



Concordia Student Union - Council of Representatives
CSU Special Council Meeting
Wednesday, November 11, 2020
Via Zoom, 18h30

1. CALL TO ORDER

The chairperson calls the meeting to order at **18h33**.

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), Holly Mark-Hilton (Finance Coordinator), Malcolm Asselin (Loyola Coordinator)

Councilors present for the meeting were: Tzvi Hersh Filler (Gina Cody School of Engineering), Anais Gagnon (Gina Cody School of Engineering), Shaun Sederoff (Arts & Science), Christopher Vaccarella (Arts & Science), Marlena Valenta (Arts & Science), Lauren Perozek (John Molson School of Business), Matthew Benzrihem (Arts & Science), Diana Lukic (Fine Arts), S Shivaane (Arts & Science), Sarah Bubenheimer (Arts & Science), Zachary Williams (Independent), Chelsea Okankwu (John Molson School of Business), James Hanna

(Gina Cody School of Engineering), Arieh Barak (Independent), Jarrad Haas (Fine Arts), Roman Zelensky (Arts & Science)

Executives absent for the meeting were: Victoria Pesce

Councilors absent for the meeting were: Howard Issley (John Molson School of Business), Harrison Kirshner (John Molson School of Business), Jeremy Deneault (John Molson School of Business), Margot Berner (Arts & Science), Yasmine Yahiaoui (Arts & Science)

Daniel Amico moves to excuse **Victoria Pesce, Harrison Kirshner, and Howard Issley**.
Seconded. Motion passes.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Tzvi Hersh Filler motions to approve the agenda and all items under consent. Seconded by **James Hanna**. Motion passes.

4. MOMENT OF SILENCE OF REMEMBRANCE DAY

5. CONSENT AGENDA

6. PRESENTATIONS AND GUEST SPEAKERS

a) Presentation on Benjamin Prunty

Eduardo Malorni: I met Ben over a year ago. My relationship with him is professional, we worked on the Hive together. The CSU was a large part of his life and he gave a lot to it. Ben joined the CSU 8 years ago, during the November 2012 byelections. He took four months for him to decide that he wants to be an executive. He ran for an executive role as VP Sustainability. He took up that role right after the election and did the entire 2013-2014 mandate with that position. He then formed *COmmunity Matters* where he ran as the President. Following that, he was a councillor. If you noticed the DOB you'll see that he was quite older when he joined, he was 24 when he first joined. He stayed for four years, which is a very long time at the CSU. It wasn't until he joined *Community Matters* when things started to take off. He strongly believed in community and the relationships he built, he was always excited about working on projects. He strived for a strong community. History will see that he achieved in creating that community. Ben is committed to social projects by bringing tangible benefits to people, and promotes a culture of reduced hierarchy capacity building and solidarity. He was a Marxist, he was

radically-left in his beliefs, and anticapitalist. Ben's legacy is that he was the co-founder of the Concordia Food Coalition, co-founder of the Hive Cafe Solidarity Cooperative, and the co-founder of Solidarity Economy Incubation Zone. He and his team worked on the CSU daycare, Woodnote, Reggie's, fossil fuel divestment campaign, and transition conferences. Working with Ben was working with an unstoppable force. People thought it was crazy that the CSU could start all of these projects, but Ben didn't care. The thing I remember most is how he would say "you have to talk to this person" because he knew they would be able to help me achieve my goals. Concordia gave him the CCSL Outstanding Contribution Award as an acknowledgement for all the work he did. It is hard to give this award to CSU executives, but Ben went so far above and beyond that they gave him the award. The April 2, 2015 "Day of Reflection" for Anti-Austerity Protests led to a few MAs to go on strike. He fought for that strike, and the school deemed that day to be a "Day of Reflection". The school had so much respect for him and Alan Shephard willingly gave students the day off to protest because Ben was so persistent on it. The CSU is capable of doing anything, all of these CSU initiatives and projects began because of him. Ben was able to make people feel like they can do anything they want. The last time I spoke to Ben, I visited him in the summer, and we spoke about COVID and the Hive reopening. He cut me off and asked me about my mental health. I thought it was odd and was confused. He told me that the CSU is one of the hardest environments to survive in, and how it damaged him, and how he felt dehumanized by it. He spoke to how stressful it was in the long term. After every council meeting, I would get a message from Ben checking in on me. It hurts that tomorrow I won't get that message from him. The date of that message was Oct 29, three days before he took his life. As his mental health was deteriorating, Ben still found time to check up on others. That's the community that he wanted. The CSU still has the potential to help the students and improve the school. That's what Ben would have wanted to see again. We have a good opportunity to build on projects to help the students. We should all continue with those goals. This is where the story ends.

