

Concordia Student Union – Council of Representatives

CSU General Council Meeting – Agenda Wednesday, April 10th, 2019

LOY RF-335, 18h30, S.G.W Campus

1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting is called to order at **18h57**

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-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-Martin* (General Coordinator), *Mikaela Clark-Gardner* (Academic & Advocacy Coordinator), *John Hutton* (Finance Coordinator), *Michele Sandiford* (Student Life Coordinator), *Camille Thompson-Marchand* (External & Mobilization Coordinator) and *Alexis Searcy* (Loyola Coordinator)

Executives absent from the meeting were: *Akira De Carlos* (Sustainability Coordinator)

Councillors present for the meeting were: *Christopher Kalafatidis* (Arts & Science), *Margot Berner* (Arts & Science), *Rowan Gaudet* (Arts & Science), *Sami Hanbali* (Arts & Science), *Jane Lefebvre Prevost* (Arts & Science), *Arad Andrew Banis* (JMSB), *Danielle Vandolder-Beaudin* (JMSB), *Eduardo Malorni* (ENCS), *Jad*

Faraj Abi Semaan (Arts & Science), Marlène Iradakunda (Arts & Science), Paige Keleher (Arts & Science), Victoria Pesce (JMSB), Jarrad Haas (FINE ARTS), Samantha Candido (Arts & Science)

Councillors absent for the meeting were: *Hilal Ghanem (Arts & Science), Rory Blaisdell (JMSB) , Sophie Beauchamp Lizotte (Arts & Science), Eliza McFarlane (FINE ARTS), , Patrick Quinn (Arts & Science), Patrick Lavoie (ENCS), Zoe Zeitouni (Arts & Science), Samuel Miriello (JMSB), Lee Alejandro Boswell (JMSB), James Hanna (ENCS) ,*

Marlene Iradakunda moves to excuse Zoe, Rory, Patrick, Sophie-Beauchamp, James, Sam

Seconded by **Sophie Hough-Martin**

Motion carries unanimously

3. Approval of the Agenda

Margot Berner motions to approve

Seconded by

4. Consent Agenda

- a) Approval of Previous Minutes (February 20th RCM, March 9th SCM, March 14th RCM)
- b) Reports from Committees
- c) Executive Reports
- d) Chairperson's Report
- e) Recovery Task Force Meeting Minutes

5. Presentations and Guest Speakers

- a) Greenhouse Project

Ethan: Greenhouse aims to provide all-year round greenspace, their vision is for greater sustainability at Concordia University. Greenhouse is in danger of closing if repairs are not made

Tess: They've hosted over 100 events this past year, with over 200 attendees. Their volunteers dedicate over 1,800 hours a year to take care of plants. There are over 1,500 people that volunteer in the space every year.

Sarah: Having added support will ensure the viability of the greenhouse and allow it to expand its research and protect the plants. Currently it is not functionable year-round.

Margot Berner: How much is the estimated cost?

Guest Speaker: Around \$2,200,000

Margot Berner: Are you asking for this full amount?

Guest Speaker: Yes.

Jad: Do you have a design?

Guest Speaker: We are not building something totally new, but instead improving and repairing.

Jane Lefebvre-Prevost: So I am a bit confused, I've heard the word funds being thrown around so have you guys applied to the CSU

Guest Speaker: Yes, we are in the process

Rowan Gaudet: So CSU can only approve a max of \$200,000 above that must go to referendum in the fall. Have you talked to the University?

Guest Speaker: Yes, the University has not committed to be giving us this amount as we are not a priority. It also is more difficult since we are not tied to a department

Danielle: Are we voting on anything?

Chair: No

Camille: Recently, you guys increased your fee-levy was that not enough?

Guest Speaker: That was for our operational costs, currently we need money for much-needed infrastructure improvements. We are looking at expenses for an entire overhaul of the space in order to keep it viable.

Sophie Hough-Martin: Who at the University have you been talking to about for this?

Guest Speaker: David Cruz, the manager of the hall building

Sophie Hough-Martin: My concern is that the University likes to put the responsibility on student services for massive renovations when it is their responsibility. I think we should pool our resources and speak to the right people at the University.

Guest Speaker: The problem is that it's infrastructurally built by the University but it has been run for many years by students/student groups which is why we are not a priority for the University.

Sophie Hough-Martin: I totally understand that, but the CSU does not have the authority to get a CSU grant of that amount

Guest Speaker: So we were here because we believed it could come from the SSAELC Fund

Sophie Hough-Martin: Yes, it still would have to go to referendum. What I am offering for right now is being able to make it a priority for the University, I don't think getting \$2million from student money may be the right approach

Jad: How much of the space will be solely for students? Have you thought about bypassing the University and going directly to the government?

