



Concordia Student Union - Council Of Representatives

CSU Regular Council Meeting

Wednesday, November 08, 2023

H-711 OR via Zoom, 18h30

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. ROLL CALL
3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA
4. CONSENT AGENDA
 - a) Executive Reports
 - b) Chairperson Report
 - c) Approval of Previous Minutes
 - d) Ratification of Committee Reports
5. PRESENTATIONS AND GUEST SPEAKERS
6. APPOINTMENTS
 - a) Appointments Committee (1)
 - a) BIPOC Committee (3)
 - b) Clubs & Spaces Committee (1)
 - c) External Committee (1)
 - d) Fee Levy Review Committee (1)
 - e) Finance Committee (2)
 - f) Loyola Committee (2)
 - g) Mental Health Committee (3)
 - h) Policy Committee (1)
 - i) Student Life Committee (2)

j) Sustainability Committee (3)

k) Sustainability Action Fund (1)

8. NEW BUSINESS – SUBSTANTIVE

9. NEW BUSINESS – INFORMATIONAL

10. QUESTION PERIOD & BUSINESS ARISING

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS

12. ADJOURNMENT



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1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson calls meeting to order at 18h38

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

Chairperson: Michelle Lam

Council Minute Keeper: Kyla Renee Jallow

Executives present for the meeting were: Harley Martin (General Coordinator), Alexandrah Cardona (Academic & Advocacy Coordinator), Tanou Bah (Student Life Coordinator), Hannah Jackson (External Affairs & Mobilization Coordinator), Talya Diner (Loyola Coordinator), Kareem Rahaman (Finance Coordinator), Christian Taboada (Internal Affairs Coordinator), Maria Chitoroaga (Sustainability Coordinator)

Councillors present for this meeting were: Adam Mills (Arts & Science), Sona T Sadio (Arts & Science), Riley Cooke (Arts & Science), Moad Alhjoor (Arts & Science), Kareem Abdeen (Independent), Salma Bannani Khir (Arts & Science)

Executives absent for this meeting were: N/A

Councillors absent for this meeting were: Yanira Margarita Coulson (Arts & Science), Haru Noda (John Molson School of Business), Michael Lecchino (John Molson School of Business), Nassim Boutalbi (John Molson)

Harley Martin motions to excuse Michael Lecchino from meeting

Seconded by Riley Cooke

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Adam Mills motions to add publishing minutes and activities of council in a timely manner and making student representative more visible to New Business –Substantive.

Seconded by Harley Martin

Adam Mills motions to approve the agenda

Seconded by **Harley Martin**

4. CONSENT AGENDA

Maria Chitoroaga motions to add their Sustainability Report on to the consent agenda

Seconded by Adam Mills

Maria Chitoroaga: So briefly, just some of the updates is that we did have the Gender Health Hub launch party, which is something that I was collaborating on with them for the transitional housing. I mentioned that funding got approved and the housing search director's contract got renewed without review until January 31st. Now the reason we did this is because we want to review his contract, but we felt because I was going away, there wasn't enough time. So we just did it until January. So that would give us enough time to review with the union and the collective agreement and everybody involved and to make amendments to his contract, which would be proposed until January 31st until August 2024. Another thing is the menstrual equity, I got the pregnancy tests, and the bursary application deadline is next week. I just make a brief point in the in the report that I still need councillors to join my committee because after next week I do have to start meeting and reviewing applications.

Adam Mills: I have a question about the Academic Caucus report,, I did write a note about it is the proposed tuition hikes. From what I heard, they were not affecting the graduate students, but on here it's looks like it there is. Do you have any clarification on that?

Alexandrah Cardona: There's many clarifications that have had to be made since the CAQ government came out with this announcement. The primary reason being that they have not flushed out this proposed law in writing. So the legislation as it will exist on paper, in fact

does not exist. So they've been floating a few different ideas around and the rectors, the chancellor's, presidents, what have you of each institution, have been having these negotiation meetings with the CAQ hoping that we can influence or the institutions rather can influence the way that the CAQ is going to put this together. So I'm sure that you know, all the graduate programs are hoping for some sort of exemption. What I have been told I believe is that non research masters and so I believe professional masters fall under that category, would be affected by the tuition hikes. However, all this information is evolving until we have that legislation on paper. It's evolving information that we're getting from the government day-to-day.

Adam Mills: It's just them letting things on at press conferences and whatnot with no actual thing you can look to and point at?

Alexandrah Cardona: They've only had a small handful of press conferences where Legault or the minister has directly answered questions from the press. And then the rest of the information we have is from closed door meetings with the institutional representatives. So for example, Graham Carr was one of the presidents who met with Legault on Monday morning. And so we have more information based on those types of situations.

Adam Mills: Thanks so much for doing everything you're doing about the tuition hikes.

- a) Executive Reports
- b) Chairperson Report
- c) Approval of Previous Minutes
- d) Ratification of Committee Reports

Harley Martin motions to ratify all items under Consent Agenda

Seconded by Riley Cooke

Chairperson: Moving on to our next item, we don't have any presentations or guest speakers for tonight. And at the previous RCM, we passed a motion to table all appointments until after the by elections, which will be our next meeting in two weeks.

