



## Concordia Student Union – Council of Representatives

### **CSU Regular Council Meeting – Agenda**

**Wednesday, June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

**H-429, 18h30, S.G.W Campus**

#### **1. Call to Order**

#### **2. Roll Call**

#### **3. Approval of the Agenda**

#### **4. Consent Agenda**

- a) Approval of the Minutes – May 20<sup>th</sup> (RCM) and May 27<sup>th</sup> (SCM)
- b) Reports from Committees
- c) CUSACorp Report
- d) Chairperson's Report

#### **5. Appointments**

- a) University Senate (Members-at-Large)
- b) University Senate (Councillors)
- c) Library Services Fund Committee (LSFC)
- d) CCSL
- e) Fund Committee
- f) Student Governor
- g) Alternative Governor

#### **6. New Business – Informational**

#### **7. New Business – Substantive**

- a) Art Corner



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- b) Orientation Street Closure
- c) Annual Operating Budget
- d) 10 Billion Solutions

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

### **9. Announcements**

### **10. Adjournment**



## Concordia Student Union – Council of Representatives

### CSU Special Council Meeting – Minutes

Wednesday, June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015

H-429, 18h30, S.G.W Campus

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting is called to order at 18h47

*We would like to acknowledge that Concordia university is on the traditional territory of the Kanien'keha:ka (Ga-niyen-gé-haa-ga), a place which has long served as a site of meeting and exchange amongst nations. Concordia recognizes, and respects the Kanien'keha:ka (Ga-niyen-gé-haa-ga) as the traditional custodians of the lands and waters on which we meet today.*

#### 2. ROLL CALL

Council Chairperson: *Mat Forget*

Council Secretary: *Caitlin Robinson*

Executives present for the duration of the meeting consisted of *Anas Bouslikhane* (VP Finance), *Gabrielle Caron* (VP Sustainability), *Lori Dimaria* (VP Clubs & Internal), *Marion Miller* (VP Academic & Advocacy), *John Talbot* (VP Student Life), *Gabriel Velasco* (VP External & Mobilization), *Terry Wilkings* (President) and *Chloë Williams* (VP Loyola).

Councillors present for the duration of the meeting consisted of *Omar Al Khin* (JMSB), *Jenna Cocullo* (Arts & Science), *Simon Dansereau* (JMSB), *Jana Ghalayini* (ENCS), *Michael Giesbrecht* (Arts & Science), *Sanaz Hassan Pour* (Fine Arts), *Faddy Kamel* (ENCS), *Lucinda Marshall-Kiparissis* (Arts & Science), *Hassan Mogharbel* (ENCS), *Terry Ngala* (Arts & Science), *Marcus Peters* (Arts & Science), *Benjamin Prunty* (Arts & Science), *Thomas Radcliffe* (Arts & Science), *Fadi Saijari* (JMSB), *Katherine Soad Bellini* (ENCS), *Leyla Sutherland* (Fine Arts), *Michael Wrobel* (Arts & Science) and *Rami Yahia* (ENCS).

Councillors absent for the duration of the meeting consisted of *Rachel Gauthier* (JMSB), *Adrian Longinotti* (Arts & Science), *Aloyse Muller* (Arts & Science), *Geneviève Nadeau-Bonin* (Arts & Science), *Zoe Pearce* (Arts & Science), *Jason Poirier-Lavoie* (Arts & Science), *Melanie Romer* (Arts & Science) and *Dustin Ruck* (Fine Arts).

**Chair:** I have received two requests for excusal, one from **Jenna Cocullo**, who will be late, and one from **Rachel Gauthier**.

**Benjamin Prunty** moves to excuse **Jenna Cocullo**.

Seconded by **Chloë Williams**.



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### **VOTE**

In favour : 14

Opposed: 0

Abstentions: 0

*Motion carries.*

**Chair:** The other request is from **Rachel** – she is sending regrets since she is in Spain and then Portugal and will be back on June 24<sup>th</sup>. After the report was sent out, I received three sets of regrets from **Geneviève Nadeau-Bonin, Jason Poirier-Lavoie and Adrian Longinotti.**

### **3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**Chloë Williams** pulls Finance Committee minutes from 4. *Consent Agenda*, adds 5. a) *University Senate (Members-at-Large)*, renames 5. b) *University Senate (Councillors)* and removes 5. e) *SAF*.

**Benjamin Prunty:** I appreciated reading the reports. Everyone is doing very well and I appreciated reading the documents.

**Terry Wilkings** moves to table 5. f) *Student Governor* and 5. g) *Alternate Governor*.

**Michael Wrobel:** About the minutes – the first time my name appears in relation to the motion regarding councillors leaving and coming, the person who spoke up was the other **Michael**, not myself.

