

**CSU Council Meeting- Minutes**  
**Wednesday, January 9th 2019**  
**CSU Conference Room, 18h30 SGW Campus**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting is called to order at 18h42

*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) NaEon is recognized as the custodians of the lands and waters on which we gather today. TiohEá: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.*

**2. ROLL CALL**

Council Chairperson: Caitlin Robinson

Council Minute Keeper: Elizabeth Tasong

Executives present for the meeting were: *Sophie Hough-MarEn* (General Coordinator), *Mikaela Clark- Gardner* (Internal & Clubs Coordinator), *John HuSon* (Finance Coordinator), *Michele Sandiford* (Student Life Coordinator), *Camille Thompson-Marchand* (External & Mobiliza\$on Coordinator) and *Alexis Searcy* (Loyola Coordinator).

Executives absent from the meeting were: *Akira De Carlos* (Sustainability Coordinator), *Princess Somefun*(Internal & Clubs Coordinator)

Councillors present for the meeting were:

Councillors absent for the meeting were:

**Margot Berner** moves to excuse Akira De Carlos and Princess Somefun.

Seconded by **Jarrad Haas**.

*Motion carries*

**Margot Berner** moves to excuse councillors from December meeting.

Seconded by

*Motion Carries*

### **3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Michele Sandiford** moves to postpone CCSL

Seconded by

*Motion carries*

**Rowan Gaudet** moves to approve the consent agenda.

Seconded by **Margot Berner**.

*Motion carries*

### **4. CONSENT AGENDA**

a) Approval of Previous Minutes

*Approved via unanimous consent*

b) Reports from Committees

*Approved via unanimous consent*

c) Executive Reports

*Approved via unanimous consent*

d) Chairperson's Report

*Approved via unanimous consent*

e) Consent Agenda from December 12<sup>th</sup>

*Approved via unanimous consent*

### **5. PRESENTATIONS AND GUEST SPEAKERS**

**a) JMAS Tax Clinic**

Guest Speaker gives executive summary regarding how JMAS provides education for students about tax software. In addition, it provides students with tax services. They request CSU support in order to increase awareness of the clinic within the student body. They require more financial capital in order to expand their services.

**John Hutton** : BE IT RESOLVED THAT CSU grant \$8,000 to JMAS Tax Clinic in order to better implement the clinics services.

Seconded by **Hilal Ghanem**

**Sophie Hough-Martin**: Moves to amend the final line of the JMAS Tax Clinic funding in regards to promotional material for CSU's funding of the clinic.

Seconded by **Margot Berner**

### **Vote**

15: Yes

0: No

0: Abstentions

*Motion Carries*

## **7. New Business- Substantive**

### ***a) EmpowerMe***

**John Hutton**: WHEREAS claims data from the CSU's health plan shows that students are accessing services for mental health, such as psychological counselling, more and more frequently; and

WHEREAS a clear need is demonstrated for expanding mental health services to students; and  
WHEREAS ASEQ/Studentcare, the CSU's health plan provider, has offered EmpowerMe as an additional service which can be added to the health plan's coverage, at an estimated cost of \$4.20 per student; and

WHEREAS EmpowerMe is a service built around short-term, solution-focused counselling model available 24/7 by telephone, video-counselling, e-counselling, and in person; and

WHEREAS the CSU Health & Dental Plan has a sizable reserve fund that can absorb the costs of adding EmpowerMe for the rest of the fiscal year without affecting the premiums that students pay,

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT** the CSU Council approve the addition of ASEQ/Studentcare's EmpowerMe service in the student health plan.

Seconded by **Hilal Ghanem**

**Margot Berner:** Questions why the services are only short term care

**John Hutton:** Details that it is indicative that the service caters to student that attend the institution for a limited amount of years

**Samantha Candido:** Questions if Council can have access to the EmpowerMe app design

**John Hutton:** Is not sure regarding the details

**Rory Blaisdell:** Reminds everyone that this plan is not an excuse for the University to not provide mental health services.

**James Hanna:** Questions where the capital for these services will come from

**John Hutton:** States capital for these services will still come in the form of student fees

**Sophie Hough-Martin:** Emphasizes that this will not be a substitute for the Universities mental health services.

**Samantha Candido:** Questions how the app for EmpowerMe will be dealt with and when it will be available.

**Michele Sandiford:** States this is a service available in other universities that works well.

**James Hanna:** Questions the capability of the counselors that will be provided and their credentials.

**John Hutton:** States all counselors are trained and have either a psychology degree or masters of social work. There will be a contact plan in place for those with complaints regarding the services.

