



Concordia Student Union - Council of Representatives
CSU Special Council Meeting
Wednesday, October 14, 2020
Via Zoom, 18h30

1. CALL TO ORDER

The chairperson calls the meeting to order at 18h32.

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

2. ROLL CALL

Council Chairperson: Caitlin Robinson
Council Minute Keeper: Michelle Lam

Executives present for the meeting were: Isaiah Joyner (General Coordinator), Sarah Mazhero (Academic & Advocacy Coordinator), Eduardo Malorni (Student Life Coordinator), Victoria Pesce (External Affairs & Mobilization Coordinator), Daniel Amico (Internal Affairs Coordinator), Manuella Simo (Sustainability Coordinator), Holly Mark-Hilton (Finance Coordinator), Malcolm Asselin (Loyola Coordinator)

Councilors present for the meeting were: Tzvi Hersh Filler (Gina Cody School of Engineering), Desiree Blizzard (Gina Cody School of Engineering), Anais Gagnon (Gina Cody School of Engineering), Paige Beaulieu (Arts & Science), Shaun Sederoff (Arts & Science), Christopher Vaccarella (Arts & Science), Marlena Valenta (Arts & Science), Ahmadou Sakho (Arts & Science), Margot Berner (Arts & Science), Lauren Perozek (John Molson School of Business), Matthew Benzrihem (Arts & Science), Diana Lukic (Fine Arts), Harrison Kirshner

(John Molson School of Business), S Shivaane (Arts & Science), Sarah Bubenheimer (Arts & Science), Zachary Williams (Independent), Jeremy Deneault (John Molson School of Business), Chelsea Okankwu (John Molson School of Business), James Hanna (Gina Cody School of Engineering), Arie Barak (Independent), Yasmine Yahiaoui (Arts & Science)

Executives absent for the meeting were: N/A

Councilors absent for the meeting were: , Howard Issley (John Molson School of Business), Roman Zelensky (Arts & Science), Natalia Whiteley (Gina Cody School of Engineering), Jarrad Haas (Fine Arts)

James Hanna moves to excuse **Margot Berner, Howard Issley, and Roman Zelensky**.
Seconded by **S Shivaane**. Motion passes.

Tzvi Hersh Filler moves to excuse **Jarrad Hass**. Seconded by **Harrison Kirshner**. Motion passes

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

James Hanna motions to move the CSU By-Elections point before Sustainable Concordia.
Seconded. Motion passes

Eduardo Malorni motions to move 8h to after 5e. Seconded. Motion passes.

Zachary Williams motions to move up 7e to before 7a. Seconded by **Isaiah Joyner**. Opposed by **Tzvi Hersh Filler**. Motion passes.

VOTE:

9 YES

5 NO

2 ABSTAIN

Zachary Williams: I feel like it shouldn't take very long and it's something that needs to be addressed asap.

Tzvi Hersh Filler: It is a contentious motion, it will have a bit of discussion. We have a lot of items on the agenda that have been pushed from other meetings.

Tzvi Hersh Filler motions to move up 8g. Seconded. Motion passes.

Isaiah Joyner moves to approve the agenda. Seconded by **James Hanna**. Motion passes

4. CONSENT AGENDA

5. PRESENTATIONS AND GUEST SPEAKERS

a) StudentCare Referendum Question

Alex Golovko (Studentcare): I am presenting on the StudentCare referendum question. We are the third party administrator of the CSU Health and Dental plan. We are student union leaders that went into the insurance world. We were established through referendum and now one of the largest CSU services. We want to focus on three areas: access to doctors, navigate health systems, and avoiding emergency rooms and waste resources. We want to decrease pressure on campus health services and improve the student experience. Our virtual health services were made in partnership with Dialogue. Dialogue manages over 1000 daily visits with hundreds of medical professionals fully trained with virtual care, accessible 24/7. The solution of this is fast access to medical professionals through video consultations. They will prescribe referrals, prescriptions, and accompany patients towards the right resources. In addition, cases are followed-up on by a member of their care team, resulting in proactive follow-up. The onboarding is done by Studentcare. Internationally, we find emergency rooms, clinics, and pharmacies for those abroad. The CSU sponsored this service for Plan members from July 1 - December 31. Today, we want to bring this to referendum to see if students want access to this all year.

Tzvi Hersh Filler: Is there a motion on the table? Instead of saying “of a 4.88 fee per month” to a fee that reflects the total for the semester or year.

Tzvi Hersh Filler motions to include the breakdown of \$x per month, totalling to \$19.52 amount per semester, and \$58.56 amount per year. Seconded by **Lauren Perozek**.

Alex Golovko: I am amendable, I also want to add that it is possible to opt-out.

Tzvi Hersh Filler: We should include explicit mention of how much it will cost per semester or per year

Lauren Perozek: I would like clarification, are all students automatically signed up? How can students opt-out?

Alex Golovko: They take place on studentcare.ca in September and January

Lauren Perozek: How does your policy mesh with the current health care plan provided to international students? I'm an international student, and I'm covered by the university. Would I be paying double?

Alex Golovko: International students are covered by a separate health and dental plan, we have nothing to do with it. In this case, this is not something being offered by your international plan. You can opt out if you choose not to participate

Lauren Perozek: So international students automatically pay for this but don't qualify?

Alex Golovko: The CSU is offering its members to Canadian citizens and Permanent Residents. International students are not covered from the start. Dialogue would be offered by the CSU and would be offered to international students if they want to use it, but can opt out if they choose. To answer your question, if the referendum passes, then yes you will be automatically enrolled

Isaiah Joyner: This is something new. International students and domestic students can use it. International students aren't covered by our Health and Dental plan. This question is asking if they want to pay for this additional service. If it passes, students can permanently opt out of it. We should also amend this motion to

Harrison Kirshner: I want to speak in favor of this service

Matthew Benzrihem: So we can opt out permanently to the health and dental plan?