### **VOTE**

In favour : 14

Opposed: 0

Abstentions: 0

*Motion carries.*

### **4. CONSENT AGENDA**

#### **a) Approval of the Minutes – May 20<sup>th</sup> (RCM) and May 27<sup>th</sup> (SCM)**

*Ratified by consent.*

#### **b) Reports from Committees**

*Ratified by consent.*

#### **c) CUSACorp Report**

*Ratified by consent.*



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### **d) Chairperson's Report**

*Ratified by consent.*

## **5. APPOINTMENTS**

### **a) University Senate (Members-at-Large)**

#### **Chloë Williams:**

WHEREAS Mikaela Clark-Gardner, Maidina Kadeer, Lana Galbraith, and Kira Cormier were the most qualified candidates;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT that the Appointments Committee recommend Council to appoint Mikaela Clark-Gardner, Maidina Kadeer, Lana Galbraith, and Kira Cormier to Senate for the 2015-2016 academic year.

Seconded by **Michael Wrobel**.

**Marion Miller:** There were nine (9) interviews done by the Appointments Committee, the process was thorough and well-done and they took the time to look through the candidates and find the best ones. Just a note about why there are four (4) students being appointed when there are usually two (2) members-at-large appointed to Senate – the four (4) were supposed to come from each faculty but only JMSB and ENCS ran candidates and so there were two vacant spots. That is why there were two (2) who went through the Appointments Committee – there is one Fine Arts student and one from Arts & Science.

#### **VOTE**

In favour : 14

Opposed: 0

Abstentions: 0

*Motion carries.*

### **b) University Senate (Councillors)**

**Marion Miller:** Four (4) students were just appointed through the Appointments Committee and we are seeking to fill twelve (12) seats on Senate so tonight we will appoint four (4) councillors. Senate is the highest academic governance body of the university and we have twelve (12) seats so we have a lot of weight as undergraduate students. Briefly, what they do is approve changes to the curriculum, accept new programs and department changes, look at university policy like the Code of Rights and Responsibilities and engage in strategic planning for the future of academics. Right now we are in a strategic direction planning process and it is important to have ongoing student involvement to become players in this process. It is important to use our twelve (12) seats wisely. In terms of commitment, there is one (1) meeting per month and two (2) Academic Caucus meetings where the undergraduate senators



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get together in a caucus and plan for the meeting. This is often a week before to look over the documents and prepare.

**Benjamin Prunty** nominates himself and **Aloyse Muller**.

Seconded by **Lucinda Marshall-Kiparissis**.

**Benjamin Prunty:** I have a year of experience from last year being on the Board of Governors and Senate, the two highest decision-making bodies of the university. I have a thorough understanding of what is going on and want to help with the strategic direction process which I was involved in last year. I know that code review is coming up this year and want to work on that to address issues of things which treat students as unequal. I am enthusiastic about that, specifically in the charges laid against students involved in the strike, and it is a good opportunity to work with other faculties. I have established good relationships with many faculty members which is important on Senate to make changes, and generally I participate in the rest of the duties. I am confident in my ability to represent students and am open to suggestions if people feel there is an issue they would like to bring forward.

**Michael Giesbrecht** nominates himself and **Aloyse Muller**, in absentia.

**Michael Giesbrecht:** **Aloyse** has prepared a letter – he is in his third year and majoring in political science and Western political culture, sat on Senate in Winter of 2015 and this was an enriching experience. He is inspired by the mission of Senate and wants to put the experience he acquired over last year to good use.

**Michael Giesbrecht:** I was part of the strategic planning for 2012 and I am confident and aware of the processes involved in Senate. I dealt with representing the mandate of philosophy students in SoPhia and have engaged in dialogue with higher administrators like the Provost and Dean of Arts & Science, and am confident in representing mandates which can be controversial.

**Simon Dansereau** nominates himself

Seconded by **Omar Al Khin**.

**Simon Dansereau:** I think that it is important to have a strong undergraduate representation on Senate and I have had a lot of experience advocating for students as I used to sit on a committee for food representation with the food provider and used to advocate for students living in residence for Chartwells. I know how to be pragmatic, fair, compromise and collaborate when necessary without taking away from students' important need to be represented. If possible, I want to be on the Library Services Fund Committee as the library is a centre for culture. I have always been interested in libraries.

**Lucinda Marshall-Kiparissis** nominates herself.

Seconded by **Benjamin Prunty**.

**Lucinda Marshall-Kiparissis:** I sat as an undergraduate senator last academic year and I was on the Research Senate Committee as the one undergraduate representative there. This is going to be a really important year in terms of stuff being done in Senate and the strategic direction and review of the Code of Rights and Responsibilities. The Senate is an exciting place, but also a place which takes a while to get



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comfortable with and having experience, I am going in and feeling confident about speaking to faculty and staff in order to push the undergraduate agenda. I feel I have built those relationship and have that experience and can represent undergraduates with everything happening this year.

**Terry Wilkings:** We are at a university so academic and academic programming is important, but is distinct from other multifaceted forms of representative functions that students participate in. I have a question for potential senators – how do you view the distinction between academic advocacy and social advocacy in a university setting.

**Michael Giesbrecht:** Could you clarify the question?

**Terry Wilkings:** Advocacy by strict definition axes more on political advocacy versus things based on societal questions.

