



Concordia Student Union - Council of Representatives  
CSU Special Council Meeting  
Wednesday, December 09, 2020  
Via Zoom, 18h30

## 1. CALL TO ORDER

The chairperson calls the meeting to order at **18h32**.

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**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.**

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## 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), Matthew Benzrihem (Arts & Science), S Shivaane (Arts & Science), Sarah Bubenheimer (Arts & Science), Jarrad Haas (Fine Arts), Roman Zelensky (Arts & Science), Debra Irabor (Arts & Science), Nicole Nashen (Arts & Science), Brandon Grimaldi (Arts & Science), Shlomo Tanny (John Molson School of Business), Phineas Ambrose Savchenko (Fine Arts), Harrison Kirshner (John Molson School of Business), Diana Lukic (Fine Arts), Marlena Valenta (Arts & Science), Lauren Perozek (John Molson

School of Business), Wyatt Niblett-Wilson (John Molson School of Business), Margot Berner (Arts & Science), Jeremy Deneault (John Molson School of Business), Howard Issley (John Molson School of Business)

**Executives absent for the meeting were:** N/A

**Councilors absent for the meeting were:** James Hanna (Gina Cody School of Engineering), Arie Barak (Independent), Sean Howard (Gina Cody School of Engineering), Alexander Stojda (Gina Cody School of Engineering), Zachary Williams (Independent), Chelsea Okankwu (John Molson School of Business)

### **3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

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

### **4. CONSENT AGENDA**

### **5. PRESENTATIONS AND GUEST SPEAKERS**

### **6. APPOINTMENTS**

#### **a) Loyola Committee**

**Malcolm Asselin:** We're working on surveys to understand the issues of Loyola students and create a place for all faculties and associations to discuss. We want to increase engagement at Loyola.

#### **b) Clubs & Space Committee**

**Daniel Amico:** We review budgets and applications from clubs. We meet twice a month.

**Diana Lukic** nominates themselves. Seconded by **Matthew Benzrihem**.

**Diana Lukic:** I love Concordia clubs and have been involved with clubs. I'd love to help! I've dealt with budgets from other committees, such as Student Life. I was previously the President of the German Association.

**Diana Lukic** is appointed to the **Clubs & Space Committee**.

## **7. RETURNING BUSINESS**

## **8. NEW BUSINESS - SUBSTANTIVE**

### **a) Student Mobilization Committee**

**Matthew Benzrihem** presents the following motion. Seconded by **Harrison Kirshner**. Motion passes.

*WHEREAS* the turnout for the last general election was only 5.6% of eligible electors.

*WHEREAS* general student involvement with the CSU has historically been low.

*WHEREAS* the CSU is tasked with representing the students.

*WHEREAS* a common concern among students is a lack of transparency and openness within the CSU.

*BE IT RESOLVED THAT* the CSU establish the “Student Mobilization Ad Hoc Committee” co-chaired by the External Affairs & Mobilization Coordinator and the Student Life Coordinator.

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT* this committee be tasked with encouraging greater general student involvement with the CSU.

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT* the CSU Council members of this committee will act as leaders of a new CSU mobilization task force made up of students at large recruited by the Appointments Committee.

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT* there is no official upper limit on membership of this task force.

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT* this task force be used to spread awareness of CSU events, opportunities, elections, services; especially among first years.

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT* since the Campaigns and Communications staff are unionized employees, and these are volunteers, this task force be kept separate from the Campaigns and Communications department and not directly related to the campaigns.

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT* this committee be tasked with receiving student ideas and suggestions and bringing regular concerns to council. The committee will also be mandated to provide an end of year report on how to further engage students based on their findings.

**Matthew Benzrihem:** The CSU elections had a great turnout but we should aim for higher. A task force would do a lot of good and opens up doors. We could send people into first-year classes to increase awareness.

**Daniel Amico:** We should include the Communications department

**Daniel Amico** presents the following amendment. Seconded by **Harrison Kirshner**. Motion passes.

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT* since the Campaigns and Communications staff are unionized employees, and these are volunteers, this task force be kept separate from the Campaigns and Communications department and not directly related to the campaigns.

**Phineas Ambrose Savchenko:** Why are they separate?

**Daniel Amico:** Our staff are unionized, we can't do their jobs. We become liable for grievance if we do their jobs. We just have to make sure we aren't interfering with our employees

**Phineas Ambrose Savchenko:** Can they still work together?

**Daniel Amico:** Yes

**Victoria Pesce:** Nichole is supposed to be attending?

**Daniel Amico:** For external

**Victoria Pesce:** We should make sure that the CSU logo isn't included unless it went through the communications department first

**Victoria Pesce** presents the following amendment. Seconded by **Daniel Amico**. Motion passes. *BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT* the CSU's logo not be used on promotional material from this committee without approval of the Comms department.

