

**Concordia Student Union- Council of Representatives**  
**December Regular Council Meeting**  
Wednesday December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
**H655.02 and Zoom, 18h30**

**1. Call to Order**

*Chairperson calls the meeting to order at 18h31.*

*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**

a. Excusals

- i. ~~Kinsey El Tanani~~
- ii. ~~Lina Elbakaye~~
- iii. Saraluz Barton-Gomez

*Council Chairperson: Angelica Antonakopoulos*

*Council Minute Keeper: Adey Singer*

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

*Executives absent:*

*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), Maria Chitoroaga (Arts & Science), Anastasia Zorchinsky (Arts & Science), Chana Leah Natanblut (Arts & Science), Liora Hechel (John Molson School of Business), Sarah Wolman (Arts & Science), 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), Jad Harb (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 Daviault Campbell (Independent), Ryan Michon (Arts & Science)*

*Councillors absent: Salma Benani (Arts & Science)*

### **3. Ratification of the agenda**

*RCP representative asks for information as to why their club funding was denied and asks for access to Clubs and Spaces Committee meeting minutes to help prepare their appeal.*

*Nathanael McCooye (Councillor) motions to ratify the agenda. Vanessa Massot (General Coordinator) seconds. Motion is adopted unanimously.*

### **4. Consent Agenda**

- a. See Appendix i

*Liora Hechel (Councillor) questions finance committee minutes as to why they approved a raise for the minute keeper despite minutes from previous meetings being missing. Minute keeper explains that all the minutes have been completed and there have just been delays in getting them on the website.*

*Ashley Steinwald (Councillor) asks for details about self-defense and safety training. Ryan Assaker (Finance Coordinator) and Gabriela Aragon (Councillor) explain the details of the workshop.*

*Vanessa Massot (General Coordinator) motions to approve consent agenda. Dave Plant (Councillor) seconds. Motion is adopted unanimously.*

### **5. Appointments**

- a. Loyola Committee

*Chana Leah Natanblut (Councillor) nominates themselves to Loyola Committee.*

*Liora Hechel asks for the name of the Councillors who resigned from the Loyola and Sustainability committee. Chairperson clarifies that it was Alexandra Cardona (Councillor) who resigned from both.*

*Secret ballot vote:*

*For: 13*

*Against: 7*

*Abstentions: 5*

*Chana Leah Natanblut (Councillor) is nominated to Loyola Committee.*

b. Sustainability Committee

*Dave Plant (Councillor) and Ashley Steinwald (Councillor) nominate themselves to the Sustainability Committee.*

*Secret ballot vote:*

*Votes for Dave Plant: 14*

*Votes for Ashley Steinwald: 12*

*Dave Plant (Councillor) is elected to Sustainability Committee.*

## 6. Presentations and Guest Speakers

a. **Funding Proposal-** *Sankofa Farm and Hamidou Horticulture*

*Mia Kennedy (Sustainability Coordinator) articulates urgent need for free food initiatives and flags the significance of Sankofa Farm and Hamidou Horticulture being the only Black owned and Black led cooperative farms in Montreal.*

*Representative from Sankofa Farming Cooperative gives overview of their organization and programming, and explains that they are requesting funding for the labour that goes into Sankofa farming.*

*Representative from Hamidou Horticulture gives overview of their organization and programming, as well as an overview of funding request.*

## 7. New Business- Substantive

### a. Sankofa farm + Hamidou Horticulture SSAELC agreement-*Sustainability*

Agreement between the Concordia Student Union (hereinafter referred to as “CSU”), the Sankofa Farming Collective (hereinafter referred to as “Sankofa”) and Hamidou Horticulture for the application, procurement and dispersal of funds from the Student Space, Accessible Education, and Legal Contingency Fund (hereinafter referred to as “SSAELC”).

WHEREAS the Concordia student body voted by referendum question in Fall 2024 to promote food policy aligned with the National Student Food Charter, focusing on sustainability, social justice, and self-governance for food on campus;

WHEREAS Sankofa and Hamidou Horticulture require financial assistance for the operations of their initiatives, particularly labour costs;

WHEREAS the CSU recognizes the importance of Sankofa and Hamidou Horticulture, for the student body and community at large, continuing to provide free food, groceries, green spaces, volunteering opportunities and programming for community building and addressing food Insecurity;

WHEREAS the CSU recognizes the role Sankofa and Hamidou Horticulture plays in food security on campus and in Montréal’s downtown core;

WHEREAS the CSU reaffirms its commitments to points 4 and 5 of the CSU’s official Positions book, on Indigenous Sovereignty and Anti-Racism, Diversity and Inclusion respectively, including point 5.3., which outlines that the CSU supports anti-racist work on campus and in the broader community by actively identifying and challenging racism, and changing systems, organizational structures, policies, practices and attitudes with the goal of establishing greater equity;

