



Concordia Student Union - Council of Representatives  
CSU Regular Council Meeting  
Wednesday, October 13, 2021  
Via Zoom, 18h30

## 1. CALL TO ORDER

The chairperson calls the meeting to order at **18h33**.

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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:** Eduardo Malorni (General Coordinator), Harrison Kirshner (Internal Affairs Coordinator), Hannah Jamet-Lange (Academic & Advocacy Coordinator), Malcolm Asselin (Student Life Coordinator), Camina Harrison-Chéry (External Affairs & Mobilization Coordinator), Aria Khaksar (Finance Coordinator), S Shivaane (Loyola Coordinator)

**Councilors present for the meeting were:** Tzvi Hersh Filler (Gina Cody School of Engineering), Christopher Vaccarella (Arts & Science), Shania Bramble (Arts & Science), Marissa Profetto (Gina Cody School of Engineering), Nathaniel Ouazana (Arts & Science), Brandon Grimaldi (Arts & Science), Howard Issley (John Molson School of Business), Samuel Thibodeau (Fine Arts), Boutaina Chafi (Arts & Science), Edel Kilkenny-Mondoux (Arts & Science), Jeremy Deneault (John Molson School of Business), Alina Murad (Arts & Science)

**Executives absent for the meeting were:** Faye Sun (Sustainability Coordinator)

**Councilors absent for the meeting were:** Noah Mohamed (John Molson School of Business), Olivia Lafreniere (John Molson School of Business), Nick Bonneau (John Molson School of Business), Ikrame Housni (Arts & Science), Emmanuel Gaisie (John Molson School of Business), Ariane Drouin (Gina Cody School of Engineering), Lauren Perozek (John Molson School of Business), Paula Colmenares (Independent), Lily Charette (Arts & Science), Anais Gagnon (Gina Cody School of Engineering)

**Tzvi Hersh Filler** motions to excuse all absences from tonight's meeting. Seconded by **Christopher Vaccarella**. Motion passes.

**Tzvi Hersh Filler** motions to excuse **Faye Sun's** absences from Regular Council Meetings until the Winter 2022 semester. Seconded. Motion passes.

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

#### **4. CONSENT AGENDA**

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

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

#### **a) Advocacy Fee Levy Increase**

**Sophie Stone:** The advocacy centre provides an essential service for students at Concordia. We provide independent student representation in Disciplinary Proceedings and at Tribunal Hearings (such as those under the Academic Code of Conduct, Code of Rights and Responsibilities and the Policy of Student Involuntary Leave of Absence), provide assistance in drafting complaints, students request statements and readmission applications. And, again, provide independent analysis during consultations that review grounds for complaints. We inform students of the various university policies, procedures and regulations that might affect their individual situation and make sure they are aware of their options. We support students through unfair obstacles/barriers in their academic endeavours. We provide Commissioner for Oaths services, we also report overarching patterns in student problems to elected student officials. There has been a steady increase in cases since 2015 as more students become aware of our services, especially during COVID. This is a good thing but we need more dedicated staff, which requires

more costs. Both the School of Graduate Studies (SGS) and the Faculty of Arts and Science (FAS) now have two to three (2-3) code administrators each since January 2021 because of the high volume of incident reports being submitted. We've hired a full time Senior Advocate, increasing the hours of our admin, increased total hours for UG part-time advocates in Summer (simultaneously busiest semester and when new advocates are trained). This all leads to a total of \$83,741.06 in expenses for salaries and benefits. We also have admin and office expenses which total \$22,450. This is why we need a fee levy increase to ensure that we can continue serving the students that come to us for help.

**Hannah Jamet-Lange** presents the following motion. Seconded by **Christopher Vaccarella**. Motion passes unanimously.

*BE IT RESOLVED* that the following question be sent to ballot during the 2021 General Election:

Do you agree to increase The CSU Student Advocacy Centre's fee levy to \$0.45 per credit (an increase of \$0.14 per credit from \$0.31 per credit), from all undergraduate students, annually adjusted to the Consumer Price Index of Canada, to be implemented with registration for the Winter 2022 (2214) term, in accordance with the University's Tuition, Refund and Withdrawal Policy?

Agreeing to this question means you consent to amending the CSU's Special Bylaw I to reflect this change

**Hannah Jamet-Lange:** The advocacy centre is important to support students through all sorts of situations. This fee levy increase will ensure that the advocacy centre can continue their work and not have to turn students away.

**Tzvi Hersh Filler** motions to add the following to the ballot question. Seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

*Note: Should this pass, this will cause a change in this student fee charge of 0.45\$ per 3 credit course, meaning it will go from 0.93\$ to 1.35\$ per 3-credit course. This charge cannot currently be opted out from*

**Tzvi Hersh Filler:** This will ensure that the question is extremely clear on what it is doing, as this fee cannot be opted out of.