Alex Golovko: For Dialogue, you can opt out permanently one time. You need to opt out every year for the CSU Health and Dental Plan

Tzvi Hersh Filler: Is it charged to the student account monthly, semesterly, or yearly?

Alex Golovko: Not monthly. It will be decided with the university

Isaiah Joyner motions to add the following amendment. Seconded by **Tzvi Hersh Filler**. *BE IT RESOLVED* that the 2021-2022 executives notify students of how often they will be charged the fee.

Tzvi Hersh Filler: Replace the yearly with per semester and I will see it as friendly.

Tzvi Hersh Filler sponsors the following motion. Seconded. Motion passes.

WHEREAS, rapid and convenient online access to medical doctors, nurses and other health services is integral to the health and wellbeing of Concordia University students, both during the time of the pandemic and in the future, and;

WHEREAS, the Concordia Student Union (CSU) expanded the coverage offered by the CSU Health & Dental Plan to include access to Studentcare's new integrated virtual telemedicine service until December 31, 2020, temporarily funded out of CSU's Plan Reserve Fund and;

WHEREAS, Studentcare's integrated virtual telemedicine service offers students unlimited access to connect virtually with nurses and physicians 24/7 via a mobile or web app from anywhere in Canada and consult via videoconference with a licensed doctor or nurse practitioner within 60 minutes during regular hours (8AM-8PM) and within 120 minutes after regular hours (8PM-8AM). Among other service aspects, licensed doctors can provide medical care, issue or refill prescriptions, and refer to specialists and other health care professionals as needed.

BE RESOLVED THAT the following question of importance be placed on the ballot for referendum during the Fall 2020 By-Elections:

QUESTION:

“Do you support the implementation of Studentcare's integrated virtual telemedicine service for all Concordia University undergraduate students, and implementation of a \$19.52 per semester starting in January 2021? Students will be able to opt-out of the service and fee during a designated opt-out period independent of the main Plan in the Fall and the Winter.”

BE IT RESOLVED that the 2021-2022 executives notify students of the workings of the insurance plan and its opt out procedures and timelines in a dedicated email.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the budgetary impact of this motion is nil.

b) Fee Levy Opt-Out Period

Emily Carson-Apstein: I work at Sustainable Concordia. I am reporting on the Fall 2020 opt-out and the perspective of the fee levies. This fall we used a jotform that asked how many credits students were taking, somewhere that they can upload their student id and schedules. Fee levy groups also had the opportunity to write a paragraph about who they are and what they do before students check yes or no on opting out. In the future we want it to be more interactive. There were 7000 visits to the form, 1173 opted out, average 13 mins spent on the form, 30% picked specific groups and 70% opted out of all. This means the educational component works! Students are taking the time to learn about the fee levies. 5000 looked at the information and decided not to opt out. That's reassuring. This community-run system meets all the recommendations made by the previous CSU executives. This system is collaborative and allows fee-levy groups to stay up to date on their finances, budget effectively and transparently, and maintain strong relationships with students and other members. I'm here on behalf of the

fee-levy community because this process has drawn out for almost a year and it has been a drain on fee-levy and CSU energy and resources. Council has the power today to finish this process and commit to the system that is already in place, ready to go for the winter semester. I strongly believe this is the best course of action.

S Shivaane: Thanks for the labor put in this. Eduardo, you said you were renegotiating with the admin. Do you have updates?

Eduardo Malorni: The opt out button being in the financial account center is not possible with the MyConcordia system. The button will have to be on the Student Center page. The legal agreements will be possible but they would not like to do that because it would not be compatible with mobile. They backtracked and said that they now don't want to be involved in writing the legal agreements. The links on the pages can be routed through the Concordia domain but they do not want to be liable for an external site. Out of the four things, they're willing to give us one of them but the other three are not confirmed

Tzvi Hersh Filler: To Emily, over the summer I tried to opt out of all the groups but four of them did not respond. L'Organe said they received my request and that they will process it but then decided not to. They only gave it to me after Eduardo spoke to them. Can you elaborate on how they will proceed to opt out and be held accountable?

Emily Carson-Apstein: All groups understand that they must honor opt out requests. Over the summer, a lot of groups have never had to do their own online banking before. The summer was a trial period for groups. L'Organe had less capacity over the summer and it was more of a miscommunication rather than them trying to avoid the opt out. We have an idea to have a more centralized banking system.

Tzvi Hersh Filler: It is my understanding that these groups have no legal or accountability mechanism

Emily Carson-Apstein: We have to sign agreements with the DoS to have this relationship. We hold each other accountable

Tzvi Hersh Filler: Several groups don't respond, now what? I could go to the DoS and they will go out of their way to say it's not their problem.

Eduardo Malorni: I spoke to DoS. They said that it is the CSU's responsibility to bring this up to them to report that X group is not fulfilling their duties.

Harrison Kirshner: Thank you for this presentation. The system we had in the Fall was incredible, much better than the summer, based on feedback I've received. It was seamless and streamlined. Thank you for taking the feedback and coming up with this great system in a short period of time.

James Hanna: I'm happy with the work that has been done and is a mass improvement over the summer. It is a unified page. I don't care if this came from students or admin, I just wanted it to be streamlined. We originally sent this to admin because it was such a mess in the summer. I'm enjoying the fact that everything now is simple and in one place. Congratulations to you. I want this system to be used in the future.

Matthew Benzrihem: I agree with Harrison, and that there should be a button on MyConcordia.

Matthew Benzrihem presents the following motion. Seconded by **James Hanna**. Motion passes.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the current system continue to exist

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a legal agreement be drawn up with the concordia community to institutionalize this system

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the executives be mandated to find a solution when fee levy groups do not uphold their obligations regarding online opt outs.

VOTE:

15 YES

1 NO

2 ABSTAIN

Harrison Kirshner votes yes.

Lauren Perozek votes yes.

Arieh Barak abstains.

Christopher Vaccarella votes yes.