**Michael Giesbrecht:** In terms of social versus academic advocacy, a lot of social advocacy in terms of ideas has made its way through technical applications and this is usually very nuanced. I do not think that there is a strong distinction between the two. Advocating for student rights could be advocating for the rights of students by seeing them as equal players in a university setting, which is also a social thing, but it takes working through the technicalities of the process. I am not sure how hard of a distinction this is, but we need people good at working through technicalities and dealing with the social ideas of students.

**Lucinda Marshall-Kiparissis:** I do not think that there is a hard distinction between social and academic advocacy. Academics is a framework for the university and this is a foundation for political and social issues. The official mandate of the university is framed within the academic core and mission. The way I see it, it is framed a lot in terms of accessibility and empowerment of students. Talking about students not just being customers or an interchangeable part of the system, but being equal players empowers them to access their academic careers at the university without just being a number or a carbon copy of everyone else. We can talk about the Code, but I was on the Research Committee last year and we voted and finalized changes to the university's intellectual property code. This is especially important for students in engineering as they were under the same intellectual property policy as professors or graduate students where they could be patented by a third party or the university and did not have any say in this. This was pushed by the work of undergraduate senators to allow students to opt out of this. It gave them power of intellectual property without just falling under the university's rule.

**Benjamin Prunty:** On Senate, I do not think it is the place of students to heavily scrutinize course curriculum changes that they are not necessarily familiar with as these come from the faculty association or branch level. Unless there is a a compelling argument for it or an injustice being had, you do not really realize changes are happening. It is difficult to separate the two - at the strategic direction level, we are pushing for experiential learning by connecting to community groups not typically represented in the university community. Usually when the university community is being talked about, they mean the funding community and I do not think this is the primary duty of the university. Since we are primarily funded through the public purse, my role was to connect the university with these groups and have it grow roots more deeply through the community and diversity. There are tons of social components which come up on the fly, like last year when they tried to remove Senate's ability to approve the final



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graduation list. This got heavily rejected by the professors. At Steering Committee, this was pushed through heavily, despite the fact that undergraduate representatives like **Terry** were objecting to it. Steering Committee voted to have it happen and then it got rejected at Senate. I do not see a huge distinction on that level – the university is both academic and social.

**Simon Dansereau:** I would like to rescind my candidacy. The other four (4) candidates have experience and would be capable of representing students. I would have liked to be a Senator as a learning experience but I do not think that I could do better than the other candidates.

**Thomas Radcliffe** moves to appoint all four (4) candidates through an omnibus motion.  
Seconded by **Michael Giesbrecht**.

### **VOTE**

In favour : 11

Opposed: 0

Abstentions: 2 (**Benjamin, Lucinda, Michael G.**)

*Motion carries.*

**Terry Wilkings:** I hope you do not feel discouraged because when I first got involved in academic governance within the university I was sitting on Arts & Science Faculty Council. I recommend to get involved in faculty council at JMSB. Everything filters upwards so you will be able to see everything put together. It is more deliberate in terms of the minutiae.

### **c) Library Services Fund Committee (LSFC)**

**Chloë Williams:** The LSFC is a combination of the administrative people from the library and four (4) students. I sat on it last year and it was quite interesting, as members have the ability to give input on how the libraries can make improvements and changes to benefit students. If you are interested in libraries and want to become involved, we will appoint three (3) students tonight. I have advertised one position to students-at-large as well. We will nominate three (3), though if no one applies we will nominate another one in the fall semester. Traditionally, there are two (2) executives, one (1) councillor and one student-at-large.

**Lucinda Marshall-Kiparissis** nominates **Simon Dansereau**.

*Simon accepts the nomination.*

**Simon Dansereau:** As I mentioned before, libraries are close to my heart. I grew up in a small town and the library was always the best place to be and since then I have had a love affairs with libraries. This is a university and is a place of discovery and culture, and a space where students can discover themselves. To me it is really important to use the space adequately and it should be shaped by students in a way to benefit them the most.

**Terry Wilkings** nominates **Chloë Williams** and **Lori Dimaria**.





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*Chloë accepts the nomination.*

*Lori accepts the nomination.*

**Chloë Williams:** I sat on this committee last year and worked on alumni relations where I collected money for this. There are quite a few big projects right now and it would be nice to be on the committee again this year.

**Lori Dimaria:** The library can also be a big outreach tool with clubs and we could find ways to see whether there are other things that the student population would like to see in the libraries. **Chloë** would be a great asset to the team.

**Benjamin Prunty** moves to appoint **Chloë**, **Lori** and **Simon** to the LSFC.  
Seconded by **Thomas Radcliffe**.

### **VOTE**

In favour : 14

Opposed: 0

Abstentions: 1 (**Simon**)

*Motion carries.*

### **d) CCSL**

**Chloë Williams:** The Concordia Council on Student Life (CCSL) is the highest decision-making body for student life initiatives and it has two (2) parts – one looks at special funding requests and the other deals with nominations of students who have done outstanding work in the community. We are nominating this evening five (5) of six (6) positions, the other being a student-at-large. If the positions are not filled up, we will do it in September.

