



Concordia Student Union - Council of Representatives
CSU Special Council Meeting
Monday, March 15, 2021
Via Zoom, 19h30

1. CALL TO ORDER

The chairperson calls the meeting to order at **19h33**.

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), Amy Nguyen (Sustainability Coordinator), Daniel Amico (Internal Affairs Coordinator), Eduardo Malorni (Student Life Coordinator), and Malcolm Asselin (Loyola Coordinator)

Councillors present for the meeting were: Debra Irabor (Arts & Science), Christopher Vaccarella (Arts & Science), Tzvi Hersh Filler (Gina Cody School of Engineering), James Hanna (Gina Cody School of Engineering), Chealsea Okankwu (John Molson School of Business), S Shivaane (Arts & Science), Shlomo Tanny (John Molson School of Business), Harrison Kirshner (John Molson School of Business), Alexander Stojda (Gina Cody School of Engineering), Diana Lukic (Fine Arts), Shaun Sederoff (Arts & Science), Howard Issley (John Molson School of Business), Sarah Bubenheimer (Arts & Science), Anais Gagnon (Gina Cody School of Engineering), Sean Howard (Gina Cody School of Engineering), Lauren Perozek

(John Molson School of Business), Wyatt Niblett-Wilson (John Molson School of Business), Brandon Grimaldi (Arts & Science), Marlena Valenta (Arts & Science), Jeremy Deneault (John Molson School of Business)

Executives absent for the meeting were: Holly Mark-Hilton (Finance Coordinator), Victoria Pesce (External Affairs & Mobilization Coordinator)

Councillors absent for the meeting were: Arie Barak (Independent), Roman Zelensky (Arts & Science), Jarrad Haas (Fine Arts), Phineas Ambrose Savchenko (Fine Arts)

3. Ballot Questions

James Hanna presents the following motion. Seconded by **Tzvi Hersh Filler**. Motion fails.
WHEREAS CSU Bylaw 2.1 defines the objectives of the CSU as including the promotion of the recreational interests of its members, the promotion of student activities and interests, the supporting of activities which enhance quality of life for Concordia students, and to be the representatives of the undergraduate students of Concordia.

WHEREAS Space Concordia and The Mindfulness Project have each acquired 750 valid undergraduate student signatures to be sent to referendum as fee levies, which 150% of the required amount.

WHEREAS the CSU council has voted to send the respective fee levy questions to referendum.

WHEREAS CSU bylaw 9.6.1 can be interpreted to prevent these questions from being sent to referendum.

WHEREAS CSU bylaw 21.2 empowers the council to temporarily amend the bylaws without the need for referendum, for use in extreme situations.

WHEREAS technical correctness is technically the only correctness that matters.

BE IT RESOLVED that CSU Bylaw 9.6.1 be amended to remove the words “presented to the Chairperson of the Council of Representatives a minimum of five (5) days before the announcement of the Poll”, in accordance with Bylaw 21.2

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this change go into effect immediately,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this change is not to be sent to referendum and expire at the end of the 2020-2021 council mandate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Fee Levy questions previously suspected to be in violation of the provisions removed be re-added to the ballot of the 2020-2021 CSU General Elections, notwithstanding standing regulations 112 & 6.2.1 of the CSU’s Policy on Elections and Referenda.

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

VOTE:

3 YES

16 NO
3 ABSTAIN

James Hanna: This is a nuclear option. Given the circumstances, we are justified in doing this. When we gave the fee levy committee the ability to extend the deadline due to COVID-19, we assumed that the new deadline would not violate any standing regulations, and the committee and the fee levy groups all acted in good faith. These fee levies met all of the deadlines that they were given, and it is because of our own mistake that might result in them not being able to bring their question to the referendum. We should fix the procedural errors that lead to this situation. We have the power to change this and restore the good faith that everyone has been acting on. There are no potentials for abuse in this motion.

Eduardo Malorni motions to enter closed sessions. Seconded by **Nicole Nashen**. Motion passes.

Tzvi Hersh Filler motions to allow a representative from both groups to enter closed sessions. Seconded by **James Hanna**. Motion passes.

VOTE:
15 YES
5 NO

Lauren Perozek calls the question. Seconded by **Wyatt Niblett-Wilson**. Opposed by **James Hanna**.

