

Concordia Student Union- Council of Representatives
November Regular Council Meeting
Wednesday November 12th, 2025
In Person H655.02 and Zoom, 18h30

1. Call to Order

Chairperson calls the meeting to order at 18h44.

Dave Plant (Councillor) shares website native-land.ca/maps/native-land

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 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: Angelica Antonakopoulos

Council Minute Keeper: Adey Singer

Executives present: Danna Ballantyne (External Affairs and Mobilization Coordinator), Leo Litke (Internal Affairs Coordinator), Vanessa Massot (General Coordinator), Mia Kennedy (Sustainability Coordinator), Aya Kidaei (Loyola Coordinator), Rev Nahabedian (Student Life Coordinator), Ryan Assaker (Finance Coordinator), Isabella Providenti (Academic and Advocacy Coordinator)

Councillors present: Kinsey El Tanani (Arts & Science), Lina Elbakaye (Arts & Science), Dave Plant (Arts & Science), Noah Hunt (Arts & Science), Ashley Steinwald (Arts & Science), Gabriela Aragon (Arts & Science), Ali Salman (Arts & Science), Saraluz Barton Gomez (Arts & Science), Maria Chitoroaga (Arts & Science), Anastasia Zorchinsky (Arts & Science), Chana Leah Natanblut (Arts & Science), Michael Lecchino (John Molson School of Business), Liora Hechel (John Molson School of Business), Sarah Wolman (John Molson School of Business), Diana Levitin (John Molson School of Business), Emilie Alexandre

(John Molson School of Business), Marwan Shalby (John Molson School of Business), Nathanael McCooye (Gina Cody School of Engineering), Hani David Baydoun (Gina Cody School of Engineering), Orly Wazana (Gina Cody School of Engineering), Nadeem El-Charabati (Gina Cody School of Engineering), Coby Toledano (Gina Cody School of Engineering), Norah Finlay (Fine Arts), Sarah Aspler (Fine Arts), Alexandrah Cardona (Independent), Lili Deviault Campbell (Independent) Salma Benani (Arts & Science),

Councillors absent: Basma Khanti (Arts & Science), Jad Harb (Gina Cody School of Engineering)

3. Ratification of the agenda

Vanessa Massot (General Coordinator) proposes that agenda point 5 (Presentation and Guest speakers) be moved after point 8 (the CSU's commitment to non-partisanship). Lina Elbakaye (Councillor) seconds.

Vannessa Massot clarifies that this was done in order to prioritize business that must be voted on first.

Motion to move agenda point 5 passes unanimously.

Vanessa Massot (General Coordinator) motions to ratify the agenda. Lina Elbakaye (Councillor) seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

4. Consent Agenda

- a. *See appendix i.*

Ali Salman (Councillor) motions to ratify consent agenda. Kinsey El Tanani (Councillor) seconds.

Anastasia Zorchinsky (Councillor) pulls External Coordinator's report from consent agenda due to having general questions about the External Coordinator's report.

Ryan Assaker (Finance Coordinator) expresses that Council is not the appropriate setting for general questions, and that Councillors should direct questions to Executives by email.

Motion to ratify consent agenda with the exception of External Coordinator's report passes unanimously.

Anastasia Zorchinsky (Councillor) requests information on the External Coordinator's involvement in the October 6th & 7th student strikes, and if there was any financial support from the CSU towards the October 6th & 7th student strikes.

Danna Ballantyne (External & Mobilization Coordinator) clarifies that the CSU was not directly involved in supporting the strike and that no financial commitments were made to support the strike. Danna Ballantyne (External & Mobilization Coordinator) clarifies that she was not personally involved and was not working during October 6th and 7th.

Anastasia Zorchinsky (Councillor) asks about CSU Campaigns Coordinator Julianna Smith's involvement in the October 6th & 7th student strike. Danna Ballantyne (External & Mobilization Coordinator) clarifies that Julianna Smith was not assigned any work during the strike and asks that if there are any concerns about the CSU staff violating CSU policy or positions, they should be taken up through the Judicial Board.

