallah:** Considers it friendly.

**Chad Walcott:** Calls the question.

**Vote:** All in favour: Kyle McLoughlin opposed, Amer Muiny and Sabrina D'Ambra abstain.

**Vote:** on motion: unanimous, Tally Shaaked, Sabrina D'Ambra, and Amer Muiny abstain.

### **6. New Business**

#### **a. Ratification of Council Seating Distribution: Presidential Decree**

**Lex Gill:** Supposed to have Council approve seating distribution before the elections. Will remain the same. Needs to be ratified. Big oversight.

**Vote:** unanimous.

#### **b. Ratification of Revised Judicial Board Code of Proceedings**

**Morgan Pudwell:** JB has met several times about this as well as PC addressing some of the issues that need to be cleared up in their code of procedures.

**Schubert Laforest:** What ramification do these have on on-going cases?

**Ceejay, JB chair:** Have been waiting for the ratification today.

**Nadine Atallah:** So the new rules would be put in place immediately?

**Morgan Pudwell:** This is not specified, either short term or long term. Up to the JB to decide. Doesn't think it would affect any ongoing cases.

**Ceejay, JB chair:** We have a case going on right now, will use new rules with this case.



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**Michaela Manson:** Calls question.

**April Underwood:** Seconds.

**Vote:** unanimous.

**Vote on motion:** Simon-Pierre Lauzon, Anaii Lee-Ender, Irmak Bahar, Nadine Atallah abstain. Motion is carried.

### **c. CUSACORP By-Laws**

**Morgan Pudwell:** This is the final draft. At 2-3 pm there weren't any comments, would be great if they could come forward with comments.

**Lex Gill:** Everyone keeps bugging us to see them and now they're available and no one has said anything.

### **d. Motion Regarding Solidarity with Syria**

**Amer Muiny:** Where as many Syrians around the world will commemorate the first year of the Syrian revolution for demanding their freedom from Syrian Government. Still to this day, the regime in Syria is committing violations to human rights against Syrian citizens. As Syrians struggle every day demanding respect for their basic rights, and calling for dignity, liberty and a say in how they are governed, so as Syrian students in Concordia university to join in solidarity adding our voices to those brothers in sisters in a cry for freedom justice, democracy and ending a dictatorship and the rule of the security state.

Be it resolved that the Concordia Student Union send a petition letter to the Canadian Government to act on the following:

- Request the Canadian government to close the Syrian embassy in Ottawa, and to cut all diplomatic ties with them.
- Request the Canadian government to expedite the immigration, refugee and sponsorship applications of Syrians to Canada.
- Request the Canadian government put a moratorium on deportation to Syria, especially on the deportation of students whose permit have expired and have to go back to Syria.



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Be it further resolved that the Concordia Student Union ask the administration of Concordia University to give support the Syrians students in case of losing their status.

**Fares Jandali Rifai:** Seconds. Active with Syrian groups around MTL, working on getting awareness up. Demonstrations, fundraisers. Goal is to stand with Syrian people. As students, best thing to do is to ask government. There's a lot to elaborate, but it's been going on for a year.

**Vote:** unanimous.

### **e. Motion Regarding Referral to Policy Meeting Regarding SGM's**

**Lex Gill:** Reads motion. Anyone who went to the GA knows it was tricky, not ideal. A lot of feedback from students about what went well and what didn't go well. Turn feedback into something positive. How to hold a GA.

**Sabrina D'Ambra:** Add that we encourage groups that feel that they have feedback to attend meeting.

**Lex Gill:** Friendly.

**AJ West:** Written feedback also

**Lex Gill:** Friendly.

**Morgan Pudwell:** Change of bylaws will have to go through November referendum.

**Vote:** All in favour: unanimous.

### **f. Discussion regarding minimum agreement**

**Lex Gill:** Personal feelings haven't changed, seems to be a desire from students that council reconsider the question of the MA.

**Kyle McLoughlin:** The MA is a step to linking Concordia to the broader student movement. Moves to reconsider.

**Vote: All in favour of reconsidering:** 5 opposed 11 for.

**Chad Walcott:** Agrees with Kyle that the spirit of the motion was to have the 4 associations work together, but the situation has changed. The ASSE no longer



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cooperates or communicates with the FEUQ. They come out against them in the media, violating one of the clauses. It's already been violated, what's the point?

