Concordia Student Union – Council of Representatives

CSU Special Council Meeting -

Agenda Wednesday, February 20th, 2019 H-441, 18h30, S.G.W Campus

1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting is called to order at 18h50

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. TiohEá:ke(jo-jya-qé)/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 Hutton (Finance Coordinator), Michele Sandiford (Student

Life Coordinator), Camille Thompson-Marchand (External & Mobilization Coordinator) Akira De Carlos

(Sustainability Coordinator) and *Alexis Searcy* (Loyola Coordinator).

Executives absent from the meeting were: Princess Somefun (Internal & Clubs Director)

Councillors present for the meeting were: Christopher Kalafatidis (Arts & Science), Margot Berner (Arts &

Science), Paige Keleher (Arts & Science), Patrick Quinn (Arts & Science), Rowan Gaudet(Arts & Science)

Samantha Candido (Arts & Science) Sophie Beauchamp Lizotte (Arts & Science), Sami Hanbali (Arts &

Science), Caleb Owusu-Acheaw (Arts & Science), Jane Lefebvre Prevost (Arts & Science), Samuel Miriello

(JMSB), Lee Alejandro Boswell (JMSB), Arad Andrew Banis (JMSB), Victoria Pesce (JMSB), Danielle

Vandolder-Beaudin (JMSB), James Hanna (ENCS), David Ferraria (ENCS), Eduardo Malorni (ENCS), Patrick Lavoie (ENCS), and Eliza McFarlan (FINE ARTS), Zoe Zeitouni (Arts & Science), Jad Faraj Abi Semaan (Arts & Science),

Councillors absent for the meeting were: Hilal Ghanem (Arts & Science), Rory Blaisdell (JMSB), Marlène Iradakunda (Arts & Science), Jarrad Haas (FINE ARTS),

3. Approval of the Agenda

- 4. Consent Agenda
- a) Approval of Previous Minutes
- b) Reports from Committees
- c) Executive Reports
- d) Chairperson's Report

5. Presentations and Guest Speakers

Michaela-Clark Gardner: Explains why the policy committee did not approve the Concordia Student Nightline fee levy application

a) Fee Levy Application: Concordia Student Nightline

Guest presenter: Jade Se

The nightline is an anonymous, active-listening service for Concordia students. They aim to expand to 7 nights a week, which would require 56 volunteers.

Margot Berner: Thinks the fee levy should be granted, regardless of standing regulations as students have shown interest

Guest Speaker: The nightline provides a space for students to have a warm supportive ear

Jane Lefebvre-Provost: What is the required number of signatures and how many did they have

Mikaela Clark-Gardner: They had 755

Jane Lefebvre-Provost: How many calls do you guys get

Guest Speaker: That information is confidential, however, we do get a surge around finals and midterms Sophie Beauchamp: Why does the line close at 3am and are you guys interested in adding texting?

Guest Speaker: We are definitely open to expanding to after 3am, as well as texting but it would require more training and capital

Eduardo Malorni: How do you guys plan to market this more?

Guest Speaker: With more capital we could market better and have been reaching out in the community Jane Lefebvre-Provost: How will marginalized volunteers be included?

Guest Speaker: I agree that is something we need to think more deeply about, we have reached out to many organizations/ student groups

Patrick Quinn: Have you guys considered talking to school faculties

Guest Speaker: Yes, We have

Mikaela-Clark Gardner: As we cannot pass the fee-levy due to standing regulations you guys can go to the Judicial Board to see if we can not-withstand the regulations. In addition, during bi-elections you all can get the signatures you missed.

Chris Kalafitidis: I think the best thing is to have the vote and let it go to Judicial Board.

Sophie Hough-Martin: I suggest not having a vote on something that we don't know is legally possible.

Sophie- Beauchamp: I move to send the interpretation of by-law

Seconded by James Hanna

Patrick Quinn: This does not change the fact that Nightline needs an answer tonight

Sophie Hough-Martin: Is there any guarantee that this motion will work?

