



Concordia Student Union – Council of Representatives

**CSU Special Council Meeting – Agenda**

**Tuesday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

**CSU Lounge, Time 6:30 PM, S.G.W Campus**

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Roll Call**
- 3. Discussion Regarding Offer from the Government Regarding Tuition Fees**
- 4. Adjournment**

**The minutes can be found on the next page.**



## Concordia Student Union – Council of Representatives

### **CSU Special Council Meeting**

**Tuesday, May 8th, 2012**

#### **1. Call to Order**

The meeting is called to order at 6:50 pm.

#### **2. Roll Call**

##### **Executives:**

Lex Gill

Chad Walcott

Jordan Lindsay

##### **Councillors:**

Sabrina D'Ambra

Ali Moenck

Nadine Atallah

Kyle Mcloughlin

Imrak Bahar

Eva-Loan Ponton-Pham

April Underwood

Simon-Pierre Lauzon

Cameron Monagle

#### **3. Discussion Regarding Offer from the Government Regarding Tuition Fees**

**Lex Gill:** What this meeting is: a few council meetings ago a motion was passed regarding what would happen if the government came up with an offer. 48 hours later there must be a council meeting to decide what to bring back to the FEUQ. Only councillors have votes but everyone had speaking rights.

Last week there was negotiations with all 4 national student associations, came out with



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an offer from the government. There is a French version online. Lex reads a translation of the offer to Council.

In the first semester, Fall 2012, bill is essentially frozen. Winter semester is up for debate depending on what the committee is able to do. The increase to the loan system. The cost of tuition and the university bill is, after this first year, is contingent on the ability of the committee to find mismanaged money and lobby for it to be redirected. This has been largely rejected by students at Concordia.

**Nadine Atallah:** Is it 127\$ or 125\$ that will be docked? There are 2 numbers around.

**Lex Gill:** Interesting thing about that document is that everyone around the table says that what they discussed is not what's in the document. Different things were negotiated than what was put in there.

**Hamad, student at large:** Knows that there has been intense criticism against this, but what part exactly?

**Lex Gill:** This proposal still contains the tuition increase, in fact more, and the apparent freeze is contingent on a committee that has never existed before.

**Hamad, student at large:** In order to end this conflict would there be an effective compromise? It seems that the government won't budge on the increase.

**Jeanne, student at large:** In the document did they explain more what they meant by mismanaging money?

**Lex Gill:** There's nothing in the document that explains what they mean by this.

**Cassie Smith, student at large:** Clarify: the reduction would only come from FIO's ?

**Cameron Monagle:** Semester 1- \$127 hike and the same off FIO's, and then any recommendation from the committee would have to be accepted by MELS.

**Jaime, student at large:** Would other essential services be affected by these cuts?

**Lex Gill:** Unclear what will and won't suffer as a result of the cuts.

**Andrew, student at large:** What happens if they can't identify what mismanagement is?

**Lex Gill:** Tuition will probably go up as planned. The increases start immediately, the only time there is a freeze is the fall semester.



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**Trevor, student at large:** Is there corporate funding in research?

**Lex Gill:** No.

**Nadine Atallah:** Whatever this council decides, if they come to an agreement on what mismanagement is, these are only recommendations, nothing is guaranteed? It has to be accepted by the MELS?

**Lex Gill:** Yes.

**Andy Filipowich:** Who decides who is a socio-economic actor/which students sit on the committee?

**Lex Gill:** The Minister of Education.

**Irmak Bahar:** In terms of the four students, it's one from each association, along with one person from each major labour union, and business people appointed by government. Also wants to know what weight the CSU's decision will have at the provincial level.

**Lex Gill:** This will set our position at the FEUQ campaign committee meeting.

**Tara, student at large:** What the equivalent numbers for out of province students?

**Lex Gill:** The same.

**Gabrielle, Women's Studies:** \$125 wasn't automatically taken off, it was something that was taken off if there was money found.

**Lex Gill:** After the Fall semester, when it is guaranteed.

**Gabrielle, Women's Studies:** CSU's position: Some sort of internal vote at the FEUQ saying yay or nay.

**Chad Walcott:** The point of tonight is to call on all these departments on strike and students at large to get a sense of which direction we should go. We represent all the students at ConU and a big voice at the FEUQ. They will reflect this discussion at the FEUQ.

