

Concordia Student Union

Positions Book

Last updated on: March 31st 2016

The CSU Positions Book:

The CSU positions book was implemented by the CSU Council in the 203-14 academic year. A common document in many representative organizations, each of the positions outlined below have been adopted by student representatives at the CSU Council, or by students-at-large directly through referendum.

Here are a few excerpts from Book II of the CSU's Standing Regulations which outline the purpose and function of the CSU Positions Book:

- Positions serve as the basis for the political representation engaged in by the officers of the Union and establish the Union's political discourse and long-term goals. A position should not be confused with a resolution mandating the execution of a specific task or action in a time-limited fashion; they provide the Union with a position on a topic in a general way that establishes the political culture, goals, and stances of the Union on social, political, and academic issues.
- Each position listed in the positions book shall include a reference to the minutes of the meeting, report to Council, or electoral report by which the resolution was adopted. In addition, the positions book shall clearly differentiate between resolutions adopted by Council or by the Members.
- Every officer of the Union is expected to be familiar with the contents of the positions book, and to conform the political representation they engage in, on behalf of the Union, to its contents.
- Members and officers of the Union have the clear right to question and challenge any or all positions adopted, and to seek their amendment or removal through formal channels. However, while a position remains in force, officers must conform to them in the political representation that they engage in on behalf of the Union.
- In the case of a conflict or contradiction between a resolution adopted by the members and a position previously adopted through a resolution of the members, the more recent resolution shall take precedence. It shall be the task of the Judicial Board to harmonize the previous position with the most recently passed resolution.

Access to Education

1. Tuition

Adopted by the Members

- 1.1 That the CSU's members reaffirm its position for accessible education and oppose the proposed tuition fee hike of \$1,625. *[Adopted during the November/December by-election, 2011]*

Adopted by the Council of Representatives

- 1.2 That the money needed to finance a tuition freeze not come from: a reduction in other social services, taxes on low-income users, user fees, or an indexation of post-secondary income. *[Adopted April 17, 2012]*
- 1.3 That the funding of universities should come from progressive taxation and the revision of university management. *[Adopted April 17, 2012]*
- 1.4 That the CSU oppose the expansion of deregulated programs, and call for the Quebec government to abrogate the deregulation of the concerned six programs of study. *[Adopted August 3, 2016]*
- 1.5 That the CSU demands from Concordia University that it does not increase tuition

government to abrogate the deregulation of the concerned six programs of study. *[Adopted August 3, 2016]*

- 1.5 That the CSU demands from Concordia University that it does not increase tuition fees for international students beyond the corresponding regulated rates. *[Adopted August 3, 2016]*

2. Accessible Education

Adopted by the Members

- 2.1 That the CSU support high quality, universally accessible postsecondary education as a human right. *[Adopted during the November By-election, 2015]*
- 2.2 That the CSU oppose any increase in tuition fees and obligatory institutional fees (FIOs) for all student, whether Quebec resident, out of province, or International. *[Adopted during the November By-election, 2015]*
- 2.3 That the CSU call for a public reinvestment in post-secondary education from all levels of government. *[Adopted during the November By-election, 2015]*
- 2.4 That the CSU call for the elimination of all financial barriers to a high quality post-secondary education, and advocate for a progressive reduction and elimination of all tuition fees and obligatory institutional fees (FIOs) for all students, whether Quebec resident, out of province, or International. *[Adopted during the November By-election, 2015]*
- 2.5 That the CSU oppose any increase in International Student tuition fees to offset budgetary cuts to the academic sector. *[Adopted during the March General Election, 2016]*
- 2.6 That the CSU oppose the financial segregation of International Students through the expansion of deregulated academic programs. *[Adopted during the March General Election, 2016]*
- 2.7 That the CSU work collaboratively towards increasing the accessibility of and defending the right to quality education for international students. *[Adopted during the March General Election, 2016]*

Adopted by the Council of Representatives

- 2.8 That the CSU oppose any modulation of International Student Fees that does not increase the accessibility of high quality education for all International Students at Concordia. *[Adopted January 13, 2016]*
- 2.9 That the CSU demand that the Quebec government preserves and expands the public mission of higher education, and its accessibility, by reinvesting in the postsecondary sector throughout the province, and in the regions in particular. *[Adopted August 3, 2016]*

