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# Concordia Student Union

## Mid-Mandate Report

Prepared by the 2019-2020 Executive

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# End of Year Report

## About the Organization

*Written by Chris Kalafatidis, General Coordinator*

The Concordia Student Union (CSU) is an accredited student association that represents all 35 000 undergraduate students of Concordia University. Our organization is governed by an eight-member Executive Team, a thirty-member Council of Representatives, and a twelve-member Judicial Board.

The CSU's objective is to improve the student experience inside and outside of the classroom through representation, support, and services.

### **Representation:**

The CSU is tasked with appointing voting representatives to represent all undergraduate students at the Board of Governors and Senate. These two institutions are the final approval bodies for all decisions made by our university.

### **Support:**

The CSU supports student life by coordinating over 100 student clubs and sponsoring projects by students from all four faculties and independent students.

### **Services:**

The CSU offers several services, including: The Advocacy Centre, the Off-Campus Housing & Job Bank (HOJO), the Legal Information Clinic, and our Health & Dental plan for non-international students

# Introduction to the Executive Team (Chris)

*Written by Chris Kalafatidis, General Coordinator*



Our names are Christopher Kalafatidis (General Coordinator), Patrick Quinn (Academic & Advocacy Coordinator), Marin Algattus (Internal Affairs Coordinator), Eduardo Malorni (Student Life Coordinator) and Isaiah Joyner (External & Mobilization Coordinator). We ran as the team Cut the Crap. Joining us and now an integral part of the team is Désirée Blizzard as Finance Coordinator. Now we work together as your Concordia Student Union Executives.

The Cut the Crap platform put clean bathrooms at the top of its priorities. In conversations with our team, Concordia University President Graham Carr has divided the bathrooms issue into two: future plans and maintenance. In terms of future plans, President Carr and the administration have put well-built, clean, and gender-neutral bathrooms as a priority. This is reflected in Loyola AD renovations, Learning Square bathrooms, and more. In addition, Hall Building bathrooms are planned to be destroyed and remodeled floor-by-floor. In terms of maintenance, I was invited to participate in the process of putting out a request for proposal for a new cleaner's contract. Under my administration, the University has spent almost one million dollars more on bathroom upgrades and cleaning. It has also planned bathroom investments of \$6.9 million.

Our platform contained some items that required student participation to make possible: online opt out for fee-levy groups, faculty equality, and fall reading week.

Online opt out for fee-levy groups is permitting students to opt out online from their bi-annual automatic payments (in their tuition) to student fee-levy groups. The current system is in person and can be burdensome for students, especially for those with reduced mobility or who are not in the country. Online opt out was supported with a strong majority of 2905 yes votes (61.1%). The administration is prepared to implement the online opt out system by September 2020 using the specifications in the CSU Online Opt Out Consultation Report compiled by the CSU Fee-Levy Consultation Committee.

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Faculty Equality was a proposal to change the distribution of seats on the CSU Council. The current composition is 13 Arts & Science, 7 JMSB, 5 Gina Cody School, 3 Fine Arts, and 2 Independent Students. Faculty Equality would change the composition to 3 Arts, 3 Science (dividing Arts & Science for the first time), 3 JMSB, 3 Gina Cody, 3 Fine Arts, and 1 independent student. Faculty Equality was approved with a strong majority of 2927 students voting yes (70.1%) in the Fall 2019 By-Elections. The official Bylaw and Letter's Patent amendments were proposed to the student body in the Winter 2020 General Elections. The amendment failed with 62.5%, only 3.5% short of the 66% required to amend the Letter's Patent.

Isaiah Joyner has sat on the Fall Reading Week committee. With the help of Isaiah, the committee decided that they can retain the same number of class hours via two ways: changing the Fall semester from thirteen weeks to twelve weeks or beginning the term in August (no earlier than August 28). Following this conclusion, Patrick Quinn submitted a question to referendum asking students if they support a fall reading if it meant one of these two conditions. Students overwhelmingly voted yes (4161 voting yes, 86.6%), informing the administration that students are willing to accept a fall reading on these conditions. The administration was very concerned that students did not want these changes.

Election Reform, as well as finishing the incomplete rewrites of all standing regulations (the Governance Review project), are being spearheaded by Patrick. Patrick and I have wrote the new Elections Policy and are awaiting Policy Committee for approval. These will ensure that future elections are more organized with fixed election dates, more support for the Chief Electoral Officer, and clearer penalties for violations. We believe this will end the CSU's reputation of disqualifying candidates left and right.

We are nowhere near having the following of Spotted: Concordia as referenced in our platform. But our social media is far more active. Eduardo and I reformed the Communications Department, changing it from one full-time employee to three part-time employees. The result is a far more effective team that has brought our social media to life under the direction of Eduardo. Melvin has been an incredible Social Media Coordinator, constantly posting stories and posts on our pages. Ugarit has done a terrific job at specifically working for our three services. And Johnny has begun a massive revamp of our website and newsletter. Our designers have also been hard at work at our rebrand. They have created a new logo and spent countless hours replacing all instances of the old logo with the new logo. It is unreal to see the new CSU logo, which began as a sketch created by the team at our retreat, all over the campus.

Melize and I have spoken to the administration about Loyola issues. Notably, we have been making a push for more microwaves and shuttle bus WiFi. The microwaves has been a preliminary success, as I have first-hand witnessed the installation of more microwaves in the lower levels of the SP building and the G-Lounge. The administration held a public consultation for the shuttle bus that we attended. Finally, we have begun talks as to how we can revitalize the space below the SC building. Melize brought life to Loyola campus herself by planning a multitude of talks with several collaborators including the "Real Science of Time Travel by Dr. Ronald Mallet."

On top of campaign promises, we have begun other projects.

Our first major project was the agenda, a collaboration between multiple executives. The executives chose a minimalist look as opposed to the very crowded looks of past years. The agenda is recyclable to fit the theme of the annual campaign, sustainability. In addition, we ensured that the Welcome-Week was planned to be as close to zero-waste as possible and included free sustainability merchandise (such as reusable mugs). Eduardo commissioned the designers to create a notebook in the style of the agenda for the Winter semester to give away at Winter Welcome Week.

Patrick and I have been hard at work at Senate. Our crowning achievement was changing the student eligibility requirements. To the surprise of the Concordia President Graham Carr, we were able to convince enough faculty to vote with us in the Senate in order to pass new eligibility requirements for Senate that allow students with poor grades and independent students to serve. These changes were finally approved at the Board of Governors. In addition, we were fortunate enough to first-hand be a part of the divestment victory. After years of pressure from student groups, the Concordia University Foundation decided to divest all investments over the next few years. This was truly a victory shared by all students.

Our clubs are doing better than ever. Marin has worked hard to get us out of a \$108 000 deficit, notably by increasing the clubs fee-levy. She has also worked alongside Councillors and the Policy Committee to rewrite the Clubs Policy. She also worked to increase the overworked and overwhelmed Clubs Department from one employee to two employees and to responsibly secure the funding to do so. On top of that, she performed the incredible task of managing 120 clubs with her one employee, Noah.

Robert, the General Manager, Marin, and I have been speaking to the university concerning a CSU student building or service centre. We have made significant progress and I look forward to handing the torch on to Isaiah. Our Executive Team hopes to sign an official memorandum with the University before the end of our term on June 1st.

Finally, Patrick and Desiree have assisted me with the International Student Health Plan project. Along with the CSU's partners at StudentCare, we have worked on putting together an international student health plan that is less expensive, provides the same coverage, and includes better access to health care. We have brought the plan to the administration and even successfully invited members of the administration to a large-scale meeting at StudentCare.

Those are just some of the accomplishments of our team. Read more to learn about all the specifics. We have been working day and night in hopes that we can make Concordia a better university. Hopefully, our efforts are noticed.

Sincerely,  
Chris Kalafatidis  
Your General Coordinator



# Ad-Hoc Committees

## State of the Bathrooms

*Written by Chris Kalafatidis, General Coordinator & Patrick Quinn, Academic & Advocacy Coordinator*

The highlight campaign promise of Cut the Crap was to clean the bathrooms. We set up various meetings with President Graham Carr and VP Services Roger Cote to communicate to the administration that the bathrooms at Concordia University are not acceptable. Cote explained to us that bathrooms are a challenge because we are an educational institution and it can be hard to justify increases in maintenance at the expense of education. Regardless, Cote reassured us that our campaign had been loud and clear and bathrooms would be a priority for Concordia University moving forward.

During our mandate, the SGW bathrooms were upgraded. The university invested \$653 000 in improvements. This included the H7 Student Success Center, the LS Square bathrooms, and the bathroom security card reader project. Adjustments were made to custodial commitments so that an additional cleaning value of \$200 000 was allocated to bathrooms. Overall, the university spent \$853 000 more on bathroom upgrades.

This year, the University started a feasibility study for H, LB, and EV ground floors. Future plans have been made for these bathrooms, as well as H4, H6, and H9. These investments are expected to cost \$6.9 million.

## Online Opt Out Consultation Committee (Chris)

*Written by Chris Kalafatidis, General Coordinator & Isaiah Joyner, External Affairs & Mobilization Coordinator*

The CSU held a referendum on the long contentious issue of an online opt out system for fee-levy groups on campus in November 2019. The following question was asked:

*You, as a student, pay into fee levy organizations every semester. A fee levy organization is a student-led organization or initiative at Concordia University. They receive all or part of their operating budgets from your student fees.*

*Students have a right to opt-out in-person to get their money back. Other Universities allow you to do this online.*

*The new system would allow you to opt out of each organization individually. Before opting out, students will be informed about what the organization does. The system will be created in consultation with all fee-levy organizations.*

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## **Do you support Concordia University bringing the opt out process online for student fee levy organizations?**

The results were affirmative, with 61.1% voting yes and a total turnout of 5167. This strong message from the members has obligated the CSU to contact the Concordia University administration to request they create an online opt out system.

In order to comply with the referendum question's preamble which promises a consultation with fee-levy groups and in order to ensure that the system is implemented in a fair and responsible manner, the CSU Fee-Levy Consultation Committee was formed on January 8, 2020 by resolution of the CSU Council. The mandate was to contact all fee-levy groups regarding online opt out and compile a report based on our conversations.

The committee comprises of:

- Christopher Kalafatidis, General Coordinator
- Isaiah Joyner, External & Mobilization Coordinator
- Syed Salman Fahim, Councillor (Gina Cody)
- Peter Zhang, Councillor (Fine Arts)
- Howard Issley, Councillor (JMSB)
- Leigh Kusaj, Councillor (Arts & Science)
- Hershey Blackman, Member-at-large

The report, entitled the "CSU Online Opt Out Consultation Report," was completed on May 5th. It includes the input of all fee-levy groups that responded to the committee's emails (a total of 14 groups). The following are the conclusions drawn by the committee:

1. The online opt out system is in the MyConcordia portal. Specifically, the financial/account section of the Student Center;
2. Each fee-levy group will have its own link where the user will have to click on each group in order to be given a description of the group. It will include an external link to learn even more about the group;
3. Once the User has read about the group, they are taken back to the financial center page and a user agreement checkbox would appear for that group. The User can check that box after reading the legal agreement. The legal agreement will explain that the student is opting out of the fee-levy group and will therefore lose access to their services. This process will exist for every group in order to give them a fair chance to showcase what they do and provide to the Concordia community.
4. The system will be available before the drop deadline so Fee-Levy Groups can be provided:
  - a. A list of all individuals who have opted out;
  - b. A list of the financial amount in dollars per semester resulting in opt-outs;
5. Opt out period should be a maximum of five days long.

6. No advertisement from Concordia and the CSU. Concordia University must not advertise the process through emails or social media. An explanation through the “How fees are billed” page on the Concordia website is acceptable.

## Representation on University Bodies

### Senate

*Written by Patrick Quinn, Academic & Advocacy Coordinator*

The Concordia Student Union appoints twelve (12) undergraduates to sit on the Concordia University Senate. This is the final place where all program changes, curriculum changes, degree creations, and more end up for approval. In short, it is the highest decision-making body for academic governance.

Four major points have come to Senate since September. First, Senate considered changing eligibility requirements for undergraduate Senators to sit on it at the September meeting (September 13). This was in continuation from last year, where the last year’s undergraduate senators pushed for an ad-hoc committee to consider changing the requirements. The new framework allows for independent students to finally have the opportunity to sit on it. Also, students in failed or conditional standing will also have the chance to sit on Senate if they successfully pass our rigorous interview process.

Secondly, the divestment from fossil fuels for the University’s endowment fund was first publicly announced at Senate on November 8 2019. Initially, student senators moved a motion at the Senate’s Steering Committee to encourage the University to divest. Fortunately, this motion never had to be presented because the university was going to divest anyways. The CSU is always committed to encourage the University to be a leader in the fight against climate change.

Next, a new bachelor’s degree was approved by Senate on December 13, 2019. This bachelor’s degree is called the Bachelor by accumulation. It is inspired and taken from the French universities in Quebec. In this new framework, students will be able to complete 3-4 certificates of 30 credits each to complete it. The Academic Caucus had several concerns with it:

- There was little effort to address the concern about a severe strain on the university’s advising resources
- The Caucus felt that this didn’t adequately address current needs in the job market
- The Caucus also felt that this proposal was an effort to compete with other CEGEPs and the Centre for Continuing Education

We will continue to work with the administration so students have the proper resources to successfully complete their degree.

Finally, due to the COVID 19 pandemic, the University implemented online proctoring. Several student Senators fought to ensure online proctoring did not happen. Moreover, in April, Student Senators fought to create a working group to oversee the work on online proctoring.

As well, here are a few other notable things:

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- Concordia is opening a new hub called “reussir en francais” in the department of Etudes francaises. This will give students an opportunity to improve or learn french
- Concordia is opening the SHIFT Centre for Social Transformation.

## Board of Governors

*Written by Chris Kalafatidis, General Coordinator*

The Board of Governors is the final approval body for the University. Unlike the Senate, not many people enter a Board of Governor’s meeting undecided. Everyone usually knows where they stand walking in. There have been very few contentious debates. If there are any issues, the topic will be immediately sent back to committee in order to be sorted out. For example, the very contentious eligibility requirements were debated hotly in Senate. In the Board of Governors, it was approved in seconds. Almost every issue that I could ever bring to the Board of Governors, such as the bathrooms, are things that members will not discuss because they believe it can be sorted out behind closed doors with the President, Provost, or VP Services.