**Lex Gill:** It goes back to the campaigns committee at the FEUQ,

**Gabrielle, Women's Studies:** How will the FEUQ be influenced by the CSU's decision?



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**Chad Walcott:** It will be worth 6 votes.

**Irmak Bahar:** The document is not entirely clear, should that committee not be able to find or agree on anything, those fees will be charged to students retroactively?

**Lex Gill:** It's difficult for universities to do anything retroactively, it would probably cost them more.

**Kyle McLoughlin:** We should establish a policy about how to vote/talk.

**Hector, Women's Studies:** Asks Peter Kruyt why he's here.

**Sabrina D`Ambra:** Institutional fees rules, can these be explained?

**Lex Gill:** Prior to 2008 these fees were not regulated whatsoever by the government, there is still an oversight structure to monitor how these fees are regulated

**Lucia Gallardo:** What happens if half vote to accept and the others to reject?

**Lex Gill:** No idea.

**Sam, student at large:** What if there is no conclusion at the council as to what cuts to make? Would we continue to see increases?

**Lex Gill:** Theoretically, yes.

CHAIR OPENS UP FLOOR FOR DISCUSSION

**Kyle McLoughlin:** Proposes that, regardless of what the CSU council decides at the meeting, that the CSU executive be mandated to bring the motions of general assemblies of the students that are on strike to the FEUQ.

**Nadine Atallah:** Is it possible to split our vote at the FEUQ level?

**Lex Gill:** Doesn't believe so. It would likely mean that the CSU abstains.

**Irmak Bahar:** Amendment: that the relative majority at Concordia be reflected.

**Lex Gill:** Should we rephrase? If CSU council makes a decision and the majority of striking students disagree with that decision, that the CSU adopt that position.

**Irmak Bahar:** Not in favour of this suggestion. Student representatives should not have



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a higher say than students.

**Lex Gill:** But this puts the GA's over the representatives.

**Cameron Monagle:** There is a broad consensus about this. Is this motion sound procedurally? There is no seconder.

**Nadine Atallah** seconds the motion.

**Irmak Bahar:** To clarify: the position of the CSU at the FEUQ would solely reflect the decisions of students on strike and how they feel about the offer. It should be them who decide how the movement goes.

**April Underwood:** The possibility of a divided vote might mean that the CSU abstain, logistical problem also not being able to have GA's in time, csu does represent the students, we are voting according to what students are telling us they want. We can have a pretty clear feeling in the room assessed and vote right now.

**Cassie Smith, student at large:** When is the FEUQ meeting being held?

**Lex Gill:** Friday.

**Trevor, student at large:** Wondering if for those associations who haven't had GA's yet, would it be possible to pass on our strike mandates and have you interpret how we would vote? It's pretty clear how we would vote.

**Sam, student at large:** Still trying to figure out what this motion means. Regardless of what decision is taken here that they bring forward all the mandates of striking associations? What are we giving to the CSU to bring to the FEUQ?

**Nadine Atallah:** If the majority of the student associations vote a certain way and the CSU council votes in another, that the CSU bring what they decide (the associations) to the FEUQ.

**Sam, student at large:** Kind of hinges on there being disagreement on this issue and from what I can tell we all agree. Can we table this motion?

**Chairperson:** We can choose to lay this on the table and then go back to discussion and then decide whether we should return to the motion.

**Nadine Atallah:** Amendments: that we take the will of the GA's until Friday into consideration so that we can bring it to the FEUQ meeting. Clarifies what's going on for the people who are here. This would give them more power.



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**Irmak Bahar:** Friendly.

**Chad Walcott:** This motion is the entire point of why we are having this meeting. We open the floor for all students to come. You have mandates in case you don't make quorum. You pay fees to the CSU and to the FEUQ, all students' voices count. It seems that there's consensus but we haven't actually started discussion. You vote here, we bring what you want to the FEUQ.