3. Quality Education

Adopted by the Council of Representatives

- 3.1 That the University formally commit to offering high quality education to all students at Concordia. *[Adopted March 9, 2016]*
- 3.2 That the University increase offerings of experiential, hands-on learning opportunities throughout the Undergraduate curriculum, tailored to the specific and diverse interests of Concordia students and their communities. *[Adopted March 9, 2016]*
- 3.3 That the University diversify offerings of Coop Programs across all Faculties. *[Adopted March 9, 2016]*
- 3.4 That the University give formal academic recognition to extra-curricular hands-on community engaged learning. *[Adopted March 9, 2016]*

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Socio-Political Issues

4. Aboriginal Rights

Adopted by the Council of Representatives

- 4.1 The Concordia Student Union stands in solidarity with Idle No More, its legitimate treaty-based concerns, and its efforts to create change through the facilitation of much needed nation-wide popular education regarding the plight of Indigenous peoples in Canada. *[Adopted January 23, 2013]*
- 4.2 That the CSU, at all future meetings of Council and executive, begin with a statement of formal recognition that Concordia University is located on Kanien'kehá:ka (Mohawk) land. *[Adopted June 11, 2014]*
- 4.3 That indigenous sovereignty over their territories, and their veto power over resource extraction projects, is recognized. *[Adopted October 8, 2014]*
- 4.4 That the CSU stand in solidarity with the Unist'ot'en Camp and emphatically support their efforts to resist any pipeline project that crosses through their territory without free, prior and informed consent. *[Adopted November 11, 2015]*
- 4.5 That the CSU support the petition put forward by the FPSTMA including the following proposals:
- 4.5.1 The creation of an Indigenous Advisory Council at the Presidential level, including representation from the local communities;
 - 4.5.2 Reviewing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's calls to action, and discussing how the University can respond to those directed at educational institutions;
 - 4.5.3 Establishing a First Peoples House to serve as a highly visible and productive center of Indigenous culture, teaching, research and student life at Concordia;
 - 4.5.4 Expanding Concordia's ability to support Indigenous research grounded in the community.
- [Adopted May 11th 2016]*
- 4.6 That the CSU encourages other campus groups to equally adopt these [4.1 to 4.5.4] proposals and commit to working in collaboration with leaders of these initiatives to achieve institutional change. *[Adopted May 11th 2016]*

5. The Charter of Quebec Values

Adopted by the Council of Representatives

- 5.1 That the Concordia Student Union opposes the adoption of the proposed Charter of Values, as proposed in the fall of 2013. *[Adopted September 18, 2013]*

6. Police Brutality

Adopted by the Council of Representatives

- 6.1 That the government of Quebec denounces the police brutality that took place during the student strike of 2011-2012. *[Adopted May 9, 2012]*
- 6.2 That the government of Quebec opens an independent inquiry into the police's violent suppression of dissent throughout the course of the student strike of

6.2 That the government of Quebec opens an independent inquiry into the police's violent suppression of dissent throughout the course of the student strike of 2011-12. *[Adopted May 9, 2012]*

6.3 That the CSU condemns the police brutality that occurred during the student strike of 2011-12. *[Adopted May 9, 2012]*

7. Bottled Water on Campus

Adopted by the Members

7.1 That the CSU opposes the sale of bottled water on campus. *[Adopted during the March General Election, 2011]*

8. Palestinian Solidarity

Adopted by the Members

8.1 That the CSU endorse the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement against Israel's occupation of Palestine until Israel complies with International Law and Universal Principles of Human Rights. *[Adopted during the November by-election, 2014]*

Adopted by the Council of Representatives

8.2 That the CSU holds a position against the disproportionate use of force, the use of chemical weapons, the illegal settlements in Palestine and the blockade on Gaza all caused by the state of Israel. *[Adopted July 23, 2014]*

9. International Affairs

Adopted by the Council of Representatives

9.1 That the CSU extend its condolences to the victims' families, applaud the courage of the diverse peoples of Syria and express solidarity with their struggle for freedom, dignity and democracy. *[Adopted September 16, 2015]*

9.2 That the CSU call on the international community to work collaboratively to accommodate refugees from all parts of the world seeking asylum. *[Adopted September 16, 2015]*

9.3 That the CSU supports the efforts to institutionally address the issue of refugees and the adoption of policies at the provincial and federal level that would increase the openness of our borders in times of crisis. *[Adopted September 16, 2015]*

9.4 Be it resolved that the CSU calls for respect and kindness towards all religious minorities in our community. *[Adopted November 25, 2015]*

9.5 Be it further resolved the CSU call on the Concordia university community to foster a safer and more inclusive space for people of all cultures and religions as an act of solidarity internationally. *[Adopted November 25, 2015]*