Anastasia Zorchinsky (Councillor) claims that Campaigns Coordinator Julianna Smith has made campus more dangerous and violent and questions the CSU as to why their contract hasn't been terminated.

Chairperson ends the discussion as it was not relevant to the contents of the External Coordinator's report.

Ashley Steinwald (Councillor) expresses concern about an email sent out by ASFA (Arts and Science Federation of Associations) about Julianna Smith and her alleged involvement in the October 6th & 7th strikes. Danna Ballantyne (External & Mobilization Coordinator) clarifies that the email sent out by ASFA had nothing to do with their work as CSU External & Mobilization Coordinator and expresses frustration that these questions are being directed to the only Palestinian on the CSU executive, despite her non-involvement in the October 6th & 7th student strikes.

Noah Hunt (Councillor) motions to ratify the External Coordinator's report. Kinsey El Tanani (Councillor) seconds. Anastasia Zorchinsky (Councillor) expresses opposition.

Roll call vote:

Kinsey El Tanani: For

Lina Elbakaye: For

Dave Plant: For

Basma Khanti: Absent

Noah Hunt: For

Ashley Steinwald: Against

Gabriela Aragon: For

Ali Salman: For

Saraluz Barton Gomez: For

Maria Chitoroaga: Absent

Anastasia Zorchinsky: Against

Chana Leah Natanblut: Abstention

Salma Benani: For

Michael Lecchino: For

Liora Hechel: Against

Sarah Wolman: Against

Diana Levitin: Against

Emilie Alexandre: For

Marwan Shalby: For

Nathanael McCooeye: Abstention

Jad Harb: Absent

Hani David Baydoun: For

Orly Wazana: Against

Nadeem El-Charabati: For

Coby Toledano: Against

Norah Finlay: For

Sarah Aspler: For

Alexandrah Cardona: Absent

Lili Daviault Campbell: For

Motion to ratify the External Coordinator's report passes by majority.

- 5. Appointments – as needed**
- 6. Returning business – as needed**
- 7. New Business- Substantive**
 - a. Motion to partner with KAH- Councillor

***MOTION TO PARTNER WITH KIDS AGAINST HUNGER CANADA (KAH)
TO COMBAT FOOD INSECURITY***

WHEREAS Kids Against Hunger Canada (KAH) is a registered Canadian charity committed to reducing food insecurity through meal-packing programs and community partnerships that provide nutritious meals to families in need across Canada and internationally

WHEREAS food insecurity remains a growing issue among Concordia students, many of whom struggle to access reliable, affordable, and nutritious meals during their studies

WHEREAS the Concordia Student Union (CSU) has a mandate to act in a spirit of inclusivity, cooperation, and social responsibility

WHEREAS collaborating with a broad range of non-partisan, charitable organizations that address hunger—such as KAH—diversifies the CSU's capacity to respond to student needs, enhances community involvement, and strengthens our role as a connector between local and global efforts to end hunger

WHEREAS increasing the diversity of partnerships in the fight against food insecurity ensures a more inclusive and effective approach to supporting all students, consistent with the CSU's values of accessibility and solidarity

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the CSU formally recognize Kids Against Hunger Canada as an official partner organization for the 2025–2026 mandate year and publicly express its support for their mission to reduce food insecurity and promote sustainable community engagement

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT ~~the CSU Campaigns Department in coordination with the Community Action Fund and the External Affairs Department~~ the Sustainability Coordinator be mandated to explore opportunities for collaboration with KAH including but not limited to

- *Organizing one campus-wide meal-packing or awareness event per semester*
- *Promoting student volunteer opportunities and education on local and global hunger issues*
- *Facilitating dialogue between KAH and Concordia's existing food-related organizations to ensure complementarity and cooperation rather than duplication*

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this collaboration be undertaken within existing departmental budgets and that a report on progress and outcomes be presented to Council by the end of the Winter 2026 semester.

Chana Leah Natanblut (Councillor) presents motion, expressing the importance of combating food insecurity, especially for children.

Chana Leah Natanblut (Councillor) motions for the CSU to partner with KAH. Orly Wazana (Councillor) seconds.

