



Concordia Student Union - Council of Representatives
CSU Special Council Meeting
Wednesday, July 08, 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 Minutes Keeper: Michelle Lam

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

Councilors present for the meeting were: Natalia Whiteley (Gina Cody School of Engineering), Tzvi Hersh Filler (Gina Cody School of Engineering), Anais Gagnon (Gina Cody School of Engineering), Paige Beaulieu (Arts & Science), Shaun Sederoff (Arts & Science), Christopher Vaccarella (Arts & Science), Matthew Kaminski (John Molson School of Business), Ahmadou Sakho (Arts & Science), Lauren Perozek (John Molson School of Business), Howard Issley (John Molson School of Business), Chelsea Okankwu (John Molson School of Business), Matthew Benzrihem (Arts & Science), Harrison Kirshner (John Molson School of Business), S

Shivaane (Arts & Science), Sarah Bubenheimer (Arts & Science), Yasmine Yahiaoui (Arts & Science), Arieh Barak (Independent), Danielle Vandolder Beaudin (John Molson School of Business), Christopher Kalafatidis (Arts & Science), Marlena Valenta (Arts & Science), James Hanna (Gina Cody School of Engineering), Roman Zelensky (Arts & Science)

Councilors absent for the meeting were: Jeremy Deneault (John Molson School of Business), Jarrad Haas (Fine Arts), Zach Williams (Independent), Diana Lukic (Fine Arts), Desiree Blizzard (Gina Cody School of Engineering), Margot Berner (Arts & Science)

3. FORMER ACADEMIC & ADVOCACY COORDINATOR BONUS

Christopher Kalafatidis motions to move up the *FORMER ACADEMIC & ADVOCACY COORDINATOR BONUS* point in the agenda to the beginning of the agenda. Seconded. Motion passes.

Christopher Kalafatidis: It's important for Patrick to be here for us to discuss and he's only available now.

Isaiah Joyner motions to interview Patrick Quinn in open session and vote in closed session at the end of the agenda. Seconded by **Marlena Valenta**. Motion fails.

Patrick Quinn: If we're going to be discussing my bonus, it should be in closed session as was everyone else's bonus was.

Isaiah Joyner: This is a procedural grey area. Executives are normally out of the room during bonus discussions.

Patrick Quinn: Bonuses, in general, are confidential. I'm uncomfortable with speaking in an open session, as it's always dealt with in a closed session. I've noticed that the executive, Isaiah, motioned that I speak in an open session. I'd rather discuss this in closed and I'm open to any question.

Tzvi Hersh Filler: A lot of bizarre accusations were levied against him and the ability to clarify is important

Eduardo Malorni: We've been getting a lot of questions as to why this is on the agenda. Can Hersh give a statement on why he made this motion?

Tzvi Hersh Filler: I'd rather discuss this in closed session.

Ahmadou Sakho: *POI*. I would personally prefer that when we're debating his bonus that Patrick won't be there.

James Hanna motions to go into a closed session with Patrick Quinn invited. Seconded by **Christopher Vaccarella**. Motion passes.

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

BE IT RESOLVED THAT former Advocacy Coordinator Patrick Quinn receive the remaining 9% of the salary bonus eligible to him in the 2019-2020 budget;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the budgetary impact of this motion is less than \$4000.

Christopher Kalafatidis abstains from the vote.

Isaiah Joyner motions to exhaust the speaker's list. Seconded. Motion passes.

Tzvi Hersh Filler motions to vote via secret ballot. Seconded. Motion passes.

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

Tzvi Hersh Filler motions to ratify the minutes in closed session. Seconded by **Harrison Kirshner**. Motion passes.

4. BLACK RIBBON DAY RECOGNITION

Tzvi Hersh Filler presents the following motion. Seconded by **James Hanna**. Motion passes.

WHEREAS it is important to remember the mistakes of the past to avoid repeating them;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the CSU recognize August 23rd as Black Ribbon Day, a day to remember the victims of Nazism, Stalinism, Fascism, and Totalitarian Regimes;

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

James Hanna: This is a good initiative for the CSU. This is a day that was created to recognize that for a large part of the 20th century, many continents were under the throws of totalitarian or fascists regimes. This would give the CSU a chance to stand against this. We should be bringing attention to things like the Uyghur Muslims in China's communist regime, or what's happening in Hong Kong. The CSU can stand against totalitarianism and recognize the harms of these ideologies, and acknowledge its victims

Ahmadou Sakho: Will this be a position?

Tzvi Hersh Filler: No, this is informal

5. COMMITTEE COMPOSITION

S Shivaane presents the following motion. Seconded by **Ahmadou Sakho**. Motion passes.

WHEREAS the CSU Council is made up of a diverse set of individuals;

WHEREAS the committees which received the most number of applicants (Appointments and Policy) during the appointments process currently lack racial and gender diversity;

WHEREAS issues concerning the union in regards to Appointments, Policy, External, and Student Life benefit from diverse perspectives;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, notwithstanding Standing Regulation 17 (a), a fifth seat for a councillor be added to the Appointments, Policy, External and Student Life committees, and that this seat be restricted to Black, Indigenous and People of Colour (BIPOC), women, and gender minority councillors.