**Jana Ghalayini** nominates **Rami Yahia**.

*Rami accepts the nomination.*

**Rami Yahia:** When I was part of the Clubs & Space Committee I had the opportunity to see how special clubs funding and clubs funding works, and I have a good understanding of student life on campus from my two (2) years at Concordia. I would do a good job on CCSL.

**Katherine Soad Bellini** nominates herself.  
Seconded by **Benjamin Prunty**.

**Katherine Soad Bellini:** Last year I was the VP Clubs & Internal Affairs and part of CCSL, and it was a committee I enjoyed being a part of. There are lots of events held by clubs and so I got to see a bit of the



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applications process. Since I was on the committee last year, it would be advantageous to be here this year. I would be interested to continue.

**Benjamin Prunty:** What is the time commitment?

**Chloë Williams:** Once a month, although the sub-committees meet separately.

**Katherine Soad Bellini:** The commitment is once a month with everybody, and then there is the sub-committee with the Dean of Students and four (4) members or five (5) which meets every two to three weeks, sometimes more often though .

**Omar Al Khin** nominates **Jana Ghalayini**.

*Jana accepts the nomination.*

**Jana Ghalayini:** I do not have huge experience in being a part of anything which would help me to motivate for myself to be a part of the committee. However, I am interested in recognizing student achievement and trying to gain a better understanding of how this works.

**Benjamin Prunty:** Considering that the university was looking to increase the student services fees last year, which are overseen by CCSL, how much was this discussed? How can more budget information be provided? Did they talk about what they were doing this year? This is a fee levy that students have sovereignty over, and decisions go through referendum.

**Katherine Soad Bellini:** The last meeting we had was May 1<sup>st</sup>, and they discussed the last three (3) years of budgets and the way it was. Essentially, there was an increase in funding through this period. They had to present a three (3)-year budget in advance and we are now at the end of that. They created a forecast of one (1) year instead of three (3) and they moved different funding into different places. For instance, before there was health services and dental, and now there is the student centre. The way money is split is different. We had ideas for the new budget this year coming up, and also touched base with Athletic and Recreative Services. We did see an estimate for next year but the actual amounts have not been documented yet .

**Benjamin Prunty:** I do not know if meetings are open or closed normally, but I am interested in that issue in particular. Do you know if they are typically held in open or closed session? I know that when funding applications are going through, they typically are closed, but do you know?

**Katherine Soad Bellini:** I cannot say for sure, but normally no one else is there. Minutes are documented and accessible to public, although the meetings themselves take place privately. They are open but not advertised.

**Benjamin Prunty:** This is a good opportunity to lean how the university works.

**Chloë Williams** nominates **Lori Dimaria**. As the Vice President in charge of Clubs & Space, she would be a great candidate for this, she is very strong.



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**Lori Dimaria:** Considering that I will be on the Clubs & Space Committee and will be approving budgets there, approving amounts on special clubs funding will be very useful to see if there are overlaps in project budgeting. It would be to everyone's advantage if I sat on CCSL.

**John Talbot** nominates himself.  
Seconded by **Benjamin Prunty**.

**John Talbot:** I am the VP Student Life and I think it is good to see what is coming to my committee. I can be a part of the committee in general.

**Terry Wilkings:** The remaining spots can be opened to members-at-large. I do not feel obliged to fill them today.

**Benjamin Prunty:** Would the candidates speak in favour of allowing non-members to be present as observers?

**Rami Yahia:** I have no problem with this.

**Katherine Soad Bellini:** I do not mind, but every meeting is open already and the minutes are accessible. The only reason I am doubting is because it is not fair if people can motivate for themselves. If different groups are presenting applications and people are showing up, it could disadvantage some groups. Otherwise, just to participate, they should be open to the public.

**Benjamin Prunty:** I meant like a journalist – for access to information purposes.

**Katherine Soad Bellini:** If the meeting is like here, I do not see how it should be treated differently.

**Jana Ghalayini:** I am all for transparency.

**John Talbot:** It is good to have transparency on committees, especially one so high-profile.

**Lucinda Marshall-Kiparissis** moves to appoint all of the nominated candidates omnibus.  
Seconded by **Leyla Sutherland**.

### **VOTE**

In favour : 14

Opposed: 0

Abstentions: 1 (**Katherine**)

*Motion carries.*

### **e) Fund Committee**

**Marcus Peters** moves to take a ten (10)-minute recess.



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Seconded by **Katherine Soad Bellini**.

### **VOTE**

In favour : 12

Opposed: 1

Abstentions: 1 (**Ben**)

*Motion carries.*

*Meeting enters recess at 19h36.*

*Meeting reconvenes at 19h52.*

**Terry Wilkings:** The Fund Committee is basically Special Bylaw J in our bylaws, and five (5) individuals sit on it – one is the president ex officio, and the others are the General Manager of the CSU, a lawyer pro bono and a faculty member currently from JMSB. The seats have three (3)-year term appointments, so the people on it have two (2) years to go. The last seat goes to a councillor. The Fund Committee reviews resolutions and mandates given from council via referendum and allows us to expense funds through the Student Space, Accessible Education and Legal Contingency (SSAELC) Fund. In the past there has not been a high frequency of activity from this committee, however the CSU has been more active in providing projects to students, including student space, and has been taking funds from this fund. The CSU has been engaging in activities having to do with divestment, socially responsible investment, etc., and essentially the purpose is to ensure that we are following our own internal regulations and bylaws and following the will of the students as articulated by Council and through referendum. The frequency of meetings is relatively sporadic. Throughout the summer there will be items to discuss such as the finalization of the transfer of funds to the PUSH fund, alongside various other expenses that were decided upon in the previous year like.