For that reason, I have spent a considerable amount of time building relationships with the administration and meeting with them regularly as it is the most efficient way to get things done.

I sat on two committees of the Board of Governors: The Real Estate & Planning Committee and the Executive Committee. The Real Estate & Planning Committee is responsible for approving the purchase and renovations of facilities. The Executive Committee meets before every Board of Governors meeting to approve the agenda.

## Fall Reading Week Committee (Isaiah)

*Written by Isaiah Joyner, External Affairs & Mobilization Coordinator*

Since the beginning the mandate, I have been sitting on the fall reading week committee as a JMSB and CSU representative. While at these meetings I have taken part in the discussion on how Concordia could achieve the goal of having a Fall reading week. Many scenarios were discussed but the most likely approach will either be going to a 12-week semester or starting the semester earlier (no earlier than August 28th). Currently, the committee is waiting for the administration to finish their research into the implications to a 12-week term, and then another meeting will be called. On September 11th, the Academic and Advocacy Coordinator, General Coordinator, and myself met with the current interim Provost to discuss a way to get students’ buy in with a referendum question they would present both options to students to see if they support the concept.

The referendum question, headed by our Academic and Advocacy Coordinator, showed that students overwhelmingly support the implementation of a Fall Reading Week. Over 85% of votes cast in the 2019 by-elections voted in favour of the fall reading week. The administration has agreed to honour the results of this referendum question and are aiming to implement a Fall Reading Week for Fall 2021.

Currently, the committee has met last on October 17th to review the findings of the research on going to 12-week term. The results were mostly positive, but the major concerns are from the engineering department on whether they will be able to participate in the reading week in the same capacity as the rest of the faculties. The next steps look like this AD HOC committee will have to meet with the Time and Space committee because the two projects are deeply intertwined. With the referendum question passed in the By-election, students have continued to show their support for this moment I will continue to work with the committee to make sure that this is implemented properly.

The committee then met to go over the draft of the consultation to student, faculty, and staff about the impacts of a fall reading week. The next meeting for the committee was on Friday May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020. With the affects of COVID-19 we discussed the impacts on the project and how we should proceed with the consultation. Although things are uncertain with the university layout but we intend to keep the original timeline. With me being re-elected for next year I can keep on working on this project to hopefully bring it through for students.

## Concordia Council on Student Life (CCSL)

*Written by Eduardo Malorni, Student Life Coordinator*

The Concordia Council on Student Life, chaired by the Dean of Students, Andrew Woodall is both a granting body and working group on student life on campus. The Council is 50% students and 50% faculty and staff. This makes it an interesting scenario as it is not common for University Committees at this level to have an equal number of faculty/staff and students.

As a granting body, CCSL has a total budget of 135,000\$ for this year. In the Fall semester we gave away approximately 80,000\$ leaving approximately 50,000\$ for the upcoming semester. Of this approximately 50,000\$ (asks under 5,000) went to small projects while 30,000\$ went to large projects (ask over 5,000\$). This year, CCSL received more requests than ever before with over double the total budget of CCSL being asked in the Fall semester alone. While all the initiatives being started are campus are admirable, it made some question if the budget dedicated with CCSL every year can keep up with all the excellent projects students are doing on campus. Overall, just over 80 projects were funded in the Fall semester. In the Winter Semester, the rest of the remaining fund was given out to just over 70 groups. This is naturally a complicated time for students since events are being canceled and funding is going unused. How to reallocate this funding and/or carry over this funding to next year is still being discussed.

CCSL also judged the Outstanding Contribution for Student Life Award. It is incredible to see so many great people at Concordia and truly reminds us of the big differences one solitary person can do. Overall, 7 members of the Concordia Community were chosen and honored for the work they have done throughout the year.

As a working group, CCSL often discusses initiatives the administration can take to improve student life on campus. Some of the groups that presenting included the Student Success Center, The Center for Gender Advocacy, The University's Loyola Renovation Project, as well as several others. Whoever sits on this committee has an important role since it is one of the few places in Concordia where you can engage with multiple different areas of the University at once.

## Library Services Fund Committee (LSF)

*Written by Eduardo Malorni, Student Life Coordinator and Melize Ferrus, Loyola Coordinator*

This year was an important year for the Library Service Fund since the 10-year agreement had to be renegotiated and renewed. As there were no minutes taken for previous LSF meetings, the students come at a huge disadvantage when entering this committee as there is little to no institutional knowledge being conserved between years. Upon entering, messages were sent to last year's members in hopes of gaining as much knowledge as possible prior to the renegotiating. While the renegotiating was occurring, lawyers, accountants and members of the librarian support staff were consulted to get a proper understanding of the LSF. Much of the initial reports came with wording that was ambiguous. Upon consultation with all of involved parties, recommendations were made to the libraries to give clearer wording. With this knowledge, we were able to properly renegotiate the agreement and continue the 1\$ per credit student contribution to the Library to have services such as 24-hour access, laptop rentals, and course reserve room among many others.

With the renegotiation complete, several projects were planned to help improve the library. A survey was developed and handed out to students at both the Vanier and Webster Libraries. To entice students to complete the survey, a giveaway of a CSU Notebook was given to all who took the time to complete the survey. It was a resounding success as we got over 300 submissions in a little over 2 hours of work and tons of students were constantly in line to both complete the survey and get a notebook. In a sense it may have been too successful as the constant rush made it impossible to develop a good conversation with the students and really engage with them. Overall, though, we completely the largest feedback survey for the library in years and it was an excellent marketing opportunity for the CSU to get their name out and to inform the students of an excellent service we support. The results of the survey are being compiled and will be presented to the library once possible due to Covid-19.

Several projects were being discussed for the library this semester as well. These projects were varied in nature including everything between chair massages, to projectors, to open educational textbooks, to a method to monitor room vacancies. While most of the projects we discussed are ongoing, albeit at a slower pace due to Covid-19, some have been outright canceled. The biggest project, especially going into next year will be the renovation of the Vanier Library which is due to commence being planned. This is a major project and next year and a wonderful challenge for next year's committee members to tackle!

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## Sustainability Action Fund (SAF)

*Written by Marin Algattus, Internal Coordinator.*

I am on the special projects committee and we have approved very similar events to those in the past. We approve projects under \$1500 and give recommendations to approve or deny projects over \$1500. Many of them are recurring projects. It seems most projects are part of the community that SAF is a part of. There seems to be heavy biases between the staff and a lot of influence on spending. Board members are selected because of their positions in other organizations. One board member was added abruptly in December. SAF was able to continue working remotely throughout the Covid19 shutdown.

## Loyola Working Group

*Written by Melize Ferrus, Loyola Coordinator*

With Graham Carr's ascension to President, more focus has been put to Loyola needs and integration into the larger Concordia community. Lisa Ostiguy, as the Chair and Special Advisor to the Provost on Campus Life, led the discussion issues affecting Loyola. The meetings would be every other Monday and Wednesday to form about 6 hours of meetings biweekly to cover food, transportation, communication, facilities and building community. As the meetings were poorly advertised to the student community, I was frequently main representative of student needs. The meetings notes were transcribed and passed to President's office, with a follow up meeting on January 20<sup>th</sup>. Hopefully, the transgressions were taken to heart. Prior to the school closures, a focus group with over 70 attendees was ran and the priorities for the school in the next couple of years for Loyola has been identified to be Facilities and Services.

## Elections

### Successful By-Elections

*Written by Chris Kalafatidis, General Coordinator*

The overall trend for the CSU has been one that makes a lot of sense: low voter turnout in the November By-Elections and high voter turnout in the March General Elections. This year we saw the complete opposite: The By-Election had the highest turnout in at least a decade, while the General Election was quite low.

Ever since the implementation of online voting in the 2018-2019 By-Elections, the Concordia Student Union has seen a steady increase in voter turnout. Before, the 2017 general elections had a turnout of 1076 (3.07%) and the 2018 general elections had a turnout of 1424 (4.06%). Turnout in the 2018-2019 by-elections was 7.4% (2699). Turnout was 15.3% (4671) in the 2019 General Elections. Turnout was 16.6% (5167) in the 2019-2020 By-Elections. Since the 2017 general elections, the CSU has had a 380.21% increase in voter turnout. There has been a significant increase of turnout at our elections with online voting.

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2017 General Elections	2018 General Elections	2018-19 By-Elections	2019 General Elections	2019 By-Elections
3.07% (1076)	4.06% (1424)	7.4% (2699)	15.3% (4671)	16.6% (5167)

Unfortunately, this winning streak for the CSU was interrupted by COVID-19. The 2020 General Elections received a turnout of 5.6% (1731) ... our lowest voter turnout since the 2017 General Elections.

The 2019 By-Elections were contentious. The very few but precious Council seats were a battleground and there were seven referendum questions on the ballot. The most contentious was online opt out. The following were the referendum questions:

- YES - Do you agree with the Concordia Student Union endorsing a university-wide food waste reduction proposal and pursuing its implementation at Concordia University? Yes 4749 (97.1%) versus 140 (2.9%);
- YES - Do you agree with the Concordia Student Union endorsing a Fall Reading Week proposal and pursuing its implementation at Concordia University? Yes 4161 (86.6%) versus No 646 (13.4%);
- YES - Do you support giving all faculties equal representation on the Council of Representatives by changing the structure to three Arts seats, three Science seats, three Gina Cody seats, three JMSB seats, three Fine Arts seats, and one Independent Student seat? Yes 2927 (70.1%) versus No 1246 (29.9%);
- YES - Do you support Concordia University bringing the opt out process online for student fee levy organizations? Yes 2905 (61.1%) versus No 1849 (38.9%);
- YES - Do you agree to increase the existing \$0.30 fee-levy of the non-academic clubs by \$0.08 per credit to a total of \$0.38 per credit, effective Winter 2020? Yes 2153 (54.0%) versus No 1832 (46.0%);
- NO - Do you agree to recommend to the Concordia Council on Student life (CCSL) to increase the Concordia Recreation & Athletics Department's fee-levy to \$5.00 per credit (an increase of \$2.08 per credit from \$2.92 per credit) annually adjusted to the Consumer Price Index of Canada to be implemented with registration for the September 2020 (2020/2) term, in accordance with the University's tuition, refund and withdrawal policy? Agreeing to this question means you consent to increasing a mandatory institutional fee beyond the normally allowed rate as set out in the Règles Budgétaires of the Quebec Ministry of Education and Higher Education. No 2357 (55.3%) versus 1907 (44.7%);
- NO - The Sports Shooting Association has requested to become a CSU club. Do you approve of the club being officially recognized as a CSU club? No 2021 (55.6%) versus Yes 1613 (44.4%);

The following were the elected Councillors:

Name	Faculty
Mitchell Shecter	JMSB
Mathew Levitsky-Kaminski	JMSB
Howard Issley	JMSB
Lauren Perozek	JMSB
Jeremy Deneault	JMSB
Selena Mezher	GINA CODY
Sean Howard	GINA CODY
Tzvi Hersh Filler	GINA CODY
Peter Zhuang	FINE ARTS
Hershey Blackman	INDEPENDENT
Menachem Israily	INDEPENDENT

## Less Successful General Election

*Written by Chris Kalafatidis, General Coordinator*

The 2020 General Elections was unusual because it featured an uncontested Executive Slate called “We Got You,” led by outgoing External & Mobilization Coordinator Isaiah Joyner. There was light competition for the Council of Representatives, with less than 40 students running for 30 positions. There were five referendum questions.

The biggest issue for turnout was COVID-19, which had our CEO cancel the original polling dates. This required the Executive to sign an Executive Decree to select new election dates. Unfortunately, the only feasible time for the election was the week before the exam period. ASFA held their elections at the same time. This was confusing, as some of our members are unaware of the difference between ASFA and CSU.

In addition, the CSU was unable to use the highly successful login feature introduced by colleague Patrick Quinn due to technical issues. Instead of using the SimplyVoting link, students had to open their emails and click on a specific link. A lot of students could not find this email because it got lost in spam.



In addition, the lack of competition in the Executive race and the lack of any high-stakes referendum questions could have possibly contributed to the low voter turnout.

The following were the referendum questions and the results:

- YES – Do you, as a student, agree with the Concordia Student Union negotiating with the various stakeholders (such as the STM or Exo) with the understanding that a U-Pass program proposal will come back to referendum for a vote in the future? Yes 1418 (96.2%) versus No 56 (3.8%);
- YES - Do you agree to grant Concordia Students' Nightline \$0.05 per credit, annually adjusted to the Consumer Price Index of Canada, to be implemented with registration for the Summer 2020 (2020/2) term, to undergraduate students in all faculties, in accordance with the University's tuition, refund and withdrawal policy? Yes 913 (72.3%) versus No 349 (27.7%);
- YES - Do you support the Council of Representatives modifying the Positions Book so that all positions are ratified by referendum and, once ratified, expire after four (4) years? All positions that are in violation of this new process will no longer be included. The following are the positions that would be in violation of this new process and no longer included: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5.1, 1.5.2, 1.5.3, 1.6, 1.7, 2.1, 3.1, 4.1, 5.1.1, 5.1.2, 5.1.3, 5.1.4, 5.1.5, 5.1.6, 6.1.1, 6.1.2, 6.1.3, 6.1.4, 7.1.1, 7.1.2, 7.1.3, 7.1.4, 7.1.5, 7.1.6, 7.1.7, 7.1.8, 8.1, 8.2, 9.1, 9.2, 10.1.1, 10.1.2, 10.1.3, 10.1.4, 10.1.5, 10.1.6, 10.1.7, 10.1.8, 10.1.9, 10.1.10, 10.1.11, 11.1.1, 11.1.2, 12.1, 13.1, 14.1, 15.1. Any position can be added again to the Positions Book via referendum. Yes 473 (60.1%) versus No 314 (39.9%);
- YES - Do you agree to grant the Concordia Student Union the responsibility to manage the International Student Plan going forward and implement this new Plan through an introduction of a mandatory ancillary fee of \$975 per year per international student? Yes 998 (85.5%) versus No 169 (14.5%).
- NO (required 2/3rds to amend the Letter's Patent) – Do you agree to replace and repeal the following sections of the By-Laws and the Letters Patent of the CSU in order to change the composition of the Student Council to be three Arts seats, three Science seats, three Gina Cody seats, three JMSB seats, three Fine Arts seats, and one Independent Student? Yes 673 (62.5%) versus No 404 (37.5%).

