



**CSU Council
Special Council Meeting- SCM
Tuesday August 15th, 2023
H655.03 OR via Zoom**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The chairperson calls the meeting to order at 6:50 PM

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. APPROVAL OF NEW CLUB APPLICATION TEDX

Harley motions

Whereas Internal Affairs Coordinator Christian Taboada has attempted to convene the Clubs and Spaces Committee on multiple occasions since beginning his mandate in June 2023;

Whereas the Clubs and Spaces Committee members have thus far not been able to determine a time when all can be present;

Whereas the new club applicant, TedX, has fulfilled all the necessary paperwork to become a new club and is thus only waiting for approval by the CSU Council of Representatives;

Be it resolved that the CSU Council of Representatives vote to approve or deny the application of TedX to become a new CSU Club based on, but not limited to, the criteria of the CSU Policy on Clubs as it relates to TedX's proposed constitution;

The budgetary impact is nil.

Seconded by Tanou Bah

Harley's Motivation: TedX fulfills all the requirements and would like to become a club. A budget for a new club at the CSU is a maximum of \$750 for the first year. Does anyone have any questions?

Adam Mills: I would like to hear Arzou speak on the club.

Arzou: Hi everyone, I am one of the organisers of TedX Concordia. I would like to give you all a short pitch on why TedX should be a club under the CSU. The TEDx Club can contribute to the student life, projects, objectives and vision, constitution, the 2023-2024 theme, and the time line that we have set.

How can TEDx club contribute to Concordia's student life?

1. a space for sharing groundbreaking out-of-the-box thinking
2. a unique networking opportunity
3. a recognized event planning experience for the executive team
4. an attractive platform for reputable professionals to speak at Concordia
5. a global outreach for the University and its students
6. a platform for students to work collectively
7. an opportunity to provide a platform for those who don't have one

Based on Past Concordia TEDx events

Concordia has hosted multiple events in the past with memorable talks in 2017, 2016, 2014, and 2011.

Videos of the 2017 conference, shared on YouTube, reached between 1000 and 3000 views, a testament to the average TEDx can have.

The world has changed since 2017.

Six years, a global pandemic, the rise of AI, and a new global Geopolitical scene later, it is time with your new ideas, property today is reality, and that can lead us towards the future.

Project Vision

- Three to four, twenty minute talks
- Multidisciplinary conference around a unifying theme
- Networking event following talks

What is specific to the organization of a TEDx event?

- We will follow TEDx rules in addition to CSU and Concordia rules
- We will benefit from the global outreach of TEDx

Project Objectives

Form:

- 3 to 4 reputable speakers in fields of arts, social science and pure science
- One conference room
- Minimal catering
- Branding and outreach material
- Not raising money – not even for charity

Content:

- Promote unifying, inspiring, and new ideas, that provoke new ideas that matter
- Put forth speakers of different ages, sexual orientations, and backgrounds

Constitution

- Collective form as to avoid hierarchy
- Mission: 1 TEDx event per academic year
- Selection process to appoint qualified students to take over the following year
- TEDx Concordia is nonprofit and nonpartisan
- Acts independently – cannot partner with other clubs, conferences, and or events.

2023-2024 Theme: "Looking Forward"

Each TEDx event has a unifying theme. Following in the footsteps made by the 2017 "Next Generation" team, we decided to name our theme "Looking Forward". In the same logic, we wish to put forth ideas that bring us closer to the future. We wish to make technological innovation, thought innovation, and new, creative outlet the subject of this event.

2023-2024 Timeline

August

- Become a CSU club.
- Apply for use of Concordia name.
- Finish receiving quotes.
- Begin search for funding.

September

- Receive authorization for use of Concordia name.
- Continue search for funding.
- Book venue.
- Begin marketing campaign (platforms and speaker recruitment)

October

- Confirm speakers
- Book catering
- Continue marketing and ticket sale

November/December

- Follow up with speakers talks
- Finish ticket sale
- Continued marketing.

January/February

- Final adjustments

Thank you

Adam Mills: There have been controversies in regards to the speakers that have been given platforms with problematic views, so I would like to recommend the club to exercise caution, and ensuring that you give the platform to experts. I have done research on TED organizations and it seems as though they profit off of organizations such as your own doing all the work. However, I think this is a great initiative that you are undertaking and I wish you luck.