**Michael Wrobel:** What is the time commitment?

**Terry Wilkings:** This is difficult to quantify due to its dependence on the type of activity the CSU is engaging in. We will meet as frequently as necessary over the summer, however meetings typically last no longer than an hour and usually since quorum for the committee is four (4) of (five) members, we do need to have everyone on the committee available to deliberate. I would say that there are moments where the committee may have to meet more often (like following by-elections or following specific resolutions being adopted), however I would say that over 52 weeks we meet once every three (3) weeks.

**Benjamin Prunty:** Because there is a professor and a lawyer on the committee in a volunteer capacity, if you want to be on it, ideally you would have a flexible schedule because it is difficult to plan around those two. We had an issue of the councillor not being able to make it to many meetings last year.

**Michael Wrobel** nominates himself.

Seconded by **Simon Dansereau**.



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**Michael Wrobel:** I feel that I could be objective in looking at how we are allocating funds from the SSAELC and really look for accountability and the best value for students' money, along with ensuring that we are complying with the things students have voted for through referendum, making sure to move forward with the projects the students want.

**Marcus Peters** nominates himself.  
Seconded by **Leyla Sutherland**.

**Marcus Peters:** I have a lot of interest in being on the Fund Committee. As it stands, there are a lot of projects in the works like Reggie's, the daycare and the PUSH project, along with smaller ones like the art space which will be addressed later. I would like to see these continue and it is important to have a strong presence there. I am on the Finance Committee currently, and was before, and this creates an overlap and an excellent opportunity to learn.

**Benjamin Prunty:** What are your thoughts on the investment side of the Fund Committee's responsibilities? What are your intentions with respect to investments?

**Michael Wrobel:** I think we have received a pretty clear signal from students to move forward with divesting from companies involved in Israel and the Israeli occupation of Palestine, along with sustainable investment which has been voted for in many times by the CSU and the university as a whole, adopting principles of sustainable investment. I would like to see how to apply these principles in order to ensure that our investments are generating income and return, but at the same time divesting from industries involved in Israeli occupation and the fossil fuel industry.

**Marcus Peters:** I think our opinions are very much aligned, and there is interest in Concordia to make sure this applies to the SSAELC. This is a process worked on previously and there are some issues in terms of the actual investments and how they are to be handled because all of the money in the SSAELC Fund has to be able to be liquified quickly to conform to referendum mandates and motions passed. In general, we are moving towards investments into renewables.

**Michael Wrobel:** I would like to rescind my nomination because **Marcus** is a good candidate and has better knowledge of finance as he sits on the Finance Committee.

**Katherine Soad Bellini** moves to appoint **Marcus Peters** to the Fund Committee.  
Seconded by **Simon Dansereau**.

### **VOTE**

In favour : 12

Opposed: 0

Abstentions: 2 (**Rami, Jana**)

*Motion carries.*

### **f) Student Governor**



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**Terry Wilkings** moves to table 5. f) *Student Governor* and 5. g) *Alternate Governor*, notwithstanding Standing Regulation 222.

Seconded by **Rami Yahia**.

**Terry Wilkings:** Board of Governors is the most senior deliberative body in the university. They review issues related to the corporate governance of Concordia, and the CSU appoints two (2) undergraduate student members, one of whom has voting power, and one of whom is an alternate and cannot vote but can sit on committees. They voice the concerns of students and gather information based on committee work which gets done. The decisions being made at the Board of Governors are quite substantial and it is important to have people who can talk to us afterwards in order to have an informed voice. We would like to engage in a thorough call-out process and have not completed that yet. I would like to table this to the summer when we have gone through the processes of the Appointments Committee and things like that.

### **VOTE**

In favour : 14

Opposed: 0

Abstentions: 0

*Motion carries*

### **g) Alternate Governor**

*The appointment of an alternate governor was tabled to an indeterminate date.*

## **6. NEW BUSINESS – INFORMATIONAL**

*No informational new business was discussed at this meeting of Council.*

## **7. NEW BUSINESS – SUBSTANTIVE**

### **a) Art Corner**

**Gabriel Velasco:**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT \$1,000 be allocated from the Student Space, Accessible Education and Legal Contingency (SSEALC) Fund for the purpose of creating an art corner on the 7<sup>th</sup> floor of the Hall Building.

Seconded by **Leyla Sutherland**.

**Gabriel Velasco:** Essentially at the CSU, through campaigns, there are art materials which get produced – such as banners, interactive art displays etc. The CSU does not have space to manage this and it ends up in the office. There is a cool space right behind the office which is unused and we want to turn it into an art corner space to set up tables with storage and supplies, and be able to store art equipment so that it



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could be used by students. We have been in discussion with a group called Whalebone Collective and they are interested in curating the space so you know that it will be well maintained and kept, and the way it is designed also means that if people have meetings in the space they can have meetings around a really nice square table. It will cost less than \$1000 and the motion is at the bottom of the document.

