



Concordia Student Union – Council of Representatives

CSU Special Council Meeting – Agenda

Tuesday, April 17th, 2012

CSU Lounge, Time 4:30 PM, S.G.W Campus

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Roll Call**
- 3. Discussion Regarding Tuition Negotiations With the Government**
- 4. Adjournment**

The minutes can be found on the next page.



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CSU Special Council Meeting April 17th, 2012

1. Meeting is called to order at 4:48 pm.

2. Roll Call

Executives:

Lex Gill
Chad Walcott
Morgan Pudwell
Melissa Fuller

Councillors:

Sabrina D'Ambra
Melanie Hotchkiss
Simon-Pierre Lauzon
Nadine Atallah
Irmak Bahar
April Underwood
Ali Moenck
Cameron Monagle
Kyle Mcloughlin

3. Discussion Regarding Tuition Negotiations

Lex Gill: Thanks students for coming. The purpose of this meeting is to honour the motion passed at the last meeting regarding the proposition from the Minister of Education. Conversation about how students want the CSU to move forward.

On Sunday afternoon, the Minister of Education announced that she would be having a press conference. She is interested in speaking to the FEUQ about the creation of a commission to examine the management of university and transparency. She doesn't want to speak about the tuition fee increase.



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Does not want to meet with the CLASSE. Consensus at the CSU that the CLASSE should be at the table. She went to a FEUQ meeting to discuss a response. The response that came from the FEUQ is that 1) the CLASSE must be invited to this meeting, 2) Agree to meet with the ministry understanding the fact that the minister has recognized something important- that universities are mismanaged. Given this, that money is being wasted, then this money could go towards subsidizing this increase you say is necessary. The issue of mismanagement is intrinsically linked to tuition increases.

CLASSE had a press conference saying largely the same things.

No date yet for a meeting with the minister, no offer. She is just interested in talking about the creation of the committee.

This meeting, since there is not really an actual offer. Make it informal.

CSU's position at the FEUQ will not change unless Council mandates them to do so.

We should adjourn and have an informal discussion

Irmak Bahar: Suggests that we stay in a meeting and have the discussion this way.

Lex Gill: Comfortable with this.

Irmak Bahar: Moves to proceed as committee of the whole.

Lex Gill: Seconds.

Morgan Pudwell: Should inform people how to proceed with Roberts Rules.

Vote: All in favour in changing the format of the meeting to committee of the whole : unanimous.

Gabrielle, Womens Studies: FECQ seems to going towards this idea that it's okay for them to talk alone with the government, what does the CSU think of this?

Lex Gill: The FECQ has a membership to which it is responsible, doesn't seem like they consulted their members, she isn't sure. The FEUQ will not go without the CLASSE.

Cassie Smith: Are there any other things that the FEUQ was planning on bringing to the table?

Lex Gill: Alternate budget, etc.

Hector, Women's Studies: For Women's Studies our ultimate goal is for tuition freeze. Against the increased loans and bursaries, they mean more debt (this will affect women and minorities). People are having a hard time grasping how these increases are part of systemic racism, sexism, etc. White, male, middle class seems to be the idea of the typical student. Who will benefit from these loans and bursaries? We would appreciate if more attention could be given to this.

Gabrielle, Women's Studies: Our alternate goal is not tuition freeze, this is the bare minimum. Foundation of discussion once the freeze is in place should continue. Mandatory that tuition freeze happens.



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Lex Gill: In your mandate do you call a GA when there's an offer from the government?

Morgan Pudwell: Agrees that this is not brought up publicly or in the media again. We can't guarantee that the media will ever talk about these issues, what they put forward is usually very watered down.

Irmak Bahar: Would appreciate knowing more about what mandates other organizations have from their membership to get a broader understanding of what the FEUQ has to deal with. Would like for a motion to come forward for the CSU demand a freeze at the 2007 levels. Allows us more room to bargain.

Lex Gill: re: other mandates. They are overwhelmingly for a freeze. Difficult position to change.

Cassie Smith: Regulating out of province and international fees should also be on the table. Makes sense to demand 2007 levels, gives more room to bargain.