The following Councillors and Senators were elected:

Name	Faculty
HARRISON KIRSHNER	JMSB
DANIELLE VANDOLDER-BEAUDIN	JMSB
MATHEW LEVISTSKY-KAMINSKI	JMSB
CHELSEA OKANKWU	JMSB
HOWARD ISSLEY	JMSB
JEREMYA DENEALD	JMSB
LAUREN PEROZEK	JMSB
ZACHARY WILLIAMS	INDEPENDENT
ARIEH BARAK TRAHTEBERG	INDEPENDENT
SARAH BUBENHEIMER	ARTS/SCIENCE
MARGOT BERNER	ARTS/SCIENCE
SHIVAANE S	ARTS/SCIENCE
AHMADOU SAKHO	ARTS/SCIENCE
YASMINE YAHIAOUI	ARTS/SCIENCE
KRISTEN KARLSEN	ARTS/SCIENCE
MARLENA VALENTA	ARTS/SCIENCE
CHRISTOPHER KALAFATIDIS	ARTS/SCIENCE
CHRISTOPHER DJESUS VACCARELLA	ARTS/SCIENCE
MATTHEW BENZRIHEM	ARTS/SCIENCE
ROMAN GOLUBKOV	ARTS/SCIENCE
SHAUN SEDEROFF	ARTS/SCIENCE
PAIGE BEAULIEU	ARTS/SCIENCE
ANAIS GAGNON	GINA CODY
JAMES HANNA	GINA CODY
DÉSIRÉE BLIZZARD	GINA CODY
TZVI HERSH FILLER	GINA CODY
NATALIA WHITELEY	GINA CODY
Alex Stojda	SENATE(Engineering)
Hannah Jamet-Lange	SENATE (Arts & Science)

## Faculty Equality

*Written by Chris Kalafatidis, General Coordinator*

Cut the Crap campaigned on Faculty Equality, a proposal to change the composition of the Council of Representatives from a proportional system to an equal system. Bylaw amendments require a 2/3rds majority vote of the Council of Representatives. The idea did not seem popular with the Council of Representatives. The Council mainly took issue with how the referendum question included provisions to decrease the size of the Council from 30 to 16.

I gathered 500 signatures with the Vote Yes to Faculty Equality Committee to bring the question to referendum in the By-Elections. The following was the question:

Do you support giving all faculties equal representation on the Council of Representatives by changing the structure to three Arts seats, three Science seats, three Gina Cody seats, three JMSB seats, three Fine Arts seats, and one Independent Student seat?

The question received overwhelming support of more than 70% yes in the election with one of the highest turnouts in years. In January, I brought the following Bylaw amendment to the Council of Representatives. The Council voted by 2/3rds to send the question to referendum:

Question: Do you agree to replace and repeal the following sections of the By-Laws and the Letters Patent of the CSU in order to change the composition of the Student Council to be three Arts seats, three Science seats, three Gina Cody seats, three JMSB seats, three Fine Arts seats, and one Independent Student?

By-Laws currently in force (to be repealed)	Proposed amendment to By-Laws (to be in effect March 2021 elections)
6.2.1 The Council of Representatives shall be composed of a minimum of two Representatives from each of the Faculties of Concordia University representing the members enrolled in those Faculties.	6.2.1 The Council of Representatives shall be composed of sixteen (16) Representatives. The composition shall be:
6.2.2 The maximum number of Representatives shall be thirty (30), as stated in the Student Union’s letters patents. The composition not specified in 6.2.1 above shall be determined by the Council of Representatives before calling the Annual General Election of the Representatives. The composition decided upon shall appropriately reflect the composition of the membership in the different faculties of the University. For the purposes of this Article, the collectivity of Independent Students is deemed a faculty.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Six (6) representatives from the Faculty of Arts &amp; Science, namely:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Three (3) students enrolled in a Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Education degree shall represent Arts; and</li> <li>b) Three (3) students enrolled in a Bachelor of Science degree shall represent Science.</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. Three (3) representatives from the Faculty of Fine Arts.</li> <li>3. Three (3) representatives from the Gina Cody School of Engineering and Computer Science.</li> <li>4. Three (3) representatives from the John Molson School of Business.</li> <li>5. One (1) Independent Student representatives.</li> </ol>
Letters Patent currently in force (to be repealed)	Proposed amendments to Letters Patent
By Law Number 2:	By Law Number 2:
1. The number of directors on the board of directors of the Corporation be and it is hereby increased from three (3) to thirty (30).	1. The number of directors on the board of directors of the Corporation shall be sixteen (16).

The question received 62.5%, only 3.5% short of the 66% required to amend the Letter's Patent of the CSU.

However, it is worth noting the referendum question did get the required 50% + 1 required to amend a normal bylaw. The members have provided the CSU with a clear mandate to do something about the Council composition.

## Cooperative Support Membership

### Reggies Solidarity Cooperative.

*Written by Isaiah Joyner, External Affairs & Mobilization Coordinator*

I was requested to join the Reggies Solidarity Cooperative Board of Directors officially in June 2019 after turnover. Having been a member of Reggies since my first semester so I was excited to be able to contribute the bar I loved. Upon joining the Board appointed me as President and as a signing authority. This responsibility came with the responsibilities of chairing meetings and supporting management with any issues that arose. During the Fall semester the Bar saw a change in management and the board had to appoint a new interim General Manager. We thank Justin McLellan for all the work he did as General Manager and getting through a tough time. The Board decided to do an internal callout for the interim position among the three managers. We had amazing applications, and the decision was tough. Ultimately, the Board selected Nickolas Kisil who is doing great work innovating Reggies and making it more accessible to the student body. Among the new changes were the new menu launched, more events being hosted, and more specials being offered.

The AGM was held on the 28th and the board elected a new JMSB board member and presented the status of the bar up until that point. The meeting met quorum and we were able to discuss various issues relating to what the board was facing. Post meeting, we still needed to fill the fine-arts seat and our community seat on the board. Things were looking promising until March when the COVID-19 Pandemic made its way into our lives. March was potentially going to be the biggest month operationally due to certain private events and Saint Patrick's Day. However, after the first week of March, Concordia started its safety measures to limit the effects on the student population. This unfortunately meant that Reggies would not be able to operate once the school was officially shutdown. As I write this we still do not know of when we will be able to open. Being that I am returning next year, as General Coordinator, I will be continue my membership on the board and will continue to work with management and fellow board members to help Reggies bounce back from the negative effects of this pandemic.

## Hive Solidarity Cooperative

*Written by Eduardo Malorni, Student Life Coordinator*

Upon joining the Hive Solidarity Cooperative Café, I realized that it was about to experience high turnover. Hive Board members are appointed on a two-year term which was due to expire in October 2019. With the Hive closed during the summer months, there was a large emphasis put on training myself and the other new member to the Board to ensure that the knowledge of the Hive was passed down to the next group of Board members. At the October 23rd AGM, nearly the entire Board resigned and was replaced with new members (making myself, who sat on the Board for nearly 5 months, the 3rd longest serving member).

The Hive was facing tough financial year and while this year was going to be an improvement over last year, Covid-19 has proved very problematic. The loss that was expected has greatly increased due to having to shut down earlier than expected. The Hive is currently in the process of figuring out how to reopen come September as well as taking advantage of various government grants and benefits to try and minimize the loss during the year. Overall, it will be a tough summer and the Hive will be following the developments of Covid-19 closely and make decisions on its future as the situation develops.

Due to Covid-19, the possibility of having a third café open at the Woodnote has fallen through as well.

## Association pour la Voix Étudiante du Québec (AVÉQ)

*Written by Isaiah Joyner, External Affairs & Mobilization Coordinator and Désirée Blizzard, Finance Coordinator*

L'Association pour la Voix Étudiante au Québec was a multi-university coalition that represented the University of Rimouski, University of Chicoutimi and Concordia on the provincial scale. It was founded to represent English speaking students and students in non-urban areas, but there simply wasn't enough enrollments to financially support the organization. Last year there was significant amount of work done for the dissolution of AVEQ from the executive, specifically the last External Coordinator. At the beginning of the Summer, Désirée coordinated the move of AVÉQ's property from their offices to the CSU. This agreement was made from at the beginning of our mandate, and it went smoothly. The issue is that the current team has not been briefed on the next steps to take concerning the CSU's role in AVÉQ's dissolution. Indeed, an accounting firm recently contacted Isaiah concerning late payments to finance an accounting software that holds all AVÉQ's information. We decided to proceed with the payment, but this event demonstrated the CSU still had to tie all loose ends regarding our responsibilities. Désirée has been in contact with a past AVÉQ's representative to understand what needs to be done and what the CSU's role is in it.

# Fairtrade Committee

*Written by Eduardo Malorni, Student Life Coordinator*

The Fairtrade Committee's is a collaboration between different student groups and administration in getting the University certified at a silver level. Prior to Covid-19, we were on route to reaching silver level by September 2020. To reach the silver level criteria, the CSU, CASA, ECA, FASA and ASFA all must abide by certain standards. Now ECA, CSU and FASA have reached those standards. Furthermore, the CSU would like to extend these criteria to CSU Clubs as well. The University has also made great leaps to achieve this status which is admirable. Unfortunately, with Covid-19 this is one of the projects that has been put on hold for the moment. While the policy work regarding this project can be completed, the physical and action orientated goals cannot be completed for the time being.

# GRE

*Written by Eduardo Malorni, Student Life Coordinator*

GRE is a potential provincial level student union which might form between several student associations across several Universities and Cegeps across Quebec. Several meetings were held throughout the months of January and February and ultimately the decision was made that there was a need for a provincial level student union in the current political climate and to represent student needs provincially. Throughout the summer, the goals and structure of the associations were to be decided upon and written up. Prior to Covid-19, we were planning to meet in November 2020 at Cegep Valleyfield to iron out the final details of the provincial level student Union and see if there is interest moving forward with this project. If the November meeting still occurs as planned and the CSU finds value in the proposal at that time, the question will be put on the General election ballot for March 2021.

# Financial Update

*Written by Désirée Blizzard, Finance Coordinator*

As a brief overview, the CSU is a 2.5 million dollars organization that manages 5 different budgets: Operations, HOJO, Advocacy Centre, LIC and the Clubs department. Every department brings in a revenue from their respective fee-levy and we follow restricted accounting practices, where money from one department can only be used within that department. At the beginning of my mandate, I presented the overall budget breakdown to Council and once ratified, posted it online. Then, in February I presented a budget revision.

With the pandemic, I currently do not know how the 2019-2020 fiscal year is going to end. The quarantine has affected our finances in a way none of us could prepare for.

Concordia is located on Kanien'kehá:ka traditional territory.  
Concordia est situé dans le territoire traditionnel Kanien'kehá:ka

Concerning our revenues:

- Our Winter revenues are **not** affected by the 50% reimbursement Concordia offered to students. Absolutely great news!
- We do not know yet the impact of the pandemic on our Summer revenues. The deadline to pay the Summer fees has been pushed to August, whereas we usually get our revenues by the end of June. So, we will not know for sure the impact of the quarantine before end of August.

I see 3 scenarios for the Summer revenues.

- No decrease in enrollment: best-case scenario and would leave the CSU in very good financial standing for the 2019-2020 fiscal year.
- 50% decrease in enrollment: a likely scenario and would result in approximately \$80,000 less revenues than initially thought for the Operational budget.
- More than 80% decrease in enrollment: worst-case scenario but is not very likely. This would result in approximately \$140,00 less revenues than initially thought for the Operational budget.

Even if there is a loss of revenues for the Summer semester, the CSU can still finish the year well due to the decrease in spending of the last months. Indeed, many events were cancelled, and many student groups or clubs didn't spend their allocated funding.

After discussion, the Executives have decided to keep the scheduled hours for all employees during the quarantine for the rest of our fiscal year. With the uncertainty many are facing and discussions with CUPE, we decided to keep things running as usual as not to make life more difficult for CSU staff. All employees are students at Concordia, and after seeing how badly the administration has managed the crisis by increasing stress on students, we didn't want to replicate those inconsiderate actions.

## Operations

At budget revision, Operations budget was planning a surplus of \$46,195. Below you can find a summary of this budget:

OPERATIONS BUDGET			
	Proposed Budget (June 2019)	Proposed Budget (January 2020)	Variance
<b>Revenues</b>			
Student Fees	\$1,795,640	\$1,804,640	\$9,000
Other Revenues	\$165,113	\$164,494	(\$619)
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$1,960,753</b>	<b>\$1,969,134</b>	<b>\$8,381</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Executive Salaries & Expenses	\$410,357	\$370,108	\$40,249
Council & Electoral Expenses	\$57,782	\$64,364	(\$6,582)
Salaries & Benefits	\$567,015	\$589,322	(\$22,307)
Admin & Office Expenses	\$97,610	\$103,490	(\$5,880)
IT & MIS	\$53,380	\$57,380	(\$4,000)
Financial & Legal Fees	\$93,242	\$93,195	\$47
Banking, Service Charges & Interest	\$46,550	\$46,700	(\$150)
Student Engagement Initiatives	\$582,380	\$588,380	(\$6,000)
Other Expenses	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$0
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$1,918,316</b>	<b>\$1,922,939</b>	<b>(\$4,623)</b>
<b>Revenues-Expenses</b>	<b>\$42,437</b>	<b>\$46,195</b>	<b>(\$3,758)</b>

Here is a list of the budget lines which have a decrease in expenses due to the pandemic:

- Office Expenses
- Sustainability Coordinator Salary and Benefits (we officially didn't hire a replacement and during the budget presented in February I optimistically budgeted for a Coordinator starting the job in March)
- Travel Lines
- Staff Appreciation (sadly)
- Elections and Referendums
- Discretionary Funds
- Council Food (sorry!!)
- BIPOC Initiatives
- Competitions Fund
- Sustainability Initiatives
- Student Life Initiatives
- Special Projects
- Campaigns
- Speaker Series

I do not have exact numbers for each line, but this gives you an idea of the impact of the quarantine of our expenses.