5. PRESENTATIONS AND GUEST SPEAKERS

6. APPOINTMENTS

- a) Appointments Committee (1)
- a) BIPOC Committee (3)
- b) Clubs & Spaces Committee (1)
- c) External Committee (1)
- d) Fee Levy Review Committee (1)
- e) Finance Committee (2)
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- g) Mental Health Committee (3)
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- k) Sustainability Action Fund (1)

8. NEW BUSINESS – SUBSTANTIVE

Adam Mills presents motion on publishing minutes and activities of council in a timely manner

Whereas the CSU is an organisation that continually seeks transparency in governance

Whereas the student body has the right to scrutinize the business of council

Be it resolved that council refers the matter of promptly sharing council activities and minutes to the policy committee with a policy update to be returned at the next Regular Council Meeting

Seconded by Harley Martin

Adam Mills: I know our minute keeper has just published, the last batch of meetings and that's great, including right up until our last regular council meeting. But I think we should take a look at how often we're publishing minutes from these meetings because right now the policy allows for up to six months, which I don't think is very helpful. And obviously we could talk with Kyla about what our optimal timeline is and that sort of stuff for after meetings.

Harley Martin: I'm just looking in the policy here right now, but pretty sure that it's 10 days. Minutes have to be sent back to the Chair and then those minutes we've just set up something recently where when those minutes get sent they also get sent to our web developer. Then the minutes are going to be posted on the site and we updated where it is on the council site or on the website. On the council site, there are three tabs and one of them is minutes, and by the next week we will organize them by date. But anyway, I'm pretty sure it's 10 days that it must go from Kyla to Michelle, and then from Michelle it's supposed to go directly to the web developer.

Adam Mills: So I just want to, like, make sure going forward because, the last couple of years, if you are a student and you want to see what the council's doing, you can't see it all because you can only see like six months ago or they get put in batches every six months.

Harley Martin: Yes we are supposed to post them more regularly. We did not before because we did not have a web developer. Now the plan is that we have this system in place where the minutes will get sent once they're done and the web developer will post them at that time. I

think what we can do is act as a good faith to see how regularly or how consistent the minutes are being uploaded and revisited.

Chairperson: Would you be amenable to tabling this motion for a month or two to see what the progress is like.

Adam Mills motions table this motion to the January RCM

Seconded by Harley Martin

Adam Mills presents motion on making student representation more visible

Whereas student representation are crucial to the good governance of the CSU

Whereas Student representatives should be visible to the student body, that they represent

Be it resolved that council instructs the executive to update the CSU website in order to reflect the current makeup of the council including contact info and committee assignments

Seconded by Harley Martin

Motion passes unanimously

Adam Mills: The idea basically is that we are able to adequately represent as council our members concerns, and they cannot really do that if they don't know who we I know the executives are up there. It would be great to just have some names and phone numbers or emails people can reach out to us if they have concerns.

Alexandrah Cardona: I think it's a nice idea that Adam has and thank you for clarifying that you're trying to set a good example or kind of model how to participate in council. I think that's important and also even more important when we have on board more councillors for the next meeting. Just to this point, just on the very basic level, I know when I started at Concordia and I would remember looking at those pages trying to find the councillors and I remember that the CSU never had the councillors on the actual council page.

Adam Mills: I would be open to also better explaining how governance works. Maybe like updating the web page, kind of an organizational chart. A page stating how the CSU operates.

Christian Taboada: Yes, I want to echo what Alexander said it is a good initiative maybe we can, in the tab that Michelle sent and then how the Execs were put on our own tab. Adam to what extent do you want the councillors to be reachable?

Adam Mills: I would just say at least just our council emails. The executives have headshots, if the councillors are into that, that could work as well. At least our emails and committee assignments, if people also wanted they could create a bio.

Harley Martin: Adam this is a great idea. I can do it. We can start off after the by-elections, have all the councillors names up there, and then from there list other committee positions. If there is anything else you would like on the website, reach out and let me know.

9. NEW BUSINESS – INFORMATIONAL

10. QUESTION PERIOD & BUSINESS ARISING

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christian Taboada: There's a club's fee-levy increase in the ballot. Please tell your friends about it, so they also vote for it.

Alexandrah Cardona: I know since the last meeting we did not really have the chance to promote directly to the council initiatives around tuition hikes and many things have already passed such as the town hall in the first protest. I just want to take this opportunity to inform the council going forward, even though things are changing very fast. Save the date for November 16th, which is going to have a teach in on student activism Concordia, which I believe is primarily organized by the campaign's department. And then there's also going to be a November 30th protest and then some member associations/department associations have already started calling GA to strike for that. So definitely get into contact with your department or member associations and feel free to contact me if you need help reaching out to them or need more information on all of these things. Our petition which we launched in collaboration with SSMU and Bishops is now at around 11,000 signatures and we're roughly on our 11th day. If you are interested in getting more involved, because I see a lot of the candidates for the council who are pointing at the tuition hikes to something that they're campaigning on and really want to help out with. If you are interested in getting more involved, there's a number of small inter-Concordia committees starting up with different, you know, students from different faculties. Feel free to reach out to me for more information.

Adam Mills: I just wanted to mention that the Library Services Fund Committee had its first meeting last week. We are going to be reconvening in December where we come back with kind of ideas and initiatives for, for the year and as the library services fund is in quite a substantial surplus. If there's any initiatives you would like to see the Library Services Fund take on, do feel free to reach out to any one of us on the committee.

Riley Cooke: I just wanted to clarify because on my Facebook it does have my government. So naturally what I did is I noticed that Facebook had a new update where you can put on a nickname. I therefore changed most of the CSU stuff to my preferred name.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Harley Martin motions to adjourn the meeting at 19h11

Seconded by Christian Taboada