Danna Ballantyne proposes friendly amendment to remove the Community Action Fund from the motion as the Community Action Fund cannot treat partnerships.

Mia Kennedy (Sustainability Coordinator) expresses belief that this initiative would be better suited to be assigned under the Sustainability Coordinator's mandate and suggests a friendly amendment to change "that the CSU Campaigns Department in coordination with the External Affairs Department to explore opportunities for collaboration" to "the Sustainability Coordinator." Chana Leah Natanblut accepts the friendly amendment.

Nathanael McCooye (Councillor) questions how the motion to partner with KAH will directly impact and benefit Concordia undergraduate students. Chana Leah Natanblut (Councillor) clarifies that lots of children and adults face food insecurity, which could include the people present in the Council meeting. Chana Leah Natanblut (Councillor) expresses the importance of giving back, especially while being on someone else's land.

Kinsey El Tanani (Councillor) questions the reputability of the organization, citing a lack of information about KAH online and suggests that Chana Leah Natanblut pursue the other funding avenues available at the CSU rather than Council.

Chana Leah Natanblut (Councillor) clarifies that their intention with the motion was to spread awareness for KAH and find ways to help the organization that doesn't involve spending money.

Marwan Shalby (Councillor) expresses concern about KAH's financials, citing a large deficit in their budget. Chana Leah Natanblut (Councillor) disagrees that KAH is in a deficit. Liora Hechel (Councillor) also disagrees that KAH is in a deficit.

Community member brings forward concern about KAH, citing that a large percentage of the packaged food gets sent internationally, with only around 1/3 of the packaged food getting distributed in Canada. Community member suggests that other organizations that address food insecurity which are more localized in Montreal would be a better fit for the CSU.

Ali Salman (Councillor) motions to call the question and to exhaust the speakers list. Danna Ballantyne (External & Mobilization Coordinator) seconds.

Roll call vote:

Kinsey El Tanani: For

Lina Elbakaye: For

Dave Plant: For

Basma Khanti: Absent

Noah Hunt: For

Ashley Steinwald: For

Gabriela Aragon: For

Ali Salman: For

Saraluz Barton Gomez: For

Maria Chitoroaga: Absent

Anastasia Zorchinsky: For

Chana Leah Natanblut: For

Salma Benani: Abstention

Michael Lecchino: For

Liora Hechel: For

Sarah Wolman: Abstention

Diana Levitin: For

Emilie Alexandre: For

Marwan Shalby: For

Nathanael McCooeye: For

Jad Harb: Absent

Hani David Baydoun: For

Orly Wazana: For

Nadeem El-Charabati: For

Coby Toledano: For

Norah Finlay: For

Sarah Aspler: Abstention

Alexandrah Cardona: Absent

Lili Daviault Campbell: For

Motion to call the question passes unanimously.

Marwan Shalby (Councillor) clarifies that the budget for the Canadian branch of KAH shows the deficit, whereas the budget that Liora Hechel (Councillor) and Chana Leah Natanblut (Councillor) referenced was the budget for the American branch of KAH.

Community member brings forth concern that based on information they acquired from the Canadian Revenue Agency, 43% of the donations made to KAH are redistributed as gifts to other charities, and 50% of those donations are given to Christian churches and not food distribution organizations. Community member addresses Chana Leah Natanblut's (Councillor) claim that KAH helps Indigenous communities, citing that one of the organizations that KAH works with is the First Nation Mission Fellowship, an Evangelical Christian organization that's stated mission is religious conversion for Indigenous people.

Chana Leah Natanblut (Councillor) clarifies that churches can serve multiple functions, and that due to their own Indigenous ancestry they would never approve of racism towards Indigenous people.