Tzvi Hersh Filler votes no.

Matthew Benzrihem: It's a good system, we just to make sure that it continues and that there is a standardized way of doing things

Tzvi Hersh Filler: This motion is a violation of our bylaws and the referendum question.

Chairperson: Based on what?

Tzvi Hersh Filler: That we need to abide by our referendum question.

Isaiah Joyner: The referendum question did not mention MyConcordia. It was the use of Concordia University bringing the online opt out. Then we have to question if the CSU is part of Concordia University

Tzvi Hersh Filler: No we are an independent entity

James Hanna: We want online opt out at Concordia, it is reasonable to interpret that as the Concordia community

Tzvi Hersh Filler: I'd like it noted that it is an issue. Students are required to upload the schedule, what happens to grad students who don't have any courses?

Emily Carson-Apstein: They can opt out and there is a set fee for them that doesn't happen based on credits

Tzvi Hersh Filler: If you're not taking classes, what would they upload? Do thesis students get screwed over?

Emily Carson-Apstein: No, they can just prove that they're Concordia students

Arieh Barak: Can we email all students the link to opt out? How else can students find out? It isn't transparent

Yasmine Yahiaoui: I can't find anywhere that the Google doc was and I could've saved money. The link wasn't advertised enough. Maybe other students don't know this exists. How was I supposed to know?

Emily Carson-Apstein: We have a website that has opt-out information. We have a Facebook page. Each group will have opt-out information on their own page.

Eduardo Malorni: The fee levies negotiated with Christopher Kalafatidis and would only agree on the condition that we do not advertise the fee levy opt out and the council at the time agreed.

Arieh Barak: What was the reason?

Eduardo Malorni: I don't know

James Hanna: Can we motion to increase the advertisements so that students are more aware of the opt-out?

Eduardo Malorni: I'm sure we can come up with some sort of agreement?

Desiree Blizzard calls the question. Seconded by **S Shivaane**. Opposed. Motion passes.

VOTE:

13 YES

3 NO

1 ABSTAIN

c) CJLO Referendum Question

Patrice Blais: I was involved with the CSU 18-19 years ago. I'm here tonight as a board member of CJLO. I'm a faculty representative and a graduate student pursuing a MBA. CJLO is a different structure because we broadcast by the public airwaves and have to abide by government regulations. Our fee levy is not tied to CPI and we have lost money over the years. We are looking at many new projects that we would like to fund and invest with, and get student support. This is why we are proposing this fee levy increase.

Tzvi Hersh Filler: Reading CJLO's bylaws, you do not allow random students to come vote even if they're paying members?

Patrice Blais: This is a misconception. We worked with CSU lawyers to come up with our bylaws. Any student can apply and become a member, it is a formality. They just have to have student status. We have facilitated the process as much as possible. They fill a form out. They've been ratified and we have never refused anyone. We would only do that if they opted out, but that has never happened.

Tzvi Hersh Filler: Can a board member refuse membership?

Patrice Blais: In theory, yes. Has never happened in practice and never will

Anais Gagnon moves that the CJLO referendum question be on the ballot this semester. Seconded by **Harrison Kirshner**. Opposed by **Tzvi Hersh Filler**. Motion passes.

VOTE:

14 YES

2 NO

2 ABSTAIN

Patrice Blais: We look forward to providing an important service for students. When I was at the CSU, the CJLO was a club back in 2001 and was receiving a \$12,000 budget. Now it is an independent fee levy group that has grown and is broadcasting on public airwaves, and is giving opportunity to students. I'm happy for the support. It came to our attention that there was a counselor, the one that asked me a lot of questions about the bylaws, that is actually going around to defund CJLO and the Link. We only did what we felt was right at the time. We have now found that the current CSU is very collaborative. There will be no lawsuit

d) Mental Health Service Referendum Question

Eduardo Malorni: Last year, we recognized the importance of mental health. We talked about a service dedicated to mental health, but it didn't go anywhere. It became apparent the lack of mental health support we give students. Concordia offers ten free counselling sessions and zen dens. Now that we're remote, now they provide phone calls and zen dens are inaccessible. FASA and CASA are holding workshops for mental health. We realized that they are not consistent and not something students can turn to for continuous help. Student's mental health is suffering based on our reports. We are thinking of looking into mental health services to offer. We want to know if the CSU should offer this service, the way we offer HOJO, LIC, Daycare, etc. The process is first asking if this is something students are interested in. Then, I will call faculty associations to send out surveys to see what students want from this service. We'll take the data and then look at the costs associated with what the students want. Then we have to consult our union and see how we will staff it. Then we will send it to referendum again and ask if students will support x services for y cost for fee levy. There is a ton of work associated with this, but I think it is work that should be done. Faculty associations agree with this.

Harrison Kirshner: This is a fantastic idea. It is something that should be looked into. The Student Nightline, a current fee levy, what is their purpose? They also provide at-home counselling?

Eduardo Malorni: They provide on-the-spot crisis management. They are just volunteers, a voice to speak to at your moment of need, but nothing longterm.

Christopher Vaccarella: I support this and hope this goes through. Especially with COVID and Winter coming up. Will this be up by winter semester?

Eduardo Malorni: A proper timeline would be a Fall 2021 launch, if everything goes perfectly to plan

Anais Gagnon motions that the following question be added to the referendum. Seconded. Motion passes.

Do you support the CSU working towards the creation of a new service dedicated to supporting the mental health of students?

Anais Gagnon: At Concordia, you need to have special needs to get services. It would be amazing if the CSU offers this to students. Mental health is something that plagues the student population. With COVID, it is not going to get better.

James Hanna: Is there any opposition? Or can we just vote

Tzvi Hersh Filler: What has Robert Henry (General Manager) commented on this, and how does this fit in with the mindfulness project?