Speaking with the General Manager, we have established the Operational budget will probably end the year in a good financial standing due to the stark decrease in expenses.



## Services

Below, you can find a summary of all 3 services' budgets:

HOUSING & JOB OPPORTUNITIES (HOJO)				ADVOCACY CENTRE				LEGAL INFORMATION CLINIC (LIC)			
	Proposed Budget (June 2019)	Proposed Budget (January 2020)	Variance		Proposed Budget (June 2019)	Proposed Budget (January 2020)	Variance		Proposed Budget (June 2019)	Proposed Budget (January 2020)	Variance
<b>Revenues</b>				<b>Revenues</b>				<b>Revenues</b>			
Student Fees	\$180,879	\$181,704	(\$825)	Student Fees	\$222,463	\$227,148	(\$4,685)	Student Fees	\$131,883	\$131,883	\$0
Grad Student Fees	\$25,091	\$26,339	(\$1,248)	Work Study Program	\$0	\$0	\$0	Work Study Program	\$7,118	\$7,118	\$0
Internship	\$3,486	\$3,486	\$0	Grad Student Fees	\$21,000	\$21,000	\$0	<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$139,001</b>	<b>\$139,001</b>	<b>\$1,848</b>
Work Study Program	\$4,462	\$5,474	(\$1,012)	<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$243,463</b>	<b>\$248,148</b>	<b>(\$4,685)</b>	<b>Expenses</b>			
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$213,918</b>	<b>\$217,003</b>	<b>(\$3,085)</b>	Salaries & Benefits	\$233,003	\$226,228	\$6,775	Salaries & Benefits	\$92,377	\$92,377	\$0
<b>Expenses</b>				Admin & Office Expenses	\$18,397	\$18,397	\$0	Admin & Office Expenses	\$41,400	\$41,400	\$0
Salaries & Benefits	\$193,385	\$195,985	(\$2,601)	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$251,400</b>	<b>\$244,625</b>	<b>\$6,775</b>	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$133,777</b>	<b>\$133,777</b>	<b>\$0</b>
Admin & Office Expenses	\$28,475	\$23,425	\$5,050								
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$221,860</b>	<b>\$219,410</b>	<b>\$2,450</b>								
<b>Revenues-Expenses</b>	<b>(\$7,942)</b>	<b>(\$2,407)</b>	<b>(\$5,535)</b>	<b>Revenues-Expenses</b>	<b>(\$7,937)</b>	<b>\$3,523</b>	<b>(\$11,460)</b>	<b>Revenues-Expenses</b>	<b>\$5,224</b>	<b>\$5,224</b>	<b>\$0</b>

Their general spending has all decreased (Office Expenses, Training, Booklets and Publicity). But, the biggest portion of their expenses is their salaries. During this quarantine, the Services have been working more very hard lately as students are facing housing-related, job-related, legal-related advocacy-related problems. From students getting kicked out of residents, to the almost forced implementation of online exam proctoring, the CSU services had to deal with hands-on crisis.

The Services will be faced with the same possible decrease in Summer revenues as the operational budget, but they will be losing much less money (likely decrease of approximately \$8,000 for HOJO, \$12,000 for the Advocacy Centre and \$4,000 for LIC). We will not know the real decrease before August, and these are just estimations.

The Advocacy Centre has had a structural problem for a few years now. They do not have enough revenues, and we can't reduce their expenses as they provide extremely valuable services to the students. One partial solution has been to sign a contract with GSA to ensure them giving us revenues. The down side to this agreement is that the contract doesn't involve a fee-levy and is temporary. Patrick and Sophie have been talking to the GSA in the last year to formally introduce a Advocacy Centre fee-levy to their association.

HOJO successfully got a grant from CCSL to implement their Homeshare project. This grant will be applied to next year's budget, so HOJO might end the year in a deficit. Other than the pandemic, this deficit is partly due to a mistake in scheduling hours during Summer 2019. Also, HOJO has been spending to promote the Woodnote on campus putting in a lot of resources.

## Clubs

Below you can find the summary of the Clubs' budget:

<b>CLUBS</b>			
	<b>Proposed Budget (June 2019)</b>	<b>Proposed Budget (January 2020)</b>	<b>Variance</b>
<b>Revenues</b>			
Student Fees	\$224,000	\$258,117	\$34,117
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$224,000</b>	<b>\$258,117</b>	<b>\$34,117</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
CSU Clubs Expenses	\$165,000	\$179,151	\$14,151
Salaries & Benefits	\$25,505	\$26,623	\$1,118
Events & Administration	\$33,000	\$51,500	\$18,500
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$223,505</b>	<b>\$257,274</b>	<b>\$33,769</b>
<b>Revenues-Expenses</b>	<b>\$495</b>	<b>\$843</b>	<b>\$348</b>

When I presented this to Council in February, I insisted as to how the revenue numbers were very conservative for this department. This is because Marin and I were weary of overspending in this department, and hence used lower estimations for the revenues through the year. This department has gone through 2 fee-levy increase in the last year, so the usual predictive method could not be easily applied (from \$0.25 to \$0.30 to \$0.39). I know for a fact the Clubs department has been working incredibly hard to keep the Clubs on budget, and that requires great energy. I am confident the clubs will not spend above their allocated amounts because of the oversight of the Clubs Director Noah, Marin and the Clubs committee. The CSU is lucky to have such a committed team to ensure the well- functioning of the department. Concerning the decrease in revenues, it a likely decrease of \$15,000 if 50% less students enroll in the Summer semesters.

There is a large decrease in spending in this department, as many clubs had to cancel their events for the remainder of the year. Additionally, Clubs Gala was cancelled, and the Special Clubs Funding. Overall, I think this department will end the year in good financial standing, as the small hit in revenues will surely be balanced by the large decrease in expenditures.

**Overall, the General Manager and I are not worried for the financial standing of CSU for the 2019-2020 fiscal year.**

The June 2019 budget has the CSU ending the year with a \$32,277 surplus. Although I cannot confirm it now, but the CSU might end this year with a larger surplus than anticipated. We'll talk more in February, stay tuned!

## Health & Dental Plan

*Written by Désirée Blizzard, Finance Coordinator*

As Finance Coordinator, I am the point of contact for the students to Student Care, the CSU's health care booker. I have helped students enroll late in the plan and have facilitated communication between the bureaucratic insurance company and the everyday student. The Health and Dental Plan's cost increased this year, from \$175 to \$206 for multiple reasons.

First, the plan's cost had been frozen for the last 3 years, so an increase was necessary this year to account for inflation, and the 100% usage ratio. Indeed, during the 2018-2019 year, the insurance company made no profit with the CSU's students and actually lost money with the dental plan (103% usage). Secondly, the Executive team decided to increase the mental health coverage Student Care provides, by keeping EmpowerMe and expanding the reimbursement possible when dealing with a psychologist (now, students are covered at 80% up to \$750).

I was part of a meeting in November where Student Care briefed representatives from multiple universities concerning a legal case, they are facing with l'Autorité des Marchés Financiers. The AMF sent a letter to StudentCare in August declaring the automatic charging of the insurance plan to the students not in accordance with good practice. Indeed, their argument is that if the insurance plan is non-obligatory (as in you can opt out), the automatic charging should not be allowed. There currently is no law detailing this statement and this had been the practice for decades in Quebec. StudentCare brought this issue to the multiple student associations present to discuss and see what the representatives thought of this controversy.

With the contribution of Patrick and Chris, the CSU has been working in collaboration of Student Care to present a cheaper International Students Health Plan to the

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Concordia est situé dans le territoire traditionnel Kanien'kehá:ka

administration. More to be discussed about this in the dedicated section.

## International Students Health Plan

*Written by Chris Kalafatidis, General Coordinator and Patrick Quinn, Academic & Advocacy Coordinator*

The Concordia Student Union was tasked with the mandate of researching a better international student health plan run by the CSU. In collaboration with our partners at StudentCare, which provide our current plan for non-international students, we have assembled a plan that costs less, matches the coverage of the current plan administered by the university, and provides better access to health care. While we cannot currently reveal the details, we will invite a StudentCare representative to council in the upcoming year to explain this ground-breaking program. We have held two meetings with the administration to present the plan in detail.

The first meeting was held in a Concordia University board room. The second meeting was held at the StudentCare offices. In attendance were: Chris Kalafatidis, Desiree Blizzard, Patrick Quinn, Robert Henri (General Manager), Lev Bukhman (CEO of StudentCare), Alex Golovko (StudentCare), Farrokh Darvishi (GSA President), Anne Whitelaw (Provost), Andrew Woodall (Dean of Students), Marc Gauthier (University Treasurer), Kelly Collins (International Students Office), and Me Melodie Sullivan (Senior Legal Counsel, University Secretariat).

We brought the following question to referendum:

*Do you agree to grant the Concordia Student Union the responsibility to manage the International Student Plan going forward and implement this new Plan through an introduction of a mandatory ancillary fee of \$975 per year per international student?*

With 85% approval, we believe it is now clearer than ever that our students want an international health insurance plan to run by students for students. It will be up to next year's team and our General Manager Robert Henri to get it done.

## CSU Human Resources

*Written by Isaiah Joyner, External Affairs & Mobilization Coordinator*

There was a substantial amount of hiring done for the year to accomplish the goals of this executive team. These hiring was done in collaboration with the staff union, CUPE, and gave us the opportunity to see an all-star line of students who were looking to be apart the union's great staff. There were some internal candidates but most of the people hired were external candidates. Each hiring had a hiring committee made up of half executives and CUPE employees. We are extremely grateful for all the work done this year and for being able to work with such a devoted staff who really gave their all to the student body. We would thank the people who have graduated or moved on for doing outstanding work for the CSU and welcome the new additions to the staff!

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Below is a list of the 21 different student positions hired:

Position Title	Number
Social Media Director	1
Social Media Director (Services)	1
Marketing Director	1
IT Assistant	1
LIC Administrative Assistant	2
Receptionist	4
Advocacy Administrative Assistant	1
Student Advocate	3
HOJO Brand Ambassadors	2
Campaigns Coordinator	1
LIC Admin Assistants	4

## The Success of Online Voting and Elections

*Written by Chris Kalafatidis, General Coordinator*

The General Elections of 2019 were a huge success. Voter turnout was 15.3%. Ever since the implementation of online voting in the 2018-2019 By-Elections, the Concordia Student Union has seen a steady increase in voter turnout. Before, the 2017 general elections had a turnout of 1076 (3.07%) and the 2018 general elections had a turnout of 1424 (4.06%). Turnout in the 2018-2019 by-elections was 7.4% (2699). Turnout was 15.3% (4671) in the 2019 General Elections. Turnout was 16.6% (5167) in the 2019-2020 By-Elections. Since the 2017 general elections, the CSU has had a 380.21% increase in voter turnout. As one can note, there has been a significant increase of turnout at our elections due to Online Voting.

Our hope is to double turnout in the next General Election. We hope to do so with an aggressive marketing campaign. To do this, we will need to set election dates far in advance. I presented a motion to do so in the 2019-2020 By-Elections and I will be presenting one on January 22<sup>nd</sup>. I will then finalize permanent fixed election dates in the new Elections Policy.

The 2019-2020 elections were very contentious with seven referendum questions on the ballot. The following were the questions and the results:

1. **YES** - Do you agree with the Concordia Student Union endorsing a university-wide food waste reduction proposal and pursuing its implementation at Concordia University? **Yes 4749 (97.1%) versus 140 (2.9%);**
2. **YES** - Do you agree with the Concordia Student Union endorsing a Fall Reading Week proposal and pursuing its implementation at Concordia University? **Yes 4161 (86.6%) versus No 646 (13.4%);**
3. **YES** - Do you support giving all faculties equal representation on the Council of **Representatives by changing the structure to three Arts seats, three Science seats,**

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three Gina Cody seats, three JMSB seats, three Fine Arts seats, and one Independent Student seat? **Yes 2927 (70.1%) versus No 1246 (29.9%)**;

4. **YES** - Do you support Concordia University bringing the opt out process online for student fee levy organizations? **Yes 2905 (61.1%) versus 1849 (38.9%)**;
5. **YES** - Do you agree to increase the existing \$0.30 fee-levy of the non-academic clubs by \$0.08 per credit to a total of \$0.38 per credit, effective Winter 2020? **Yes 2153 (54.0%) versus No 1832 (46.0%)**;
6. **NO** - Do you agree to recommend to the Concordia Council on Student life (CCSL) to increase the Concordia Recreation & Athletics Department's fee-levy to \$5.00 per credit (an increase of \$2.08 per credit from \$2.92 per credit) annually adjusted to the Consumer Price Index of Canada to be implemented with registration for the September 2020 (2020/2) term, in accordance with the University's tuition, refund and withdrawal policy? Agreeing to this question means you consent to increasing a mandatory institutional fee beyond the normally allowed rate as set out in the Règles Budgétaires of the Quebec Ministry of Education and Higher Education. **No 2357 (55.3%) versus 1907 (44.7%)**;
7. **NO** - The Sports Shooting Association has requested to become a CSU club. Do you approve of the club being officially recognized as a CSU club? **No 2021 (55.6%) versus Yes 1613 (44.4%)**;

## Student Agendas

*Written by Isaiah Joyner, External Affairs & Mobilization Coordinator*

The planning of the handbook commenced in the early stages of the mandate. We made an agenda team that mainly comprised of myself, Marin, Melize and Desiree. We incorporated the annual campaign of climate justice and sustainability into the theme of making it as zero waste as possible. Marin, Melize and I secured sponsorships to finance the printing. We worked closely with designers to give them our feedback on how to make the agenda more practical as possible. For the callout, we ask for submissions related to the annual campaign and selected 12 (one for each month). Marin, Desiree and I reviewed the submissions of artwork, literature and poetry from a variety of students. Marin took the time to diligently put together the content for the agenda, which was formatted excellently by the design team. The designers added beautiful illustrations to them and formatted all the relevant information. Something to improve on for next year transition would be to have better approach of getting sponsorships to cover a more significant amount of the cost of the book.