**Nadine Atallah:** What has changed that we are reconsidering this motion?

**Lex Gill:** Has heard from a lot of students that this was something that they wanted to be discussed.

**Nadine Atallah:** Could we hear from the students who want us to reconsider it?

**Irmak Bahar:** ASSE has decided that they don't want to cooperate with the FEUQ until they sign the MA. There is a petition asking the CSU to reconsider its position on the MA.

**Sabine, student at large:** At this point, in this situation, more and more organizations and associations are embarking on strike mandates. Higher chance that the government will be forced to negotiate with student associations. The MA commits us to not denounce each other's actions in this tuition increase. Whether you are for or against the increase, it should be in the hands of students to decide what to do. This is what the MA means and does. If we sign on to this, this is what we are agreeing to. We are forcing the government to sit down and negotiate with students. Main point is that there will be nothing accepted by students without it going back to the GA's.

**Sabrina D'Ambra:** One of the clauses is non-denunciation. But what about illegal strike tactics? This is why she is hesitant.

**Kyle McLoughlin:** Students are asking for this to happen, the situation has changed. Concordia has joined the student strike. Need to sign on to this agreement that has passed broadly throughout QC. United against the government, who does not want us to succeed. Band together and stand together.

**Lex Gill:** Comment regarding principle. Appreciates that this is framed in the positive, points out that unfortunately some of the rationale is not positive. Sherbrooke adopted a similar motion supporting the spirit of the MA.

**Simon-Pierre Lauzon:** Moves to divide the question into 3 separate motions, each clause is its own motion.

**Michaela Manson:** Should discuss it as a collectivity.

**Simon-Pierre Lauzon:** One at a time so that two or one can be discussed at a time.



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**Nadine Atallah:** Seconds.

**Vote:** Motion fails 6-6.

**Nadine Atallah:** Cannot support the non-denunciation clause and refusal to negotiate with the government. Concern is for CU students.

**Irmak Bahar:** The intention behind the solidarity clause is that the associations will not sit down with the government unless all associations are invited/present.

**Iain Meyer-Macaulay:** Does not support non-denunciation clause, takes away public voice. CSU powerful player in the movement. Taking away critical eye disempowers constituents.

**Eloise, student at large:** Doesn't mean we're not critical, doesn't understand what Iain means.

**Amer Muiny:** How many universities or CEGEP's are for and against the MA?

**Irmak Bahar:** All of the national organizations except the FEUQ have signed on to it.

**Chad Walcott:** Greatest show of solidarity is that we are on strike for the first time ever. None of the associations of the FEUQ have signed on, while those who have, amended it.

**Kyle McLoughlin:** Claim of violence is unrealistic, no one is talking about kidnapping or bombing buildings. This is insulting. It is a student movement, it is not a Concordia movements. WE need to join together.

**Sabrina D'Ambra:** Agrees with Iain about not giving up our ability to denounce illegal tactics.

**Michaela Manson:** First- disheartened by absence of certain executives during this discussion. Extreme activities- you don't reason on the basis of slippery slope, but on good information. Good information suggests that nothing illegal is happening.

**Lex Gill:** Morgan left because she's sick and Chad went to the bathroom.

**Nadine Atallah:** Moves the BIRTS.

**Emran Ghasemi:** Seconds.





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**Nadine Atallah:** Moves that the BIRTS be split.

**Emran Ghasemi:** Seconds

**Vote:** Whether we will consider the 3 BIRTS separately. 4-8-3 motion fails.

**Eva-Loan Ponton Pham:** Calls the question.

**Kyle McLoughlin:** Seconds.

**Vote :** 11-1-3. Question is called.

**Vote on motion:** 7-7-2. Motion fails.

**Michaela Manson:** Moves to reconsider. Urges no abstentions.

**Irmak Bahar:** Seconds.

**Laura Glover:** Abstentions can be responsible decisions.

**Vote:** 8- 9- 1. Motion fails.

**Lex Gill:** Her feelings are that the CSU taking a position doesn't make a big difference at the FEUQ. Most people are in principle in favour of most of the MA. Will send an email to the FEUQ and bring it up at the next meeting.

**Renee Tousignant:** Abstained because she didn't feel comfortable saying yes or no.

**Michaela Manson:** Saying it wouldn't making a difference isn't accurate.

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

**Fares Jandali Rifai:** Seconds.

Meeting is reconvened at 9:02 pm.