Guest Speaker: We do apply to various grants every year. However, you guys are at the top of our funding list.

Jad: I believe it is much easier to apply to the government, especially since the greenhouse is the only one in downtown montreal. The library was completely funded by the government.

John Hutton: I would invite you all to meet with me and other executives to strategize. I admire you are asking big, but also that is a big ask. The largest amount the CSU has given was 1.8 million for the Woodnote Housing Co-Op and that is an entire building the Union owns. The Greenhouse is likely not going to be completely funded by the CSU. I encourage a contract for you guys to have with the administration acknowledging who's control the space is under.

Arad Andrew Banis: Do you guys have any documentation to show how many lives are impacted by the Greenhouse, that would be great to see

Guest Speaker: On social media we reach thousands of people

Arad Andrew Banis: Also in the near future you guys will likely need a renovation?

Guest Speaker: Everything we are asking for is basic necessities solely to keep us viable and very safe.

Marlene Iradakunda: Could you guys make a list of the most urgent necessities in order to make it absorbable and maybe accomplished faster by the CSU and the university.

Guest Speaker: Yes for sure

Jane Lefebvre-Prevost: I would be cautious for approach the SSAELC fund as it is truly meant for CSU spaces. I have my ear to the ground when it comes to fee-levy community so why is this only coming now?

Guest Speaker: We have been dealing with the University and it seems that having an indication that the students want this is necessary for the CSU

Jane Lefebvre-Prevost: Why have there not be any other attempts to apply for funding from other sources?

Guest Speaker: The urgency has only occurred within the past year due to the aging of the structure. To my knowledge, private grants are difficult to get for infrastructure on a public university space.

Jad: You definitely will want to talk to anyone in the library? And also do you guys pay rent, and you guys have a charity number since you are a register non-profit?

Guest Speaker: Our finance coordinator will know that information.

Jad: I suggest you all reach out to Ministry of Environment or Tourism etcc... the U.N and government are great resources for funding.

6. Appointments

a) Strategic Planning Ad Hoc Committee

Sophie Hough-Martin: The idea is that this committee will draft information for the next mandate

Arad Andrew Banis self nominates

Seconded by **Margot Berner**

Jane Lefebvre-Prevost self nominates

Jarrad Haas self nominates

Seconded by **Arad Andrew Banis**

Victoria Pesce self nominates

Samantha Candido self nominates

Chris Kalafitidis nominates **Danielle Beaudin**

Danielle Beaudin consents

Sophie Hough-Martin: The idea is we will give a vision for the incoming council to adopt or amend how they see fit. It is not enforceable just general ideas.

Andrew Andrew Banis: I would like to have a bigger impact since I am not on any committee right now

Jane Lefebvre-Prevost: I do not have anymore committee duties and I like the idea of having guidelines for future executives

Jarrad rescinds his nomination

Samantha Candido: Based on my work in policy committee, I think it is nice to form a plan and framework. I would accept this seat with an open mind and be open to criticism.

Daniell Beaudin: I have only been here for 2 or 3 months and I think this gives me a unique perspective. I think based on

Arad Andrew Banis and **Samantha Candido** are appointed by secret ballot

John Hutton: David Ferrario resigned from Clubs & Space committee so a space is open. There are only a few meetings left for the semester.

Jane Lefebvre-Prevost self appoints

Seconded by Samantha Candido

Jad self appoints

Seconded by Arad Andrew Banis

Jarrad Haas self appoints

Jarrad rescinds

Jane Lefebvre-Prevost: I need to fill my committee time commitment for the CSU

Jad: This is a committee that means alot to me, I would like to put clubs that have similar interests together to provide spaces

Chair: Is everyone amenable to closing their eyes and raising their hands to vote?

Chris Kalafitidis: I am uncomfortable with this

Jane Lefebvre-Prevost is appointed by secret ballot

7. New Business – Substantive

a) Recovery and Wellness Community Centre

Motion & supporting documents attached (Michele Sandiford)

Whereas research shows that significant barriers and challenges are faced by people with addictions in accessing adequate treatment, education, healthcare, housing, freedom from discrimination, and community support.

Whereas research shows that peer relationships are important in the recovery process.

Whereas the opioid crisis is currently claiming more lives in Canada than the peak of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Canada.

Whereas the CSU Task Force for Students in Recovery has reviewed and approved the implementation of the peer-based recovery service outlined in the attached service overview.

Whereas the CSU Recovery and Wellness Community Centre (R.A.W.C.C.) Service Overview details an efficient model which can affordably be implemented at a cost of \$27,500.00 per year.

Whereas staff at Andy's House Treatment Centre have reviewed the service overview and have submitted a letter of commitment to express their support and the Student Life Coordinator has been in contact with a similar program at U.B.C. (V.I.C.E.).

