

# Policy on Positions held by the Union

**Oversight Body:** CSU Council of Representatives, CSU Executive Team, CSU Membership

**Date Passed by Council:** 2021-07-12

**Date of Next Review:** March 2023

**Related policies, bylaws, legislation:** CSU By-Laws, CSU Code of Conduct, CSU Positions Book, other Policy Books in Standing Regulations.

## Definitions

“By-Laws” means the By-Laws of the Concordia Student Union;

“Canadian context” refers to anything occurring on land within the Canadian borders, including unceded Indigenous lands and territories, as well as anything the Canadian government plays a direct role in;

“Council” means the Council of Representatives of the Student Union;

“Executives” means a member of the Executive of the Student Union;

“General Meeting” means an annual, special, or informational general meeting of the Student Union, as defined in the By-Laws;

“Member” means any undergraduate student registered in courses or for-credit activity, who pays the Student Union Fee;

“Office” means the office of a Coordinator or the office of a Representatives for a particular faculty, as the case may be, unless otherwise specified;

“Ordinary resolution or regulation” means a regulation or resolution requiring a majority vote at Council to be adopted;

“Position” means a resolution that provides a binding directive to the officers of the Union on what the Union’s stance is in regards to an issue or topic of importance to its members;

“Referendum committee” means a group recognised as such by the Chief Electoral Officer for the purpose of promoting a particular option in a referendum;

“Regular meeting” means a regular meeting of Council as defined in the By-Laws;

“Representative” means a duly elected member of Council who has taken office;

“Resolution” means a directive which mandates the execution of a specific task or action in a time-limited fashion;

“Special meeting” means a special meeting of Council, as defined in the By-Laws;

“Statement” refers to declarative communications expressing the viewpoints of Student Representatives elected by the CSU members, signed as the Concordia Student Union or its Executive Team, and released on the main social media accounts, main CSU newsletter and/or the website of the union;

“Student Union” means the Concordia Student Union;

“University” means Concordia University.

## Purpose

This policy document provides information on the positions held by the Concordia Student Union, including the process of adoption and removal of positions, as well as outlining the process for publishing statements. The positions book outlines up to date what each of these positions looks like.

## Scope

1. This policy applies to the Positions Book for the CSU, the Council of Representatives, its committees and other subsidiary bodies, and the proceedings thereof. It also applies to the Executives of the Concordia Student Union, their functions, mandates, and responsibilities.
2. Any ordinary motion, resolution or regulation that deviates from these regulations can only be adopted with a clause stating that the motion operates regardless of the Code of Standing Regulations. The clause must state which article(s) are not to be applied towards the motion. Such a motion requires a 2/3 majority vote and will cease to have effect four months following its approval. Further, no section of these regulations may be notwithstanding consecutive times.
  - 2.1. This notwithstanding clause cannot be used to notwithstanding clauses 1.9, 3.1., 3.2., 3.3, 3.4.
3. The following is a list of general provisions to apply to this policy:
  - 3.1. English and French can be used equally in any Student Union Meetings and elections materials.
  - 3.2. Any individual, club or student association who wishes to use the Student Union logo must get permission from the CSU.
  - 3.3. In the case of any discrepancy between these regulations and the By-Laws, the latter shall prevail.
  - 3.4. In the case of any discrepancy between these regulations and any other regulations, these regulations shall prevail.

## Policy Statement

## Section 1. General Provisions on Positions

- 1.1. The Concordia Student Union shall maintain a Positions Book that contains all the positions adopted by the Union.
- 1.2. The positions serve as a guide for the political representation engaged in by officers of the union and the Union's political discourse and long-term goals.
  - 1.2.1. Positions provide the Union with a position on a topic in a general way that establishes the political culture, goals, and stances of the Union on social, political, and academic issues.
  - 1.2.2. A position should not be confused with a resolution mandating the execution of a specific task or action in a time-limited fashion.
  - 1.2.3. Positions are the basis for the political discourse and long-term goals of the Union. They serve as the basis for the political campaigns engaged in by union officers, and act as general guiding principles for conduct.
- 1.3. Positions cannot supersede, and are limited by, the By-Laws and these Standing Regulations. Positions cannot contravene Quebec or Canadian law, nor may they contravene the rights provided for under the Quebec and Canadian Charters of Rights and Freedoms.
- 1.4. Every officer of the Union is expected to be familiar with the contents of the position book, and to conform the political representation they engage in on behalf of the Union to its contents.
- 1.5. Members and officers of the Union have the clear right to question and challenge any or all positions adopted, and to seek their amendment or removal through formal channels outlined in this policy. However, while a position remains in force, officers must use the positions to guide them in the political representation that they engage in on behalf of the Union.
- 1.6. Any actions taken by the Union that directly contravene a position may be challenged at the Judicial Board, and annulled if it is found to be the case. Such a ruling shall constitute a violation of these regulations, as per Section 10 of the by-laws.
- 1.7. Each position listed in the positions book shall include a reference to the referendum by which the resolution was adopted.
- 1.8. The positions book will be organized first by theme, and then by date.
- 1.9. For positions on subjects that go beyond the Canadian context, there shall be no mention of specific countries or governments.