### **G) Motion for a Public consultation to review CSU policy**

**Sabrina D'Ambra:** Whereas students should be involved in the democratic process and should get the opportunity to review and suggest improvements to the policies that govern their union;

Whereas the active involvement of students in reviewing the rules and regulations that govern them can lead to a more informed, engaged student body, and can strengthen the democratic rights of students, but also can improve the governance of our union in general;



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Be it resolved that the current CSU holds a public consultation (in the form of a Special General Meeting OR BY ONLINE FORUM) with its members, before their term is over, to review the CSU's current policies (By-laws, standing regulations, Ethics and Sustainability Policy) and make recommendations for changes to these policies.

**Simon-Pierre Lauzon:** Seconds.

**Sabrina D'Ambra:** A lot of students want to know more about the bylaws, it's our job to facilitate this. We can learn a lot through open forum discussion.

**Lex Gill:** More of a consultative process. SGM is very limited. 2 information meetings and an online component where people can submit feedback going to PC.

**Sabrina D'Ambra:** Friendly.

**Laura Glover:** Did we identify a timeline?

**Lex Gill:** By the end of our mandate.

**Vote:** 14-0-1.

### **H) Appointment – University Senate**

**Lex Gill:** Tina was elected for ENCS she resigned. Should be replaced by ENCS person. Open posting for next 2 weeks.

**Sabrina D'Ambra:** Would like to take the spot.

**Vote:** All in favour: unanimous, Sabrina abstains.

### **I) Collective Agreement**

**Lex Gill:** Moves to go into closed session

**Ace, student at large:** Why do we need to go into closed session?

**Lex Gill:** Some documents that we share are confidential.

**Simon-Pierre Lauzon:** Seconds.

**Vote:** unanimous.

Open session resumes at 9:47 pm.

**Lex Gill:** Reads motions



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Kyle: Seconds.

**Vote:** unanimous. Irmak abstains.

J)

**Lex Gill:** Reads motion.

**Irmak Bahar:** Amendment: finance committee have an emergency meeting.

**Lex Gill:** 2 days is in the motion because of the sense of urgency. Amend to mandate the VP Finance to call a FinCom meeting

**Nadine Atallah:** Can we afford this?

**Lex Gill:** Yes

**Irmak Bahar:** Previously what was called the Student Centre Fund was free, there were no rules on how that could be spent.

**Lex Gill:** According to our lawyer it's not okay to take the interest off that account. It's not free money.

**Vote:** unanimous, 1 abstention.

**Irmak Bahar:** Moves to suspend the rules

**Kyle McLoughlin:** Seconds.

Vote: Nadine and Anaii Emran abstain.

**Irmak Bahar:** Under New Business new point regarding complaint brought forth by the JB. April: Seconds.

April Underwood: Seconds.

**Vote:** unanimous, Nadine abstains.

Roberts Rules reinstated.

**Michaela Manson:** Moves to go into closed session.

**Tomer Shavit:** I'm not leaving this room.

**Nadim Kobeissi:** This has nothing to do with Tomer.



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**Lex Gill:** Everyone chill. Tomer doesn't want to move.

**Michaela Manson:** Rescinds motion

**April Underwood:** If we are unable to deal with this in open session can we table it?

**Simon-Pierre Lauzon:** Give it to appointments committee?

**Ace, student at large:** What exactly is being talked about? No reason given.

**Melissa Fuller:** Appointments makes recommendations to Council, so this will come back to Council. Also, since JB is currently handling a case it will take a lot of valuable time.

**Nadine Atallah:** Is there no internal way for you (JB) to deal with this?

**Nadim Kobeissi:** This issue has nothing to do with her case. As far as he knows it has to be referred to Appointments or Council.

**Nadine Atallah:** This was brought up in Closed Session by the JB, not Council.

**Amer Muiny:** Can we explain how procedure works re: speakers list?

**Chairperson:** Explains.

**Schubert Laforest:** What are the ramifications of the discussion that is to take place? He is an interested party in the case, wants access to the issue.

**Nadim Kobeissi:** This issue has nothing to do with his case. It's a concern between the chair and himself that's been developing for months.

**Simin-Pierre Lauzon:** Would like for Nadim to explain why it should be done in closed session.

**Nadim Kobeissi:** Lex told him it should be done in closed session.

**Lex Gill:** Doesn't know enough about the complaint to say for sure.

**Michaela Manson:** Let's be efficient.

**April Underwood:** Is the person who this complaint is about in the room and are they comfortable with it being discussed?



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**Lori, JB member:** Yes they are present and they didn't know this was being brought up.

**Chairperson:** Complaint will be heard in open session, if the individual isn't comfortable with it being discussed in open session we can go into closed session.