James Hanna motions for a five minute recess. Seconded. Motion passes.

b) Space Concordia

Melize Ferrus: The referendum question is as follows.

Space Concordia (SC) is a multidisciplinary student society engaged in all facets of space, from design projects, educational activities and public engagement to cutting-edge research. SC provides students with the opportunity to get involved with projects such as:

- Satellites
- Rockets
- Rovers
- Space-focused educational content for youth

- Public engagement campaigns
- Events (social, networking, conferences, and workshops)
- Space health research
- Special projects

Through this undergraduate fee levy, SC wishes to

- Give all Concordia students an opportunity to get involved in the space industry
- Complete more projects
- Extend its outreach program
- Grow its research efforts
- Include students and projects from all faculties
- Position Concordia at the centre of the Canadian space community

Do you agree to a fee levy for Space Concordia of \$0.46 per credit, effective Summer 2021?

c) Sustainability Coordinator

Isaiah Joyner presents the following motion. Seconded by **Lauen Perozek**. Motion passes.

WHEREAS the CSU's Sustainability Coordinator Manuela Simo tendered her resignation to the Chairperson of Council on November 11th, 2020;

WHEREAS bylaw 7.3 states that The General Coordinator may fill a vacant Coordinator position from among the members, subject to ratification by a majority of the Council of Representatives;

WHEREAS a 2019 Judicial Board decision affirmed that the CSU Council of Representatives cannot appropriate the responsibility to appoint someone to a vacant Coordinator position;

BE IT RESOLVED that Amy Nguyen be appointed as the CSU's new Sustainability Coordinator.

Isaiah Joyner: Please consider the mental health of the people you are surrounded with. I regretfully have to inform you that Manuella has sent in her resignation. I would like to present to council the candidate for her replacement to be ratified.

James Hanna motions to enter closed session. Seconded by **Tzvi Hersh Filler**. Motion passes.

Isaiah Joyner motions to allow the candidate, Amy Nguyen, into closed session. Seconded. Motion passes.

James Hanna motions to allow former Sustainability Coordinator, Manuella Simo, into closed session. Seconded by **Matthew Benzrihem**. Motion passes.

Isaiah Joyner motions to return to open session. Seconded by **Tzvi Hersh Filler**. Motion passes.

Harrison Kirshner motions to ratify the minutes of closed session. Seconded by **Isaiah Joyner**. Motion passes.

7. APPOINTMENTS

a) Sustainability Committee

Lauren Perozek motions to table the appointment until after the byelection. Seconded by **Harrison Kirshner**. Motion passes.

b) Community Action Fund

Isaiah Joyner: CAF is a funding granting body that has representation from other student-led groups. You would sit on the committee and be one of the three CSU seats to grant funding to community projects.

Isaiah Joyner motions to table the appointment until after the byelection. Seconded by **Daniel Amico**. Motion passes.

8. RETURNING BUSINESS

9. NEW BUSINESS - SUBSTANTIVE

a) Financials

Holly Mark-Hilton presents the following motion. Seconded by **Daniel Amico**. Motion passes.

WHEREAS an auditor's opinion on the state of the CSU's finances for the 2019-2020 fiscal year has been produced by Deloitte LLP.

WHEREAS the auditor's report was produced in accordance with the generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) and accounting standards.

WHEREAS the financial statements accurately reflect the CSU's financials.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the CSU Council approves the CSU's audited financial statements completed by Deloitte LLP

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the audited financial statements be posted on the CSU's website within 7 business days.

Holly Mark-Hilton: The financial statements have been reviewed and approved by the Finance Committee. It is important to pass these financial statements because we are reaching the deadline to declare them.

b) Bylaw Modifications (Closed Session)

Isaiah Joyner motions to enter a closed session with Manuella Simo. Seconded by **Daniel Amico**. Motion passes.

Sarah Mazhero motions to enter an open session. Seconded by **Isaiah Joyner**.

Sarah Mazhero motions to ratify the minutes from closed session. Seconded by **Isaiah Joyner**

10. RETURNING BUSINESS – INFORMATIONAL

11. QUESTION PERIOD & BUSINESS ARISING

12. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lauren Perozek: This is Yasmine's third missed meeting with no excusal.

13. ADJOURNMENT

S Shivaane motions to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by **James Hanna**. Motion carries. Meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM.