



Concordia Student Union - Council of Representatives
CSU Special Council Meeting
Wednesday, November 04, 2020
Via Zoom, 18h30

1. CALL TO ORDER

The chairperson calls the meeting to order at **18h34**.

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), Daniel Amico (Internal Affairs Coordinator), Manuella Simo (Sustainability Coordinator), Eduardo Malorni (Student Life Coordinator), Holly Mark-Hilton (Finance Coordinator), Victoria Pesce (External Affairs & Mobilization Coordinator) and Malcolm Asselin (Loyola Coordinator)

Councillors present for the meeting were: Christopher Vaccarella (Arts & Science), S Shivaane (Arts & Science), Harrison Kirshner (John Molson School of Business), Jeremy Deneault (John Molson School of Business), Zachary Williams (Independent), Sarah Bubenheimer (Arts & Science), Tzvi Hersh Filler (Gina Cody School of Engineering), Matthew Benzrihem (Arts & Science), James Hanna (Gina Cody School of Engineering), Arieh Barak (Independent)

Executives absent for the meeting were: Councilors absent for the meeting were: Natalia Whiteley (Gina Cody School of Engineering), Roman Zelensky (Arts & Science), Jarrad Haas (Fine Arts), Yasmine Yahiaoui (Arts & Science), Diana Lukic (Fine Arts), Shaun Sederoff (Arts & Science), Chealsea Okankwu (John Molson School of Business), Marlana Valenta (Arts & Science), Desiree Blizzard (Gina Cody School of Engineering), Anais Gagnon (Gina Cody School of Engineering), Lauren Perozek (John Molson School of Business), Margot Berner (Arts & Science), Howard Issley (John Molson School of Business)

3. REFERENDUM QUESTIONS

Christopher Vaccarella presents the following motion. Seconded by **Matthew Benzrihem**.
Motion passes.

WHEREAS COVID-19 has led to the closure of Concordia University during the 2020-21 academic year;

WHEREAS the closure of Concordia University has led to many courses, assignments, exams and lectures to be conducted virtually;

WHEREAS online-based schooling has led to a multitude of issues;

WHEREAS the implementation of proctored exams was done without student consent

WHEREAS proctored exams are an invasive method of exam-taking that violates the privacy of students, tracks eye and facial movements, records student activity and manipulates privacy settings, amongst other issues;

WHEREAS tuition has been increased during online schooling, which has affected students including but not limited to those who are low-income, International, and marginalized;

WHEREAS many professors have increased the number of assignments and condensed due dates, dramatically increasing levels of student stress and anxiety, and affecting academic performances

WHEREAS a Pass/Fail should be implemented for both Fall 2020, Fall-Winter 2020-21, and Winter 2021 semesters to allay the concerns of students struggling as a result of COVID-19;

WHEREAS Concordia has not fulfilled its promises to ensure the accessibility of online schooling, leading to the distress of students with accessibility concerns;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the CSU continue its efforts to pressure the administration to end proctored exams;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the CSU pressure the administration to strongly encourage professors and instructors to reduce workloads, increase grading leniencies and further space out assignment deadlines.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the CSU continue its efforts to pressure the administration to implement a pass/fail option;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the CSU continue its efforts to pressure the administration to reduce tuition costs;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the CSU continue its efforts to pressure the administration to fulfill its promises regarding accessibility and to increase resources aimed at improving accessibility of online learning;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the following questions be sent to referendum;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the budgetary impact is nil.

Harrison Kirshner: All of these concerns are concerns that we see among the student body, whether it comes to tuition hikes, pass/fail options, etc. We're fully aware that the execs are working on this presently. This question can help present more statistics to the administration and help end the case of these undesirable practices.

Isaiah Joyner: Can we split the question up for discussion?

Harrison Kirshner: I'm okay with splitting it

S Shivaane: Me too

Tzvi Hersh Filler: I'm slightly opposed unless there is a specific reason why?

Isaiah Joyner: There are questions I want to discuss and see if they need to go to the ballot. We already have a similar question going to the ballot regarding tuition hikes. It might make more sense to send one question.

Isaiah Joyner motions to split the motion. Seconded by **Harrison Kirshner**. Motion passes.

Proctoring

Isaiah Joyner: Are you only referring to third party software?

Christopher Vaccarella: Online proctoring altogether

Isaiah Joyner: What if a teacher opens a Zoom class and everyone does an exam, is that considered proctored? Or are you referring to Procterio?

Christopher Vaccarella: We don't want a third party at all. If it's on Moodle or Zoom it's fine.

Tzvi Hersh Filler: Procterio is a definition of a virus. I don't see it as an improvement if the virus is made in-house or designed by an external corporation.

Isaiah Joyner: The more specific or targeted they are, the better question we have

Tzvi Hersh Filler motions to amend Question One to add the word **intrusive**. Seconded by **Isaiah Joyner**. Motion passes.

James Hanna: Can we also add Cole, which is Concordia's in-house application

Tzvi Hersh Filler: The use of proctoring over Cole requires the Procterio plugin. It's a virus because of the number of permissions you have to give it.

Question One is sent to the referendum.

Workload

Isaiah Joyner: The preamble is accurate but the question is vague. What does "reduce workload" mean? The question needs to be more targeted but reducing workload is too vague.

Tzvi Hersh Filler: The complaint of students is that they are being spammed with work. The University is under no obligation to follow our recommendations. There is a desire to have slightly less piling on of assignments. It's implied that the assignments will be worth more as a result.

Isaiah Joyner: Maybe we can explicitly say a "balanced workload" instead? There are teachers who are either drowning students in assignments or making their assignments worth a lot.

Isaiah Joyner motions to change the question to the following. Seconded by **Malcolm Asselin**. Motion passes.

Do you believe that Concordia University should have professors make more balanced workloads for this academic year?

Question Two is sent to the referendum.

Pass/Fail

Isaiah Joyner: In the preamble, we don't have control over the graduate school's accepting or not accepting pass/fail grades.

S Shivaane: We removed that section.

Question Three is sent to the referendum.

Tuition

Isaiah Joyner: Is this different enough from the tuition question we already have on the ballot?

Harrison Kirshner: That was a position. This is an opinion referendum question.

Tzvi Hersh Filler calls the question.

Question Four is sent to the referendum.

Accessibility

Question Five is sent to the referendum.

4. ADJOURNMENT

Tzvi Hersh Filler motions to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by **Harrison Kirshner**. Motion carries.

Meeting adjourned at 19h09.