Chairperson: No

b) Fee Levy Application: SEIZE

Guest presenter: Drew Oja Jay

James Hanna: Your budget shows that you're paying yourselves more than putting money into actual projects.

Guest Speaker: The current matter at hand is the procedure, and the budget passed through policy committee

Jane Lefebvre-Provost: Why does the general coordinator make more than others?

Guest Speaker: They have more hours and also we need to ensure the salary is reflective of the professionals we aim to attract.

James Hanna: Why should we give you \$250,00 so you can skim off the top and act as middle men. Guest Speaker: It is not being a middle men, the incubator is more in-depth which is reflective in our operations.

Sam: It is very normal for incubators to have these types of cost, the staff are going to teach about a form of business that is less common and they are ensuring these ventures will be successful.

Jane Lefebvre-Provost: It is very common for 60% of operational costs to be for salaries

Danielle Vandoldes-Beaudin: What is the membership fee?

Guest Speaker: In the case of the fee-levy that would be the membership fee for students

James Hanna: Why should CSU give you money to make a Marxist Utopia?

Jane Lefebvre-Provost: Point of Order

John Hutton: It's not only about personal values, the question is whether students should have this

opportunity

Patrick Quinn: So what is the membership process?

Guest Speaker: Yes, it will be for students to demonstrate a knowledge of the solidarity economy Sophie-Beauchamp: The membership process seems restrictive, and my understanding is fee levy associations should be very open

James Hanna: The class of membership that requires 1,000\$ of donations holds 40% of your board of governors.

Guest Speaker: I would ask the councillor educate themselves on a solidarity economy

Jane Lefebvre-Provost: It makes me personally uncomfortable that concordia students only have access to 40% of board seats. Why is there that limitation?

Guest Speaker: The structure is meant to bring together numerous groups/alliances.

Margot Berner: How does this benefit everyone that pays the fee levy.

Guest Speaker: It will be an educational place, where workshops will be offered.

Samantha Candido: There is a provision that suggests you all will expand across Canada, and I know from previous experience that the worker-member fee ensure people are committed

Guest Speaker: We did amend that section in response to your question, and the worker-member fee is

1% of your annual salary to ensure people are invested

Patrick Quinn: Just to clarify the SAELC fund is out of the picture

Guest Speaker: No, that is a seperate referendum

Eduardo Malorni: How do you justify asking for 2,000\$ last meeting and now 250,000\$

Guest Speaker: The 2,000\$ is for current operations, and 250,000\$ is for future operations, based on

student interests this is something that is important.

James Hanna: We would be giving 250,00\$ to outside organizations

Jane Lefebvre-Provost: Sends question to referendum- Do you agree to pay 35 cents per credit indexed to inflation in accordance with the Consumer Price Index of Canada, towards the establishment of a Solidarity Economy Incubator as proposed by SEIZE, effective Fall 2019?

Seconded by Patrick Quinn

Jane Lefebvre-Provost: Would you two be salaried positions of SEIZE

Guest Speaker: Personally, I have no intention of holding a salaried position

Rowan Gaudet: There's a part in the by-laws that is not clear

Mikaela Clark-Gardner: I don't know of any fee-levy group being supported through the SAELC fund, this would create a precedent.

Margot Berner: I am not comfortable as a member of policy for something in the by-laws to have changed and separating the referendum questions is not usual

Sam: Alot of students have signed for this and it will be democratic, and it's not a black box where money disappears. I believe students should be able to vote for it.

Jane Lefebvre-Provost: What will SEIZE do to ensure an equitable and diverse board/ staff

Guest Speaker: We're going to try our best

Margot Berner: Hasn't the question changed

Guest Speaker: The question has not changed, and the SAELC fund referendum has not been submitted

and is not on the floor

Chris calls the question

Seconded by Jane Lefebvre-Provost

Danielle requests a secret ballot

Motion sent to referendum fails

Guest Speaker: I feel it telling that council was prepared to pass a referendum that did not withstand regulations, but not a group that was in accordance with all regulations. I would like to thank everyone that voiced their support and we will be appealing to the judicial board.

c) Fee Levy Application: WUSC

Guest presenter: Andrea Gauthier

WUSC is a refugee program that aims to sponsor refugees to come to Concordia.