Chairperson entertains a vote

Motion passes unanimously, TEDx has now become a CSU club

3. APPROVAL OF NEW CLUB APPLICATION STARTUP NATION

Harley **presents motion** to approval of new club application StartUp Nation

Whereas Internal Affairs Coordinator Christian Taboada has attempted to convene the Clubs and Spaces Committee on multiple occasions since beginning his mandate in June 2023;

Whereas the Clubs and Spaces Committee members have thus far not been able to determine a time when all can be present;

Whereas the new club applicant, StartUp Nation, has fulfilled all the necessary paperwork to become a new club and is thus only waiting for approval by the CSU Council of Representatives;

Be it resolved that the CSU Council of Representatives vote to approve or deny the application of StartUp Nation to become a new CSU Club based on, but not limited to, the criteria of the CSU Policy on Clubs as it relates to StartUp Nation's proposed constitution;

The budgetary impact is nil.

Seconded by Maria

Harley: My motivation is very similar to TEDx, the paperwork is in order.

Anastasia Zorchinsky proceeds to present her pitch for StartUp Nation

Purpose:

1. Connecting Israelis and interested students alike to build a stronger community of passionate students on campus.
2. Establishing a safe environment for students who experience antisemitism, discrimination, and xenophobia.

Mission:

1. Enriching Israeli life on campus by creating opportunities for students to learn about Israel's remarkable identity, achievements, and culture.
2. Fostering a respectful dialogue of Israel and the Middle East while maintaining an inclusive and diverse environment.

Target Audience: Includes any and all students who share an interest/passion for Israel. All students are welcome!

Impact on The Concordia Community

1. CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PASSIONATE STUDENTS IN THE CONCORDIA COMMUNITY
2. ENRICHING STUDENTS ON RELEVANT TOPICS RELATING TO ISRAEL
3. CREATING A SAFE SPACE FOR THOSE IN NEED
4. CREATING MEMORABLE EXPERIENCES FOR STUDENTS ON CAMPUS

Events:

1. Israeli Mesiba
2. Guest Speakers
3. Consulate Conference
4. Movie Nights
5. National Holiday Acknowledgments

Executive Positions

- VP Israel Affairs: The brains of The StartUp Nation's Objective
- VP Events: Manages overall event operations
- VP Internal Responsible for technical and internal bonding aspects
- VP Marketing: Promotes The StartUp Nation events and the club as a whole
- VP External: Reached out to sponsors and guest speakers
- VP Finance: Responsible for all financial affairs

Future Projection:

1. Insightful VP reports for upcoming VPs

2. Absolutely organized documentation of all information
3. Strong marketing techniques to engage the community
4. Experienced executive team for great results

Chairperson Opens the Floor Up to Questions

Adam Mills: Thanks for the presentation, I was just curious about the name, where exactly does StartUp Nation come from?

Anastasia: The name actually comes from a book I read titled Start-Up Nation, which is about Israel's Start-Up and innovation and how Israel came about. I really got inspired by this book and decided to name the club after it.

Adam Mills: How is this club different from Hillel Concordia?

Anastasia: I think Hillel very much into Jewish life specifically, but there is a big difference between Jewish and Israeli life.

Adam Mills: Is StartUp Nation connected to any outside organization, or is it completely Anastasia?

Anastasia: The club is my idea, it is not connected to any other organization.

Chairperson entertains a vote

Application to be a CSU Club has been approved unanimously

4.EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENT OF THE SEXUAL VIOLENCE ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE

Harley motions

Whereas the SVAC is responsible for handling all complaints of sexual violence under the CSU's Sexual Violence and Safer Spaces policy;

Whereas one CSU representative who also sits on the Concordia University Committee on Sexual Misconduct and Sexual Violence is to sit on SVAC;

Whereas there is not currently a CSU Representative appointed to SVAC;

Be it resolved that Hannah Jackson, the External and Mobilization Coordinator, be appointed as the CSU Representative to the SVAC

Seconded by Tanou Bah

Harley Martin: This is an important committee, and grew out of complaints and policies to be handled by the Judicial board. I believe in 2018, it was decided that their needs to be a committee set up specifically for complaints of sexual violence that had people trained to handle such situations at the CSU. Currently we do not have a CSU representative to sit on that committee and other positions will be filled by the appointments committee which is in the appoints policy for student at large community members and a member from the judicial board.

Adam Mills: Is SVAC internal to the CSU?

Harley: Yes it is for handling sexual violence within the CSU.

Adam Mills: To my understanding they were trying to create a board that serves all of the University bodies. Is that some thing that is still in the works?

Harley: as noted in the motion, there is a concordia University committee on sexual misconduct and sexual violence, which, with the other group that we work with and representatives on that committee, we currently boycott. That's because they are deemed not to be appropriate and not satisfactory of what students want. It is still in the works to pressure administration to create a committee at that level that is adequate for what students are demanding. This one is specifically to do with things that happen within the CSU.