10. Government Fiscal Policy

Adopted by the Members

10.1 That the CSU oppose budget cuts to the education sector and public sector in general. *[Adopted during the November by-election, 2014]*

10.1 That the CSU oppose budget cuts to the education sector and public sector in general. *[Adopted during the November by-election, 2014]*

10.2 That the CSU oppose the privatization of the academic sector and the public sector in general. *[Adopted during the March General Election, 2015]*

Adopted by the Council of Representatives

10.3 That the CSU oppose the budgetary cuts made in the 2013-2014 academic year imposed by the Government of Quebec to the education sector. *[Adopted during the Concordia Student Congress – Winter 2014. Ratified April 9, 2014]*

10.4 That the CSU favors the implementation of a progressive income taxation system which increases the number of brackets to raise government revenues while reducing the amount of income tax paid by the majority. *[Adopted April 8, 2015]*

10.5 That the CSU favors the removal of Federal and Provincial government subsidies from the fossil fuel industry as a fiscal measure to increase revenues. *[Adopted April 8, 2015]*

10.6 That the CSU support increasing royalties on corporations for the right of exploitation on natural resources in Quebec. *[Adopted June 10, 2015]*

10.7 That the CSU supports abolishing tax exemptions on individual capital gains both provincially and federally. *[Adopted June 10, 2015]*

10.8 That the CSU supports the reduction of tax credits on dividends which are share of the profits made by a company that are paid out to share-holders. *[Adopted June 10, 2015]*

10.9 That the CSU supports the introduction of modulating taxes to consumption in relation to goods purchased, specifically, to increase taxes on luxury goods, polluting products, and financial services. *[Adopted June 10, 2015]*

10.10 That the CSU support increasing fiscal contributions of financial institutions, notably by reinstating a capital tax to collect revenues from capital assets, capital stock, long-term debts, and their reserves and surplus. *[Adopted June 10, 2015]*

10.11 That the CSU support an increase to the provincial tax rate on corporations to minimum 15% from its current rate of 11.90%. *[Adopted June 10, 2015]*

10.12 that the CSU supports the adoption by the Quebec national assembly of at least a 15\$ hourly minimum wage across all provincial sectors of labour. *[Adopted June 8, 2016]*

11. Environment

Adopted by the Members

11.1 That the CSU oppose the Energy East and Line 9 pipelines as well as any form of tar sands development. *[Adopted during the March General Election, 2016]*

Adopted by the Council of Representatives

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- 11.2 That our society transition towards being fossil fuels free by 2050. *[Adopted October 8, 2014]*
- 11.3 That our university system be transformed to help in the transition towards a post-fossil fuel economy. *[Adopted October 8, 2014]*
- 11.4 That the pipeline projects in Quebec be blocked, with the intention to stopping tar sands exportation. *[Adopted October 8, 2014]*
- 11.5 That fossil fuel exploration and extraction projects on the territory of Quebec stop. *[Adopted October 8, 2014]*
- 11.6 That the emission of dangerous levels of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere be recognized as a crime against our environment, and against humanity. *[Adopted October 8, 2014]*
- 11.7 That the CSU favor the removal of Federal and Provincial subsidies to the fossil fuel industry and resource exploitation activity in Quebec's Plan Nord. *[Adopted April 8, 2015]*
- 11.8 That CSU demands that Concordia university divests the entirety of its investments from fossil fuel industries. *[Adopted June 8, 2016]*

12. Feminism

Adopted by the Council of Representatives

- 12.1 the CSU recognize that intersectional identities create different marginalized experiences and that different women and gender non-conforming people experience different barriers based upon class, ability, race, gender expression, religion, ethnicity, etc. *[Adopted November 23, 2016]*
- 12.2 That the CSU respect the perspectives and value the representation of women and gender non-conforming folks who are Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour; *[Adopted November 23, 2016]*
- 12.3 That the CSU add power and visibility to the voices of women and gender non-conforming folks who are Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour; *[Adopted November 23, 2016]*
- 12.4 That the CSU encourage an intersectional feminist approach towards all future endeavours; *[Adopted November 23, 2016]*
- 12.5 That the CSU recognises the importance of listening and recognising all identities and the different barriers that each face. *[Adopted November 23, 2016]*
- 12.6 That priority be given to someone who has lived experience at the intersection of different systems of oppression in roles that demand in. *[Adopted December 14, 2016]*