**Lauren Perozek:** I feel like this could have been done with more coordination with different faculties and associations. When this committee forms, we could be the building blocks or extend an olive branch to the different associations to increase engagement.

**Matthew Benzrihem:** That's a great idea.

**Lauren Perozek:** Maybe we can have a student-at-large seat from each faculty association.

**Margot Berner:** Will there be a budget line, how will the voting be done? Is it just council members who can vote?

**Matthew Benzrihem:** There is no limit of members to allow the committee to have flexibility. There is currently no budget line at the moment. Setting up the committee shouldn't cost too much. Council will also be more like leadership in this task force but there won't be formal votes.

**Daniel Amico:** We're starting appointments next Wednesday. If we want student-at-large seats, can I make a call out?

**Matthew Benzrihem:** Yes

**Margot Berner:** Should we make an amendment to dictate how many seats are available?

**Margot Berner** presents the following amendment. Seconded. Motion passes.

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT* the official membership would be 4 councillors and 2 student-at-large.

**Victoria Pesce:** I don't know if logistically this is the right thing to do, but in theory this is great. I don't want to deter the Campaigns department from promoting the campaign of the year.

**Hadassah Alencar (The Concordian):** The committee is made up of executives and councillors? Those will be the leaders of the task force, which will then be made up of students at large?

**Matthew Benzrihem:** Yes

**Daniel Amico:** So there will now be students at large on the committee too? Maybe before we recruit SaL, the committee can be made of execs and councillors until we get the ground running? I feel like this doesn't need to be so formal.

**Harrison Kirshner:** Campaigns do a great job at promoting causes the CSU cares about. The problem is that regular students don't know what the CSU is. That's where this committee can come in. This committee can be used to create awareness of the CSU, and the Campaigns committee can be focused on promoting our campaigns. I think this can guide students to campaigns.

**Sarah Mazhero:** I like the spirit of this. I'm concerned about getting grieved for this. It overlaps with the job description of some of our employees, specifically Campaigns.

**Margot Berner** presents the following amendments. Seconded. Motion passes.

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED* that this committee be tasked with engaging students on the internal structure of the CSU.

**Margot Berner** motions to strike the following motions. Seconded. Motion passes.

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT* this committee be tasked with encouraging greater general student involvement with the CSU.

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT* this task force be used to spread awareness of CSU events, opportunities, elections, services; especially among first years.

**Lauren Perozek:** How does this committee plan on accomplishing their goals?

**Matthew Benzrihem:** We can get the task force to go to classes and give a presentation on the CSU and explain the basics.

**Anais Gagnon:** Why does this have to be a committee?

**Matthew Benzrihem:** It will be more structured and organized. People in this committee can focus on this.

**Margot Berner** motions to table this discussion to the next RCM. Seconded by **Lauren Perozek**. Opposed by **Matthew Benzrihem**. Motion fails.

**Margot Berner:** This is a great idea but the executives can look at the job descriptions of Campaigns and Communications to see if there are any conflicts.

**Victoria Pesce:** I suggest that we have a meeting with interested councillors to discuss the logistics and sustainability of this committee. I would be willing to hold that meeting.

**S Shivaane:** Why do we need to postpone this? Postponing it goes against the spirit of the motion. Can we ensure that the description of this committee is vague enough to avoid legal issues?

**Daniel Amico:** If we make the committee now and discover a problem later, it would be a waste of time for the councillors who go to these meetings.

**Lauren Perozek:** Don't we need a budgetary impact line?

**Victoria Pesce:** I've raised my concerns about this to Matthew before this meeting.

**Tzvi Hersh Filler:** We should scrap the description of the motion. I would suggest altering the definition so that the Chair is able to veto anything that might have legal repercussions.

**Matthew Benzrihem:** We can give the Chairs a legal veto.

**Eduardo Malorni:** If Victoria and I or the Chairs veto an idea, I assume people will be understanding.

**Tzvi Hersh Filler** presents the following amendments. Seconded.

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT* the budgetary impact is nill.

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT* the committee chairs have veto power.

**S Shivaane** calls the question.

## **9. RETURNING BUSINESS – INFORMATIONAL**

### **a) Fee Levy Extension**

**Eduardo Malorni:** There have been groups that came to our meetings with proposals to become a fee levy. They need to meet a certain number of signatures but all of them have said that they haven't reached the goal because of COVID. The lawyers said that we have to pass a COVID policy to allow them to have an extension. I think an extension is fair. If the council wants to grant the extension, I would submit the policy to Policy Committee, they would agree, and then send it to the council for voting.

## **10. QUESTION PERIOD & BUSINESS ARISING**

## **11. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Daniel Amico:** For the new councillors, your emails are coming soon.

## **12. ADJOURNMENT**

**S Shivaane** motions to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by **Jarrad Hass**. Motion carries.  
Meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.