Lauren Perozek votes YES.

S Shivaane: Council uses democracy and student rep to justify various motions and decisions. And that's why we're here. But if we're gonna say student rep and democracy, we need to really say that with our whole chest. These committees right now represent a very narrow subset of Concordia students, and while members might not intentionally vote in a way that is harmful to these communities, they do not have the full comprehension of issues they don't personally live through. Minorities don't always have an equal voice or representation anywhere. This council itself has a lack of BIPOC voices, and we see that very clearly in some decisions. But for there to be a complete lack of diverse voices on these committees is unfortunate. Our campaign is BLM, and to not acknowledge how a lack of racial diversity completely undermines that campaign would be very worrisome. We need to take actionable steps and show our students that we are taking this campaign seriously and also do so internally. Minorities can turn up to these committees, but we're not decision-makers on them. I and anyone else who wants to show up to those meetings can talk however much we want to bring up our concerns, but none of us will have an equal final say because we don't have a vote. What that committee decides is up to their discretion. I want to motion to diversify the voting power on External, Student Life, Appointments and Student Life committees. I'm curious to see what the council thinks.

Tzvi Hersh Filler: Unfortunately, there have been instances of individuals acting in bad faith, twisting words, and encouraging cyberbullying. Obviously, this makes people feel unsafe speaking their minds. This motion requires $\frac{2}{3}$ votes to pass and there are enough councilors with concerns to block it. The concerns will not be mentioned for the reasons above. Seeing as it's

impossible to change someone's mind without knowing what their concerns are, further discussion is pointless. Let's go to a secret ballot.

Isaiah Joyner: *Point of personal privilege.* You can't just cut the conversation

Danielle Vandolder-Beaudin: I wanted this to be a member at large seat. There's a reason why we have six people who vote on a committee. This is so that we can have that diverse opinion. I'd rather see a BIPOC member-at-large fill this seat. We should be giving this power to the members. I'll probably be voting no to this, not because I don't believe in this because I do, but so that it can be a community thing

Harrison Kirshner: We should do more to encourage BIPOC student involvement at large. I want to speak in favor of this because I can't put myself in the shoes of someone who has different experiences.

Victoria Pesce: This is such an important motion to pass. I think having BIPOC members is important. The BIPOC community isn't getting a voice on these committees, as shown by the amount of BIPOC members we have on council. Having more seats will never be an issue. We need to start making a difference *now*.

Ahmadou Sakho: In a committee made up of councilors, it's important to have a diversity of opinions and members. This is a first step to improving the diversity at CSU. A similar motion was pushed forward last year, but it was voted down. I want to ask my colleagues if you think it is relevant to do something about a lack of diversity in the decision making at the council

Isaiah Joyner: This is important, not just because of the BLM campaign, but also because we need cultural diversity too. This motion could've asked for councilors to resign in committees, but we aren't trying to do that. The BIPOC members here are elected officials, and we need to give them the opportunity to represent the students who elected them.

S Shivaane: I would like a BIPOC councilor seat and am open to a member-at-large seat too since BIPOC encompasses many experiences.

Shaun Sederoff: I support the spirit of this. I'm concerned as to why we're only focusing on this type of minority

Victoria Pesce: We're focusing on racial minorities with this motion.

Shaun Sederoff: I think we should be including other minorities like religious, ethnic, and racial minorities.

Hannah Jamet-Lange: We have a diverse council but there is underrepresentation. We all have internal biases, so if we have all white committees, that will lead to bias. We need to make sure that these committees are more diverse and that there are BIPOC council members.

Sarah Mazhero: As a woman of color, I want to speak in favor of this motion. It would be unjustly and problematic of the CSU if this isn't able to pass. I also think we should have more diversity training to understand what other people's lived experiences are. As white people, why don't you listen to us for once on what our experiences are?

Lauren Perozek: There's already a seat for a student at large on all of these committees, we just want to add a seat for a BIPOC councilor. I don't see why more representation is considered a bad thing here?

Mathew Kaminski: There's no one here that doesn't think that there shouldn't be anything done about systemic racism. Last year, we voted down a similar motion because of the way it was approached. I will probably be voting no because I have a different approach, but regardless of if this motion passes, I'm open to working with people.

Ahmadou Sakho: There are many ways to promote diversity, but it would be difficult to ignore the lack of diversity at the CSU.

S Shivaane: *[To Shaun Sederoff]* Do you mean having various members of large seats for more groups of minorities in **all** the committees?

Shaun Sederoff: Yes, we should include other minority groups

S Shivaane: I wanted to keep this focused on racial minorities right now.

Sarah Mazhero: Some people should look up the definition of what systemic racism is. I would recommend watching the documentary *13th* to learn more about what systemic racism is. It's frustrating how we're having a battle on what constitutes systemic racism when it's an issue that's happening now. Before using these terms, I recommend knowing what they mean. There needs to be more education on this as some of the things that have been said have been offensive.