Jad: Firstly, thank you for coming. I want to know more about the organization as a whole.

Guest Speaker: It is a national non-profit organization with a headquarters based in Ottawa. In Canada, it is focused on refugee resettlement.

Jane Lefebvre-Provost: Moves to send question to referendum

Seconded by Chris Kalafitidis

Patrick Quinn: Why was this not recommended to go to referendum?

Mikaela Clark-Gardner: There were blanks in the budget and a large leap in the number events.

Guest Speaker: That was to indicate future costs, and considering the number of events we are having now that is a natural expansion.

Mikaela Clark-Gardner: For a budget there has to be estimates

Guest Speaker: Here is the estimates for sponsoring one student a year

Margot Berner: Is everything volunteer based?

Guest Speaker: Yes, everything is and they receive support from salaried workers from the larger organization. WUSC is a sponsorship agreement holder with the canadian government. Having the fee levy would provide a sustainable model.

Rowan Gaudet: There's a drastic difference between the Refugee Centre sponsorship costs and yours? Guest Speaker: It is hard to speak to why there are organizational differences

Jad: What is the cost to sponsor one student, and as a committee under a larger organization how does the head office have control over how the money is spent.

Guest Speaker: Around 25,000\$ and the organization has little control expect for in the SRP fund which covers beuracratic /immigration costs.

Jad: How would you emotional support this person enough?

Guest Speaker: I have been a part of WUSC since my first year in CEGEP and i understand the importance of building a bond. Also, we have reached out closely to the Syrian Student Association and MSA among other groups.

James Hanna: What's the chance groups with fee levy funding continue to sponsor?

Guest Speaker: Much of this is the choice of the sponsoree, some may decide to change schools or locations etc...

Chris Kalafitdis moves to call the question

Seconded by Jad

The motion passes

Chris Kalafitidis motions for a recess

Seconded by Danielle

Motion passes unanimously

d) FASA VA-229 Proposal

Guest presenter: Jordan Beaulieu

Renovations for the VA-229 to provide a student space for fine arts students.

John Hutton: Motions to provide financial support through the SSAELC fund

Seconded by Sophie-Beauchamp

Sophie-Beauchamp: How do you plan to provide healthy snacks through vending machine, a suggestion

is to not use vending machines as they are provided through food services like Aramark

Guest Speaker: That's a great idea and something we will definitely try to do

Jane Lefebvre-Provost: What will be ongoing operational costs?

Guest Speaker: These will be determined later on and voted on at the beginning of the term.

James Hanna: I think this is exactly what the SSAELC fund was designed for

Samantha Candido: Will there be security cameras?

Guest Speaker: There never has been, but we will ask students

Sophie Beauchamp: Motions to call the question

Seconded by Margot Berner

Opposed by Jane Lefebvre-Provost

Motion Passes

Vote

For: 13

Against: 0
Abstain: 0

Jane Lefebvre- Provost: Please keep in mind operational costs

Margot Berner: The Concordia Food Coalition could provide healthy snacks

e) Food Autonomy Campaign Referendum Question

Eduardo Malorni: What is a flex dollar

Guest Speaker: It is money for residence residents through their student IDs that they can use at

Aramark run places on campus

Margot Berner: Aramark is a terrible food corporation James Hanna: monopolies result in poor food quality

Chris Kalafitidis: Aramark is gross.

Jane Lefebvre-Provost: Reminder to not audibly sigh or snicker when someone is talking. What aid is the FAC looking for from the CSU

Guest Speaker: Right now we are only asking for general support

f) Open Educational Resources Committee

(Lexi Searcy)

OERS are freely available, educational resources that are created by faculty for particular courses.

Samantha Candido: Do the student representatives or contract librarians decide which faculties get the OERS

Guest Speaker: We envision just putting out an open call

Sami: This is going to be extremely beneficial

Jane Lefebvre-Provost: Will funding solely be from library fund?