**Marcus Peters:** I want to congratulate you on this really good initiative. Last year for all the different projects, the art supplies ended up in the background and in the offices and other people's spaces.

**Marion Miller:** As a Fine Arts student, although we have studios, they are program specific and so it is great to have this multi-faceted space for Fine Arts students who cannot always get together to have studio space and work.

**Michael Giesbrecht:** It is great that we have a group to help maintain the space.

**Michael Wrobel:** In terms of the art materials and supplies, is it going to be for any student to use or just for mobilization efforts or posters? What is the intent? It seems like a really public space and lots of art supplies are purchased for mobilization.

**Gabriel Velasco:** There will be a row for storage acting like a wall to create a small level of privacy with open storage bins. Some materials will be public but in the back will be a locked closet so that anything more expensive will be put into this closet. The way I see it functioning is that the vast majority of students will not just go in there and start using the equipment. There is nothing really expensive so I am not super worried. If people need to use it they can, but not everything locked.

### **VOTE**

In favour : 14

Opposed: 0

Abstentions: 0

*Motion carries.*

### **b) Orientation Street Closure**

#### **John Talbot:**

WHEREAS the Concordia Student Union's Orientation activities provide new and returning students with the opportunity to get involved in clubs, faculty associations, departmental associations, fee levy groups, and other campus groups;

WHEREAS past orientation activities hosted by the Concordia Student Union have used the closure of Mackay street as a method to reach out to the greater Concordia community;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Concordia Student Union's Board of Directors approve of the Orientation team's plans to close down Mackay street between Sherbrooke and Maisonneuve for orientation activities on the dates of September 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

Seconded by **Sanaz Hassan Pour**.



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**John Talbot:** It would be really great if we had the approval to move forward since we need the approval of this motion to send the application to the city of Montreal. One of the days will be a community day and the second will be a clubs day, and we are branching out to FASA clubs, ASFA member associations and CASA subgroups to get them all out on the street

**Lucinda Marshall-Kiparissis:** I doubt that anyone would vote no to this, but I worked with a fee levy group to coordinate stuff for Orientation last year and this was the first year in my time where we closed down the street and it was fantastic. It was dynamic and there were students who otherwise would not have come to that space who came to that space. It was accessible to clubs, sustainability groups and student groups. A continuation of this initiative will hopefully make it a cornerstone for accessible orientations.

### **VOTE**

In favour : 14

Opposed: 0

Abstentions: 0

*Motion carries.*

### **c) Annual Operating Budget**

**Anas Bouslikhane:** We have met with the Finance Committee and we have looked at all of the budget line by line and the committee recommends to approve it. Student revenues and student fees are expected to be similar to passed years, but right now the new system is coming into place for funds coming in so the numbers look higher, but are overall same, maybe just a bit more. The numbers which have changed from last year are the health plan revenue – last year we had \$180 000 and this year we are getting \$51 000. That is because it has been capped so we only receive \$3 per student. The interest income comes in quicker due to SIS system, and the money comes directly to us so interest in the account can be generated quicker, meaning more money for us. The revenues remained generally the same apart from the two I talked about. For expenses – executive salaries are generally the same but we added an inflation of 2%, estimating what inflation will be. Council remains the same, we are expecting the same things. We are hoping to reduce the electoral expenses this year, but that will depend on the regulations around those. It is generally the same thing and we are budgeting the same thing. We are putting in effort to reduce the expenses and increase revenue For salaries and benefits, administrative salaries have gone up a bit due to new positions. Usually most changes in this budget are due to new positions, and this is usually a good thing due to the general empowerment of students. This is the same for salaries and benefits. Administrative and office expenses we will try to reduce. There are a few reductions and cuts on expenses like office supplies. Just to be more clear on how the money is spent, we will see more clearly what is actually spent. There is not much change there compared to last year. Financial and legal fees will be reduced compared to last year since there is no CFS thing. Hopefully there will be fewer legal fees this year, but we are keeping some budget for it because it might be an interesting year as well. For bank service charges, we are trying to reduce on that and we will hopefully be paying less to them. For student engagement initiatives, there are a few lines completely empty because these projects do not exist anymore but for the sake of accounting practices are still there. There will be a conscious effort on putting out student life initiatives and make special projects more