13. Migrant Justice

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Adopted by the Members

- 13.1 That the CSU call on Concordia University to formally adopt a “Sanctuary Campus” status by not collaborating with the Canadian Border Service Agency (CBSA), including but not limited to the sharing of any information on its current and past staff, faculty, and students, or allowing CBSA on its premises, in order to protect undocumented community members from threat of deportation. *[Adopted March 31, 2017]*

Adopted by the Council of Representatives

- 13.1 That the CSU oppose the presence of the Canadian Border Service Agency (CBSA) on the Concordia premises. *[Adopted November 23, 2016]*
- 13.2 That the CSU call on Concordia University not to collaborate with the CBSA, including but not limited to the sharing of any information on its current and past staff members and students. *[Adopted November 23, 2016]*
- 13.3 That the CSU call on Concordia University to formally adopt a “sanctuary campus” status, in order to signal protection to undocumented students and staff members from threat of deportation. *[Adopted November 23, 2016]*
- 13.4 That the CSU support the right of people to move freely, unrestricted by borders. *[Adopted November 23, 2016]*
- 13.5 That the CSU endorse and support the demands of Solidarity Across Borders: *[Adopted November 23, 2016]*
- 13.5.1 A status for all - that a full, comprehensive and ongoing regularization program be created for all people living in Canada who do not have full status (i.e. permanent residence or citizenship); *[Adopted November 23, 2016]*
- 13.5.2 That the Canadian agencies put an end to the detention and deportation of non-status people, and put an end to the practice of double-punishment; *[Adopted November 23, 2016]*
- 13.5.3 That everyone living here may have access, regardless of their immigration status, to free health care in clinics, CLSCs and hospitals, without having to provide information on their immigration status; *[Adopted November 23, 2016]*
- 13.5.4 That everyone living here may be able to attend school free of charge, regardless of their, or their parents’, immigration status; *[Adopted November 23, 2016]*
- 13.5.5 That the CBSA not have the right to access or arrest in hospitals, shelters, schools, or any spaces providing essential services; *[Adopted November 23, 2016]*
- 13.5.6 That any everyone living here may have access to social housing, food banks, unemployment benefits, and any other social welfare, regardless of their immigration status. *[Adopted November 23, 2016]*

14. Research

Adopted by the Council of Representatives

- 14.1 That the CSU calls on the Quebec government to support the creation and

14.1 That the CSU calls on the Quebec government to support the creation and diffusion in French of the results of Quebec research. *[Adopted August 3, 2016]*

External Associations

15. Canadian Federation of Students

Adopted by the Members

15.1 That the CSU has officially disaffiliated from and is no longer a member of the Canadian Federation of Students. *[Adopted during the March General Election, 2010]*

16. Association for the Voice of Education in Quebec (AVEQ)

Adopted by the Members

12.1 That the CSU officially affiliate with the Association for the Voice of Education in Quebec (AVEQ). *[Adopted during the November By-Election, 2015]*

Concordia University

17. University Governance

Adopted by the Members

17.1 That the CSU condemns the decrease of representation of undergraduate students on the University's Board of Governors. *[Adopted during the November-December by-election, 2011]*

17.2 That the University annuls its decision to decrease representation at the Board of Governors. *[Adopted during the November-December by-election, 2011]*

17.3 That the CSU take whatever measures appropriate to ensure adequate student representation on all University bodies. *[Adopted during the November-December by-election, 2011]*

Adopted by the Council of Representatives

17.4 That every department at the University should have at least one (1) Student Association representative sitting on its departmental council; student representatives should have full speaking, voting and moving privileges as full members of council. *[Adopted during the Concordia Student Congress – Winter 2014. Ratified April 9, 2014]*

17.5 The CSU support the inclusion of the Centre for Gender Advocacy in any University committee, working group, task force, or other deliberative body that reviews or engages with topics of sexual assault, sexual harassment, gender based harassment or violence. *[Adopted April 8, 2015]*

17.6 That the CSU oppose the use internal university judicial means against students to solve questions of a political nature. *[Adopted April 8, 2015]*

17.7 That the CSU oppose the use of injunctions as a means to forcefully end strikes in the place of local internal democratic mechanisms. *[Adopted April 8, 2015]*

18. Security Concerns

Adopted by the Members

18.1 That the University forms a committee composed of an equal representation of students, faculty, and staff to oversee and control the operations of the Concordia Department of Security. [*Adopted during the November by-election, 2003*]

19. Food on Campus

Adopted by the Members

19.1 That the CSU actively supports affordable, sustainable, and student-run food service initiatives on campus. [*Adopted during the March General Election, 2013*]