



Concordia Student Union – Council of Representatives

CSU Special Council Meeting – Agenda

Wednesday, August 22nd, 2018 - CSU Conference Room, 18h30, S.G.W Campus

We would like to begin by acknowledging that Concordia University is located on unceded Indigenous lands. The Kanien'kehá:ka(Ga-niyen-gé-haa-ga) Nation is recognized as the custodians of the lands and waters on which we gather today. Tiohtiá:ke(jo-jya-gé)/Montreal is historically known as a gathering place for many First Nations. Today, it is home to a diverse population of Indigenous and other peoples. We respect the continued connections with the past, present, and future in our ongoing relationships with Indigenous and other peoples within the Montreal community.

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Roll Call**
- 3. Woodnote Coop Financial Situation (Informational)**
- 4. Mindfulness Program (Substantive)**
- 5. Maximum Prescription Drug Coverage (Substantive)**
- 6. Sustainability Action Fund Appointment (Substantive)**
- 7. Former General Coordinator Legal Proceedings (Informational)**
- 8. Poor Relations between Council and the Executive (Substantive)**
- 9. Announcements**
- 10. Adjournment**

**Meeting officially called by CSU Councillors Rory Blaisdell, Sami Hanbali,
Christopher Kalafatidis, Caleb Owusu-Acheaw and Patrick Quinn as per
By-Law 6.6.3**

Wednesday, August 22nd 2018 – Special Council Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 6:39pm EDT

2. Roll Call

Executives present at the meeting: Sophie Hough-Martin (General Coordinator), John Hutton (Finance Coordinator), Princess Somefun (Internal & Clubs Coordinator), Alexis Searcy (Loyola Coordinator), Mikaela Clark-Gardner (Academic & Advocacy Coordinator), Michele Sandiford (Student Life Coordinator)

Executives absent from the meeting: Akira De Carlos (Sustainability Coordinator), Camille Thompson-Marchand (External Affairs & Administration Coordinator),

Councillors present at the meeting: Alex Karasick (Arts & Science), Sami Hanbali (Arts & Science), Patrick Quinn (Arts & Science), Samantha Candido (Arts & Science), Rowan Gaudet (Arts & Science), Sophie Beauchamp-Lizotte (Arts & Science), Margot Bernier (Arts & Science), Caleb Owusu-Acheaw (Arts & Science), Marlène Iradakunda (Arts & Science), Christopher Kalafatidis (Arts & Science), Rory Blaisdell (JMSB), Jarrad Haas (Fine Arts), David Ferraria (ENCS), James Hanna (ENCS)

Councillors absent from the meeting:

S. Hough-Martin moves to appoint C. Owusu-Acheaw as interim Minute Keeper. Seconded by M. Berner. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

R. Gaudet moves to excuse both A. De Carlos and C. Thompson-Marchand from this meeting. Seconded by M. Berner. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

3. Woodnote Coop Financial Situation (Informational)

J. Hutton moves to go into closed session. Seconded by S. Hough-Martin. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

S. Hough-Martin moves to return back into open session. Seconded by M. Berner. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

4. Mindfulness Program (Substantive)

Lea, an undergraduate Psychology student at Concordia, with S. Hough-Martin presents the Mindfulness Program project Council. The program, designed primarily for Concordia's academic structure, is there to provide toolkits and service students who struggle with mental health. It is not designed to replace traditional psychological or therapeutic or medical services already offered at Concordia or externally elsewhere. The program is evaluation and feedback driven towards motivated students looking for additional or needing support. The proposed budget is expected to be \$1 610.00. For Lea, this project is based of their personal experiences. They find that there are not enough mental health initiatives and this program serves as a stepping stone.

J. Haas presents the following motion. Seconded by R. Gaudet.

WHEREAS the Mindful Project has successfully trained 23 undergraduate Concordia students in mindfulness practice

WHEREAS the 2018-2019 Executive was elected on a platform that centered on Mental Health projects

BE IT RESOLVED that the CSU dedicate \$5000 to the execution of three Mindful Project programs for the 2018-2019 mandate.

C. Kalafatidis asks about the marketing plan for this project. Lea replies that they are willing to utilize CSU's awareness platforms such as the newsletter, the website and emails as examples to start informing students and the Concordia community about this project.