Roll call vote:

Kinsey El Tanani: Against

Lina Elbakaye: Against

Dave Plant: Against

Basma Khanti: Absent

Noah Hunt: Against

Ashley Steinwald: For

Gabriela Aragon: Against

Ali Salman: Against

Saraluz Barton Gomez: Against

Maria Chitoroaga: Absent

Anastasia Zorchinsky: For

Chana Leah Natanblut: For

Salma Benani: Against

Michael Lecchino: For

Liora Hechel: For

Sarah Wolman: For

Diana Levitin: For

Emilie Alexandre: For

Marwan Shalby: Against

Nathanael McCooeye: For

Jad Harb: Absent

Hani David Baydoun: Against

Orly Wazana: For

Nadeem El-Charabati: Against

Coby Toledano: For

Norah Finlay: Against

Sarah Aspler: For

Alexandrah Cardona: Absent

Lili Daviault Campbell: Against

Motion for CSU to partner with KAH is defeated by majority.

Marwan Shalby (Councillor) clarifies to Ashley Steinwald (Councillor) that during his rollcall vote he had stated "I vote against for the aforementioned reasons".

Chairperson reminds Councillors that the only words to be spoken during a rollcall vote are for, against and abstain

b. Audit

i. Presentation

WHEREAS an auditor's opinion on the state of the CSU's finances for the 2024-2025 fiscal year has been produced;

~~*WHEREAS the auditor's report was produced in accordance with the generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) and accounting standards;*~~

WHEREAS the financial statements accurately reflect the CSU's financials.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the CSU Council approves the CSU's audited financial statements completed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the audited financial statements dated back from 2021 until 2025 be posted on the CSU's website within 7 business days.

Ryan Assaker (Finance Coordinator) presents the audit conducted by an independent auditor, and that the opinion of the auditor is that the CSU is in a healthy position financially.

ii. Ratification

Anastasia Zorchinsky (Councillor) asks for information regarding the auditor that was hired by the CSU. Ryan Assaker (Finance Coordinator) clarifies that the auditor is chosen either by Council or at an Annual General Meeting every four years.

Anastasia Zorchinsky (Councillor) does not believe Councillors have the knowledge to approve of the audit as being according to accepted accounting principles and makes friendly amendment to remove the second WHEREAS clause. Ryan Assaker (Councillors) accepts the friendly amendment.

Ryan Assaker (Finance Coordinator) motions to approve the CSU's audited financial statements. Marwan Shalby (Councillor) seconds.

Anastasia Zorchinsky (Councillor) questions why the audits from 2021-2024 are missing from the CSU website and makes friendly amendment to add the phrase "from 2021 until 2025" to the second BE IT FUTHER RESLOVED clause. Ryan Assaker (Finance Coordinator) accepts.

Roll call vote:

Kinsey El Tanani: For

Lina Elbakaye: For

Dave Plant: For

Basma Khanti: Absent

Noah Hunt: For

Ashley Steinwald: For

Gabriela Aragon: For

Ali Salman: For

Saraluz Barton Gomez: For

Maria Chitoroaga: For

Anastasia Zorchinsky: Abstention

Chana Leah Natanblut: Absent

Salma Benani: Abstention

Michael Lecchino: For

Liora Hechel: For

Sarah Wolman: Abstention

Diana Levitin: Absent

Emilie Alexandre: Absent

Marwan Shalby: For

Nathanael McCooeye: For

Jad Harb: For

Hani David Baydoun: For

Orly Wazana: For

Nadeem El-Charabati: For

Coby Toledano: Absent

Norah Finlay: For

Sarah Aspler: Absent

Alexandrah Cardona: Absent

Lili Daviault Campbell: For

Motion passes unanimously.

c. Motion on the CSU's commitment to non-partisanship

Ashley Steinwald (Councillor) presents motion, citing the importance that the CSU stays representative of all students and that there are clear structures and accountability to make sure everyone feels included and represented.

WHEREAS Concordia Student Union Bylaw 2.1.1 states that the Union exists “to form a representative Student Union to promote the educational, political, social, recreational and cultural interests of its members,”;

WHEREAS Bylaw 2.1.3 similarly emphasizes that the Union must remain representative in its promotion of the interests of all members;

WHEREAS while it has been made clear by the Executive that the CSU is inherently political, it is not to be partisan, and must not align itself with one faction, ideology, or agenda to the exclusion of others;

WHEREAS CSU has a longstanding history of consulting all relevant stakeholders in matters that uniquely affect their positionality;

WHEREAS equity is not a partisan issue, but rather, a collective responsibility;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the CSU reaffirm its commitment to non-partisanship, recognizing that while the Union is inherently political in its advocacy, it must never act in a partisan manner to endorse or oppose any political faction, ideology, or external organization that undermines its duty to represent all students.