**Nadim Kobeissi:** The person is Shannon Thomas and she was not notified, it was not needed. Has the right to bring forward anything he wishes to Council without notification.

**Ali Moenck:** This is unprofessional, we should go into closed session.

**Amer Muiny:** Everyone here wants it in open session, including the woman who the complaint is against. We will follow Order and the Speakers list.

**Chairperson:** Gives ground rules for respectful discussion under RR's.

**Nadim Kobeissi:** Brings forward complaint. He himself is bringing forth the complaint, having discussed it with all members of JB except who it is against. Support from the Chair. When he was appointed to JB there was a danger that there wouldn't be quorum in an upcoming case that needed to be heard. Lessening of selectivity.

Shannon's behaviour indicative of some incompetence. Meetings getting really confrontational, insulting emails from her. Passive aggressiveness, prominent in today's meeting. Unprofessionalism bordering on bad faith. She can't be reasoned with. Intolerable.

Example: Issue that was delayed in the Fall semester because Shannon disagreed with the decision made before she had come on JB. She cancelled with less than 24 hours notice, which caused the delay.

Instances where she confirmed something on the phone and later went against her decisions because other members did the same.

Recordings from open session where it was her right to go back on statements. The rest of the JB would spend a lot of time convincing her of things like how to operate in good faith.

She is very incompetent. Professional complaint, not personal complaint. The chair agrees with him. Puts part of the blame on appointments committee, should be more due diligence on who should be appointed.



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If this continues he will definitely be resigning from JB. Wish for 2 things: for the app com to have more selectivity in who they appoint, and for there to be an investigation.

**Shannon Thomas:** Didn't know that these allegations were going to be brought forward. Feels like they are threatened by her. There has always been tension because she voted against them. Everything she does is taken personally. Always present, always gives her regrets if she can't make it and a meeting needs to be postponed. Stupid ridiculous case. She doesn't know what's going on, doesn't want any corrupted JB members.

Reads email that Nadim sent to her.

"This is "effing" ridiculous. I'm an assertive person. He doesn't look at me in face, they don't even know me personally. I can't believe that I'm actually defending myself."

**Lex Gill:** Apologizes for any student here for the first time, it's not always like this. Not impressed by anyone right now. Doesn't think this is the appropriate forum for this discussion. Calls for the orders of the day.

**Chairperson:** Believes this is an appropriate course of action, Calls for the Orders of the Day accepted.

### **8.a) Executive Reports:**

**Laura Glover:** New York trip happened, went really well. No problems. Everyone had a good time.

**Irmak Bahar:** Where is Morgan's report?

**Chairperson:** Passes out hardcopies.

**Chad Walcott:** Add that there is a demo tomorrow at 11:30, marching.

### **b) University Bodies**

**Andy Filipowich:** Strike starting tomorrow. You are not authorized to block people from entering the building or class.

**AJ West:** Concordia was fined 2 million for mismanagement of funds. Student reps have a big issue with the mismanagement. People who authorized the money to be given away should be fined, not the university (personal opinion).



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**Lex Gill:** Senate now has a special committee on filming. At the last BoG meeting they didn't vote to stop filming or broadcasting.

**Simon-Pierre Lauzon:** Wondering if we can hold any person accountable and make a change.

**Lex Gill:** Reason why they're referring this to external auditors

**AJ West:** BoG doesn't want to be fined 2M and want to see if they can reduce that.

**Anaii Lee-Ender:** How is severance pay decided?

**Lex Gill:** Defined in employment contracts.

### **Question Period and Business Arising**

**Nadim Kobeissi:** Has resigned from JB.

**Simon-Pierre Lauzon:** Concerned about what's going on in JB. Noticing that there's no clear procedure.

**Amer Muiny:** Concerned about JB's Friday hearing. Remain professional.

**Lex Gill:** We may be concerned and can make recommendation to JB, it's not up to us to decide that they're competent; they can make the decision on their own.

**Rami, student at large:** Tomorrow there's a strike, picket lines. Can the CSU make sure that Engineers can get to their GA?

**Chad Walcott:** Yes.

### **Announcements**

**CUTV:** Thanks CSU for support.

**Laura Glover:** The CSU doesn't have control over people picketing. In response to Rami.

**Cameron Monagle:** Frigo Vert pushing for increase in their fee levy.

**AJ West:** Upset that people with concerns about how the GA went who he told to come to Council didn't show up.



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**Ali Moenck:** Moves to adjourn.

**Jordan Lindsay:** Seconds.

Vote: unanimous.

The meeting is adjourned at 11:25 pm.