Ben, French Studies: If they give a freeze, who will make up the difference?

Lex Gill: It's an issue of mismanagement. The money is there.

Ben, French Studies: They will have to deal with the difference in money. Even a freeze in the long run would end up lowering fees because of inflation.

Irmak Bahar:

BIRT the CSU take a position regarding tuition freeze for an immediate freeze and then to revert to 2007 levels.

BIRFT that the CSU demand that the financing for essential university services not be cut to accommodate this.

Chad Walcott: Seconds.

Kyle Mcloughlin: 2 amendments to propose: 1) that it made clear that this is for residents, out of province, and international students. 2) Also that supplementary taxes not be used as a method of accommodating the freeze.

Irmak Bahar:

BIRFT the CSU adopt a stance reverting the deregulation of international student tuition.

Lex Gill: Enough to say that we want it to be reverted broadly. Revert to the fees paid by international students prior to the implementation of certain programs.



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Cameron Monagle: Seconds.

Marcus, Student at large: There is no position on how long we want the freeze to be.

Irmak Bahar: Permanent.

Tram, student at large: Was the proposition made based on a GA mandate from your faculty?

Irmak Bahar: No, it's based on a compilation of what has been adopted by different MA's.

Tram, student at large: There are councillors here today that are bringing motions, but if the government refuses part of the motion, if there are no GA's to back these mandates, it'll be up to councillors to decide. Maybe GA's want to push it further, they might not agree on what we decide here.

Cameron Monagle: We have no authority over MA's. The power remains at the faculty level, they have the right to choose whether or not they want to strike regardless of what we do here at CSU.

Chad Walcott: Not the CSU's job to decide on whether or not to continue striking. Right of every undergrad to come speak at council, encourages them to come and voice what they want so that they can represent students properly.

Gabrielle, Women's Studies: Likes the motion. No matter what, Women's Studies students will vote whether to stop striking or not. One does not negate the possibility of the other.

Lex Gill: It's not the CSU's intention to sell its position at any other GA.

Chad Walcott: The way the FEUQ model works is that we have 6 votes (the maximum); we have a lot of influence.

Morgan Pudwell: Faculties and MA's sometimes have different views. This is the first time in a long time we've seen that MA's have an understood their value on this campus. There's been a shift in what people see as meaningful leadership.

Jess, student at large: Concordia as an institution has gotten off the hook, a lot of shady stuff has come to the surface. She would like to see a clear statement from the CSU regarding certain things happening within the university (administrative corruption).

Cameron Monagle: We've been trying all year to raise attention to these issues.

Jess, student at large: Concerned that the momentum will be lost over the summer.

Chad Walcott: Will do his best next year to keep momentum as a member of Council.

Morgan Pudwell: The problem with writing a statement is that the list of things we would be condemning would be way too extensive. We bring it up all the time. A laundry list might not be the



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best way to do it.

Elise, Fine Arts: Some sort of statement should be made.

Lex Gill: Add to the motion: that the CSU continue to develop the conversation about how this affects marginalized communities. All are invited to the meeting.

Cameron Monagle: We should specify the names of the associations.

Irmak Bahar: We should insist the inclusion of all 3 other national associations and in full respect of their autonomy.

Lex Gill: What if one of them decides that they don't want to go?

Irmak Bahar: They should be invited unconditionally.

VOTE: All in favour of the motion as it is currently worded:

Be it Resolved that the CSU adopt the stance which demands of the government a tuition freeze with the goal of returning to 2007 tuition levels for resident, out of province, and international students.

Be it Further Resolved that the CSU demand that the money needed to finance the freeze not come from the following: a) reduction in other social services b) taxes on low-income users c) user fees d) Indexation of Post-Secondary Income

Be it Further resolved that the CSU adopt the stance that the government revert its stance regarding the regulation of tuition levels for international students to pre 2007 levels.

Be it Further Resolved that the CSU advocate that the funding of universities come from progressive taxation and the revision of university management

Be it further resolved that the CSU continue to facilitate discussions with the Concordia student population with regards to further developments regarding tuition negotiations.