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accessible. There will be a great reduction in the amount spent on speaker series due to speakers last year where there was a conversion from \$US and rate was pretty bad which is why it was such a high amount. For the Loyola Luncheon there is a new person so the salary was not there before. When there is a discrepancy, it is usually due to new position. There are other expenses but hopefully no gain or loss due to subsidiary and there are no other legal fees. We are aiming to look at a zero balance which is good. As for the Housing and Job Bank (HoJo) budget, under the new restricted fund accounting model, everything is reallocated so that we can look at where the money is spent and where it is going. It is a bit longer but simpler and more accountable. HoJo on its own will look similar. Last year we budgeted for \$20 000 but were able to get more because a new fee re-allocation passed this year. We experienced a rise in expenses due to the translation of our website, though HoJo expected to have a bit more business. As for administrative expenses, they have their own budget line, and it makes it easier to see. We have more money to work with and their revenue expenses are looking positive for them. There is a decent cushion. The Advocacy Centre moved downstairs so it will be much busier. Now they are at the same capacity of work hours as during the school year. They could expect double of what they used to do before in terms of hours of work. We added a position which is why the salaries have gone up. They might need to go up even more, but it seems obvious that it will be at least double. Office expenses are the same as last year and we are aiming for zero to balance the books. For the legal information clinic, there are not many changes here so we can look at the finances separately. The clubs are expecting the same amount of fees. They now have the possibility to keep funds and roll over. Generally, the goal is for their funds to not disappear and every year they have to start again. This is a good thing for financial independence and accountability. Expenses were low and next year we are expecting hopefully a bit more expenses from the clubs. The International & Ethnic Associations Council (IEAC) is not our worry anymore because we do not handle their accounts anymore. The document is showing numbers from last year and next year they should not exist anymore. There is a surplus in the operations budget of \$25 846. We are conservatively estimating our expenses and our revenues, so hopefully this will be a more comfortable number. The Health and Dental plan us basically undergoing a capping in the fees that the students will give to us. The SSAELC fund is going fine and generating interest as it does every year.

**Thomas Radcliffe:** What about the agenda costing more than last year?

**Gabriel Velasco:** We are in the process of developing them, but trying to change the size format and reducing the amount of pages and tabs and seeing where we can cut back. In terms of the budget, it is pretty similar, but we are way way in advance in terms of producing them. In terms of advertising, last year was problematic, but in terms of revenue it will also be higher.

**Terry Wilkings:** Just a couple of words about the Advocacy Centre – we have exceeded expectations in terms of the amount of traffic the space is getting in the summer. Due to the fact that there is a really big sign downstairs, students who are waiting to be served can walk in and see advocacy and other services. We are also developing a new client management system called Penelope to project traffic based on what we have had, once fully implemented over the summer for the fall semester, to adequately reflect the human resources needs of the department and HoJo. I would try and look at the upcoming year for the Advocacy Centre and a trial year as we are fairly unfamiliar with its impact – it is difficult to foresee the full impact of the Advocacy Centre being downstairs, especially in conjunction with how the university is reducing frontline staff. In that regard, student numbers are increasing and the staff to serve



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them is decreasing, putting pressure on the bureaucratic side of the university. It is appropriate to fill these gaps but we are unsure to what degree.

**Marion Miller:** I want to draw your attention to two things – the submitted description of Council retreat which gives a breakdown of how we would be using these funds. In accepting the budget we would be referencing this breakdown. Another thing is bursaries, which we give out to students-at-large who apply for contributions to things like student life, community, academic distinction and female leadership. Through Anas' manipulations to cut down costs, we are handing out \$5000 more to students who merit them and have financial need. This is something nice we are able to do this year.

*The 2015-2016 Annual Operating Budget is formally adopted.*

### **d) 10 Billion Solutions**

**Terry Wilkings:**

WHEREAS the CSU adopted a position in the 2014 by-election through referendum opposing budget cuts to the education sector and public sector in general (7.1);

WHEREAS the CSU adopted a position in the 2015 general election through referendum opposing the privatization of the academic sector and the public sector in general (7.2);

WHEREAS the CSU has adopted several positions through its Council of Representatives on fiscal alternatives and budgetary cuts (7.3-7.5);

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the CSU endorse La Coalition Main Rouge, and formally become a support member to the organization and its activities;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the CSU adopt the Coalitions' 10 milliard \$ de solution policy position into the CSU's positions book as part of developing our discourse for alternatives to austerity in Quebec.

Seconded by **Michael Giesbrecht**.

**Terry Wilkings:** I had mentioned at the previous meeting that anti-austerity was something that the CSU was going to be prioritizing over the next year given our specific context where close to \$30 million has been cut from the university's operating budget. That is close to ten (10) percent of its operating budget, so the cuts are substantially undermined our ability to provide quality education to students. In terms of things like the Advocacy Centre, there is a fiscal down-loading of obligations, as a result of austerity, to students and our own ability to provide services as required. Something of concern to students is the expansion of limited term appointments having to do with faculty members and expanding the precarious labour faculty members have to be subjected to due to job security and their ability to do creative research and increase the university's profile being undermined as well. Our role as an English institution, which is quite resourceful in terms of budgets and individuals, is to inform students of alternatives to austerity. Also, this is about deconstructing the narrative of a zero-deficit budget and the idea that the Liberal government is a parent soothing the baby – in the elections where the Couillard government was elected, there was no discussion or societal debate over austerity budgets and now that majority government is just omnibus voting through ideologically visceral budgetary plans. This is not just about the way it is impacting the educational sector, but the health sector as well. I hope everyone reads the document I posted in the Facebook group – a number of economists with labour unions or



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business schools and the Université de Montreal have all signed on to the document which talks about 10 billion solutions. This refers to \$10 billion that the Quebec government could potentially be seeking in revenue. There are two ways to balance a budget – cut expenses or increase revenues. The Coalition Main Rouge is arguing that instead of cutting essential social services like public schools, healthcare and daycare, the provincial government should be increasing revenue generation through a variety of means. To be succinct, the outcome of voting in favour of this is becoming a supporting member of the coalition. We would be adding our voice to their grievance and be included in various committees with events, and being a member supports any press releases that they might issue. For instance, if they plan to hold a demonstration like they did at the end of October, we would be on the list of support members and things like this. I do not really have anything else to say, but can answer any questions.