## **Vote**

For: 12

Opposed: 0

Absention: 5 (James Hanna, Sami Al-Hanbali, David Ferraria, Peter Zhuang, and Caleb Owusu-Acheaw)

## **8. Returning Business**

### ***a) Accessibility for Student Parents***

**Alexis Searcy: Whereas** Student-Parents experience an unhealthy amount of emotional distress, including stress surrounding academic and financial situations, social isolation because of lack of free time, and loneliness as they do not feel they can be involved in the university community.

**Whereas** Student-Parents may require additional accommodations in order to be involved in student life activities. Offering childcare services is one way that we can make our events more accessible to the student-parent population.

**Be It Resolved** That all CSU events are required to publicly offer childcare upon request within 48 hours notice, unless the event is stated to be child-friendly. All promotional material has to indicate if the event is child-friendly or childcare is offered, along with the necessary contact information.

**Be it Further Resolved** That the Student Life Coordinator is responsible for making sure the childcare list is up to date each year.

**Be It Further Resolved** That when providing funding to events by student clubs, projects and groups on campus, the CSU may require childcare services to be available at said funded event within 48 hours notice upon request.

**Mikaela Clark-Gardner:** States if event is not child-friendly, it will be requested that money be put aside for child care if requested.

**Caleb Owusu-Acheaw:** Questions if this is specific to campus events?

**Mikaela Clark-Gardner:** States money will be given through a committee for specific events, it is not expected to come out of a group's budget.

Peter: Questions how it will be decided if an event is child-friendly

**Mikaela Clark-Gardner:** States it will be determined by event organizers.

Paige: Questions if childcare will be provided if not requested

**Mikaela Clark-Gardner:** States no

### **Vote**

For: 13

Opposed: 0

Absentions:0

*Motion Carries*

### ***b) Approval of the Minutes***

**Rory Blaisdell:** States the previous one was oddly written and requires revision

**Caitlin Robinson:** States the previous updated meeting minutes will be available soon

### ***c) Online Transparency***

**James Hanna: Whereas** CSU members have incomplete information regarding the identities of their representatives through online sources

**Whereas** the CSU website only contains information about the number of seats allotted to faculties and no information on whether or not they are occupied

**Whereas** it is impossible to know if a councillor has resigned or not based only on the election results posted by the CSU Chief Electoral Officer,

**Whereas** CSU members have no direct information about the current composition of Committees other than by viewing council sessions in their entirety on late-posted CUTV videos through YouTube,

**Whereas** the idea of online streaming has already been discussed in the past,

**Be it resolved** the CSU and its officers endeavour to set up livestreams of all open session regular and special council meetings on the official CSU Facebook account

**Be it further resolved** that the CSU make an effort to also create a YouTube account for the same purpose

**Be it further resolved** that the CSU provide official email addresses to all councillors

**Be it further resolved** the CSU website include the names, photographs and official CSU emails of all sitting councillors, organized by faculty. Empty seats are to be indicated by a generic “unknown” picture along with the phrase “Vacant Seat” instead of a name and email address;

**Be it further resolved** councillors be allowed to write a short one-paragraph bio to be included along with their name and photograph. This bio will be entirely optional and effort will be made to include the bios into the framework at any point in the year

**Be it further resolved** that the CSU policy committee, in this current mandate, make an effort to include the annual continuation of this practice in the Standing Regulations so that this becomes the rules not only for this council but future councils as well

**Be it further resolved** the CSU include the composition of all Standing and ad hoc committees on its website, consisting to the committee member name and faculty membership. The number of vacancies and qualifications to fill those vacancies will also be included under their appropriate committees

**Be it further resolved** that this information be placed in an appropriate and visible way on the CSU website

Seconded by **David Ferrara**

**James Hanna:** States he believes students should have more access to council as they are representatives of them. Remarks that all councillors having emails would make council more accessible.

*Point of Information*

**Sophie Hough-Martin:** All councillors that requested their own email received them. Due to high turnover of councillors, it makes sense to keep generic emails. However, if councillors request their own emails they will receive them as they entitled to them through the by-laws. The councillor who received this motion did receive a CSU email five months ago.

**John Hutton:** Supports this motion and practiced this at Dalhousie University. However, he would like to look at cost benefit analysis.

**James Hanna:** Moves to strike resolve about the emails

Seconded by **David Ferrara**

*Motion Carries*

**Samantha Candido:** Requests that under description of councillors it also be included which committees they are on. Likes having own email but also understands importance of having this information open for other members to consult.