WHEREAS the CSU recognizes the trail-blazing work of Sankofa and Hamidou Horticulture as Black-Indigenous, Black-owned, worker-run and community-driven initiatives;

WHEREAS the CSU recognizes the burden of additional administrative work and seeks to create this agreement with the best interests of all groups in mind;

BE IT RESOLVED that the CSU Council agree to the allocation of \$79,2410 from the SSAELC fund, to be distributed to Sankofa for \$50,000 and to Hamidou Horticulture for \$29,241 as outlined by the budget below

BE IT RESOLVED that payment is disbursed through bi-weekly invoices filed by Sankofa and Hamidou staff, including a brief breakdown of the work completed;

BE IT RESOLVED that the CSU, Sankofa and Hamidou agree to the following terms and conditions regarding financial support and appropriation of the SSAELC fund:

- a. The establishment of a payment system wherein the CSU holds the money in-kind for Sankofa and Hamidou Horticulture.
- b. Sankofa and Hamidou Horticulture will use the budget attached in this document for invoices, which must correspond to a budget line from which funds will be deducted.
- e. The intention of this agreement is to provide Sankofa and Hamidou Horticulture with the financial support necessary to pay operational costs in the form of wages for 2026, after which Sankofa and Hamidou Horticulture must reapply to the SSAELC for additional funds and make a new financial agreement with the CSU.

*Mia Kennedy (Sustainability Coordinator) motions to approve the Sankofa farm + Hamidou Horticulture SSAELC agreement. Gabriela Aragon (Councillor) seconds.*

*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*

*Maria Chitoroaga: For*  
*Anastasia Zorchinsky: Against*  
*Chana Leah Natanblut: Abstain*  
*Salma Benani: Absent*  
*Ryan Michon: Abstention*  
*Liora Hechel: Against*  
*Sarah Wolman: Against*  
*Diana Levitin: Against*  
*Emilie Alexandre: Against*  
*Marwan Shalby: For*  
*Nathanael McCooney: For*  
*Jad Harb: For*  
*Hani David Baydoun: Abstention*  
*Orly Wazana: Against*  
*Nadeem El-Charabati: For*  
*Coby Toledano: Against*  
*Norah Finlay: For*  
*Sarah Aspler: Abstention*  
*Alexandrah Cardona: Abstention*  
*Lili Daviault Campbell: For*

*For: 13*

*Against: 8*

*Motion is adopted by majority.*

**b. QPIRG-CSU SSAELC agreement- *Academic***

Agreement between the Concordia Student Union (hereinafter referred to as “CSU”) and the Quebec Public Interest Research Group Concordia (hereinafter referred to as “QPIRG-C”) for the application, procurement and dispersal of funds from the Student Space, Accessible Education, and Legal Contingency Fund (hereinafter referred to as “SSAELC”).

WHEREAS QPIRG-C requires financial assistance for maintaining its operational space;

WHEREAS QPIRG-C negotiated the terms of their lease under the pretense of moving into the Bishop Street Student Building;

WHEREAS QPIRG-C is mandated to be “inclusive and accessible to all”;

WHEREAS the CSU recognizes the importance of QPIRG-C for the student body and community at large, in continuing to provide a free, safe, and easily accessible space for gathering, organizing, and community building;

WHEREAS QPIRG-C provides substantial material benefits to CSU members through employment opportunities (work-study and summer student employment), research stipends, and program funding (“working groups”, and “discretionary”);

WHEREAS QPIRG-C provides CSU members with resources such as an annual agenda, audiovisual equipment, and a range of programming including orientation programming;

WHEREAS QPIRG-C offers community members a library, access to software subscriptions, and public use computers and telephones;

WHEREAS QPIRG-C provides support for students to work in solidarity with the most marginalized populations such as prisoners, unhoused, and undocumented folks;

WHEREAS QPIRG-C has been a historical launchpad for other campus and community initiatives such as the People’s Potato, Sustainable Concordia, the Concordia composting and recycling program, Cinema Politica, Right to Move, Santropol, and Le Frigo Vert;

WHEREAS the CSU recognizes the role QPIRG-C plays in the health and safety of community members on campus and in Montréal’s downtown core;

WHEREAS the CSU and QPIRG-C mutually recognize their reciprocal relationship and shared goals;

WHEREAS the CSU and QPIRG-C understand the importance of institutional agreements and value the accountability that written obligations provide to both parties;

WHEREAS the CSU is committed to the ongoing support of QPIRG-C;

BE IT RESOLVED that the CSU council agree to the acquisition of \$86,000 from the SSAELC fund (pending approval of the SSAELC committee), to be distributed to QPIRG-C as outlined by the budget below;

BE IT RESOLVED that the CSU and QPIRG-C agree to the following terms and conditions regarding financial support and appropriation of the SSAELC fund:

- a. The establishment of payment system wherein the CSU holds the money in-kind for QPIRG in an account which will incur interest to the project's benefit.
- b. QPIRG-C invoice the CSU for remuneration.
- c. QPIRG-C provides the CSU a copy of their lease agreement for the term of this agreement.
- d. The intention of this agreement is to provide QPIRG-C with the financial support necessary to pay half of their commercial rent for twenty-four months, whereupon QPIRG-C must reapply to the SSAELC for additional funds and make a new financial agreement with the CSU if needed.
- e. The CSU institutionalizes its commitment to QPIRG-C through a standing committee on the Student Building in accordance with the "Collaboration Agreement".