Eduardo Malorni: He says it is a great initiative and will specifically be helping with associating costs to this project. For the mindfulness project, they indicated that they wanted to be a fee levy and would only stick to mindfulness. They haven't gotten back to me yet regarding what their plans are moving forward. They would only be a subsection of what this section includes

Tzvi Hersh Filler: Would they be an independent and redundant service, or part of this?

Eduardo Malorni: They would be a similar service to an extent, but I wouldn't say that it is redundant. This is more expansive, but working in the same vein

Victoria Pesce: There are different mental health initiatives on campus. Each service has a cap and we have 35,000 services. We want to offer another service to give students access to the necessary service based on their needs. We want to do something that is more accessible to students. Mental health is getting worse so we want to have the tools to make students successful

e) Space Concordia - Endowment Fund

Melize (Space Concordia): I am the President of Space Concordia. We have projects, do outreach, learning, and community building.

Daniel Berry: We have students from a variety of majors at Concordia. We compete at the University Rover Challenge and the European Rover Challenge. We do really well at these competitions.

Kimberly: We are good at building satellites. Launching a satellite is expensive and cost \$200K to launch. Concordia will be orbiting space in 2022. Our impact is to expose students to all aspects of a real space mission. We want to help students get experience in space engineering. We want to create a permanent ground station at Concordia University, and the construction of a thermal vacuum chamber.

Oleg Khalimonov: We have been launching rockets since 2015. We want to put Concordia on the map by being the first university in space.

Amanda: I am the lead of the Space Health division. Lasik, MRI, and Nike Air Maxes are examples of Space Health. We want to invest in technology to make space travel more accessible. We want to further human space exploration by developing health technologies that will enable autonomy and survival of humans engaging in space missions and establishing civilization on other planets.

Melize: We give students opportunities to get involved in the space industry.

Timothee Clochard: We have over 20 associations, 24 events, and over 100 volunteers.

Melize: We need money.

Oleg Khalimonov: You will be helping us make history

Melize: We are coming to you as a serious resort

Desiree Blizzard: The student endowment fund is no longer frozen. I was the one who wrote the policy to freeze it until a new policy, which happened in May 2020. The financial committee is supposed to review any applications before presenting to council

Isaiah Joyner moves to send this to the finance committee. Seconded by **S Shivaane**. Motion passes.

Isaiah Joyner: The new policy says that they need to go to fincomm

James Hanna: Simping for space is king shit. I would like to give you all the fucking money in the world but we don't have money for all of it. Send this to fincomm to give them as much money as possible

Matthew Benzrihem: I cannot be objective and can only apologize for not giving you all the money

S Shivaane: I'm a simp for space

Isaiah Joyner calls the question.

f) Policy on Council and Standing Committees

Sarah Mazhero: We removed the steering committee that was provided, chairs won't be allowed to vote and chairs can pick their own times for when to schedule things. The policy committee worked on this together, so it has our approval, I would like to pass this.

Sarah Mazhero motions to approve the policy on council and standing committees. Seconded by **Harrison Kirshner**. Motion passes.

g) Policy on Elections and Referenda

Sarah Mazhero: What was changed is the process for online elections. We have consulted with our lawyers as well. We have reduced the signature requirement by 20 signatures.

Victoria Pesce: Is external going to have to change their chair?

Chairperson: That was already passed in the last point

Matthew Benzrihem motions to approve the policy on elections and referenda. Seconded by **Sarah Mazhero**. Motion passes.

h) Human Resources Firm Proposal

Sarah Mazhero: A lot of the cases go to the Judicial Board (JB) when they involve the Code of Conduct, but they do not solve the interpersonal issues that arise. Things can be fixed with a conflict resolution and mediation process. This was also recommended by our General Manager. The HR Consultant can also be a third-party advisor. This is in dire need for our union and helps a lot of the present tension, just by having a discussion. This would of course not replace JB.

Sarah Mazhero presents the following motion. Seconded by **Harrison Kirshner**. Motion passes.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT council approve the proposal to have the HR consultant work with the CSU to create policy, and conduct mediation in accordance with the Sexual Violence and Safer Spaces Policy and the Code of Conduct.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the budgetary impact is to be decided by the Finance Committee.

Tzvi Hersh Filler: This seems to be more of a proposal rather than a policy.

Sarah Mazhero: We can work on it when we speak with the consultant. This is going to be used on a needed basis

i) Council Equality Referendum Question

Eduardo Malorni: This is an opinion question and does not in any way, shape, or form change how council currently looks or will look. This is simply an opinion question being asked if they agree with the idea. This is not a change to council. Decisions like this are major and should be decided by the students and not ourselves. While some of us may not agree to the question, we should not be taking away the right to vote from students on such a major issue. There is no right and wrong but we want to listen to the students. After discussing this with the faculty associations, a common concern was that the CSU council is both not representative of the student body and there exists poor communication between the CSU and Faculty Associations. This is a common problem that we do not represent all of the student body. Christopher Kalafatidis said last year that political science students represent most of the seats, which doesn't make sense. Many schools have implemented minority seats on their council to aid in diversifying their council. Different councils have different minority seat representatives and there is no standard. The lawyers have also agreed that this is legal and that many schools do it. Minority seats bring diverse opinions, and having these voices will make the council more respectful, inclusive, and diverse. This question has the support of all faculty associations who have stated they are interested in discussing council reforms that will allow for a more representative, communicative and diverse council in the future. It would be a slap in the face to the faculty associations if we do not send this question to the referendum. Looking at the bylaws of several student unions across Canada, it is apparent that there are many different formats. I do not know the perfect council format that works best, our job is to set certain goals and then modify the proposal until we find something that fits. For this reason, I intentionally made it vague so that it will leave multiple formats up for review and implementation.

Eduardo Malorni motions to send the following question to the referendum. Seconded by **S Shivaane**. Motion passes. Opposed by **Matthew Benzrihem**

Do you support the CSU adopting and undergraduate representative council distributed proportionally among the faculties with specified seats allocated for minority groups?