## GSA-CSU Advocacy Centre Contract

*Written by Patrick Quinn, Academic & Advocacy Coordinator*

There has been a long-standing issue pertaining to the graduate students using the services of the CSU that are not provided by the GSA. This has led to certain agreements and contracts being formed in exchange for access to certain CSU services. Negotiations between the CSU and the GSA for a new contract to operate the GSA Advocacy Centre have begun. We envision a resolution to the negotiations before the expiry of the contract in September 2020.

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# COVID 19 - Academic issues

*Written by Patrick Quinn, Academic & Advocacy Coordinator and Chris Kalafatidis, General Coordinator*

Following the government's decision to close the school on March 13 2020, the CSU has been at the forefront of representing students in front of the Concordia administration. Our goals were to ensure students would have the best chance to get through the semester and to ensure their rights were protected.

Several issues came up as a result of the COVID19 pandemic:

- Students being kicked out of Concordia residence
- Pass/Fail
- Online Proctoring
- Graduation

When the CSU found out the University was giving 4 days notice to students in residence to move out, the CSU was there for them. We sprung into action by advocating for the safety and well-being of students in front of the university administration. Immediately following their decision, we requested an in-person meeting with the President of the University, Graham Carr, and told him how students felt about this. Following this meeting, the University administration issued a statement that no one who had nowhere to go would be forced to leave.

The CSU was listening and watching when it saw a grassroots campaign by Concordians asking for the University to implement a pass-fail system. Thousands of students signed petitions asking for the university to implement a pass-fail system. The CSU brought these petitions and successfully convinced the leadership of the university, specifically the Provost of the University, to implement it. Following this, the CSU worked with various student groups, such as the Engineering and Computer Science Association (ECA) and the John Molson Accounting Society (JMAS), to ensure that most accredited programs were included in pass-fail.

Concordia attempted to introduce an online proctoring system for the Winter semester. Our members had a clear position on this: no one consented to this prior to paying their tuition, the system was an invasion of privacy, and many people did not have the technology to use the system (webcam, sufficient Internet connection, and a quiet place to write an exam). The CSU used every meeting it had with the administration to push back against it. The CSU's Senators also got started on bringing the issue to the Senate. A security breach in the prototype prompted the administration to finally give up on online proctoring for the Winter semester after a lot of resistance.

For graduation, the CSU has been working with the administration to find the best way to proceed with graduation. The administration is currently keeping an open-mind to an in-person ceremony; however nothing is confirmed.

# CSU Services Annual Report dated 27 April 2020

## Legal Information Clinic

*Written by the Legal Information Clinic Team*

### *Mandate*

The CSU Legal Information Clinic is a free service that provides legal information, referrals and accompaniment in both French and English to undergraduate Concordia students. Since its opening in 2007, the LIC has become an invaluable resource for students facing legal situations or in search of information about their rights and obligations. The LIC offers information related mainly to issues on immigration, discrimination and consumer protection law as well as other areas of law.

### *Summary of Fall Semester*

As usual, there was a pressing and constant demand for its services during the past year. In addition to its front-line services for students, the LIC held conferences and seminars, produced pamphlets and briefs, sensitized and informed the broader Concordia community on relevant issues such as:

- A free information session on May 10, 2019 about the changes to Quebec immigration law. The seminar featured two speakers, Me. David Chalk, Immigration lawyer and former President of the Association of Quebec Immigration Lawyers and David Rovics, Musician and Human rights activist. The LIC continues to provide ongoing support and information on the many arbitrary and unfair changes to Quebec immigration policies and procedures.
- Bike Rights Campaign during Fall Orientation 2019, when hundreds of these pamphlets were distributed, and the Clinic ran a successful Bike Rights Contest among students, who were encouraged to fill out a questionnaire about updated bike laws, bikers' rights, and the function of the Legal Information Clinic.
- Stopped by the Police? Know Your Rights! A free workshop and discussion co-organized with CSU Campaigns on September 26, 2019 about protests, tickets and rights in preparation for the 2019 Montreal Climate March. This seminar featured guest speaker Arij Riahi, Criminal and Human Rights lawyer. Students were introduced to basic police tactics and strategies, common protest scenarios, search and seizure processes, and rights when arrested and included information specifically for international students;
- Providing legal information support and accompaniment of thousands of Concordia student participants in the historic September 27, 2019 Montreal Climate March;
- Reviewing of Concordia's newly developed Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention program obligatory for all students;



- During October- November 2019, organizing on-campus consultations on issues of systemic racism and discrimination faced by Concordia students, who voiced concerns about the vulnerability of international students in relation to housing, unwanted arrests committed by the police, and the gentrification of Chinatown and downtown Montreal. Preparing and presenting a brief containing its recommendations to the Office de Consultation Publique de Montreal (OCPM) as part of the latter's City-wide consultation on systemic racism and discrimination in Montreal.

### *Summary of Winter Semester*

- Annual Interfaith Commemoration of the Massacre at the Centre Culturel Islamique de Quebec. Hosted on January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2019 this event united representatives from diverse religious and racialized communities including First Nations people to stand in solidarity against islamophobia and hate crimes. Co-organized with CRARR in collaboration with Multi-faith and Spirituality Centre of Concordia and Montreal Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies (MIGS), the Interfaith Commemoration featured messages by Holocaust survivor Fishel Goldig, from the Montreal Holocaust Museum; Rwanda Genocide survivor Jacques Rwirangira, from PAGE Rwanda, and Vicky Boldo, an Elder at Concordia. Rev. Ellie Hummel of the Multi-faith and Spirituality Centre and Samaa Elibyari of the Muslim Awareness Week lead the Commemoration, which featured a candle lighting in the memory of the six men killed in 2017 in Quebec City. A seventh candle was added in the memory of victims of other hate crimes in Quebec. Gospel singer Amanda Benn delivered the closing hymn. Organizers put a special emphasis on hate and extremism this year in light of the rise of anti-Semitism and Islamophobia around the world.
- Immigration Advocacy: The LIC continued to pursue many activities related to immigration law and the plight of international students. These activities were particularly relevant during the past year due to the continuing uncertainty regarding the provincial CAQ government's new immigration legislation and policies, which could affect the status of Concordia's international students.
- Immigration workshop on February 7, 2020 in collaboration with African Students Association of Concordia (ASA) to help international students access affordable resources off campus and on campus concerning work permits, extended study permits temporary and permanent residence.
- Continuing advocacy in Campaign Against Bill 21, which affects Concordia students from diverse religious communities as well as faculty members united to denounce the discriminatory legislation.
- April 23, 2020 launch of CSU and CRARR campaign against COVID-19 discrimination: To better inform and support the University's undergraduate population, and to protect their well-being, safety, and civil rights. In addition to the loss of part-time jobs, termination of loans and scholarships, loss of summer job opportunities, and delays in

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graduation, many Concordia students also face housing hardships such as being kicked out of student dorms, being unable to finish their semesters on time and end their lease, and being unable to fly home, a situation that particularly affects many international students. There is also racism faced by Asian students, particularly international students from China who comprise 17.5% of Concordia's 9,700 international students (the other top two groups are students from India and Iran, comprising 22% and 11.5% of the international student body). Due to the stigmatization of COVID-19 as the "Chinese virus", there has been, since March, a rise in anti-Asian incidents in Montreal that involve racist insults, jeers, harassment, and violence. These acts of hate also affect other Asian groups such as Vietnamese, Korean, and Japanese Montrealers. One issue that is of major concern is the abusive application of the social distancing order by the police and the draconian \$1,550 fine that can disproportionately affect students. The campaign consists of disseminating basic safety tips to Montrealers who face racism and hate, first in English, French, Chinese and Vietnamese, among other languages, and to develop fast-track support for students who face COVID-19 related discrimination based on race and other grounds, and hate crimes.

- CSU COVID-19 Residence Support and Compensation Questionnaire with HOJO and CSU Campaigns: On March 18, 2020 Concordia University administration sent out an email and posted on the University's website an eviction notice stating that all students must move out of residences by Sunday, March 22, 2020 with only four days notice. However, by virtue of Quebec Rental law, student residents that live in Concordia University residences have the legal right to maintain occupancy and the peaceful enjoyment of their room and residence services until the expiration of their lease. This Questionnaire is to gather feedback and information in order to provide support and about possible compensation to those student residents who: 1) have moved out from the University residences, 2) are still staying at the University residences.
- GSA Fee Levy Campaign: Presently the LIC is mandated to provide services to only undergraduate students who fund the LIC through a fee levy. Nonetheless, graduate students consistently require and request services with our law student volunteers. The LIC continued campaigning the GSA to contribute a fee levy toward the LIC in order to open our services to graduate students.

## Advocacy Centre

*Written by Sophie Stone, Manager of CSU Advocacy Centre*

### MANDATE

The CSU's Advocacy Centre provides information to students on their rights as students here at Concordia University. The Advocacy Centre assists and represents students in disciplinary interviews and hearings in the application of Concordia's Code of Right and Responsibilities and Concordia's Academic Code of Conduct. It also provides support and help in nearly all the endeavors that students may have to engage in within the University. Our student advocates are experts in the University's structure, procedures, policies and bureaucracies and can help

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students in navigating through them. In general, the standard services offered are grouped into six (6) categories: Academic Misconduct, Code of Rights and Responsibilities, Hearings, Student Requests & Readmission, Complaints and General Consultations.

## *IMPORTANT BUSINESS*

### Working Remotely during Covid-19

Concordia, and as such the CSU, had to switch to operating remotely during the Covid-19 lockdown. As part of the Advocacy Centre's design is to assist students through university procedures, the AC has been staying on top of all updates and changes and keeping students informed of them through the AC's social media and in all e-mail communications with students whose cases are relevant to the changes. For operations that used to require in-person representation, such as interviews, Code of Rights and Responsibilities complaints and disciplinary hearings at Tribunals, the AC has joined the University in proceeding via videoconference. We continue to make sure that students have access to student advocate representation when they request it. We remain present for appointments to assist and prepare students for meetings with university administration. The rest of the services provided were mostly completed via e-mail after initial contact, and so have proceeded as such despite the lockdown.

Where student rights and concerns were being deeply affected by Covid-19, the CSU made sure to keep the CSU up to date so that they would have the latest and most relevant information when negotiating with the university administration while the AC has been assisting students one-on-one in their specific situations to help them get accommodations where needed and possible.

### Graduate Fee-Levy

The CSU's agreement with the GSA to offer advocacy services to graduate students comes to term in August 2020. The CSU and GSA are entering negotiations this summer to discuss renewing the agreement.

### Academic Code of Conduct Review

The Academic Code of Conduct was expected to go under review this year or early next year. The Covid-19 lockdown may slow down this process. The AC is awaiting to find out when this review will begin and will work closely with the Academic and Advocacy Coordinator at the CSU to prepare for this. Code reviews have typically never taken less than a year to complete.

### Hiring

Hiring will likely be affected by the Covid-19 lockdown.

## *PROJECTS*

### Online Presence

The AC is pleased to have increased its online presence via Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. There has also been a logo change, both online and on physical material like the office banner, that attracted more followers and got people's attention. Teaming with the CSU Social Media Director, social media posts now have a more attractive design. The AC also created 6 (6) sixty (6) second videos that were shared via the CSU Newsletter: short audio-visual blurbs about the services the AC offers students.

## Class Presentations

Class presentations were resumed this year with advocates visiting classes with 50 or more students registered in the first two weeks of the semester to talk about the AC and the services it offers.

## CRM

The biggest project for the AC this year has been participating in setting up the CSU's new customer relationship management (CRM) software for the services. This has involved a lot documenting exact and detailed needs from beginning to end, testing and thinking past the limitations we had up until now to make the new CRM truly efficient, report-friendly and searchable. This will greatly help with training new staff and building readily accessible precedence by case types

## The Off-Campus Housing and Jobs Resource Centre (HOJO)

*Written by Leanne Ashworth, HOJO Manager*

### *Mandate*

HOJO works to empower, educate and support Concordia's general population by providing reliable housing and employment information, resources and referrals. In addition, HOJO provides legal information regarding housing and jobs, as well as accompaniments to the Concordia community.

### *Fall Semester Summary*

This was another exciting and busy year for HOJO as we continued to offer our services to the Concordia community. At the beginning of the school year we hosted multiple workshops and tabling activities at every major orientation event, for first year international and local students, educating them about their labour and tenant's rights in Quebec. Hosted in collaboration with the International Students Office as well as Concordia's Orientation, these workshops were very well attended and provided new students with essential advice for their new beginnings at Concordia, while also connecting them to the CSU's services. In our office, we have continued to see a regular flow of students visiting our office every-day. Through our campaigns, workshops, and individual student services, we have continued to diversify our outreach and are creatively connecting students to information on their rights. Through our housing legal information services, we have supported multiple students in accessing legal information regarding housing and employment issues, preparing them for renting for the first time, assisting students in asserting their rights, and supporting students in their hearings at the Regie du logement. We have furthermore assisted many students in finding meaningful employment, understanding their rights in the workplace, and filing complaints against prohibited or exploitative employer practices.

As Montreal braced for the lowest vacancy rate in 15 years, HOJO has continued to see the importance of our services, both in terms of supporting students' education on their rights, and also in ensuring that students can continue to access safe and affordable housing. In a housing crisis, students are made especially vulnerable to predatory renting practices, and HOJO has responded to these concerns through preventative

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programming. Beyond our annual housing rights workshops, this year we organized an anti-gentrification workshop with professor and organizer Kylie Goyette to emphasize the effect that gentrification has on student lives.

Over the course of the fall semester, The Woodnote cooperative, prepared for the final stage of the project, which included the launch of applications. Construction continued as planned and The Woodnote provisional committee, in partnership with Utile, concentrated on amplifying the project's message to Concordia students. This included several tabling events, the re-launch of The Woodnote website, as well as presenting workshops in the co-op and social economy community. Four Woodnote team-members traveled to Austin, Texas, to represent the project at the North American Students of Co-operation conference and to deepen our education in cooperative management and administration. The Woodnote celebrated a major milestone in completing the registration of the cooperative, advancing the incorporation of the solidarity coop. In an effort to support accessibility as well as solidarity with Indigenous students, The Woodnote worked with The CSU to develop an Indigenous Student Bursary program, supported by The CSU BIPOC committee. In preparation for applications opening in January, HOJO hired two brand ambassadors to support with the marketing and communications of The Woodnote project in advance of the application web-launch.