Guest Speaker: Yes, the library budget absorbs the costs for the librarian and the LSFC absorbs the grant

costs.

James Hanna: This is good

Jane Lefebvre-Provost: When will this happen?

Guest Speaker: Our OER librarian has been hired she starts in March.

Rowan Gaudet: How much of a time committment would this be

Guest Speaker: minimum of 2-3 meeting a year but largely online correspondence

g) Climate Mobilization Motion

Motion & supporting docs attached (Rowan Gaudet)

Whereas the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5C warns that the impacts of 1.5 °C of warming above the pre-industrial average would be far less dangerous than raising the global temperature to 2

°C.https://www.climat.be/files/4115/3900/0027/181008_IPCC_sr15_spm.pdf

Whereas 2 °C of warming above the pre-industrial average risks locking in runaway climate change that would be absolutely catastrophic to human civilization. (https://www.pnas.org/content/115/33/8252) (https://www.cbc.ca/news/technology/un-warns-global-temperatures-rise-2100-1.4925170)

Whereas according to the United Nations Environmental Programme 2018 Emissions Gap Report current action plans of governments around the world would lead to warming of 3 to 4 °C (https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/22070/EGR_2017.pdf)

Whereas according to a recent study published in Nature Communications if every government had a similar climate action plan as that of Canada the world temperature would increase by 5.1 °C.

(https://www.nature.com/articles/s41467-018-07223-

9?fbclid=IwAR2xe3GGLxFeUeYmcAH4VRIRvodPDntOtD6BeHqUXU9WF9JI2m-3c6MF1k8)

(https://www.nationalobserver.com/2018/11/29/news/canadas-insufficient-climate-policies-would-help-increase-global-warming-5-c-study?fbclid=IwAR3y2JR7mhFg82I0Ps-

ZnaR9xbCRkB9_ymZ5FVBj3FPEHEBQdNebjATEeBw)

Whereas according to a recent Ipsos-Reid survey says 75% of respondents said Canada needs to do more on climate change.

(https://www.cbc.ca/news/technology/what-on-earth-newsletter-climate-change-action- 1.5000581)

Whereas there is a significant mobilization of the population happening around the world for ambitious climate action.

(https://www.liberation.fr/planete/2019/01/31/qui-sont-les-jeunes-organisatrices-des-greves-pour-le-climat-dans-le-monde_1706079)

Whereas in Quebec and across Canadian students including in elementary schools and high schools are already participating in class walkouts.

(https://ici.radio-canada.ca/nouvelle/1140550/greta-thunberg-cop24-sudbury-sophiamathur)

Whereas previous attempts to persuade governments have failed to get government to address climate change seriously and we are therefore required to escalate pressure tactics to force the hand of government

Whereas there is a global call for a climate strike on March 15th 2019 and September 27th 2019 and participation on those days is crucial to show unity amongst young people all over the world and strengthen our voice through collective action showing our dissatisfaction with current government policies

(https://www.ledevoir.com/societe/environnement/547460/une-premiere-greve-pour-le-climat-prevue-le-15-mars-au-quebec)

(www.earth-strike.com)

Whereas students from universities and cegeps across are mobilizing for both climate strike dates. (https://www.ledevoir.com/societe/environnement/547460/une-premiere-greve-pour-le-climat-prevue-le-15-mars-au-quebec)

Whereas progressive Democrats in the United States have put forward a 'Green New Deal proposal' based on the demands of the youth-led Sunrise Movement that would see the United States reach carbon neutrality by 2030.

(https://www.carbonbrief.org/explainer-why-some-us-democrats-want-a-green-new-deal-to-tackle-climate-change)

(https://www.theatlantic.com/science/archive/2019/02/aocgreen-new-deal-new-era-millennial-climate-politics/582295/)

Whereas the Concordia Student Union has in the Position Book the following positions:

- 11.2 That our society transition towards being fossil fuels free by 2050. [Adopted October 8, 2014]
- 11.3 That our university system be transformed to help in the transition towards a post-fossil fuel economy. [Adopted October 8, 2014]
- 11.5 That fossil fuel exploration and extraction projects on the territory of Quebec stop. [Adopted October 8, 2014]
- 11.6 That the emission of dangerous levels of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere be recognized as a crime against our environment, and against humanity. [Adopted October 8, 2014]

Be It Resolved That the CSU endorse and support the campaign "La Planete s'Invite a l'Universite", in line with supporting its positions from 11.2 to 11.6 of its Positions Book.