Result: Unanimous.

Student at large: what happens if some MA's agree with a FEUQ position and some don't?

Lex Gill: Should there be an offer from the government, we would call a meeting like this one and make a decision on what the CSU's position will be at the FEUQ. The idea is that people can organize to be at the meeting and voice their concerns, take a decision, and bring it back to FEUQ.

Gabrielle, Women's Studies: We're not talking about CLASSE, which is very GA oriented. We also have the CLASSE, we have a voice through them. Two doors to speak through. Formal hierarchical



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way through FEUQ and GA way (direct, but longer). We can count on them to represent the voices of students.

Tram, student at large: There is an alternative to the structure that we have at CSU. A major issue when there is an offer from the government is that there are no GA mandates that Councillors will go by, thus isolating a major portion of Concordia's population.

Lex Gill: The campaign against the increase and the strike is a campaign that the CSU has a mandate to embark on; we ran on an election platform fighting tuition, we had a referendum, the WHALE, and a GA where over 2000 people showed up. Ideal situation is that there would be a GA. We need to choose between an imperfect process or no process, and we should go with the process.

Cameron Monagle: What was just described is either a dis-empowering system or an awesome ideal system. CSU represents all students, shouldn't conflate the MA's and the CSU.

Morgan Pudwell: The CSU is not exactly representative of what has been happening on campus. Students are being represented on the CSU whether they are on strike or not.

Chad Walcott: This is something that Lex Gill and him have been working on all year. The university's response has been that they will not have a strategy, and if they did they wouldn't tell the CSU. Business as usual, encouraged professors to cross picket lines. Confrontational stance.

Lex Gill: Lack of academic leadership. No one at the Senate meeting talking about the strike. Part-time faculty union worked really hard to get the incomplete fee waived, but it's ultimately peanuts. In the end, the university failed to respond. Claiming business as usual and filling the school with dangerous security guards.

Fine Arts student: Her semester is lost. She has no more access to her studios. What people want is some sort of protocol. No one knows for sure whether the next executive team will actually set things up, but it can't end here. Theatre is setting up a protocol for the next time this happens. FASA hasn't done anything, profs have refused to dialogue. There needs to be some sort of protocol in place.

Morgan Pudwell: The reason that sort of protocol hasn't been put in place yet is because the university (and all those in it) haven't responded fully to this yet. Right now it seems that the university's priority is covering this up, and for students it is surviving it. Making this our main focus right now won't make it happen. Pointing out that this is a problem at Senate is the first step. Something to work towards, but it's a long process.

Cassie Smith: Understands that it's a process, but this is not something that we can just delay. Execs are probably over extended and it's fair to ask for help, but starting with a laundry list of the administration's slip-ups is a good place to start. Show people what "business as usual" really means for the university.

Irmak Bahar: The strike is not over. We're still on strike. This fact should lead this conversation. We



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can still fight, lots of things we can do. List is a good idea, but also would like to see a plan. Longer strategy: documenting what's happened over the summer break, so that it doesn't have to be started from scratch in the future. Also wants to see her classes made up. Some profs are more sympathetic and willing to have informal discussions.

Andy Fillipowich: Important going forward: they've never dealt with anything that's lasted longer than a day. That's why nothing is being done at their level. Will classify students based on what they want in any given moment. Figure out basic truths and then figure out where to go from there.

Chuck Wilson: If anyone has anything to add to this list, talk to Senators.

Morgan Pudwell: University won't go forward without some kind of policy for the future.

Lex Gill: Announcement: President of the part-time faculty union decided to throw a party. April 24th at 6:30 at the Hive. Appreciation for the student movement.

Andy Fillipowich: Senate meeting coming up, take a couple of seconds to explain how Senate works. Work a lot by committees, kind of like a BoG meeting (allowed in but not allowed to speak), might have an overflow room.

Irmak Bahar: Moves to adjourn.

Chad Walcott: Seconds.

Vote: Unanimous.

Meeting is adjourned at 7:00 pm.