Isaiah Joyner motions to extend the discussion by ten minutes. Seconded by **Ahmadou Sakho**. Motion passes.

Isaiah Joyner: Systemic racism is very present in society. I still find myself in situations, as a black General Coordinator, where I'm being offended, even if it isn't intentional. If this is a current issue at the CSU, we don't have anything that prevents systemic racism from creeping into our committees. We need to change the fact that some of these committees are filled with all-white or white-passing people. We have a committee on the BLM campaign without a single black person. Listen to your peers and your constituents and work with us to make something better. Unless someone is willing to recuse themselves from these committees to allow for BIPOC members, I don't even see how you could speak against this motion.

Anais Gagnon: We should vote for this motion right now, we should use the representation that's already been voted on by Concordia students. Why not have BIPOC councilors on every committee? We can always make the policy better as we go along.

Harrison Kirshner: This is a good start. I hope that everyone finds this motion well.

S Shivaane calls the question. Seconded by **Ahmadou Sakho**.

Tzvi Hersh Filler moves to vote via secret ballot. Motion passes.

6. APPOINTMENTS OF LOYOLA COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Isaiah Joyner: Loyola committee works with the Loyola Coordinator to represent the voices of students at Loyola. I want to stress the urgency since we face a quorum issue, and we need at least one councilor.

Shaun Sederoff nominates himself. Seconded by **Isaiah Joyner**.

Paige Beaulieu nominates herself. Seconded by **Lauren Perozek**.

Shaun Sederoff: I enjoy being involved in committees and am currently on one. I don't have a major at Loyola, but I love the campus and have been there before.

Paige Beaulieu: I'm currently not on a committee, I have been involved with folx that have majors at Loyola, and will actually have classes there in the winter.

Harrison Kirshner motions to appoint **Shaun Sederoff** and **Paige Beaulieu** to the Loyola Committee. Seconded by **S Shivaane**. Motion passes.

7. FACULTY ASSOCIATION SENATE SEATS

Isaiah Joyner: I reached out to the JMSB and FASA associations and JMSB gave interest in having one of their execs on the Senate. FASA wants more time to consider the offer.

8. COMMITTEE MEETINGS RECORDINGS

Isaiah Joyner: Due to the current climate, our meetings are online and recorded for transparency and accuracy. Sometimes students at large request access to the recordings. If they do, we will provide it to them.

9. DIVERSITY TRAINING MOTIONS

Lauren Perozek presents the following motion. Seconded by **S Shivaane**. Motion passes.

WHEREAS Standing Regulations 215 states that “Those actively engaged in the governance of the Union and in student activities on campus it supports have the legal, social and moral obligation to contribute to the prevention of, intervention in, and effective response to, sexual violence.”

WHEREAS Standing Regulations Section 215 (a) states that members of the university community are tasked to “[Model] healthy and respectful behavior and practice in personal and professional relationships.”

WHEREAS it is important to create a safe workplace, especially since Council is made of a diverse group of people from vastly different backgrounds and lived experiences.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council task the executive team to coordinate diversity and anti-oppression trainings covering topics including, but not limited to, systemic and institutionalized racism, sexism, gender diversity, and religious minorities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT these trainings be strongly encouraged for all Councilors and Executives entering the 2020-2021 mandate alongside the consent and power dynamics training.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT these trainings be a duration of at least one hour.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that policy committee be tasked with rewording/modifying the relevant bylaws so that the consequences of not attending these trainings pose as a deterrent for elected councilors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the budgetary impact is nil.

Lauren Perozek: Due to the global climate surrounding diversity, we should be trained in these situations. These will help us be more worldly and understand the context of these issues. I’ve received help with this motion from Mathew Kaminski and Isaiah Joyner.

Ahmadou Sakho: I want to motivate this motion because we are a diverse council and Canada is a diverse country. We should have this training to foster a culture of respect for each other

Harrison Kirshner: It's important to go through this training and understand the experiences that other people go through. This is the best way for us to learn about the diversity we have on council and how to respect each other with these differences.

Mathew Kaminski: I want to speak in favor of this motion. A lot of us wanted this to happen sooner. I think we should all give ourselves a pat on the back for being able to come together and have these discussions.

S Shivaane calls the question. Seconded by **Harrison Kirshner**. Motion passes.

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Isaiah Joyner: Please follow up with your emails and reach out to IT if you need help.

Lauren Perozek: Please consult the executive team before bringing up your ideas so we can be more efficient with the council's time, because they may be working on something similar already.

Mathew Kaminski: I'm holding meetings over the next few days about the BLM campaign and invite councilors and executives to work with me on this and give feedback.

Sarah Mazhero: Manuela and I have begun the recruitment process for the BIPOC committee.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Isaiah Joyner moves to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by **S Shivaane**. Motion carries.

Meeting adjourned at 20h51.