## **b) Diversity Services Fee Levy Referendum Question Proposal**

**S Shivaane:** This has been a conversation for many mandates now. This will be a dedicated office with dedicated staff; will be worked on regardless of executives in office to ensure longevity in goals and continued collaborations with relevant university bodies. The CSU Diversity Services shall exist to unite, and advocate with the variety of diverse groups on campus within the realm of race, ethnicity, culture, religious minorities, and Indigenous affairs. It will recognize the state of inequity on campus, our service acts to advocate for an inclusive environment in which marginalized groups feel welcome and free to embrace their identity. This will house inward facing EDI Advisor and Directors of Indigenous and Black Affairs. There will be an EDI Advisor who will be responsible for creating and fulfilling an assessment of CSU executives, council, and staff on their adherence to equity, diversity, and inclusion. They shall submit recommendations and follow through on plans to improve the organization with respect to EDI. The director positions will entail community-building, empowerment, coordinating activities, dedicated and focused effort advancing equity. This is different from the BIPOC committee as it is a dedicated office with dedicated staff; service will be worked on regardless of executives in office to ensure longevity in goals and continued collaborations with relevant university bodies. It is consistently a funding body, with events being planned on the basis of executives and committees. It will remain relatively autonomous by design, but is still beholden to the council. The CSU Diversity Services shall exist to unite, and advocate with a wider variety of diverse communities in addition to racialized groups on campus. It will be much more independent and flexible

**Camina Harrison-Chéry:** This will welcome and empower diverse students and show the community that we are committed to achieving equity.

**S Shivaane** presents the following motion. Seconded by **Tzvi Hersh Filler**. Motion passes unanimously.

*WHEREAS* the CSU's commitment to diversity and anti-oppression efforts thus far hinges on the efforts of the executive team and council

*WHEREAS* the CSU would greatly benefit from dedicated Diversity Office with dedicated staff who can focus on anti-oppressive, anti-racist goals in the short and long-term

*WHEREAS* the CSU will be hiring an Equity, Diversity and Inclusion officer in the coming week tasked with establishing the service

*BE IT RESOLVED THAT* Council approves the following question and preamble as referendum in the upcoming 2021 By-elections

Do you agree for the CSU to collect a Diversity service Office fee levy of \$0.20 per credit, from all undergraduate students, to support resources, referrals and guidance on

diversity issues annually adjusted to the Consumer Price Index of Canada, to be implemented with registration for the Winter 2022 (2214) term in accordance with the University's tuition, Refund and Withdrawal Policy

Note: Should this pass, this will cause a change in this student fee charge of 0.60\$ per 3 credit courses. This charge cannot currently be opted out from

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT* budgetary impact is nil.

**Camina Harrison-Chéry:** It would be very exciting to see this to happen

**Eduardo Malorni:** This is an important project that the CSU is launching. I ask that all Councillors, during the campaigning period, emphasize and campaign for this question to pass. It's important that this passes and I encourage you all to do your best to campaign for this question

## **6. APPOINTMENTS**

### **a) Appointments Committee (BIPOC seat)**

**Calvin Clarke** motions to table this appointment to the next scheduled RCM. Seconded by **S Shivaane**. Motion passes unanimously.

### **b) Sustainability Committee**

**Christopher Vaccarella:** We're working on projects to make Concordia the most sustainable campus in Montreal. We'd love to hear more input and ideas on this committee. We meet biweekly on Monday's at 2-3 PM.

### **c) Library Services Fund Committee**

**Eduardo Malorni:** A few years ago we started a project, Open Educational Resources, where teachers at Concordia will get funding to write their own textbooks and course packs that will be distributed for free. It has the potential of changing how education is accessed. We need 3 students on this committee to grant the funding. Shivaane and Harrison will sit on this, we need one more councillor to fill this committee. They meet once in the Fall semester, twice in the Winter semester.

**Alina Murad** nominates themselves. Seconded by **Tzvi Hersh Filler**.

**Alina Murad:** This is an interesting committee to join.

**Tzvi Hersh Filler** motions to appoint **Alina Murad, S Shivaane, and Harrison Kirshner** to the Library Services Fund Committee. Seconded by **Calvin Clarke**. Motion passes unanimously.