Be It Further Resolved That the CSU support the March 15th and September 27th 2019 school walk-out dates by sending emails strictly for the purpose to all undergraduate students, inviting all students to participate in these events.

Be It Further Resolved That the CSU put the referendum motion on the ballot for the 2019 CSU general election that updates its position book:

That the CSU supports the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5C's recommendation that "rapid, far-reaching and unprecedented changes in all aspects of society" be pursued to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees celsius. That the CSU support a Green New Deal type climate plan for Canada that would see Canada reach carbon neutrality by 2030 through a large scale mobilization of the entire economy at emergency speed.

Jane Lefebvre-Provost: motions to remove the September 27th 2019 date Seconded by

Jane Lefebyre-Provost: this date is in the mandate of the next council

Rowan Gaudet: All this motion does is call for online support by CSU

Margot Berner: We make decisions in here that affect the future of the CSU so there is no issue

James Hanna: I don't think it is right to force the next council to support this

Sophie Hough-Martin: It is very common practice to adopt projects from previous council.

Vote

In favor: 6 Opposed: 6

Abstaintions: 2

James Hanna: This is a motion to disrupt the flow of classes and I am against it.

Sophie Hough-Martin: According to by-laws this is exactly what the CSU should be doing. Whatever your personal values are is not relevant.

John Hutton: According to statistics, we only have 11 years to prevent a huge climate crisis, frankly we need to move very quickly in order to change virtually every aspect of our economies. We are a union, union's go on strike.

Jane Lefebvre-Provost: In Quebec strikes work and this is a big tool we have as students

Margot motions to call the question

Seconded by Patrick Quinn

Vote

In favor: 12 Opposed: 1 Abstain: 1

h) CSU Revised Budget

CSU Finance Coordinator will present the CSU's revised budget (John Hutton)

Rowan Gaudet motions to approve the budget

Seconded by Camille

Motion passes unanimously

i) CSU CEO Report

6. Appointments

a) Loyola Committee (1 seat)

Samantha Candido self appoints

Seconded by Margot Berner

Motion carries unanimously

b) Elections & Participation Committee (3 seat)

Chris Kalafitidis resigns from Elections & Participation Committee

Margot Berner: Councillors have pushed for this committee but have done no work

Chris Kalafitidis: I was asked to resign if I considered running in election

Patrick Quinn: Same as well

John Hutton: I did previously say based on the policy the committee created it could be a

conflict of interest

Margot Berner: Motions to send documents by the elections & participants committee to the

policy committee

Jane Lefebvre- Provost: Strongly suggests that people do not pressure councillors to resign

Sophie Beauchamp: I believe it is a clear conflict of interest

Chris Kalafitidis: I do agree with Sophie that it is kind of sketchy, so I think it should be handled

in council as allegedly there are people running also in policy committee

Camille: I think we should delay it

Patrick Quinn: Policy committee is going to have the same issue

Sophie Beauchamp: Motions to extend 10 minutes

Seconded by

Patrick Quinn: calls the question

Vote

For: 4

Opposed: 4

Margot Berner: If people are going to be on committees they need to do the work, not just let executives write the policies

c) Open Education Committee (2 seats)

Jane Lefebvre-Provost appoints Sam Miriello

Danielle self appoints

Seconded by Rowan Gaudet

Motion passes unanimously

7. New Business – Substantive

a) SSAELC Fund Loan to CSU

Motion is attached (John Hutton)