**Peter Zhuang:** Requests clarification regarding if all meeting videos are uploaded

**Caitlin Robinson:** States they are online except for one September session due to a technological glitch.

**Michele Sandiford:** Moves to remove the amendment regarding the livestreams of the CSU council meetings.

Seconded by **John Hutton**

*Motion Carries*

**James Hanna:** States amount of people that would view youtube videos may not be cost efficient.

**Sophie Hough-Martin:** Moves to remove portion of amendment that calls for a creation of youtube account

Seconded by **Rowan Gaudet**

*Motion Carries*

## **Vote**

For: 15

Opposed: 1

Abstentions: 0

*Motion Carries*

David: Motions to call the question

Seconded by **Sophie Hough-Martin**

For: 6

Opposed: 6

Abstentions: 0

*Motion Fails*

**Patrick Quinn:** Moves to remove amendment that calls for councillors to create a biography

**James Hanna:** States that instead of bios there could be additional responsibilities listed under the councillors name

**Michele Sandiford:** Motions to amend the amendment to change bio to CSU responsibilities

Seconded by **David Ferrara**

Opposed by **Christopher Kalafitidis**

*Motion Carries*

### **Vote**

For: 12

Opposed: 0

Abstentions: 1 ( Peter Zhuang)

**James Hanna:** Motions to call the question

*Point of Information*

John Hutton: Can final motion be read out

**Caitlin Robinson:** Reads out final motion

### **Vote**

For: 15

Opposed:0

Abstentions: 0

**Caitlin Robinson:** Is there any other discussion to be have regarding online transparency?

**James Hanna:** Other Universities have published all the motions that have passed. Currently working on implementing this within this council

**Rory Blaisdell:** States he lost his train of thought

**Sophie Hough-Martin:** Believes it is good corporate governance that does not need to be passed through a motion.

**Rory Blaisdell:** States this is something CASA does and believes since minutes tend to be long that this would be a more effective overview.

**Sophie Hough-Martin:** Moves to have the Executive post the index of motions to be posted for public consumption

Seconded by **James Hanna**

**James Hanna:** Instead of index of motions it should be referred to as a resolutions book  
Opposed by **Rory Blaisdell**

**Rory Blaisdell:** States this should be added to the minute keepers duty

**Samantha Candido:** States this would make it easier for students to know exactly what is passed.

**Caleb Owusu-Acheaw:** States the minute keeper should work with the chair in order to figure out the best way to post this information.

**James Hanna:** States that majorities should also be put in the online resolutions book

**Caitlin Robinson:** Moves to create online resolutions book

## **Vote**

For: 15

Opposed: 0

Abstentions: 0

## ***e) Public Commemorations***

**James Hanna:** States there should be an increase in commemorations by the CSU

**Michele Sandiford:** As Student Life Coordinator, I am in charge of these type of events. I submitted my work plan on time which councillors were able to talk to me prior to these events about. Many times we try to schedule based on when students will attend and we are definitely doing our best to create events that are important to our base.

**Sophie Hough-Martin:** To have this conversation in January is late.

**Marlene Iradakunda:** Perhaps people with event ideas should meet directly with committees. As the calendars show we have been pretty busy with events.

**Caleb Owusu-Acheaw:** States James brought up a good point. However, it does not need to translate to events, it could be language supporting commemorations. Michele brings up some good points regarding the logistics. Thinks of anyone on council has an issue they are passionate for then they should talk to executives.

**James Hanna:** States that he just wanted this to be a light discussion as opposed to a planning discussion for events.

**Michele Sandiford:** There are many days to commemorate, which would make us make value judgements.

**Margot Berner:** These types of discussions do not need to be had in council.

### ***f) Budget Actuals to-Date (informational)***

**John Hutton:** States that previous month budgets can be discussed

**David Ferraria** moves to table

Seconded by **Sophie Hough-Martin**

### **Vote**

For: 13

Opposed: 0

Abstention: 2 (Peter Zhuang and Samantha Candido)

*Motion Carries*

### **Closed Session**

**Caitlin Robinson** Moves to go to open session

Seconded by **Sophie Hough-Martin**

*Motion Carries*

## **Open Session**

**Sophie Hough-Martin:** moves to approve the minutes

Seconded by **Margot Berner**

## ***e) Question Period & Business Arising***

**John Hutton:** Requests feedback regarding budgets

**Rowan Gaudet:** Request Council gives feedback about mid-mandate prior to meeting

**James Hanna:** Requests information regarding election voting

**Sophie Hough-Martin:** CSU is still in stages of troubleshooting online voting

## **10. Announcements**

**Michele Sandiford:** Informs council about event tomorrow regarding addiction recovery

**Peter Zhuang:** Informs council of his resignation

**James Hanna:** Wishes everyone a Merry Christmas that celebrates it on the old calendar.

## **11. Adjournment**

**Jared Haas** moves to adjourn

Seconded by **Rowan Gaudet**

*Carries Unanimously*

*Meeting adjourned at*