Danna Ballantyne (External & Mobilization Coordinator) clarifies that according to Quebec law on accreditation, the union must only represent the democratic majority of their membership, meaning those who participate in the democratic process.

Nathanel McCooye (Councillor) expresses agreement with the motion and suggests friendly amendment to add the word “or oppose” to the first BE IT RESOLVED clause. Ashley Steinwald (Councillor) accepts the friendly amendment.

Ahsley Steinwald (Councillor) requests that what is said in the room be kept in the minutes as those on zoom cannot hear some of the comments being made in person.

The Chairperson requests to have it reflected in the minutes that there was a murmur in the room.

Roll call vote:

Kinsey El Tanani: Against

Lina Elbakaye: Against

Dave Plant: Against

Basma Khanti: Absent

Noah Hunt: Against

Ashley Steinwald: For

Gabriela Aragon: Against

Ali Salman: Against

Saraluz Barton Gomez: Against

Maria Chitoroaga: For

Anastasia Zorchinsky: For

Chana Leah Natanblut: For

Salma Benani: Against

Michael Lecchino: For

Liora Hechel: For

Sarah Wolman: For

Diana Levitin: For

Emilie Alexandre: For

Marwan Shalby: Against

Nathanael McCooeye: For

Jad Harb: Abstention

Hani David Baydoun: Against

Orly Wazana: For

Nadeem El-Charabati: Against

Coby Toledano: Absent

Norah Finlay: Against

Sarah Aspler: For

Alexandrah Cardona: Absent

Lili Daviault Campbell: Against

Motion for the CSU to reaffirm its commitment to non-partisanship is defeated by majority.

Ahsley Steinwald (Councillor) questions why Councillors voted against the motion.

Danna Ballantyne (External & Mobilization Coordinator) explains that Council members might be concerned that this motion serves to bypass the political decisions that were made fairly and democratically, including the positions book, and that the motion could be seen as an indirect form of repression.

d. Motion to establish a non-partisan working group

WHEREAS the CSU must ensure that all campaigns, public statements, and major publications adhere to its bylaws, principles of non-partisanship, and its representative obligations to all members.

WHEREAS transparent and accountable processes strengthen student confidence in the Union's inclusivity, and equitable representation of the membership;

WHEREAS CSU has a longstanding history of consulting all relevant stakeholders in matters that uniquely affect their positionality;

WHEREAS equity is not a partisan issue, but rather, a collective responsibility;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the CSU establish a Non-Partisan Oversight Working Group, composed of students-at-large and Councillors, whose members shall be appointed by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of Council;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the working group, in conjunction with the full Council, shall review and approve all CSU campaigns, public statements, and major publications prior to their release, ensuring compliance with CSU bylaws, non-discrimination policies, and the Union's commitment to non-partisanship.

Ashley Steinwald (Councillor) motions to establish a non-partisan working group. Orly Wazana (Councillor) seconds.

Lili Daviault Campbell (Councillor) challenges if the motion is in order per the associations own regulations or bylaws, citing CSU bylaw 6.3.4.

Danna Ballantyne (External & Mobilization Coordinator) challenges the motion because a policy for the approval of statements already exists, citing Section 3.4 on Policy on Positions held by the Union. Danna Ballantyne (External & Mobilization Coordinator) suggests that the creation of this ad hoc committee would change the already established procedure, requiring a policy change that must first go through policy review committee.

Chairperson rules that the challenges are correct, and this motion is not in order as it contradicts the currently outlined policies and would constitute a policy change.

Ashley Steinwald (Councillor) requests that the policy review committee convene immediately.

Isabella Providenti (Academic and Advocacy Coordinator) clarifies that according to section 4.4.1.3 on Policy on Executive, Council of Representatives and Committees, the policy review committee must be given notice of at least three business days prior to each meeting and as such will not be able to convene immediately.