VOTE:

14 YES

1 NO

1 ABSTAIN

Harrison Kirshner votes yes.

Christopher Vaccarella votes yes

Anais Gagnon votes yes.

James Hanna votes yes

Harrison Kirshner: This is an opinion question so the logistics of it are going to be supported, we're just asking if students will support this. All students should have the right to vote on this important topic that will change council representation for the better

S Shivaane: Thanks for sending us those different by-laws for us to read because it really put into perspective how limited the csu's scale of representation, by faculty only approach is in relation to other universities. There are multiple issues with csu-student disconnect and reform could very well be a good way of overcoming that. Within race, there are various ethnic groups that have firm communities in Quebec, I know Eelam Tamil folks have a big community, a seat for disabled students, etc, could help move those conversations along. I'm in support of this and having more research done. I guess my only question is would there be a preamble but you answered that, would there be merit in specifying the representation meant for religious minorities, racialized minorities, accessibility, indigenous, Black, various LGBT groups etc etc. Also, who usually votes for those seats? Is it the entire student body?

Eduardo Malorni: I've seen situations where it is an appointed seat, some are elected. I haven't seen anyone limit the voter pool yet to certain minority groups.

James Hanna motions to amend the question to the following. Seconded by **Anais Gagnon**. Motion passes.

Do you support the CSU investigating the adoption and undergraduate representative council distributed proportionally among the faculties with specified seats allocated for minority groups?

James Hanna: It would be a good investigation on how to update a twenty decade old system

Tzvi Hersh Filler: It's eight years

James Hanna: Yea, but has council changed substantially?

Matthew Benzrihem: I want your word that religious minorities will also be included.

Eduardo Malorni: I haven't seen any bylaws that included religious minorities. My opinion is that if we add religious minorities, we have to add all of them or none of them. We can't pick and choose.

Matthew Benzrihem: We can add a list of potential examples in the preamble

Eduardo Malorni: It might confuse voters and make them think that those are the only groups we're prioritizing. I want to keep this as open as possible

S Shivaane: We might look at the cultural groups on campus as a starter base and then look at the different communities that have sizable populations across Quebec.

Matthew Benzrihem: It's too vague and I'm scared it's going to go in a direction we don't want

j) Referendum Questions re: Fee Levies

Tzvi Hersh Filler: For CJLO, the original reason has to do with a lawsuit regarding our online opt out. In the event that they don't file, I will no longer go collect the signatures to remove their fee levy. If they do, I will. I regret including the part about the Link's smear campaigns as there are legal discussions ongoing

Harrison Kirshner: We heard from CJLO that clarified that they are having a good relationship with the executives and have no intention of suing us. If they do sue then we can deal with it at that point. We're talking of removing fee levies of people who contribute deeply to students

Eduardo Malorni: The questions submitted are arguably prejudicial. I can see this being sent to JB. Generally, when things like this occur, there has to be a more tactful way of doing things. There are a lot of ways to go about things, even if you disagree with them, before resulting in this and causing a lot of drama behind the scenes. This would affect the livelihood of some people. I would be hesitant to collect signatures based on the way the questions are worded.

Luca Caruso-Moro: What are the smear campaigns you mentioned caused by the Link?

Tzvi Hersh Filler: I cannot discuss due to ongoing legal discussions

l) CSU Operations Budget

Tzvi Hersh Filler presents the following motion. Motion failed to receive a second and died.

WHEREAS there is a demand from the CSU's members for a net reduction in tuition;

WHEREAS the CSU ought to show some form of solidarity with tuition decrease demands;

WHEREAS the Finance Committee has found that it is possible to reduce the operating fee to 2.06\$ and still maintain a surplus;

WHEREAS it is prudent to leave some leeway;

WHEREAS Bylaw 11.2 states that the Council or Representatives shall have the sole authority to propose the amount of the fee;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the following question be sent to referendum:

"The CSU Operating Fee is a fee that all students registered in undergraduate courses at Concordia must pay.

In 2019-2020, it was 2.21\$. Do you support reducing the fee to 2.11\$, effective Winter 2021?"

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the budgetary impact of this motion is an expected reduction of 15k of the budgetary surplus.

6. APPOINTMENTS

a) Loyola Committee

Malcolm Asselin: We're relaxed, and we're trying to figure out how to engage the community.

b) Policy Committee

Sarah Mazhero: We pass policies pertaining to Council. We meet once a week. If you're interested, come and join

S Shivaane nominates **Sarah Bubenheimer**. **Sarah Bubenheimer** accepts

Jeremy Deneault nominates themselves.

Sarah Bubenheimer: I want to get more involved, I'm only in one committee so far. I thrive better at smaller committees. I have a good grasp at policies based on previous experience

Jeremy Deneault withdraws their nomination

Daniel Amico: It would be great for Sarah to be on another committee, she was great in the appointments committee

S Shivaane moves to appoint **Sarah Bubenheimer** to the Policy Committee. Seconded by **Jeremy Deneault**. Motion passes.

c) Clubs & Space Committee

Daniel Amico: We meet once every two weeks. We approve our club's budget proposals, office space issues, etc. It is an enriching experience to work with such creative students. We have a lot of fun! You can't be an executive or heavily involved in a club due to conflict of interest.

Daniel Amico nominates **Sarah Bubenheimer**. **Sarah Bubenheimer** accepts

Sarah Bubenheimer: I have experience in this committee and have been involved with clubs in the past.

Daniel Amico motions to approve **Sarah Bubenheimer** to the Clubs & Space Committee. Seconded by **Harrison Kirshner**. Motion passes.

Tzvi Hersh Filler nominates **Christopher Vaccarella**. **Christopher Vaccarella** accepts.

Christopher Vaccarella: I want more experience and to learn how to process work. I have experience with budgets and I want to get to know more people and learn about the operations.