John Hutton: **WHEREAS** in previous years the CSU reduced its fee levies at a time when expenses for CSU services and clubs were increasing, creating a structural deficit; and **WHEREAS** the CSU's ability to fund this structural deficit using its cash reserves was and is limited, and the CSU is on track at its current rate of spending to exhaust its cash reserves before they can be replenished when student fees are deposited in late August 2019; and **WHEREAS** the CSU has taken steps to resolve the structural deficit by restructuring its fee levy, and all the CSU departments will now generate enough fee levy revenues to fund their operations; and

WHEREAS despite the long-term fix to revenues, a short-term problem persists because without a cash infusion the CSU will be unable to keep up with its expenses for several months, risking leaving employees unpaid, services closed, bill left unpaid, or other problems;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the CSU Finance Committee recommend to Council that a loan to the CSU be made from the Student Space, Accessible Education, and Legal Contingency (SSAELC) Fund at terms to be negotiated between the CSU and SSAELC Fund

committee. The agreement between the CSU and SSAELC Fund Committee shall be brought to the Finance Committee for approval before it may be signed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the CSU Council affirms that while borrowing funds from the SSAELC fund to cover operational costs is deemed necessary in this particular case due to the inherited financial challenges resulting from an intentional levy decrease, this shall not be used as a precedent for the future and the SSAELC Fund is to be used only for its intended purposes.

Vote

In Favor: 13

Opposed: 0

Abstain: 0

b) Appointments Committee

Allowing the Appointments Committee to appoint a CEO and JB Member

Lexi Searcy: Whereas the CSU is in need of Chief Electoral Officer for the upcoming general elections and another member of the Judicial Board.

Whereas the CSU has received several complaints regarding the procedure of holding interviews during council meetings

Whereas the CSU appointments committee has both capacity and established procedure to interview and select candidates

Be it resolved that the appointments committee be mandated to interview both the CEO candidates and Judicial Board candidates

Be it further resolved that the appointments committee be given the right to appoint the Chief Electoral Officer

Be it further resolved that the appointments committee be given the right to appoint a new Judicial Board Member notwithstanding Standing regulation 279

Eduardo Malorni: I think this is bad practice and would stand a dangerous precedent Jane Lefebvre- Provost:

Camille: We have been told by candidates that it was stressful and unprofessional to be interviewed by a

huge group of people

Jane Lefebvre- Provost: Motions to extend by 15 minutes

Eduardo Malorni: The judicial board is basically like the supreme court, and I believe it should go

through council which is like the house of commons

Sophie Beauchamp: calls the question

Vote

In favor: 9

Against: 3

Abstain:0

Motion carries

c) Elections: Policies

This motion aims to replace the current election regulations with an elections policy that will be reviewed at the

latest in Fall 2019

Patrick Quinn: BE IT RESOLVED that "BOOK VII - ELECTIONS AND REFERENDUM REGULATIONS" of the

Concordia Student Union Standing Regulations be repealed and replaced with the elections policy

entitled "BOOK VII -- ELECTIONS AND REFERENDUM POLICY" that was drafted by the Elections and

Participation Committee.

John Hutton: motions to amend repealed and replaced to solely replace

Carries unanimously

Vote

For: 12

Against: 0

Abstain: 2

Jane: Motions to extend another 10 minutes

Seconded by

d) Elections: Competitive

Lowering the amount of signatures from 45 to 25 for Council seats in our elections and clarifying where

independent students can get signatures from (Patrick Quinn & Christopher Kalafatidis)

Sophie Hough-Martin moves to table

Patrick motions to exclude

Seconded by Sami

Jane calls the question

Vote

In favor: 4 Against: 8 Abstain: 0

Motion Fails

e) Students for Consent Culture

Approval of the memorandum of understanding (Sophie Hough-Martin)

Sophie Hough-Martin moves to table

f) Strategic Planning Ad Hoc Committee

Sophie Hough-Martin moves to table

Margot motions to go into closed session Seconded by Sophie

h) Grievance-Related Expenses (Closed)

(John Hutton)

Camille motions to go into open session

Seconded by Rowan

Rowan motions to table

Jane Lefebvre-Provost: motions that audio recordings of council be done

Seconded by Eduardo Malorni

Carries unanimously

Camille motions to adjourn

Seconded by Sami

Adjourned at 12:00 am