Lease Terms	Rent
August 2026-July 2027	\$7036.47/month, \$84,437.64/year
August 2027- July 2028	\$7243.43/month, \$86,921.16/year
	\$171,358.80 total
Total request:	x50% = \$85,679.4

*Liora Hechel (Councillor) asks for a list of 7 of the community groups that share the space with QPIRG. QPIRG Concordia representative lists Community Advocacy Tiohtià:ke., Solidarity Across Borders, Food Against Fascism, La Grange Farm Collective, Montreal Pride Therapy Network, In Pain and Insane, Black Healing Fund, etc.*

*Leo Litke (Internal Affairs Coordinator) explains the benefits that QPIRG has for CSU Clubs.*

*Ashley Steinwald (Councillor) asks what about what gets funded from QPIRG's legal fund. QPIRG representative gives examples of how the funds are used, including helping to cover fees for refugee claims and helping people that have gotten evicted unjustly.*

*Isabella Providenti (Academic and Advocacy Coordinator) motions to approve the QPIRG-CSU SSAELC agreement. Gabriela Aragon (Councillor) seconds.*

*Mia Kennedy (Sustainability Coordinator) highlights the important role that QPIRG has served for community organizing.*

*Ryan Michon (Councillor) questions where the funding from this request would be coming from. Mia Kennedy (Sustainability Coordinator) explains that this request is for the SSAELC fund, which is not taken out of the CSU operational budget, as it's an amount from an investment portfolio that accrues interest each year.*

*Anastasia Zorchinsky (Councillor) asks if QPRIG has a fee levy. QPIRG representative explains that they do have a fee-levy, and that they are asking for one-time funding instead of a permanent fee-levy increase as they are expecting their rent situation to be solved after a two-year period.*

*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: Absent*

*Maria Chitoroaga: For*

*Anastasia Zorchinsky: Against*

*Chana Leah Natanblut: Against*

*Salma Benani: Absent*

*Michael Lecchino: Absent*

*Ryan Michon: Against*

*Liora Hechel: Against*

*Sarah Wolman: Against*

*Diana Levitin: Against*

*Emilie Alexandre: Against*

*Marwan Shalby: For*  
*Nathanael McCooeye: Against*  
*Jad Harb: For*  
*Hani David Baydoun: For*  
*Orly Wazana: Against*  
*Nadeem El-Charabati: Absent*  
*Coby Toledano: Against*  
*Norah Finlay: For*  
*Sarah Aspler: Against*  
*Alexandrah Cardona: For*  
*Lili Daviault Campbell: For*

*For: 14*

*Against: 11*

*Motion is adopted by majority.*

c. Motion regarding Improving Voter Turnout – *Councillor*

WHEREAS, voter turnout in CSU elections, including general elections, by-elections, referenda, and fee levy votes, has historically been characterized by low participation rates;

WHEREAS, key factors contributing to low voter turnout include (a) a lack of student knowledge about election timelines, (b) a lack of clarity regarding how to vote, and (c) insufficient dissemination of information about the items or candidates being voted on;

WHEREAS, high voter turnout is critical both to (a) upholding the principle of a representative democracy and (b) ensuring that decisions made at the ballot box reflect the informed will of the entire student body;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT, in order to increase voter turnout and electoral transparency, the Council of Representatives mandates the CSU Executive Committee (specifically the VP Communications or equivalent) to submit a formal, written request to Concordia University's Administration.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, this request shall ask that the Administration actively assist the CSU's electoral processes by: a.

Announcing critical election and voting information (including dates, times, and voting links) to the student body via their official University-wide student mailing lists (e.g., student-facing newsletters, faculty-specific emails). b. Announcing the same information via their applicable social media channels and other high-traffic digital platforms. c. Sending email reminders to all professors on the first day of the official polling period, requesting them to make a brief, non-coercive reminder to their students to participate in the election or vote at hand.

AND BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED THAT, the Executive Committee shall report back to Council on the University Administration's response to this request at the first Regular Council Meeting following the submission of the request.