Daniel Amico motions to approve **Christopher Vaccarella** to the Clubs & Space Committee. Seconded by **S Shivaane**. Motion passes.

d) Senate

Isaiah Joyner: It is the highest academic governing body. You will work with myself, Sarah, and the other senators to support students and push the student agenda forward. You need to be available on Fridays

S Shivaane nominates **Margot Berner**. **Margot Berner** accepts by proxy.

Jeremy Deneault nominates themselves.

Jeremy Deneault: I want the Senate to have a different perspective. I have Aspergers and Epilepsy, that brings a different perspective.

S Shivaane: Margot is very badass and capable

Victoria Pesce: She is very good with policy, is very professional with talking to admin, and this is something that is important to her. She pushes to ensure students are considered in all capabilities. She is conscious of everyone's struggles and very hard working

THE VOTE IS TIED.

Anais Gagnon moves to table this indefinitely. Seconded by **Jeremy Deneault**. Motion passes

e) Sponsorship Ad Hoc Committee

Victoria Pesce: We are looking for someone to fill the sponsorship seat. We want to meet once every two weeks. We want to find sponsorships to fund our initiatives

f) Fee Levy Review Committee

Eduardo Malorni: We check the documents when a fee levy wants to become a fee levy. We would make sure that they're in order, review, and ask questions. We would approve on the grounds that they have all their documents ready. Then we bring it to council. We also review amendment and defunding applications. It's a lot of paperwork.

g) Library Services Fund Committee

Eduardo Malorni: It is like the athletics fee but for the library. We come up with good uses for the money for the library. We meet four times a year.

h) CEO Appointment

Isaiah Joyner: We started the CEO recruitment process. We put out the call out, we're conducting interviews.

Chairperson: We have had four interviews, one official meeting, and a meet-in-greet

7. RETURNING BUSINESS

a) Secret Ballot

Desiree Blizzard presents the following motion. Seconded by **Harrison Kirshner**. Motion passes.

WHEREAS currently secret ballots can be enacted by any Council member as soon as they ask.

WHEREAS no secret ballot policy can be found.

WHEREAS Robert Rules outlines the use of secret ballot “ [...] is habitually used in connection with elections and trials, and sometimes for the selection of the next place for the meeting of a convention.”

WHEREAS Robert Rules requires a simple majority for all motions to pass

BE IT RESOLVED THAT a secret ballot request needs a simple majority to be enacted.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT budgetary impact is null.

Desiree Blizzard: Currently there is no policy that exists in our SR and bylaws about secret ballots. I don't want secret ballots to disappear. Secret ballots will still be possible, but you will need a simple majority to enact it. You can mention that you fear voicing your opinion because of cyberbullying and we will take that in mind. I don't want secret ballots to be used every time someone wants to hide their vote

Tzvi Hersh Filler motions to split their following amendments. Seconded. Motion passes.

Tzvi Hersh Filler presents the following amendment. Seconded by **James Hanna**. Opposed by **Zachary Williams**. Motion fails.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT a vote may be called to challenge a motion for secret ballot.

VOTE:

1 YES

12 NO

3 ABSTAIN

Anais Gagnon: Wouldn't a double negative be a positive in the end? You're proposing the same thing as Desiree

Tzvi Hersh Filler: We want to err on the side of protecting the people who are concerned.

Tzvi Hersh Filler presents the following amendment. Seconded by **James Hanna**. Opposed by **Lauren Perozek**. Motion fails.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a vote for secret ballot must be in secret ballot.

Tzvi Hersh Filler: In the event you're calling a secret ballot in fear of harassment, the fact that you're holding the vote in open session defeats the purpose

Arieh Barak: We should vote without fear of harassment. If I have to motivate for why I want to vote with a secret ballot, I'm exposing my vote. I need the majority to not be harassed.

Isaiah Joyner: The secret ballot is not just because you want to show your vote. We're a public company, a not-for-profit. You have to be accountable for your decisions. If you spend less time offending people, people aren't going to come after you. (INTERRUPTED)

Arieh Barak: You're justifying harassment!

Isaiah Joyner: Harassment is a two-way street. People have said deplorable things during this debate. As student representatives, your first priority is to be accountable.

Lauren Perozek: Arieh, I've had people harassing me. Preventing secret ballots is not the only way to prevent harassment. Don't think you're limited just by this method. Find other ways to skin a cat.

Desiree Blizzard: Voting in secret ballot to enact secret ballot goes against the spirit of the motion. I brought this motion back because I believe in transparency and accountability. I don't encourage harassment either. Secret ballot is enacted left and right because people don't want to be transparent and accountable

Arieh Barak: I want to vote by secret ballot.

Tzvi Hersh Filler presents the following amendment. Motion failed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the threshold for blocking a secret ballot be 33%.

Hadassah Alencar (The Concordian): Why did the last vote fail if it was 50/50

Chairperson: It required a 50% + 1 so that there is a majority, but it did not receive a simple majority.

Zachary Williams: This council has an image problem. It isn't helped by having frivolous secret ballot votes. In reality, we are elected representatives. I represent Independent students and they deserve to know how I vote. In a House of Commons, they don't do frivolous secret ballot votes. Students don't have trust in us and we need more transparency

Chelsea Okankwu: I agree with Desiree, we're student representatives and need to be held accountable. This motion makes it easier to do so

Sarah Mazhero: It's important for students to know exactly what discussions we're having. It's our duty that students know exactly what we're voting on. It's the students duty to know what's going on in council to give us feedback

Tzvi Hersh Filler: There have been cases where people say threats. We've seen what the solidarity with them looks like and it is remarkably disappointing. This strikes me as a motion designed to enable bullying. Whatever, you do you.