Our other ongoing project Chez Nous-Homeshare, has started taking shape. Our research and workshops allowed us to finalize the procedures and protocols of the program. We received our first applications for the program and some of them lead to our first interviews with potential home-holders and home-sharers. After finalizing our project proposals, we continued looking for potential partners and funding sources in order to begin our pilot project.

### *Winter Semester Summary*

During the winter semester, HOJO hosted a series of workshops both orienting new students as well as supporting students in their end-of-year transitions. These included a series of Apartment Hunting & Housing rights and Job Search & Employee Rights workshops, presentations at Concordia's Open House, and participation in The CSU's Clubs and Community Fair. We continued to offer essential information to students transitioning from residence into rental housing and delivered several Moving Out of Residence workshops at both Grey Nun's and Hingston Hall Residences. Our day-to-day workflow of supporting students in our offices with housing and job-related questions continued until March 15.

As of Concordia's closure on March 15, and due the health emergency declared because of the COVID-19 pandemic, all our services were transferred online, and all our staff has been operating from home. This unprecedented crisis has affected our community in profound ways, and students are continuously reaching us looking for information related to financial assistance and their housing rights. By collaborating with the rest of the CSU services and the executive team we created the COVID-19 CSU email address to more efficiently assist students in need. We have received an immense response and every day we provide students with information regarding their concerns and offer possible resources available to them. Our team is working to keep students up-to-date with relevant information about the new governmental financial emergency programs as well as other financial assistance offered by Concordia University and the CSU. We update the Concordia community

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about the new decisions related to the Regie du logement as well as The City of Montreal's responses to housing needs during the crisis. This includes advising students as to how to safely navigate major housing transitions and emergencies during the pandemic. Our team assists students who reach our service, in any way we can, and through diverse means. We have assisted the students living in residence to overcome the impacts of the pandemic in planning their housing by organizing an online workshop on how to refuse your rental increase, a major issue for many students at this time. We have also provided workshops on short term accommodations to students who have found themselves in the difficult position of needing to find housing, including residence students. HOJO has additionally worked with CRRAR on a press conference addressing housing and discrimination for Concordia students, particularly international students. Through research and online communication our team is continuously working to help Concordia students to protect and assert their rights in both their home and workplace during this crisis.

While we have been working actively to respond to student needs, we are also committed to our projects that offer viable and creative solutions to student housing issues. January 2020 marked a major milestone for The Woodnote as we celebrated the launch of applications. Utile announced a partnership with The Hive Solidarity Cooperative as a vending partner in The Woodnote's common space, where they will continue to serve the Concordia community. As construction proceeded steadily, The HOJO brand ambassador team and Provisional Committee represented the project across campus in preparation for application period. Amplifying the project's presence, we hosted tabling events, room-mate mixers, application clinics, and Q&A's, seeking to engage The Woodnote's future residents and community. The roll-out of the applications was incredibly successful, and before the March 15 school closure, The Woodnote had received more applications than available units, indicating the urgent need of this project in Montreal's student community. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, Utile had to suspend construction as a preventative measure, delaying the completion of the building. Students were expected to move-in on July 1, but due to the delays in construction this date has been postponed to September 1. The HOJO team is actively communicating with applicants to reassure them on the delivery of the project, and to ensure transparency. The Woodnote team continues to promote the project and to develop the coop's community and culture through our social media presence. The Provisional Committee has been busy proceeding with establishing the coop's infrastructure by developing policies, by-laws, generating creative projects, and working towards the first AGM. In the last week the construction site has re-opened and The Woodnote looks forward to welcoming student residents in the fall!

Throughout the winter semester we worked on developing a project proposal for Chez-Nous, and we applied for project funding to begin the implementation of the Homeshare program. It is currently on pause as we wait on the health crisis in the province to abate.

Our new and updated Classifieds website is finally in its last stage and we expect it to launch by the end of the year. The Classifieds continue to be an essential service for Concordia students and community members, and we are looking forward to launching our updated platform. Our team is also collaborating with CSU's IT team and fellow services to roll out our new integrated client management system which will ensure the more effective service of CSU members.

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# Daycare

*Written by Marin Algattus, Internal Affairs Coordinator*

The CSU daycare is doing really well. They are at full capacity with 50 children enrolled; within their second year of operation. The daycare has 7 full time staff and 3 part time staff plus Angela, the director. She has decided to follow a curriculum based on the Reggio-Emilia approach which focuses on learning through arts and discovery through sensory experiences.

They have regular staff meetings where they bring concerns and decide on themes to follow to create a community. They advocate for having good relationships with parents and guardians so they can help support the whole child.

Current projects they are working on are:

- A breastfeeding room in the basement
- A meditation room in the basement
- Create more outreach for the daycare with the new services communication staff member.

The daycare costs \$35 per day, which amount to \$8.05 per day for a low-income family after they get reimbursed by the government along with their taxes.

At the beginning of this year, we voted on the BOD composition for the daycare:

- 1 CSU executive
- 1 General Manager
- 1 CSU daycare employee
- 2 Student parents
- 2 Community members

We are doing very well financially due to the CSU daycare fee-levy implemented before opening allowing us to develop a small surplus of money for a rainy day. The University has agreed to pay our property tax bills that totaled over \$100,000.

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We have hired an interim daycare director as the current director is pregnant and will be on leave soon. She will be training and supporting the new director in her new role.

The CSU daycare took advantage of the government's salary subsidy during the 2020 Covid19 pandemic.

## Indigenous Student Parent Bursary

*Written by Désirée Blizzard, Finance Coordinator*

In the first September General Council Meeting, Council allocated \$28,546 to allocate from the Student Endowment Fund to create Indigenous Student Parent Bursaries. This allows any student parent that identifies as Indigenous to contact the Aboriginal Resource Centre, enroll their child into the CSU Daycare and have essentially the entirety of their fees covered. Indeed, if you are in the lowest financial bracket the government will cover 75% of your daycare costs. The bursary funds up to 25% of these costs, ensuring that the parents get reimbursed for the entirety of their daycare costs. This project was executed by Irmak Bahar, the old Campaigns Director. She had the chance to pass it through Council before she left the organization in September. We then had a meeting with Angela Meo, the Daycare Director and Orenda Konwawennontion Boucher-Curotte, the Aboriginal Resource Centre Coordinator. We established the procedure, and I am happy to say there is currently one parent enrolled in the program! I will brief Holly about the project, and hopefully more students will enroll in the next year.

## Woodnote Housing Cooperative

*Written by Isaiah Joyner, External Affairs & Mobilization Coordinator*

At the beginning of the mandate it was decided that Desiree and I would be the main points of contact for the Woodnote Housing Cooperative. This meant that we would meet with the HOJO staff, Utile and our General Manager to receive regular updates on the progress of the project. For those who may not know, the Woodnote is a housing Cooperative which will be in the Plateau area which will house around 144 Concordia Students. The CSU has partnered with Utile who has the expertise to manage the building and manager such a vast project. Utile has been an amazing partner and with this collaboration between Utile and CSU, we hope to continue the movement of providing affordable student housing. The Woodnote was originally scheduled to be opened in 2019. However, due to some unforeseen circumstances, the project was delayed being open until this summer 2020. This gave us time to prepare a marketing plan and for the Woodnote committee to work on the applications for the students to apply for leases in the summer. The Wood Note committee (a.k.a the provisional committee) is comprised of students who will be on the CO-OP's board and who will live in the Woodnote

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once it's open. These students spend many hours working alongside the CSU support member from HOJO to work on many aspects of how the CO-OP will both operate and select its candidates from the Concordia student community to live in the Woodnote.

From the update given by Utile in January, everything was going on schedule with the construction and falling within budget. The frame was up, and the interior construction was on schedule for the winter. We had a meeting to go over the timeline of the project and a round table of where everyone is at in the process. I am currently working with Desiree, the HOJO support member, and my campaigns staff in breaking as many systemic barriers as possible of indigenous students as it pertains to the woodnote. This may take the form of a CSU bursary to help lower the financial burden on some indigenous students who may struggle to pay the rent. Furthermore, I sat on the hiring committee with Patrick to hire for the woodnote campus ambassador position.

Moving forward, things were going on schedule until the COVID-19 pandemic put everything on hold. The construction was put on temporary hold, but lease applications were still being accepted. Fortunately, construction will resume so the delivery date of September is still plausible. Utile is partnering with other Universities to get help start a new wave of affordable student housing projects that was pioneered by the CSU. This will lead to the needs for the CSU to work closely with Utile on another push fund committee to go for another referendum question.

## Internal

*Written by Marin Algattus, Internal Affairs Coordinator*

### Executive Retreat

The executive retreat happened on July 12th to the 14th in an Yvano chalet in Entrelacs which was about 2 hours away. We rented a van, picked up groceries on our way and went together in a big van. During the retreat we cooked meals together, watched a Bollywood movie, a BBQ, took a boat out on a lake and more. Each executive was given 1 veto activity we would have to do together for them.

We dedicated time to plan our rebranding and new CSU logo. We talked about our major goals for the year and held a brainstorming session. We had one on one communication exercises where we laughed, cried and were vulnerable together. It brought us together and allowed us to understand each other early in the semester.

## Council Retreat

The Annual council retreat was on September 20th to the 22nd, 2019. We went to a camp site called Notre-Dame-De-Fatima in Ile-Perrot, Quebec. We had our mandatory consent training in the SGW CSU office then took off together carpooling with councilors and executives who have their own cars. Executives, councilors, senate members and our minute-keeper attended the retreat. We were approximately 25.

We spent the first night at a bonfire and playing games bonding. The next morning, Saturday, another training was administered by the CSU lawyers from Robinson Sheppard Shapiro: RSS about our responsibilities as executives and the responsibilities, powers, and liabilities of our board of directors (the councilors). We then had a short communication workshop right after lunch. We had the opportunities to bond, eat, play games, swim, take boats out on the lake and relax as a team. We highly recommend repeating this retreat and the trainings that were administered.

## Council office

The regulations indicated that we were required to have an office dedicated for councilors to work and meet. We moved the CEO's office upstairs next to the LIC and used their old office for councilors. We renovated the space and used new furniture we received for free. We equipped the space with a printer, computer, phone, desks, chairs and a couch that can turn into chairs. We gave them keys that are left at security so they would have 24-hour access to their office.

## Council Meetings

I booked a large conference room in the summer of my mandate for the entire council meetings of the mandate to have a regular space. The room was professional and allowed us to comfortably have meetings as opposed to classrooms. I also put the dates of every meeting in a document and shared it with the councilors during the summers, so everyone was aware of the dates to ensure they are available on.

## Consent Training

I found it to be much more difficult to coordinate a winter consent training for newly elected councilors. It was difficult to get a time where everyone was available and to create a curriculum that lasted 3 hours. This is because every student at a post-secondary institution was already mandated to take a mandatory sexual violence and consent training. It was also at a time where me and coworkers were at the peak of our workload. It was difficult to have time to coordinate with the Sexual Assault Resource Center (SARC)

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and the Dean of Students. SARC also was re-organizing and did not understand what CSU was looking for considering every student at Concordia had already taken the training.

## School Spirit

This year I spearheaded a project to purchase merchandise for the Concordia student population at large. This was an attempt to build community amongst students and to roll out the image of our new logo. I purchased 800 crewnecks and received a lot of positive feedback. Students loved them and wore them often; however, we were not able to distribute most of the crewnecks due to the Covid19 pandemic causing our campus to close. I hope the new incoming executive team will be able to distribute these crewnecks next year, and we get to see a campus covered in maroon and yellow sweaters, bringing people together.



## Clubs

*Written by Marin Algattus, Internal Affairs Coordinator*

We have approved 24 new clubs this year:

Number	Club Name
1	Yoga club
2	Filipino Organization of Concordia University (FOCUS)
3	IGem Concordia
4	Humans of Concordia
5	Concordia BlockChain
6	Concordia Tennis Team
7	Concordia University Turkish Student Association
8	ECO – Ecological Climate Organization
9	STEM Fellowship
10	TrashTalk Concordia
11	Chess Club

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12	Aquatic Fleet Society
13	Penny Drops
14	Arab Student Association Concordia University
15	Vietnamese Student Association
16	Ahmadi Muslim Club
17	Brazilian Student Association at Concordia (BRASA)
18	In-Focus Media
19	LOUD
20	Tamid Concordia
21	Concordia Sports Management Club
22	Exercise is Medicine
23	Undergraduate Research Club
24	Women in STEM

## Club orientation

We held club orientation at the beginning of September to train clubs on how to carry out activities and ensure they were equipped with the tools to have a successful year. We made a schedule from 10 am to 5 pm with various trainings in each of the rooms on MB.9. The schedule was colour-coded by importance level and titled to help distinguish which club executive it would appeal to. Training was going on simultaneously and club executives could choose which training to go to. Food was provided throughout the full day of workshops and there was an evening networking portion at the end.

## Club Events

Due to the Covid19 pandemic shutting down our campus, two of our major annual events had to be cancelled. The annual CSU Cultural fair and Clubs Award Gala were both cancelled. Clubs annual elections were are moved online due to the coronavirus pandemic.

## Clubs Budget Management

This year I was welcomed into a department that had undergone a huge deficit over the past three years. The 2018-2019 deficit was \$108,000. This year we focused a lot of ensuring financial management, not overspending or over allocated, and transparency with both the clubs and committees.

We regularly took the time to sit with the Desiree to cross reference budgets to ensure numbers matched. We also shared our budget tracking documents with the whole clubs department and the finance department. The clubs director, committee members, and Internal and Finance coordinators always had access to checking the budgets and cross referencing accounts. This allowed us to catch any mistakes and ensure our numbers always aligned.