*Ryan Michon (Councillor) moves the Motion regarding Improving Voter Turnout. Nathanael McCooeye (Councillor) seconds.*

*Ryan Michon (Councillor) explains rationale for the motion and the importance of getting students to vote.*

*Vanessa Massot (General Coordinator) brings forward concern about keeping elections independent from administration, considering the precedent of the administration arbitrarily taking away the CSU's booking rights without due process.*

*Liora Hechel (Councillor) questions the reliability of the CSU Executive team, considering issues regarding the by-elections.*

*Danna Ballantyne (External Affairs and Mobilization Coordinator) explains that the CSU executive team are not allowed to be involved in the elections, which is why these responsibilities fall to the CEO (Chief Electoral Officer).*

*Nathanael McCooeye (Councillor) expresses disagreement that by working with the administration the CSU would be dependent on them.*

*Rev Nahabedian (Student Life Coordinator) suggests mandating that the CSU Executives send an email to administration and proposes a working group to draft emails.*

*Leo Litke (Internal Affairs Coordinator) explains the importance of CSU executive teams not being involved in the elections and the importance of motions containing accurate verbiage.*

*Rev motions to exhaust the speakers list and table the motion. Vanessa Massot (General Coordinator) seconds.*

*Motion to exhaust the speakers list, establish a working group and postpone the main motion to January 28<sup>th</sup> RCM or a duly convened SCM and establish a working group:*

The Student Life Coordinator will send out an email to form a working group by December 18<sup>th</sup> and send a when2meet to interested parties by December 25<sup>th</sup>.

At the January 28<sup>th</sup> RCM or a prior duly convened SCM the working group will present the tabled motion once again with all agreed upon changes.

*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: Absent*

*Maria Chitoroaga: For*

*Anastasia Zorchinsky: For*

*Chana Leah Natanblut: For*

*Salma Benani: Abstention*

*Michael Lecchino: Absent*

*Ryan Michon: For*

*Liora Hechel: For*

*Sarah Wolman: For*

*Diana Levitin: For*

*Emilie Alexandre: For*

*Marwan Shalby: For*

*Nathanael McCooye: For*

*Jad Harb: Abstention*

*Hani David Baydoun: Abstention*  
*Orly Wazana: For*  
*Nadeem El-Charabati: Absent*  
*Coby Toledano: For*  
*Norah Finlay: For*  
*Sarah Aspler: For*  
*Alexandrah Cardona: For*  
*Lili Daviault Campbell: For*

*For: 23*  
*Against: 0*

*Motion is adopted unanimously.*

## **8. Question Period and Business Arising**

*Member of the Revolutionary Communist Party asks the Clubs and Spaces Committee as to why their budget was denied so that they can draft their appeal.*

*Noah Hunt (Councillor) speaks to why they chose to vote against approving the budget of the RCP at the Clubs and Spaces Committee and that they will send out an email fully explaining their rationale.*

*Ryan Michon (Councillor) asks for a timeline for when official decisions about new clubs will be made. Leo Litke (Internal Affairs Coordinator) explains that clubs should expect to hear back around mid-January.*

*Ashely Steinwald (Councillor) expresses confusion that their motion to establish a non-partisan working group in the November 12<sup>th</sup> RCM was ruled out of order when a working group was created for the voter turnout motion in the current meeting.*

*Danna Ballantyne (External Affairs and Mobilization Coordinator) explains that the motion to create a non-partisan working group in the previous meeting was ruled out of order because it would act in a matter that contradicts the bylaws of the union, unlike the working group for the voter turnout motion.*

*Member of the RCP requests the reasoning as to why their club budget was denied, so that they know on what grounds to appeal on. Leo Litke (Internal*

*Affairs Coordinator) explains that the email the RCP had sent already was sufficient for the appeal.*

*Chairperson clarifies that the motion to create a non-partisan working group was challenged by Councillors according to section 3.4 of the Policy on Positions.*

*Ashley – the mandate of the working group. The other working groups mandate exists within CSU Policy.*

## **9. Announcements**

## **10. Adjournment**

*Danna Ballantyne (External Affairs and Mobilization Coordinator) motions to adjourn the meeting. Chana Leah Natanblut (Councillor) seconds. Motion is adopted unanimously.*

*Meeting is adjourned at 22h53.*

## **Appendix i- Consent Agenda**

- a. Executive Reports
  - i. Loyola Coordinator
  - ii. Academic Coordinator
  - iii. Finance Coordinator
  - iv. Student Life Coordinator
  - v. Sustainability Coordinator
  - vi. External Coordinator
  - vii. Internal Coordinator
  - viii. General Coordinator
- b. Committee Minutes
  - i. Loyola Committee
  - ii. Academic Caucus
  - iii. Policy Committee
  - iv. Finance Committee
  - v. Sustainability Committee
  - vi. Appointments Committee
  - vii. Community Action Fund
  - viii. Clubs and Spaces Committee

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Council Chairperson



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Council Minute Keeper