Adam Mills: Would it be prudent for the time beings to form something in line with the other organizations?

Harley: We need to apply pressure because the university is mandated to have that committee and it should be at that level, but it is a point and that has been the case when the university does not create things that students need. We could either pressure the university or create our own thing. The main thing is to pressure the admin to do as they're demanding rather than create something separate.

Adam: I am concerned that we do not have the capacity to deal with something as important as that in the moment.

Harley: I understand, regardless SVAC is important to have within the CSU.

Adam: thanks for the information

Chairperson entertains a vote
Motion Passes Unanimously

5. APPOINTMENT OF COUNCILORS TO THE CSU APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE

Whereas the CSU Appointments Committee is responsible for reviewing applications for student at large committee positions and recommending individuals to fill these roles;

Whereas there are currently two positions open for Councilors on the CSU appointments committee;

Whereas the staffing of the Appointments Committee is crucial to staffing other CSU and University Committees;

Be it resolved that Councilors nominate themselves to fill the available positions on the Appointments Committee;
The budgetary impact is nil.

Seconded by Kareem

Harley: We desperately need staff for the appointments committee so that we can staff these other committees. Right now we only have two councilors on the committee. We have a good amounts of applications waiting for other committee positions which is great but it would be nice to process those and it would take a burden off some of the councilors. Two councilors have expressed interest to me about this, Riley Cooke and Micheal Lecchino. Are there any other councilors interested in joining?

However, Micheal is not present so is unable to nominate their self.

Riley Cooke nominates their self to the appointments committee
Seconded by Adam Mills

Riley Cooke: i want to sit on the appointments committee because it is very crucial for us to have people on the appointments committee so that all of the other committees can start getting started for the fall term. Without this committee it will hard for the other committees to get through with things, there for I do not mind sitting on the committee temporarily or the entire time depending on how much I can help.

Sona Sadio Nominates their self to the appointments committee
Seconded by Adam Mills

Sona Sadio: I want to help staff the committee and I welcome the learning opportunity.

Chairperson entertains motion to appoint Riley Cooke and Sona Sadio to the Appointments Committee

Adam Mills motions to appoint Sona Sadio and Riley Cooke to the appointments committee.

Seconded by Kareem

6. CSU FUNDING FOR REGGIE'S STUDENT BAR

Whereas Reggie's Solidarity Cooperative, Concordia's student bar, has requested a \$120 000 CAD funding package from the CSU in addition to forgiveness of eight (8) months' rent owed to CSU (at a rate of \$4406.33 CAD/month) for a total of \$155 253.33 CAD;

Whereas Reggie's requires these funds to be able to open and operate during the 2023- 24 school year;

Be it resolved that the CSU Council of Representatives forgive Reggie's outstanding rent payments owed to the CSU totaling \$35 253.33;

Be it further resolved that the CSU Council approve a memorandum of understanding between the Concordia Student Union and Reggie's that would see Reggie's receive funding of up to \$120 000 CAD in installments conditional on adherence to the aforementioned agreement;

Be it further resolved that the CSU council approve the withdraw of up to \$120 000 CAD for Reggie's from the Student Spaces, Accessible Education, and Legal Contingency (SSAELC) Fund;

The budgetary impact on the SSAELC Fund is up to \$120 000;

The budgetary impact is nil.

Seconded by Kareem

Motivation by Harley:

Harley: Reggie's has approached us for funding as you can see in the attached document that council was provided with. It requires these funds to go beyond just opening for September this year. The idea was with writing a memorandum of understanding was to provide some sort of structure in which these funds

would be used. The hope is that structure provides reggie's with something that serves the bar to become more financially viable but also to have a greater impact on students. Hopefully bring more students in. That is why the motion states that it is up to \$120,000 the funding will come in installments based on NEEDS and also allows us all to verify that the funds are being used correctly.

Eduardo: I would like to answer questions that people have about Reggie's.

Adam Mills: Last I heard, Reggie's was about \$40,000 in the red, I am assuming that partially comes from rent. So I guess my understanding is that to basically get us back to zero is to forgive the debt?

Eduardo: We are actually not that far in the red, we are closer to about \$20,000 in the red currently. We do have some money left in the bank account and we would be able to pay the vast majority of that with our money but that would then leave us unable to reopen in the fall. That is the main issue. We have outstanding payments. The real problem at hand to resupplying the bar with all the ingredients we need as well as staffing it. We need to give it a kick so that students come back. I was called to come back in March to support Reggie's. When I came in it was obvious that Reggie's was in bad shape, hence why we need money to make the bar a functional bar that could compete with the bars downtown.

Adam Mills: Part of the \$20,000 is rent?