Whereas the CSU adopted a position in March 2019 to support the implementation of "specialized, comprehensive, and peer-based models of support for addictions recovery" on campus.

Be it further resolved that the CSU implement the Recovery and Wellness Community Centre (R.A.W.C.C.) to be operational in September 2019 based on the attached service overview, and that a budget line consisting of \$27,500.00 be created in the 2019-2020 budget in order to run this service.

Seconded by **Margot Berner**

Michelle Sandiford: I have been working on this for the past year. The budget line is based on the V.I.C.E service at UBC which is similar

Marlene Iradakunda: I think this is an amazing project. Will there be a health professional that is there all day?

Michelle Sandiford: So we are currently not looking at having a psychologist or counselor. We are mainly focused on having a peer-based approach. Especially since this is low-cost and in a small space.

Arad Andrew Banis: Awesome project. I just want to know more about how this was so inexpensive

Michelle Sandiford: The reason is because this is based on peer support. The most expensive part is the coordinators salary, and they would be part-time. Most workshops would be for free or by honorarium. This will not be a treatment center but a way to build community.

Arad Andrew Banis: What would be some follow up expansion plans?

Michele Sandiford: So a few ideas would be pushing the University for scholarships for students in recovery, having drop-in counselors, and educational events for the wider community. I believe the biggest cost may be finding a bigger space.

Jane Lefebvre-Prevost: For support spaces that are particularly for certain marginalized groups, the work may be put a lot on group leaders that would have to provide free labour.

Michele Sandiford: Paying for labour is something that can definitely be looked into but the main goal is to build community

Samantha Candido: Will you want to have spaces on both campuses?

Michele Sandiford: That would be ideal but space is so limited at the University

Jane Lefebvre-Prevost: Peer support management is a lot and I think peer support leaders should be paid. I would like to amend the motion to add 1,000 budget for peer support honorarium.

Seconded by Samantha Candido

Jane Lefebvre-Prevost: I think it is very important that these marginalized individuals leading the groups are paid for their labour.

Michele Sandiford: I move to amend the peer support honorarium to 1,500.

Seconded by

Paige Keleher: Is the space accessible?

Michele Sandiford: No, unfortunately the only discreet space was not.

Arad Andrew Banis: Is there any logic behind the amount of the amendment?

Michele Sandiford: It is based on the amount we have interested at the moment.

Jane Lefebvre-Prevost: I suggest you reach out to the fee-levy community, I know centre for gender advocacy has a space which is more accessible

Paige Keleher: How do you plan to make up for the inaccessibility?

Michele Sandiford: The space is meant to be temporary

Amendment carries unanimously

John Hutton: When we ran as an executive, our main plan was to create a peer support program. This is something students voted for and expected to see. I would also like to congratulate Michelle on the work that she has done. This is not something you often see at a student union and I think this is a great opportunity. Even if all of the things aren't in the proposal, that is not a reason to not support it.

Vote

For: 13

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion carries unanimously

b) CUTV Pay (Closed session)

Rowan Gaudet: I think this should be dealt with by finance committee

John Hutton: Governance by ambush is not how we do things at council, therefore, I do not know what is going on at this point. I have had talks with CUTV and Luis so to me this is a finished issue. I also would like the chair to not place information issues in new business substantial.

Jane Lefebvre-Prevost: motions to table

Motion carries unanimously

c) Rescinding Safer Spaces Policy

Mikaela Clark-Gardner:

Whereas the Sexual Violence and Safer Spaces Policy makes the Safer Spaces policy in the CSU Standing Regulations (Book V - Space and Services Chapter 2 and Annex C) redundant.

Be it resolved that the Safer Spaces policy be removed from the CSU Standing Regulations.

Seconded by **Margot Berner**

Vote

For: 11

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion carries unanimously

d) Bill 21

Whereas the CSU represents the rights, interests, aspirations and needs of more than 30,000 students of Concordia University who come from different racial, ethnocultural and religious backgrounds, many who identify as Hindu, Jewish, Muslim and Sikh women and men,

Whereas the CSU supports and adheres to fundamental rights and freedoms enshrined in international human rights instruments such as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, as well as domestic human rights instruments such as the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and the Quebec Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms.

Whereas the CSU supports high quality, universally accessible postsecondary education as a fundamental human right for all,

Whereas the CSU values and promotes the values and principles of equality, diversity, inclusion and an intersectional feminist and anti-oppression approach towards all its endeavors and actions,

Whereas the CSU is opposed to any law, regulation, policy, and action, public or

Mikaela Clark-Gardner: Motion to amend and remove the word unprecedented
Seconded by **Camille Thompson-Marchand**

Mikaela Clark-Gardner: This will go into the CSU positions book, and I think we should try to support the muslim students

Camille Thompson-Marchand: We are organizing a press conference to further raise awareness

Vote

For: 13

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

e) Annual General Meeting

As per Bylaw 5.2, The Annual General Meeting of members shall be called by the Council of Representatives to take place during the last week of April and by the latest on April 30th annually. (Mikaela Clark-Gardner)

Mikaela Clark-Gardner: motions to call AGM on April 29th, 2019 from 2-4pm.