Isaiah Joyner: It's about accountability, no one is about bullying. Calling a secret ballot takes time. We should keep discussions fair among each other and don't attack each other, and express your thoughts without offending each other

James Hanna: I can guarantee that a few of the motions that went through secret ballot only passed because they went to secret ballot. There are people who are in groups on council, and allowing secret ballots allows you to vote against the group, especially if you think there is a prevailing idea. It protects the integrity of people. It is central to our system. If someone doesn't want backlash from their peers, everyone can sympathize with that. We saw people falsely attributing votes to people and then threatened to go to their employers. There are legitimate fears people can have and having a majority vote to require a secret ballot will cause people to make this inference that people voting for secret ballot is going to vote in a certain way.

Victoria Pesce: I was a council member and represented JMSB students. My vote represents the students and my faculty, so they deserve to know how I voted. There is a lack of wanting transparency and accountability. If you don't want to be harassed, maybe ask your peers on their opinion for certain topics. Students only care about what we voted on and how we voted on so they deserve to know.

Isaiah Joyner: You should come here to be accountable to people. It's not about a witch hunt, but about how your words hold weight. You can disagree with people but if you offend them, what do you expect? You're independent and voted in by your faculty. The only group should be council and committees. If you're loyal to a subgroup in council, that's a problem.

Arieh Barak: I agree with Victoria and that JMSB students need to know what she voted for. Secret ballots are exceptions, we only vote that way maybe 5% of the time. We are trying to prevent and protect people from being harassed. If the council votes yes on this, they are supporting harassment.

Desiree Blizzard: This is reflecting the council's toxicity. This motion isn't going to fix the toxicity we have or how people react to your vote. This motion is for transparency and most of us came to the CSU to prove that the CSU can be transparent. This motion will help that.

Tzvi Hersh Filler: I want to vote by secret ballot because I assume this is the last time I'll be able to do that.

b) Freedom of Speech

Isaiah Joyner motions to table this item indefinitely. Seconded by **S Shivaane**. Motion passes.

James Hanna presents the following motion. Seconded by **Tzvi Hersh Filler**. Motion passes.
BE IT RESOLVED THAT council notwithstanding the relevant provisions in the election policy

c) External Committee Minutes – August 7th

Tzvi Hersh Filler presents the following motion. Seconded by **Matthew Benzrihem**. Motion passes.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Vincent Mousseau be asked to apologize to Matthew Benzrihem for the Anti Semestic remark, but not make the apology contingent on their rehiring.

Matthew Benzrihem: I'm asking for an apology for antisemitism. If you think that Jews deserve the bare minimum, please vote for this. If a comment was made to a Black person, you would want an apology.

Isaiah Joyner: Please refrain from comparing the plight of any community to the Black community

Lauren Perozek: We asked but you can't force someone to apologize

Matthew Benzrihem: You're letting someone make an antisemitic statement and then teach antidiscrimination

Arieh Barak: If he doesn't want to apologize, but why do we have to hire him again? He should not be hired if he has not apologized

Lauren Perozek: If you talked to the exec team at all, it is clear what their stance is on. We cannot make an apology contingent on a rehire. This is a professional workplace, you won't find a company in North America that forces people to make apologies and have it contingent on their rehire. I understand that this is personal but I don't feel comfortable going after one person over one incident

Matthew Benzrihem: They wouldn't ask for an apology. They would fire them and not hire them back. When it's other people, it's bad. But when it's a Jew? This is a problem with the CSU

Harrison Kirshner: Their action was inappropriate and the reference they made was inappropriate. I want to echo that. I don't think asking this is too much to ask. There are many people that are able to provide an integrational multifaceted approach to discrimination. There is no reason why they should be rehired until they apologize

Roman Zelensky: I support my fellow Jews. I propose we get rid of Vincent. He is unfair and we should get rid of him because he is a racist

Chairperson: Vincent uses they/them pronouns

Roman Zelensky: My apologies. Vincent is racist, and racism can be applied to anyone. Racism should be treated from all sides to make it truly equal. We should get rid of him. I don't like him, he's racist, let's get rid of him forever.

Desiree Blizzard: I'm touched by what the council has said. Discrimination is never okay. Why did we change this in Policy?

Lauren Perozek: It's unfair to carry out certain actions without giving them an opportunity to speak on their behalf

Desiree Blizzard: Would Matthew be amenable to deleting the last line in the BIFR? The one that makes their apology contingent on their hiring

Matthew Benzrihem: I want an apology, I'm asking for the bare minimum. How is this controversial? How is this okay? You hire someone to do antidiscrimination training and then discriminate against someone?

Victoria Pesce: We cannot control their actions and have told the campaigns team why we cannot hire them. We can't make someone apologize. This is all ambiguous

Matthew Benzrihem: The executives have not been mandated to not hire them, unless they apologize

COUNCIL ENTERS A FIVE MINUTES CAUCUS

Matthew Benzrihem presents the following amendment. Seconded by **James Hanna**. Motion passes.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Policy Committee be mandated to work on a procedure for dealing with discrimination by third-party entities.

d) Committee Meeting Calendar

Lauren Perozek presents the following motion. Seconded by **Harrison Kirshner**. Motion passes.

WHEREAS collaboration between committees, councilors, and executives should be encouraged.

WHEREAS there should be a stronger effort to encourage participation of students-at-large at the committee level

WHEREAS committee meetings should be conducted in a professional manner, that respects the schedules and commitments of all relevant parties

WHEREAS as per Standing Regulations Chapter IV Section 1.28. Each committee Chair shall:

- (b) Notify the members of the committee of the dates, times, and places of the meeting of the committee; Prepare the Agenda and any relevant documents for each meeting and send them to the members of the committee within a reasonable delay to be considered before each meeting;