The clubs director made a budget sheet to assist the committee in equally distributing annual club budgets. The excel sheet showed how much they received in the past, how much they spent, what we should allocate this year proportional to the budget we have. We had a smaller budget than the past.



## Clubs & Space Committee

This year the Clubs & Space committee held 19 meetings total. Some months would have 3 meetings while others only had one meeting. We ensured there was at least one meeting per month to give club's answers quicker. This has proven to be effective and helped the clubs department greatly.

The committee also set out commitments to

- Setting new standards to keep clubs financial accountable
- Making sure they are accessible and inclusive
- Improve the student experience beyond academics
- Monitor how active clubs are and ensure proper use of club offices
- Not to restrict clubs financially but to allowed opportunity to the breakdown from the total approved budget by resubmitting applications to the committee.

## Policy Goals

I made a club contract for club executives to sign so they are aware of the policies that dictate their activities. The club contract was used 4 years ago, and I used a template from the old contract to develop the current one. This can be changed as new policies are developed.

## Goals for Upcoming Year

This year I primarily worked on ensuring fiscal responsibility. I inherited a significant deficit from the past 3 years. To counter that and ensure appropriate management of funds we developed a system of cross-referencing spending with budgets. This allowed clubs to be constantly aware of their remaining funds and for myself and the CSU Finance Coordinator to also be able to cross my our accounting practices. My recommendation is to continue these accounting practices to ensure fiscal responsibility in the future. To increase funding for clubs I have also recommend to take salary and benefits from the operational budget instead of clubs budget.

I also advocated for more student space. Clubs are cramped in offices still while others still remain without an office. We have been in preliminary discussions and communication with Concordia and various real estate companies about procuring a student building. Everyone seems to have positive opinions and wants to work to continue to make it happen. My recommendation is to continue these conversations and make more concrete steps in the upcoming years.

## Student Support

*Written by Marin Algattus, Internal Affairs Coordinator*

This year we were lucky enough to received 1000 free pads and tampons that we distributed to students who needed them. We ensured they were readily available at our reception desk.

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Additionally, we distributed DivaCups available from the year prior. This has showed to be a important resource to students who needed them. We recommend continuing this effort and add free pregnancy tests available to students at the reception area as well.

## Student Life Events

*Written by Eduardo Malorni, Student Life Coordinator*

### *Welcome Week*

Thirteen events over five days with over 13 different pieces of merchandise. The events are to welcome students to the University and get involved with student groups and clubs. This also is the CSU's best marketing opportunity of the year. Overall, all events were a resounding success. Nearly all the merchandise was given away, and we experienced a 10%+ growth on our Facebook page. Another aspect was our ability to hand out all agendas during the first two weeks of school, highlighting both our reach to students and the quality of the merchandise we were giving out.

This was the first time in several year's that agendas have been completely distributed and the first time that they have been completely distributed by the first month of school. Furthermore, though we were not able to achieve a zero-waste welcome Week as planned, we were able to have a low waste Welcome Week. One thing that differentiated this year's Welcome Week was that the decision was made to launch the annual campaign during Welcome Week and tailor Welcome Week around the annual campaign to help build momentum for the annual campaign.

### *Halloween Activities*

Patrick, Isaiah, Yu-Hui, and I handed out candy to the children at both the Concordia and CSU Daycares. A very wholesome event that put the smile on the children's faces as well as our own.

Then there was a collaborative effort between CSU, ASFA and ECA to host a Halloween event for all students to enjoy. The event took place at Time Supper club and was a great success. It was a pleasure to work with the fellow associations and hopefully we can plan further collaborations in the winter semester.

### *Rapid HIV*

A very emotional event in which the nurses from Concordia Health Services. The goal was to both test students for HIV in the hopes of giving them early warning but more importantly it was to break the stigma and encourage students to go get tested. As always, the nurses were wonderful to work with. This event occurred once in the Fall Semester and once in the Winter semester. Both times flawlessly.

## *FroshBite*

An excellent collaboration with ASFA's Loyola Committee. It contained 3 events including a collaboration with the Concordia Stingers. Even Buzz the Bee made an appearance! The events were a resounding success and blew expectations with us selling out all our tickets and even running out of supplies and giveaways! Furthermore, holding successful events of this magnitude in the Loyola Campus have proved tricky in the past so this is truly a groundbreaking collaboration with ASFA which should continue in the future.

## *Covid-19*

Unfortunately, due to Covid-19, several events had to be canceled for the months of March and April including Anti-Consumerism Week, FairTrade Coffee hour and our annual Terrace Fest. This of course is heartbreaking not only to me but also all those involved in organizing these events and who were looking forward to those events. Truly heartbreaking to see the hard work of so many people get derailed.

# BIPOC Committee Events

*Written by Désirée Blizzard, Finance Coordinator & Isaiah Joyner, External Affairs & Mobilization Coordinator*

## *Launch*

Désirée and Isaiah worked with the BIPOC committee to plan our launch event where we invited a variety of groups to come network and meet the members of the committee. The Launch was on November 15th, 2019, was hosted and catered by Reggie's. The event was a great success! It was a great opportunity for the committee to meet people from around campus that could get involved with BIPOC. It was labelled as a casual networking event, where we didn't have specific activities in mind but simply wanted to see some melanated people hang out.

## *Granting and Committee Meetings*

The BIPOC committee has had 8 committee meetings during the year. The first meetings had the committee visualize what we wanted the committee to be; whether we'd focus more on grants or events planning. It was voted on that this year; we would allocate \$10,000 to events and \$15,000 to granting. Below is a list of all projects that BIPOC allocated funds to:



28 MOMENTS OF BLACK CANADIAN HISTORY	\$	1,000
ASA	\$	500
BIPOC SUSTAINABILITY WEEK	\$	500
CEED Sustainability Project	\$	710
Cheups	\$	500
Climate Change - Social Impact	\$	500
Desi Day	\$	500
First Voices Week	\$	1,000
FLY	\$	580
Iftar	\$	750
Immigration Clinic	\$	800
KHAR	\$	500
Living Black Studies	\$	900
Show Pao	\$	500
The Migrant's Tale	\$	500
Untitled X	\$	500
Uzuri	\$	1,500
Waterways	\$	500
What Lies Behind	\$	500

Some of these projects were cancelled due to the quarantine. They have until May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020 to claim their expenses for reimbursements.

### *Black History Month*

We've collaborated with different representatives of cultural groups on campus to work on Black History Months events. We want to focus on collaboration instead of taking on the bigger. This is an exciting time for BIPOC, as the committee has historically gone big during this month. The events are going to be one Trap and Paint Night, where folks will be able to come in and paint for the first part of the evening and the second part will have one Trivia Night, a Speed Dating event, and finally a conference focusing on women of color in positions of leadership. The events were a blast and it was great to collaborate with great cultural associations on campus!

### *Wellness Week*

Finally, as the quarantine hit, we had just started our Wellness Week series where two BIPOC therapists would be on campus every Friday to provide students with free therapy. That became impossible quickly. Thankfully, the therapist we had just started doing business with has offered to keep her sessions but have them online. This alternative has been a hit and all her sessions have been attended by Concordia students! I am grateful the initiative could still happen.

# Annual Campaign

*Written by Isaiah Joyner, External Affairs & Mobilization Coordinator*

At the beginning of the Mandate, I polled the council and executives to see what type of campaign the Union should look to adopt this year for its annual campaign. Once formulated the data from the poll I took the suggestions to the External and Mobilization committee where we gave our first and second choices for what we believed the campaign.

## Development of the annual campaign material

### *Content development*

Over the summer, I worked closely with the Campaigns coordinator to get the “vibe” for the campaign down packed. This involved several brainstorming sessions with a variety of staff and executives' feedback for the different slogans and coming up with names for stickers. Then once we got these things on paper, they were compiled, and we worked closely with the designers to really get the designs to reflect the tone of the vibe. The campaign slogan ended up being “If not now, when?” and Eduardo was a huge help by allowing the Welcome Week brand and merchandise to fall in line with the Campaign this year. The designers did an amazing job capturing the essence and the campaigns department worked very diligently (with special thanks to volunteers) to both distribute and spread the material around both campuses.

### *Website Resources*

Over the summer once the annual campaign had been selected, the Campaigns Coordinator worked closely with campaigns researcher to really create a very extensive but digestible resource guide online. This information among other resources were what was used to give the campaigns staff a solid foundation to be able to go communicate accurate information when tabling to get students involved.

## Support of Community Groups and Student Projects

Over the summer while making the budget I sat down with the campaigns coordinator to make a budget for the year. Within it I made sure to budget in funding for various community groups and initiatives to ensure that they would be able to have adequate resources. I also made sure to set aside resources to ensure that resources were put aside for previous campaigns of sexual violence and internships. Furthermore, through the external committee we have been able to provide a source of funding to many projects related to the annual campaign and other social movements.

## Development of Campaign Portfolio

### *Campaign Launch*

During orientation we had the campaign launch party which was known as the “Sustainability Mixer”. The campaigns coordinator reached out to the various groups to attend the event to

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gather in the Hive and present themselves to the attendees. There were refreshments served and the event had a great amount of turnout and was great way to kick off the year.

### *Climate March*

One of the most engaging activities of the year was the climate march. I worked with the Campaigns Coordinator and LPSU to coordinate a Concordia contingent of the climate march that took place on the 27th. For the march we spoke to other Student Unions and planned a natural flow for our students to all meet and then march to the mountain together. In preparation for this, we setup a “Know your Rights” workshop with an amazing lawyer as a facilitator. We had also distributed these informational cards that doubled as a means to give the police in the case of an altercation to ensure that their rights would be acknowledged and respected. On the day of the march, we ordered snacks and coffee for the students and we saw a great turnout of students as we were joined by the Dawson students and moved towards the rest of the march.

### *Get Sustainable*

Over the summer the campaigns coordinator and I rebranded the “Get Radical” workshop series to be “Get Sustainable” to tie into the annual campaign more. We also determined that it would be better if we space them out more which led them to being around once a month. With the renovations happening spaces that I had some trouble with certain bookings, but I was able to find alternative spaces with student success center and the CSU offices. However, due to the pandemic I had to cancel the rest of the workshops

### *Poetry Open Mic Night for the Climate*

During September at an external committee meeting, I asked if they had any projects that they would potentially want to do in collaboration with this year’s campaign. One of the counselors had the idea of an open mic night. From there we sent up a follow-up meeting with her, her friend, the campaigns coordinator, and me to figure out some details of how it could work. We ended up booking the Hive for a Friday night, and gave it a theme around climate justice. We had all the material needed and even had screen printing for t-shirts at the event. It had a great turnout and refreshments were provided. We have already met and set a date to have another one for this semester.

After coming back from the winter break, I met with the counselor and their organizer partner to set the date for the new poetry night. We were setting the date for March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020 and were on track to have the event on the Hive. Unfortunately, we had to cancel the event due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

### *Indigenous Student Survey*

Last year the campaigns staff had built a very strong relationship with the indigenous student resources center. This led to them approaching them to see what type of support that the CSU could provide them with. They responded with things that made us have to think on what systemic barriers existed currently within our own culture at the CSU. To

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get a better idea of what barriers exist we currently getting ready to do an incentivized survey of indigenous students to identify what barriers they are face with. From there we can properly investigate more feasible ways of supporting them through the adversities.

## Effects of COVID-19 on department

With the University being closed since March 14th, that made it impossible for us to hold events on campus. This meant that the events such as the Anti-Consumerism week and Get Sustainable had to be canceled. The COVID-19 pandemic has really changed the dynamics of my job. Every week since the announcement, there were meetings with every service and department manager and certain executives to create clear lines of communication within the organization. On the directive of Chris, I made a COVID-19 form for students voice their concerns with anything relating to how Concordia dealt pandemic. I worked with services and other stake holders to see what questions would best provide us with information to service their needs. Working with reception and the campaigns staff, I created a triage response system to help direct students to our services and document their cases for advocacy purposes. Furthermore, with Concordia announcing that resident students had to leave, I worked closely with LIC and HOJO to outreach to Residents students to see how the CSU could support them through these troubled times.

### *Emergency COVID-19 Funding*

The COVID-19 Pandemic has disrupted the natural flow of the semester and has left many students in disarray. For that reason, on the recommendation of the General Coordinator, the external committee created an emergency fund to provide students with financial funding to help alleviate the stress. The funding came from the remaining budget of the committee. The community action fund has given funds and other CSU committees are looking to give funds to the fund.

### *Anti Discrimination Campaign*

With the rise of COVID-19, also came the rise of misinformation about the virus and discrimination towards minority groups. Unfortunately, there has been a rise in acts of hate and discrimination towards Asian community. Therefore, the CSU joined the campaign launched by The Center for Research-Action and Race Relations (CRARR) and the Institute for Research – Education and Race Relations (IRERR) to prevent racism and protect the safety, freedom and civil rights of Asian Montrealers and other negatively afflicted communities as well. Working in the forefront with me are the managers of HOJO and LIC services to help address these issues on a multi-layer level.



[Link to the video](#)

## Divestment

*Written by Désirée Blizzard, Finance Coordinator*

Concordia University officially divested!! This great news came in November, after years of mobilization by students. I personally got involved in the YES campaign back in Fall 2014, and although I was not part of the negotiations with the school in the last few years, I am still proud to have been part of the fight. Divestment was part of the reasons I ran for Finance Coordinator and enthusiastically enrolled in the JSIAC, the Joint Sustainability Investment Advisory Committee. This committee was formed in 2016 and it was the Concordia

Foundation's response to the students' push for concrete actions towards divestment. For a long period of time, it seemed like JSIAC was a way for the administration to calm unruly activists until they graduate but they proved us wrong! The combination of calm negotiations at this committee and strong push from student groups is the only way this movement could have succeeded.

I think it is important to mention people I know have been involved in the campaign since its very beginnings, like Emily Carson-Apstein, the External Coordinator at Sustainable Concordia. They have been involved in the campaign for years and has kept the Divest mobilization alive through its rut. Additionally, Eric Chevrier a part-time faculty member

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who presented to report to the Concordia Foundation in 2014 on how to invest sustainably! These are only two names when hundreds have participated in this campaign in the last decade.