**Chairperson:** Recommendation to lay this on the table.

**Gabrielle, Women's Studies:** We came here to have a discussion, let's get to the point.

**Cameron Monagle:** Moves to lay the motion on the table.

**Sabrina D`Ambra:** Seconds.

**VOTE: Motion Passes,** Irmak Bahar opposed, Eva-Loan Ponton Pham abstains.

**Lex Gill:** Asks that people identify whether they are for or against the offer from the government.

**Hamad, student at large:** Lex mentioned earlier about the representation at the FEUQ. the whole GA concept is not representative of what students want. We need to give the opportunity and access to vote to people who either are in favour or aren't able to be here to voice their opinion. Can't come up with an understanding for what this means for students, we're spending a lot of time discussing procedure and not the actual issue.

**Andy Filipowich:** Against this proposal for a variety of reasons, the biggest being because it's a stall tactic. The whole point was to get a freeze. This doesn't get a freeze. Let's reject this offer and stand with the rest of the schools.

**AJ West:** We're all on the same page, encourages whoever is in favour of the proposal to speak.

**Hector, student at large:** The departments who have already voted against the proposal should state why so that the CSU knows.

**Alex, student at large:** Against the proposal. We should also condemn police brutality.

**Nadine Atallah:** Biggest reason why she is against this offer is that this committee, even if they find something to submit to MELS, needs to have it accepted by MELS.

**Chad Walcott:** Moves that the CSU take a position against the government's May 5th



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offer in principle regarding tuition fees.

**Kyle McLoughlin:** Seconds.

**Gabrielle, Women`s Studies:** Amendment: Any further deal should include denouncement of police brutality or an analysis of police tactics during protests.

**Chad Walcott:** Friendly.

**Eva-Loan Ponton Pham:** Amendment: we will take a position against any other offer unless it directly talks about tuition fees.

**Chad Walcott:** Friendly.

**Hamad, student at large:** We're in a good position right now to negotiate something. The government won't budge, what can we do?

**Nadine Atallah:** We should have WHEREAS clauses.

**Lex Gill:** Can we formulate these based on the minutes?

**Chad Walcott:** Would rather address Hamad's concerns. He does this.

**Lucia, student at large:** Moves to split the motion.

**Sabrina D`Ambra:** Adopts this motion.

**Cameron Monagle:** Seconds.

**VOTE:** All in favour of splitting the motion: motion fails.

**Hugo, student at large:** Since mobilization has started, the government has spoken more about loans and bursaries because they're under pressure. The pressure is working. Putting the power in the hands of a committee is not a good idea.

**Cassie Smith, student at large:** If we accept it it's an insult to people who have been injured fighting for this. Add a clause that the FEUQ demand that the text be feminized.

**Irmak Bahar:** Adopts this motion.

**Chad Walcott:** Friendly.

**Cameron Monagle:** Proposes WHEREAS clauses.

**Chad Walcott:** Friendly.





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**Sam, student at large:** There are parts of our mandate that are not addressed by this offer.

**Kyle McLoughlin:** Calls the questions.

**Simon-Pierre Lauzon:** Seconds.

**VOTE:** 7 in favour, Irmak Bahar opposed.

### **VOTE ON MOTION:**

Whereas there are thousands of students on strike at Concordia, many since February.

Whereas, these students are on strike as a response to \$1625 increase in tuition.

Whereas Concordia students voted with clear majorities both in a referendum and in general assemblies against the tuition fee increase.

Whereas the current offer does not fundamentally address the increase in tuition fees.

Whereas the current offer remains vague and relies on ill-defined terms, and we do not have confidence in the government to implement the recommendations of the Provisional Council.

BIR That the Concordia Student Union take a position against the government offer.

BIR That we will take a position against any offer that does not include discussion regarding the tuition fees.

BIR That any further offer should denounce police brutality and should include independent inquiry regarding police tactics during protests

BIR that any further proposal ensure that the text is feminized

**Vote Result: Motion Passes - Unanimous.**

**Simon-Pierre Lauzon:** Moves to postpone the motion that was layed on the table indefinitely .

**Chad Walcott:** Seconds.

**Vote:** 7 in favour, Irmak Bahar opposed.

**Simon-Pierre Lauzon:** Moves to adjourn.



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**Sabrina D`Ambra:** Seconds.

Vote: unanimous.

**The meeting is adjourned at 8:45.**