BE IT RESOLVED that council tasks the Internal Affairs & Student Life Coordinators to create a collaborative calendar that displays committee meetings and their agendas.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the committee chair is responsible for sending out a when2meet to committee members.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED committee members are responsible for filling out the when2meet to finalize the meeting time within 72 hours.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the chair will call the meeting no later than Thursday at 6:00pm of that week.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the chair of each committee be responsible for sending the meeting's agenda, date, and time to the Internal Affairs Coordinator and the Student Life Coordinator by 6:00pm on Thursday.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the meeting will take place 7 to 11 business days from the time the meeting is called.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Internal Affairs Coordinator is responsible for receiving committee meeting agendas, the date and time, and sharing all the necessary information with council and students/members at large assigned to the committees via the appropriate platforms by Friday at 6:00pm.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Student Life Coordinator is tasked with updating the student events calendar on the CSU website with the committee meetings by Monday at 6:00pm.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the student event calendar on the CSU website includes the agenda of the meeting in the event's description.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED Students at large that would like to attend committee meetings will email the chair giving their name and student IDs in exchange for the meeting's teams link.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED a committee be able to supersede this process when an emergency meeting dealing with time sensitive matters is necessary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED an emergency be defined as an event, situation, or movement that needs an immediate action/response from a committee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED in the event of an emergency meeting, the committee chair is still required to send the date, time and agenda of the meeting to the Internal Affairs Coordinator and the Student Life Coordinator.]

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED this system will come into effect the week of the 21st of September 2020.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the budgetary impact is nil.

James Hanna: Mandating the use of specific software, like WhenToMeet, is bad practice. There may be a better system that comes out in the future

Isaiah Joyner: Can we start fresh, approve the motion, and do this for the winter semester? It will give us more flexible for timing

Lauren Perozek: Can Eduardo and Daniel answer that?

Daniel Amico: Eduardo's system will probably be more complicated because he has to redo the website. Mine is using Outlook to set it up. It isn't ready to go but I would need two weeks to set it up so that it is functioning

Lauren Perozek: That's fine with me. There's two parts to this calendar: one where it is accessible to students and two where it is accessible to councilors

Isaiah Joyner: We can give them flexibility and base off of everyone's workload and project scale.

Lauren Perozek: There doesn't need to be a deadline.

Tzvi Hersh Filler moves to change following motion. Seconded. Motion passes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED this system will come into effect the week of the 21st of September 2020.

To the following

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED this system will come into effect at the discretion of the Student Life Coordinator.

8. NEW BUSINESS - SUBSTANTIVE

a) Accessible Hygiene Products

Christopher Djesus Vaccarella presents the following motion. Seconded by **S Shivaane**.

Motion passes.

WHEREAS Women have been disproportionately affected during the COVID-19 pandemic.

WHEREAS The closure of Concordia University during the Fall 2020 semester, and for the foreseeable future have led to accessibility issues for women to obtain hygiene products.

WHEREAS The CSU is responsible to make these products as accessible as possible during the COVID-19 pandemic and post-pandemic times.

WHEREAS The CSU must reduce accessibility issues amongst women, BIPOC and LGBTQ+ communities.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the CSU delivers a package of hygiene products to those who request it.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Each package will consist of 1) Diva Cups (or tampons, at the request of those who choose), 2) Condoms 3) a bar of soap, 4) Eco Pads (reusable pads) and 5) information package on proper usage, disposal and general education.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT All products are environmentally friendly and are sustainable products.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT All unused products by the end of the academic year be donated to homeless shelters and/or women advocacy groups.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT After COVID-19, the CSU work with the administration to implement an online delivery system for those who need products via MyConcordia, but cannot obtain them due to life circumstances (bad day, mechanical, act of God, etc.). This will ensure more accessibility for students to obtain products.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT The budgetary impact is \$7,500

Howard Issley: I am in complete favor of this. This is a good way for us to agree on something unanimously.

Isaiah Joyner motions to mandate the CSU to mandate the Sustainability committee to be responsible for this project. Seconded. Motion passes.

Isaiah Joyner: Sustainability committee can be the one to head this project

Daniel Amico: Will this be done during COVID, or once we're back on campus?

Christopher Vaccarella: If a portion of us can go to CSU, we could set it up there to prepare the packages.

Jeremiah Deneault: On one of the lines it says the CSU delivers hygiene products *from* those who requested, should it be *to* who requested?

Tzvi Hersh Filler: Should the budget line be null?

Christopher Vaccarella: Yes we will use the sustainability budget line

b) Canned Food Drives

Christopher Djesus Vaccarella presents the following motion. Seconded by **James Hanna**. Motion passes.

WHEREAS We have a moral obligation to look out for people and help people out as much as possible.

WHEREAS The CSU must improve the wellbeing of students, people in Montreal and affected communities.

WHEREAS The CSU must also engage in activities to bring the community together and foster a strong relationship.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the CSU engage in a minimum of four canned food drives/donation events every year (roughly two per semester).

BE IT RESOLVED THAT The donations will come from students and/or the greater Montreal community and that the CSU be in charge of the events and not spend money.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the CSU donate all items collected (canned food/foods/clothes, etc..) to homeless shelters in Montreal, natural disasters, students with low incomes or any initiative that will improve the wellbeing and quality of life of people.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT The budgetary impact is nil.

James Hanna motions to have a Christmas basket as one of the four canned food drives/donation events. Seconded. Motion passes.

Christopher Vaccarella: We're going through hard times right now, and we need to strengthen the community. This will help with that. We can help students, natural disasters, homeless shelters, etc.

Victoria Pesce: I love this but there is no way we can do this on campus. This is all contingent that we get out of Code Red. We're in a second wave right now. I love this initiative but we need to be mindful of that

Christopher Vaccarella: The moment I finished writing this, we entered Code Red. Hopefully we can do this in the foreseeable future, as long as this happens

Harrison Kirshner motions to amend the wording *Christmas* basket to *holiday* basket. Seconded. Motion passes.

9. RETURNING BUSINESS – INFORMATIONAL

a) Bursary Distribution

Isaiah Joyner: Will be distributed in the winter semester.

10. ADJOURNMENT

James Hanna moves to table the rest of the agenda points and adjourn the meeting. Seconded by **Isaiah Joyner**. Motion carries.

Meeting adjourned on Thursday, October 15 at 12:45 AM.