S. Beauchamp-Lizotte asks if there is any potential to grow the program from the small amount of groups proposed. Sophie and Lea answer that anything is possible as long as the demand is there. Multiple groups would be added to have run concurrently and frequently.

A. Karasick loves the project. They ask about direct student costs. Lea and S. Hough-Martin answers that small costs could be placed on students such as a five to ten dollar deposit for the screening process and to cover survey costs.

S. Candido wonders at who would be the ideal student to fit the profile required for the program. Lea replies that it is for motivated students willing to seek help with their mental health.

P. Somefun provides some personal insight into a Mindfulness program as they participated in one back home in the United States. They wonder more at the process and procedure into the program. Lea replies that the interview process is not a qualification, but rather self-voluntary for those willing to join. They recognize the academic life of students who decide drop out mid-program such as mid-term examinations and papers.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

5. Maximum Prescription Drug Coverage (Substantive)

S. Hough-Martin presents the following motion. Seconded by J. Haas.

WHEREAS the rise of expensive biological drugs on the market has placed the CSU insurance plan at a huge risk to the cost of the insurance coverage;

WHEREAS there are only 2 instances of students claiming over \$10,000 in the past two years;

WHEREAS there is currently no maximum annual coverage for prescription drugs under the CSU insurance plan;

BE IT RESOLVED that the CSU implement an annual maximum drug coverage of \$50,000 per policy year.

S. Hough-Martin explains that them and J. Hutton meet with CSU's ASEQ account executives. According to them, an undergraduate student drafted a letter for the executives last year asking for over \$14 000.00 for biological drug coverage. In their view, Hough-Martin believes that it should not be the CSU covering this, but rather the Quebec provincial government. This motion serves to address a concern that there isn't drug coverage in the CSU's health insurance plan.

D. Ferrara has no problem with the motion itself, but believes that the amount of coverage is excessive.

D. Ferrara moves to amend the motion to change the amount from \$50 000 to \$40 000. Motion not seconded.

R. Gaudet ponders at what were to happen if a student were to over the cap. Hough-Martin's reply would be that Desjardins, as the financier of the health care plan, would charge the CSU for the overage by increasing policy rates.

R. Blaisdell considers at the liability of using the cap students quite risky. Hough-Martin agrees and will formally be reaching out actuarial accounts to discuss further.

Motion Carried - For: 8 Opposed:0 Abstain: 4 (S. Beauchamp-Lizotte, C. Kalafatidis, C. Owusu-Acheaw, S. Hanbali)

6. Sustainability Action Fund Appointment (Substantive)

S. Hough-Martin explains that there is an open CSU representative seat on the Sustainability Action Fund.

S. Candido moves to table the topic to the next Regular Council Meeting. Seconded M. Bernier.

Motion Carried - For: 10 Opposed:1 Abstain: 1 (J. Haas)

R. Blaisdell moves to allow the Chair to create a speakers list for tabling topics and motions for the remainder of 2018-2019 Seconded A. Karasick.

Motion Carried - For: 11 Opposed:1 Abstain: 0

R. Gaudet asks if the lack of a CSU representative would hinder the committee operations. Hough-Martin replies that suspending it to a future Regular Council meeting wouldn't as problematic.

S. Beauchamp-Lizotte states that the SAF Constitution renders the Board of Directors inoperable.

7. Former General Coordinator Legal Proceedings (Informational)

P. Quinn wonders at what has happened pertaining to the pending legal action against the former General Coordinator, O. Riaz. S. Hough-Martin explains that there has been no formal or informal response from Riaz. Therefore, the CSU will be in contact with its legal team until then. According to J. Hutton, the only contact with O. Riaz has been a further clarification on the documents being utilized as evidence for the legal action.

R. Blaisdell explains that formal legal procedure requires that after 30 days, a registered demand letter must be sent out.

8. Poor Relations between Council and the Executive (Substantive) – Closed Session

R. Blaisdell moves to enter into closed session. Seconded by J. Haas.

Motion Carried - For: 8 Opposed:4 Abstain: 0

9. Announcements

Nil

10. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 10:00pm EDT.