Seconded by **Arad Andrew Banis**

Eduardo Malorni: That is an exam day would it be possible to move it

Mikaela Clark-Gardner: It has to be before the 30th and this is on the end of exams

Camille: If students are already on campus there is a higher chance they will come

Eduardo Malorni: can we change the time so it is more accessible to students with exams

Camille: I think 4-6 would be the best

Mikaela Clark-Gardner: motions to amend the time to 4-6pm

Motion carries unanimously

Vote

For: 13

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Arad Andrew Banis: Why does it have to be before april 30th?

Sophie Hough-Martin: This is before the end of mandate, the fiscal year begins after April 1st, and when this was written the exams were likely over around this time.

F) Finance Report

John Hutton: motions to approve finance coordinator report

Seconded by **Margot Berner**

John Hutton: We are making new positions as an executive has resigned so that has taken a lot of my time. We have been doing a lot of hiring for the numerous positions we have added. The student health plan got an 84% approval which shows this is viable. I also showed the CEO the elections budget. I have also been attending climate marches and was with the journalism/scpa students for the internships strike.

Samantha Candido: Am I allowed to ask how many applications you have got?

John Hutton: I can not say how many, but it is more than expected.

Motion carries unanimously

G) Finance Committee Minutes

John Hutton: We approved the amount of how much the salaries are. If anyone has thoughts about the CSU financial regulations please reach out to me.

Samantha Candido: Were financial changes made for the free hive loyola lunch

John Hutton: No, how it works is that we are mandated to give a certain amount every semester.

Jad: Just want to know about the WoodNote project

Sophie Hough-Martin: The CSU's contribution has not changed actually our partners have increased their contributions. This is an amazing project that will provide affordable housing for undergraduate students.

Jad: How long is the loan period? From what I remember, the HOJO manager said the CSU was giving a loan that would be paid back after a certain amount of years.

John Hutton: There are a number of loans to the Woodnote structure, but it is owned by the Woodnote Housing Co-operative but the CSU is part of the governance.

Jane Lefebvre-Prevost: I see in your report you did a lecture at a geography class about the SSAELC, just want to hear about that.

John Hutton: As I have a lot of experience with divesting from Dalhousie, I talked about these concepts.

Rowan Gaudet calls the question

Vote

For: 13

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

8. New Business – Informational

a) Code of Conduct

Sophie Hough-Martin: This sets out the expected behavior for all representatives which will be signed when a person nominates themselves for an office. If they are found to break this they will be considered automatically resigned.

b) Sexual Violence Policy

Mikaela Clark-Gardner: This has been a year in the making and is a comprehensive policy based on extensive research

c) CEO Conduct

Discussion of the CEO's conduct during the General Election (James Hanna)

Sophie Hough-Martin: motions to table unanimously
Seconded by

9. Returning Business

10. Question Period & Business Arising

Jad: I have a question, I have been seeing a lot of complaints about one specific doctor and I wanted to know what we do about this.

Sophie Hough-Martin: Yes, I shared the questionnaire. I am one of many students to have had a negative experience with Dr. Janet Ritchie. I think the best we can do is uplift students that have been affected and point them to the right resources.

Marlene Iradakunda: I noticed when the french errors in the Bill 21 letter were mentioned there was a lot of eyes rolled. I just want to highlight the importance of making sense in front of a government that emphasizes the importance of french. So the fact that the french document came to council like this should not be done.

Jane Lefebvre-Prevost: It is important to acknowledge we have french students and we must show respect towards all students regardless of their first language.

11. Announcements

Jad: I work with a non-profit outside of community and we are looking for francophone LGBTQIA+ in montreal for a documentary in June. There is a \$500 honorarium. So if you know anyone send them my way.

Camille Thompson-Marchand: There is a protest on Friday in front of the GM building against Sexual Violence Policy and there is also another protest against international tuition fees.

Michelle Sandiford: This friday is also Terrace Fest at 2pm

Paige Keleher: There is also a CASE event

Jane Lefebvre-Prevost: ASFA has various bursaries available to arts & science students

Chair: I need you to understand that you are all students but also sit on a board of directors so we are all subject to Quebec workplace law.

12. Adjournment

Mikaela Clark-Gardner motions to adjourn
Seconded by **Camille Thompson-Marchand**

Adjourned at 9h42