Eduardo: No, the \$20,000 is invoices to Molson specifically.

Adam Mills: Is that the extent of the debt?

Eduardo: Yes that is the extent of the debt, there are a few outstanding payments but very small amounts such as a few hundred dollars on the credit card for subscriptions that we have, for example the POS system. The vast majority, 98% of our current debt is sent to Molson.

Adam Mills: I assumed as your letter states that rent payments from May 2022- December 2023, has that been taken care of?

Eduardo: Part of the agreement is that the rent payments would be forgiven for last year, so in that case it is already wrapped into this. If we were to include the rent payments, our total debt would be closer to \$70,000. Because rent in a given year is \$53,000

Adam Mills: So the \$20,000 is after rent is removed from the equation. How did the \$120,000 come into the equation?

Eduardo: It is going to cost about \$30,000 to restock the bar and do training for all the new staff coming in. When we open the bar we do not want to use up all the money, we want to see how September and October goes. We want to leave a bit of leeway. The reason we ended up getting to \$120,000 specifically is because that is what a bad year would end up totaling as our final total amount.

Adam Mills: That is your required subsidy for a really bad year?

Eduardo: Exactly, so that would be covering the entire year. That is why the motion specifically says UP-TO, we hope we don't need to get up to \$120,000 . Realistically if everything goes well we might need close to 50%-75% of that depending on how the year goes of course. There are some major changes we want to try. The bar used to offer a lot more pre-covid and that might cost a lot.

Adam Mills: Is the business plan for Reggie's in development?

Eduardo: I would say yes, the months leading to the end of the fall semester will be the developing months. By January we will determine whether the bar has improved.

Adam Mills: Are you now working full time?

Eduardo: Currently I am but I will probably be taking up a part time role. I am in the process of training the staff to take over more day to day activities.

Adam Mills: So will there be three full time positions?

Eduardo: Yes, the events and marketing is a position we really need. Students will generally be full time if they do 25 hours a week. Almost everyone that works at Reggie's is a student. At the moment I am the only staff that is not a student, because Reggie's is a learning opportunity for the students. I have applied for grants for the positions and with the grants salaries would be about 50% covered.

Adam Mills: This seems well done. The only thing I thought was missing is that I don't think any of the workers have a say in the governance of it.

Eduardo: It is not specifically mentioned but Reggie's is a cooperative so our board is made up of 8 seats and staff have about a third of the seats.

Adam Mills: Last year it seemed like most of the staff did not know what was going on, so I assumed there was not much involvement there.

Eduardo: Yes it was a very difficult year, it was clear that there was a big issue with management. A lot of the early warning signs that the staff faced could not be translated into actions to counter those problems due to management issues. We ended up breaking even during April and May despite losing money most of the year.

Adam Mills: I think there is now sufficient oversight so I might try and get involved with that oversight. I want to see Reggie's thriving and it is possible. Thanks for taking on the challenge.

Eduardo: Yes it is an interesting challenge. I like the idea of monthly installments and proving that we actually do need the cash before taking it. I think that not only encourages the rest of the staff to do well but if we were to post a truly horrendous month- e.g, September completely flops, let's say we are losing \$30,000-\$40,000 and we didn't justify it at all, the CSU has a good opportunity to investigate and chose to withhold and reverse the motion.

Adam Mills: What is the end goal here subsidy wise?

Eduardo: From the Reggie's side my end goal is to acknowledge the fact that a student run bar will struggle once in a while. I cannot promise that the fund will solve all of Reggie's problems. But I want to create a system within Reggie's where that is less likely to happen and when it does happen it gets caught early on and that it is easily identifiable and the students have support. You can clearly see that when student run spaces are ran well, student engagement increases and this makes a sizable difference in society afterwards.

Harley: I agree with Eduardo, it would be nice to see more people use the space and have it as a student space that people make good use for. It would be great to see it reach its full potential.

Motion Passes Unanimously

7. RATIFICATION OF EXECUTIVE DECREE

Harley Martin motions

Whereas General Coordinator Harley Martin appointed Councilor Sona Sadio as signing officer through use of executive decree;

Whereas use of the executive decree must be ratified by the Council of Representatives as per Bylaw 7.6.1;

Be it resolved that the Council of Representatives ratifies Sona Sadio as a CSU signing officer;

The budgetary impact is nil.

Seconded by Adam Mills

Harley Martin's Motivation:

We need a signing officer to fulfil our duties and Sona agreed to that.

Adam Mills: Thank you Sona for volunteering.

Motion for Executive Decree to be Ratified

Harley Martin Motions to Adjourn Meeting at 8 PM

Seconded by Tanou Bah