This is also food for thought. Indeed, Concordia is one of 3 Canadian Universities that have decided to officially divest. It's also the only university to present such a detailed and concrete plan on how it plans to do it. I was contacted by a student from Alberta who wanted input and advice on how the campaign came to fruition. It was inspiring to talk with this student, and I put him in contact with Emily, who I've mentioned above. As was demonstrated here, these campaigns take years and comes to show that activism truly is a marathon.

## Annual Undergraduate Survey

*Written by Patrick Quinn, Academic & Advocacy Coordinator*

This year was the second edition of the Annual Undergraduate Survey (AUS). This survey is an excellent way to examine how our resources, advocacy and services support students over time. The data will be useful to inform and support our projects, as Concordia as a large institutional body requires evidence in order to move forward in making change. Data from the survey will be accessible to the student population via the CSU website once the data analysis is complete. Having the data online will give members of the Concordia Community the opportunity to use the data for research.

The AUS was designed to take about ten minutes to fill out. The survey launched on February 4th and will end on February 24th. The data will be available on the website, along with a report of the findings soon.

Universal Transit Pass Research Project

*Written by Patrick Quinn, Academic and Advocacy Coordinator*

Universal Transit Pass Programs (U-Pass) are projects that target, developed between cities, transit authorities, educational institutions, and student unions, to bring students semesterly, or annual, unlimited-use transit passes at a significantly reduced cost.

The Academic Researcher, Erin Campbell, and I have been working on a research project called the 'U-Pass Project'. Essentially, we are looking into how the Concordia Student Union can start offering bus passes at a reduced cost.

We drafted a report that was released to the public about how student associations and universities across Quebec should be negotiating with transit authorities (such as the Association regionale de transport metropolitaine (ARTM)).

This report argues the following points:

- A U-Pass program saves on average \$58.62 per month per student in Canada. At Concordia, this would save students a collective \$24.6 million dollars per year<sup>1</sup>.
- Creates a closer relationship between the transit authority, student union, and university. This allows for increased favourability for public transportation at the university campus(es).
- Realize the sustainability objectives of “Major Initiatives to Foster Sustainable Mobility” in the Quebec Public Transit Economic Plan
- Reduce stress on parking infrastructure
- Reduce the number of cars on the road
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- Encourages sustainable transportation
- Increases transit accessibility

The CSU held a referendum on starting negotiations with Montreal Transit authorities. 96% of voters voted in favour of starting negotiations. Following this enormous result, the CSU has approached the ARTM to begin negotiations.

## General Research

*Written by Patrick Quinn, Academic and Advocacy Coordinator*

The following projects have been researched by our Academic Researcher, Erin Campbell, with supervision by me. The research produced has been used to guide discussions with the relevant stakeholders at Concordia University such as administrators, professors, student groups, etc.

- The History of the Concordia Student Centre Projects
- Looking into Options to lower the price of Gym Passes (This was initially intended to be a report before the Stingers went to referendum to increase the recreation and athletics fee)
- How Course Evaluations Work at Concordia and Looking into Mid Course Evaluations (research will be presented at the Course Evaluations Committee struck by the Provost’s office)
- Indigenous Student Transportation (in collaboration with the Campaigns department)
- Stackable Certificates (or Bachelors’ by accumulation)
- COVID-19 responses by universities across Canada
- User Fees at Concordia

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- Online Proctoring

## Fee Levy Applications

*Written by Patrick Quinn, Academic and Advocacy Coordinator*

Policy Committee's mandate is to do the following:

- Recommend changes to the governance structure, such as the by-laws or the standing regulations
- Review and recommend approval or disapproval of fee-levy applications for the CSU's elections.

### Fee-Levy Applications

In the fall by-elections, the Policy Committee received two fee-levy applications. The first one was from the Recreation and Athletics Department under Concordia University. The second application was from the club called the Concordia Nightline. Ultimately, the Committee made recommendations based on the minimum criteria set out in the Standing Regulations. The Committee recommended in favour of the Recreation and Athletics to go to referendum and against the Nightline from going to referendum.

For the 2020 general elections, the Committee has received one application. It is from the Concordia Nightline. The Committee reviewed the application and recommended it go to referendum. The Nightline successfully got their fee levy question passed and will become a fee levy group.

## Governance Review - Policy Committee

*Written by Patrick Quinn, Academic and Advocacy Coordinator*

### By-Laws and Standing Regulations

Policy Committee has been tasked by Council twice in the 2019-2020 mandate to look into policy changes.

The first task was called the "Elections Transparency" motion, where the Committee looked into adding Judicial Board offences next to the names to candidates on the ballot. The Committee discovered that this would be difficult, as there is no archive of JB decisions. Another issue, one member argued, was that this would go against the Canadian Charter of Human Rights. However, the Committee agreed and is looking into getting JB decisions put into a publicly accessible archive.

The second task is to look into change the dates of Council meetings, as set out in the By-laws. The recommendation will be brought to the February Council meeting.

### Governance Review

The following policies will be reviewed by Policy Committee before going to Council:

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Policy Name	Status
Finance Policy (edited and reviewed by Patrick Quinn and Desiree Blizzard)	Pending Council Approval
Elections Policy	Edited and Pending Review
Policy on Clubs	Pending Council Approval
Policy on Executives and Council of Representatives	Edited and Pending Review
Policy on Positions Book	Pending Review
Policy on Appointments	Edited and Pending Review
Policy on Judicial Board	Pending Council Approval
Policy on Community Action Fund	Pending Council Approval
Ethics and Sustainability Policy	Pending Review
Food System Special Project Funding	Pending Review
CEO and DEO Hiring Policy	Pending Council Approval
Policy on Standing Rules of Council	Created and Pending Review
Executive Bonus Policy	Pending Creation

## International Students Health Plan

*Written by Chris Kalafatidis, General Coordinator and Désirée Blizzard, Finance Coordinator*

The Concordia Student Union was tasked with the mandate of researching a better international student health plan run by the CSU. In collaboration with our partners at StudentCare, which provide our current plan for non-international students, we have assembled a plan that costs less, matches the coverage of the current plan administered by the university, and provides better access to health care. While we cannot currently reveal the details, we will invite a StudentCare representative to council in the upcoming year to explain this ground-breaking program. We have held one meeting with the administration to present the plan and we have organized a second meeting for February. The intent is to collaborate with the administration and keep our relations with the administration cordial, but also have them take us seriously. We know the CSU has the upper hand in this situation, and we want to bring the best alternative to the students. We are currently having conversations with the GSA because this plan would directly affect them as they have most International Students.

## Supported Projects

*Written by Désirée Blizzard, Finance Coordinator*

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As mentioned earlier, the CSU supports many projects financed from different funds. Below is a list of some of the projects we are working with:

## Student Endowment Fund

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<b>Indigenous Student Parent Bursary</b>	\$28,547
<b>Solidarity Economy Conference</b>	\$20,000
<b>Post Secret Project</b>	\$3,000
<b>Montreal Youth Summit</b>	\$20,000
<b>Mindful Project</b>	\$10,454

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## StudentSpace, Accessible Education and Legal Contingency

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<b>ENCS IT Equipment – IT Expenditures</b>	\$52,499
<b>HOJO Web Application and Services CRM</b>	\$140,000
<b>MSA Renovations</b>	\$21,421.25
<b>Liberal Arts College Student Space Renovations</b>	\$11,421

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## Contracts

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<b>Dish Project</b>	\$32,118
<b>Waste Not Want Not</b>	\$7,500
<b>Mindful Project</b>	\$11,103

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<b>CGA Mapping Project</b>	\$41,307
<b>First Voices Week</b>	\$5,000

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# Loyola and Sustainability Portfolio

*Written by Melize Ferrus, Loyola Coordinator*

## Administration

More emphasis has been put on facilitation with administration to improve Loyola oriented issues. This year bus issues and microwaves have been point of conversation about 5 times with Facilities with no major updates seeming to come out of it. Follow up and continual pressure with continue to proceed with hopefully a promise to improve over the summer at the least.

The G-Lounge has been a talking point with Andrew Woodall quite often in the beginning of the Fall. After many emails, a working group meeting is to occur on the 30<sup>th</sup> to plan the future of the space.

## Committee Work

Sustainability committee and Loyola committee have been chaired by me. Sustainability is currently in process of approving application for request from months ago that were not made available to me until recently. Bursary standing regulations are being reviewed and goals for the rest of the year are to be set soon. Prior, the committee has approved CSU sponsorships and set goals for Loyola oriented sustainability goals.

Loyola Committee has approved applications for Katalís and QPIRG, had a hand in approving events and campaigns that have been / will be at Loyola.

## Events

At the beginning of the mandate, my first workings dealt with sponsorship for Welcome Week and working with the planning of the concerts. By the end of the summer, I had contacted about 50 artists and 80 companies for sponsorship. Due to unforeseen financial constraints, none of the contacted artists were able to be booked, but the Red Bull, Eva and other sponsorships did end up benefitting the week. I also collaborated with LASO for cultural fair at Loyola. This experience helped me work on future collaborations as I saw active participation is lucrative in organizational success.

ASAC cultural day and Anime Night went on with more success than the last as, I was more of an active participant in the planning.

In November, two large scaled events were held, 1<sup>st</sup> part of the 3-part Loyola Speakers Series, Time Travel with Ronald Mallett and De-Stress Day. Time Travel with Ronald Mallett was held Oscar Peterson & the Hive in collaboration with Science College and Physics Department and sponsored by Y Kombucha, Provigo and Gusta. The event was successful in establishing presence at the campus and though the auditorium was not full, it was more attended than many Loyola events. The second event was in collaboration with Stronger Than Stigma, Mindful Project, Yoga Club and Performance Centre. The event was much more to the expected participation with a full house for yoga and many of the food stations running out, showing its favourability.

Concordia is located on Kanien'kehá:ka traditional territory.  
Concordia est situé dans le territoire traditionnel Kanien'kehá:ka

# Unfinished Projects

## *Sustainability*

### **Screens:**

At the beginning of the year, I spoke to Marcus about his time as Loyola Coordinator and some of the projects he had going. I had saw that he started the work to get quotes. I noticed that around Loyola a lot of the posters can sit up on the walls for weeks and even years. I had started the work to see the highest traffic parts of the campus. I met with 2 companies to get quotes and spoke with another exclusively online. The project wasn't complete due to the cost and some not thinking it was a great place to invest the SSAELC fund in.

### **Petition for Single Use Plastics:**

This was a point touched on during my elections and I brought up with the sustainability committee as a point that I'd want to work on. As none of my events were ones that I got to engage with the public on, as I was mostly organizing events and was never able to organize one that was sustainability centric.

### **Food Options:**

I was in talks with CFC about trying to get them more presence at Loyola and with Andrew Woodall about using the space in CC for repurposing for student food options. There was a plan for getting CFC a space in SP prior to Fall Finals to sell some of the Mother Hubbard's Cupboard items, but the relationship slowed down and froze post-by-elections and my missing a 9am meeting after the election results were released.

### **Compost Tour:**

In the Summer of '19, I was in contact with WNWN about the process to get more compost bins. I was sent to Sustainability in the Facilities section of the school. I was told to map out the entire campuses waste spots and the process turned out to be very time consuming in a way interpreting to be discouraging with no guarantee of getting the compost bins even with the effort. The project died off after the fall semester resumed.

## *Loyola:*

### **Full Cultural Fair:**

I had contacted every cultural group at the beginning of the summer with many scheduled. After the Fall started, many groups dropped stating no time to continue. I worked with LASO, ASAC and the South Asian ones. LASO was to be with CCSU, ASAC with the Mauritius Student Association, etc, but teamwork was hard to facilitate with not having experience in the field. There was to be a day with Syrian Association and the other middle eastern groups, but it came down to just the Syrian Association and the date they were supposed to have ended up being forecast to snow or be very cold and alternate accommodations were a nightmare, so the event never occurred.

### **Talent Show / Comedy Show / Concerts:**

This along with many other initial ideas I had at the beginning of the year never occurred due to a misunderstanding during my first few months about how the budget works.

### **Leland Melvin:**

After meeting him in Summer '19 at an event, I spoke to Leland about doing a lecture at Concordia for black history month to show the BIPOC community usually unheard in Concordia in the STEM fields that we hear them. Negotiations started soon after and the cost was agreed on, with a 3K contribution solidified from GCS. When the idea was brought to BIPOC, the event was not able to happen, as they couldn't invest time on the event and I didn't think it was a good idea for me to run it, as it was to be in the Hall Building.

### **Hive Lunch Contract:**

One of the priorities identified by CTC was brand visibility. We wanted to ensure that the average student knew that they were engaging with the CSU in small ways. The Hive Free Lunch is mostly powered by student money being distributed by the CSU to HFL. I had drafted a new contract for the Hive to have the CSU get more visibility, via calling it CSU Free Lunch and putting our logo on the materials. As I wasn't able to control the money being flowed to the Hive, there was not much incentive for them to take my opinions into consideration. They engaged with me for a bit, but I never heard much from them after I brought a contractor to see the spots of the Hive-Loyola that needed to be painted and my facilitation with the process.

Several more events are to come like service oriented, more lectures and cultural events.

## **CSU Appreciation Merchandise**

*Written by Melize Ferrus, Loyola Coordinator*

This year, the team would like to approach the end of mandate sweaters untraditionally, especially with the buildup many of us have of the typical university pullovers. I and Isaiah are currently in contact with a company specializing in University apparel. An executive meeting is to be scheduled soon to have the options be made public to councilors and employers to ensure a delivery prior to mandate end. Delays could pop up though with many services reduced or closed.

## **Incoming Executive Training**

*Written by Isaiah Joyner, External Affairs & Mobilization Coordinator*

The new executive training began officially on May 1<sup>st</sup> but the first day only began May 4<sup>th</sup> because of international labour day. I have reached out to the various services of the CSU and stakeholders to provide the new executives introductions and trainings on various subject matters to provide context to the CSU. Each individual executive is responsible for their individual trainings of their successors and ensuring that they have the tools required to come into the position they are inherited. However, due to the team being one coordinator short, those who have inherited the workload of the Sustainability Coordinator are all working to ensure that the incoming Sustainability Coordinator is not left by the wayside.