Tzvi Hersh Filler motions to enter the open session. Seconded by **S Shivaane**. Motion passes.

Chairperson: It was determined that these questions will not be going to the Referendum tomorrow

Harrison Kirshner motions to ratify the minutes from the closed session. Seconded. Motion passes

Melize Ferrus (Space Concordia): Can I get an explanation?

Chairperson: It was in closed session

Melize Ferrus (Space Concordia): That's in bad faith, for future reference. We should be able to get some explanation for the decision so we know how to avoid this situation in the future.

Chairperson: The motion wasn't based on the merits of the fee levies, but on whether the council wanted to set aside their bylaws.

Tzvi Hersh Filler motions to send both questions to the By-Election in November 2021.
Seconded by **Sean Howard**

Isaiah Joyner: Is this in the spirit of the agenda point since we're at an SCM?

Chairperson: I would argue that it is.

Tzvi Hersh Filler: These groups have collected the required signatures, which is sufficient to send three questions to the referendum. They've gone through an anxious few days. The least we can do is to add it to the referendum, which is within our powers.

Harrison: I heard Mr. Hanna refer to one of my colleagues as "a f----- snake"

James Hanna: I apologize, I thought my mic was muted

Alexander Stojda motions to go for a five-minute recess. Seconded by **Nicole Nashen**. Motion passes.

Lauren Perozek: It would be wise for both Space Concordia and The Mindfulness Project to use this time to sort out some issues that the council brought up. One issue that Space Concordia had is their budget. They were not approved by the fee levy review committee or recommended by the head of that committee. Council sending a fee levy question to the referendum shouldn't be contentious. For The Mindfulness Project, this is an opportunity to work on recruitment.

Nicole Nashen: Would everything be directly sent to November?

Chairperson: Yes, since they met all the requirements

Nathan McDonald-Fortier (Space Concordia): Lauren mentioned that we should take this time to review our application. However, the JB ruling was about how SR 9.6.1 applied to our situation, meaning the council shouldn't even be given a vote on this motion. You should get a lawyer to review that bylaw because it is the reason we're in this situation now. The CSU is open to lawsuits because of that bylaw.

Tzvi Hersh Filler: When did CJLO submit their signatures in the Fall?

Chairperson: I can get you an answer

Tzvi Hersh Filler: It was revealed to me "in a dream" that the Mindfulness Project does not have the resources to collect signatures again. It would be the right thing to do to send this to the November referendum

Harrison Kirshner: Did Mr. Filler just reveal what happened in closed sessions by referring it to a “dream”?

Tzvi Hersh Filler: My apologies, I spoke out of order

Nicole Nashen motions to enter a closed session. Seconded by **Wyatt Niblett-Wilson**. Opposed by **James Hanna**. Motion passes.

VOTE:

14 YES

5 NO

Nicole Nashen: Based on people revealing their “dreams”, we should enter a closed session to resolve this

Melize Ferrus (Space Concordia): It isn’t fair to have a conversation about our merits without us being there. You’re just speculating, instead, you should just allow us to speak on our own behalf

James Hanna: I can’t talk about why the closed session was used in bad faith to disadvantage Space Concordia and The Mindfulness Project

James Hanna motions to invite two representatives from Space Concordia and The Mindfulness Project into the closed session. Seconded. Motion fails.

Nicole Nashen calls the question. Seconded by **Brandon Grimaldi**.

Eduardo Malorni motions to table this discussion until after consulting with the CSU lawyers. Seconded by **Wyatt Niblett-Wilson**. Opposed. Motion passes.

VOTE:

16 YES

1 NO

1 ABSTAIN

Lauren Perozek calls the question. Seconded by **Wyatt Niblett-Wilson**.

Wyatt Niblett-Wilson motion to return to the open session. Seconded by **Isaiah Joyner**. Motion passes.

Wyatt Niblett-Wilson motions to ratify the minutes of the closed session. Seconded by **Isaiah Joyner**. Motion passes.

Chairperson: The council has decided to table this discussion until they can consult with the CSU lawyers

4. ADJOURNMENT

Wyatt Niblett-Wilson motions to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by **Isaiah Joyner**. Opposed. Motion carries.

Meeting adjourned at 22h48.