## **7. RETURNING BUSINESS - SUBSTANTIVE**

## **8. NEW BUSINESS – SUBSTANTIVE**

### **a) Approval of Executive Decree**

**Eduardo Malorni** presents the following motion. Seconded by **Hannah Jamet-Lange**. Motion passes unanimously.

*WHEREAS* the IT Department is still recovering from the developments in August,

*WHEREAS* several of the Social Media pages remain locked,

*WHEREAS* the Election Social Media are some of the locked pages,

*WHEREAS* the loss of the Election Social Media will lead to a lower overall turnout in the By-Election,

*BE IT RESOLVED THAT* the motion passed on September 15th, 2021 concerning by-election dates be rescinded and the following dates be instated:

- The nomination phase commences on October 15th 2021 and will end at 5:00 PM on November 5th 2021
- The campaigning phase will commence on November 8th 2021 and will end at 11:59 PM on November 15th 2021
- The voting phase will begin at 9:00 AM on November 16th 2021 and end at 5:00 PM on November 18th 2021

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT* if the pages cannot be recovered, the CEO restart new pages to replace the old ones

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT* this motion be passed notwithstanding subsection 3 article 1.3.1 and 1.1.3.1 of the CSU's Policy on Elections and Referenda.

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

### **b) Council Seat Allocations**

**Eduardo Malorni** presents the following motion. Seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

*BE IT RESOLVED* that the following CSU Council seats be open for contestation during the 2021 By-Elections:

- 2 JMSB
- 3 Arts & Science
- 3 GCSE
- 2 Fine Arts

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

### **c) Pass/Fail Referendum Question**

**Christopher Vaccarella** presents the following motion. Seconded by **Tzvi Hersh Filler**. Motion passes unanimously.

*BE IT RESOLVED THAT* Council approves the following question and preamble as referendum in the upcoming 2021 By-elections:

During the 2020-2021 academic year, Concordia University implemented the pass/fail grading option after significant pressure by students. The implementation of pass/fail in the past has led to reduced stress, anxiety and mental health issues from students, along with increased performance. During the Fall 2021 semester, a lot of classes have returned to on-campus learning, which has led to severe burnout, anxiety, fatigue and students being overwhelmed. As we are still in the middle of the pandemic, and because of the drastic adjustment in everyone's lives after a year away from campus, a return of the pass/fail option for this academic year which allows students to choose between an alphabetical grade or the pass/fail option, the latter of which will not affect their GPA, would be extremely beneficial for all students. It also reduces stress brought on by financial strains due to the pandemic, and recognizes that not all students have the same ability to succeed in their classes.

Do you believe Concordia University should implement the pass/fail option for this academic year and until the end of the pandemic?

**Christopher Vaccarella:** Last year, the reason why we put a lot of pressure on the administration. This question aims to do the same this year.

### **d) Elections Accessibility**

**Tzvi Hersh Filler** presents the following motion. Seconded by **Aria Khaksar**. Opposed. Motion fails.

*WHEREAS* ability to collect many signatures is not really a great indicator of ability to be an elected officer of the union,

*WHEREAS* CSU elections have not had many candidates in the past year,

*BE IT RESOLVED THAT* the required signatures to be nominated to be a candidate for council be reduced to 10 signatures for the upcoming byelections, notwithstanding Articles 5.2.2.7 and 5.2.2.8 of the Elections and Referenda Policy.

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT* Policy Committee be tasked with modifying the Elections and Referenda Policy to permanently reduce the number of required signatures,

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

VOTE:

1 YES

4 NO

6 ABSTAIN

**Tzvi Hersh Filler:** To be a candidate, you need to collect an X amount of signatures. However, the number of the signatures can be ambiguous given the fact that we aren't fully returned to campus. We, history, don't get a lot of candidates for the elections and this will help to remove some of the barriers to run.

**Hannah Jamet-Lange:** Hersh already brought this up to me at the Policy Committee. We decided that it's important to keep signatures because we believe that in order to represent the students, students need to in some way give their blessing before the elections. Collecting signatures is a great way for candidates to connect with students. I understand that it can be difficult but the number required is still low. We amended the policy so that people can collect signatures either online or in-person, moving forward, which allows for more accessibility in collecting signatures. If you aren't able to talk to 20 students to get their signatures, it's a sign that you're not engaged enough with the Concordia community to be representing them.

## **9. NEW BUSINESS – INFORMATIONAL**

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

## **11. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Hannah Jamet-Lange:** The RAWC is up and running. Please follow the Facebook page, join the mailing list, they have a lot of events coming up. Also, please fill out the survey that the CSU is running about the return-to-campus



**S Shivaane:** There's 1 seat left for the Heritage Tour on Saturday.

**Harrison Kirshner:** I sent an email about religious accommodations and holidays for SCMs. If you practice any religious and cultural holidays, please let me know

**Calvin Clarke:** The Hive AGM is coming up, please attend.

**Caitlin Robinson:** I received a petition from SEIZE for the upcoming by-election. I will inform you of the results tomorrow. Everyone has also passed the student status check.

## **12. ADJOURNMENT**

**Nathaniel Ouazana** moves to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by **Tzvi Hersh Filler**. Motion carries.

Meeting adjourned at 8:01 PM.