Chairperson rules that the chair of the policy committee must invite Ashley Steinwald (Councillor) to the policy review committee by email with the Chairperson cc'd as evidence.

8. Presentations and Guest Speakers – as needed

a. Orientation Postmortem

Rev Nahabedian (Student Life Coordinator) presents Orientation postmortem report. The information presented includes an overview of the total of 11 events and 13 coffee kiosks that were held, with all events being free and the bigger events ranging from 400-800 students. Rev Nahabedian (Student Life Coordinator) presents that CSU merch went viral on social media, with a combined 300,000 views ranging from Tik Tok and Instagram and cites that Orientation had a positive impact on students.

b. See 4.b.i

9. New Business- Informational

a. Council Training Discussion

Leo Litke (Internal Affairs Coordinator) gives overview on the upcoming council trainings including the anti oppression training, antisemitism training, islamophobia training, Roberts rules training, etc. and asks Councillors to fill out the survey on their availabilities to coordinate the trainings.

Rev Nahabedian (Student Life Coordinator) informs Councillors that they will receive a CSU merch kit if they attend the trainings in person.

b. STM Strike Discussion

Danna Ballantyne (External & Mobilization Coordinator) gives overview on the CSU's position on the STM Strikes, and how the Quebec government undermining of the strike sets a concerning precedent for unions in Quebec. Danna Ballantyne (External & Mobilization Coordinator) encourages Councillors to read the CSU's statement of solidarity with the STM.

Nathanael McCooye (Councillor) expresses belief that the Quebec government wasn't using union busting tactics, as public transport is essential and believes the CSU should prioritize the needs of students getting to class.

Vanessa Massot (General Coordinator) clarifies that the bureau that reviewed the strike ruled that the STM being on strike does not endanger, harm or disrupt the safety of residents in the city.

Executives encourage Councillors to empower students to talk to their professors, department chairs and faculties, as these concerns may be better resolved at the departmental or faculty level due to the specific needs of each faculty.

c. Termination of LTA contracts announcement Discussion

Leo Litke (Internal Affairs Coordinator) gives brief explanation of the decision announced by Concordia to cancel the contracts of professors

hired under Limited-Term Appointments starting in fall 2026, as well as the deferral of sabbaticals and creation of a voluntary retirement program for other faculty without the consultation of any departments. Leo Litke (Internal Affairs Coordinator) expresses disappointment that the university is choosing to remove faculty positions before taking other measures such as selling unused real estate, optimizing the use of existing spaces, and reviewing IT structures.

Vanessa Massot (General Coordinator) explains that although Graham Carr claimed that the cancellation of LTA contracts would save the university one million dollars, this number did not account for the money that would then have to spend to fill those roles with part time positions, meaning that the university would likely be saving much less than one million.

Vanessa Massot (General Coordinator) encourages students that are interested in brainstorming ways to mobilize in support of LTA's email them at coordinator@csu.qc.ca.

Isabella Providenti (Academic & Advocacy Coordinator) encourages students to attend senate and fill the observer seats, as senate is where high-level decisions at the university are being done.

10. Question Period and Business Arising

11. Announcements

12. Adjournment

Ryan Assaker (Finance Coordinator) motions to adjourn. Marwan Shalby (Councillor) seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30pm.

Appendix i. Contents of 4. Consent agenda

a. Executive Reports

- i. General Coordinator
- ii. Academic and Advocacy Coordinator
- iii. External Affairs & Mobilization Coordinator
- iv. Finance Coordinator
- v. Internal Coordinator
- vi. Loyola Coordinator
- vii. Student life coordinator

- viii. Sustainability Coordinator
- b. Committee meeting minutes
 - i. Clubs and spaces committee
 - ii. Student life committee
 - iii. External Committee
 - iv. Finance Committee
 - v. BIPOC Committee
 - vi. Loyola Committee
 - vii. Academic Caucus
 - viii. SSAELC fund committee
- c. Minutes September 8th SCM
- d. Minutes October 29th SCM
- e. Minutes August 11th SCM



Council Chairperson



Council Minute Keeper