## Section 2. Process for Adoption, Modification, and Removal of Positions

- 2.1. Positions may be adopted directly by the members by referendum. These positions may only be modified or removed by the members through a referendum.

2.2. In accordance with the Bylaws, referenda may be called:

2.2.1. By the Council of Representatives

2.2.2. by a petition of at least five hundred (500) members presented to the Chairperson of the Council of Representatives a minimum of five (5) days before the announcement of the Poll.

2.2.2.1. The promoters of such petition are responsible for presenting their petition to Council prior to circulating it on campus. Such presentation is only to allow for discussion between Council and the promoters and to solicit feedback on the proposed question. The Council of Representatives shall have no decision-making power regarding the wording of any question presented for discussion, nor over the ability of the promoters to pursue their petition, nor over the putting of that question to referendum.

2.3. In the case of a referendum held for the modification or removal of a position, such position has to be cited in its entirety in the referendum question, as well as in the motion or the text of the petition that brings it to referendum.

2.4. In the case of a conflict or contradiction between a resolution adopted by the members and a position previously adopted by the members, the most recent resolution shall take precedence. The Academic and Advocacy Coordinator will be tasked with harmonizing the previous position with the most recently passed resolution.

2.5. Upon adoption, modification, or removal of a resolution by the members, it is the responsibility of the Academic and Advocacy Coordinator to formulate the content of that resolution into a formal position, to update the positions book, and to ensure it is uploaded to the CSU website and circulated to the relevant bodies and staff.

2.6. Any changes made to the positions book, whether they be additions, modifications or removals of positions, shall be included in the agenda for the next regular meeting of Council for information purposes only. No vote shall take place.

### **Section 3. Statements**

3.1. The CSU may at any time issue statements, defined as declarative communications expressing the viewpoints of Student Representatives elected by the CSU members, signed as the Concordia Student Union or its Executive Team, and released on the main social media accounts, main CSU newsletter and/or the website of the union.

3.2. All statements have to be in line with the CSU Positions Book, the CSU Bylaws, and all other CSU policies and regulations.

3.2.1. If a representative or member feels that a statement goes against any regulations, or is discriminatory, they shall be able to file a complaint to the Judicial Board.

3.3. Statements issued by the Student Union may refer to subjects beyond the Canadian context but in that case may only refer to specific actions taken by governments or organizations.

3.3.1. Notwithstanding this, natural disasters, accidents, and uncontrollable events not caused or controlled by humans will not be considered under this clause and can be mentioned in statements.

3.4. The process to issue any statement shall be:

3.4.1. Student Representatives, CSU staff, CSU members may bring up subjects they would like a statement to the Executive team.

3.4.2. Where aligned with CSU positions, where mandated by Council, or by the discretion of the majority of the Executive team, the Executive shall draft a statement or delegate the drafting of the statement to relevant stakeholders.

3.4.3. During the writing process, there must be reasonable attempts at consultations with the Campaigns Department, other relevant CSU and/or Concordia staff, relevant community groups, other groups or individuals that are directly affected by the issue at hand. The consultations with community/student groups shall provide a variety of perspectives of the struggles and represent the full forms of discrimination widely recognized by the respective community and its members.

3.4.3.1. For statements referring to Indigenous Peoples, the Otsenhákta Student Centre (or any future denomination thereof) shall have to be consulted.

3.4.4. After consultations, once the majority of the Executive Team comes to an agreement on a statement, they shall publish it through the proper channels.

3.4.4.1. Notwithstanding this, for statements referring to subjects beyond the Canadian context, that mention specific actions taken by governments or organizations, Council shall have to ratify such statements before it gets published.

3.5. In any statement, there may be no general condemnations of groups of people that do not refer to specific organizations or governments.