**Benjamin Prunty:** Thank you for putting this together, because the English documents about this are sorely lacking.

**Michael Wrobel:** Regarding the second part of the motion, the little bit about the first part becoming a support member to the organization, what are the practical implications? This is a pretty detailed 32-page document to put in the Positions Book, but what value does it add when we already know that the union is against austerity through the referendum questions and against the privatization of the education and public sector more generally? Practically in terms of these very detailed ideas, what does that add in CSU to have them in positions book?

**Terry Wilkings:** Essentially the plan and the way that the Positions Book functions is not just to insert this 32-page document, but to take broad strokes. There are five (5) different themes and each one has two to three different policies, for example tax avoidance. The function of this is to articulate alternatives against privatization. Right now we are only showing one side of our representative capacity by saying what we are against, but this gives us the opportunity to speak about what we are in favour of in terms of government action. It is important to think in the long term because the Positions Book is not just the flavour of the day. Two years from now when this whole thing may change and it may be more acceptable, I feel that given the positions adopted, there is a long-term need to advocate for specific solutions to budgetary constraints. This provides institutional memory and allows the CSU to build an institutions around the discourse of what we feel should be represented in terms of fiscal policy. The way the Positions Book works is that, were we to adopt this document, we would place positions in the book and they would come back to Council as a Consent Agenda item. At this point Council could review the way that we have elaborated the position in the book to make sure that it does not derogate from the spirit of what the doc is saying.

**Michael Wrobel:** Speaking about the document itself, thank you for translating it, but I just wanted to speak to certain reservations I have with the document. It is not a radical document, is a long document and pretty centrist in viewpoint, but as with any 32-page document there are probably some policies which someone would have some objections to. Some ideas put forward are wishful thinking, like saving a considerable sum of money using open-source software. Legitimately, Microsoft is a monopoly probably for a reason as they have put forth a software not rivalled by any open-source software. Hospitals use software only provided by the private sector to deal with the vast amount of data they store. On capital gains and dividend taxes, it is highly problematic that Warren Buffet pays a lower tax rate than Canadian and American citizens, since most money is obtained through capital gains and



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dividends – you do not need to be wealthy individual to have good savings portfolio. I have certain reservations with the whole of the document. It could provide a lot of inspiration though. What I have heard could be applied through board strokes with the CSU, though it could warrant more information. As for passing a 32-page document, I question the usefulness when we know that we are concretely against privatization.

**Terry Wilkings:** It is more of a long-term document – things that are time sensitive are not necessarily included. The Positions Book guides long-term discourse, but I do not think that in order to be in support of the coalition’s work we need to think of it as something that they are demanding politicians to implement line by line. It is literally just a guideline, which they elaborate on in here. It is not necessarily an all or nothing type thing, just by adopting this document we are supporting the idea that there are 10 billion solutions to austerity and we are building a broader narrative concerning austerity. It is important to build these narratives as they are used in things like mobilization. For example, the software point is \$266 million – we are not claiming that the majority of solutions are here, just stating that there are real solutions that exist and that it is just a matter of political will.

**Michael Giesbrecht:** I encourage Council to vote for this, and just kind of breaking off what **Terry** was saying about the Positions Book and not being adopted line by line, what is really important is the general experience of the document which states that there are alternatives to austerity and that the general rhetoric the Liberal government is propounding is not necessarily true. Although some solutions might not be as feasible, they are still alternatives. By adopting this it does not mean that we endorse using open-source software and every line of the document, but that we endorse the spirit of it. I want to speak to the fact that the Coalition Main Rouge very important for society and the fact that it is so broad-based means that by joining this, we will have a lot of sway. Throwing support behind other aspects of society like community organizations and labour unions encourages both aspects of the motion.

**Simon Dansereau:** I disagree that we should just look at the spirit – the opening is that they have a plan and that we should look at that plan. There are many alternatives and we have taken a stance to look for an alternative, but there are things here that warrant looking more into detail about. We are opposed to austerity but have already taken the position and it does not add much to vote yes. There is the issue with the software and the other thing I have an issue with is adopting a maximum wage for managers and directors. The reason this is there is to take a stand saying that we should not pay people of talent the money that they might deserve, and at the same time saying fighting corruption, but it is when people feel that they are not being paid what they deserve that they tend to be more corrupt. I am against austerity and looking for alternatives, but this might not be the alternative in the document. If we take this as a position, we should be able to research it more.

**Gabriel Velasco:** I want to highlight a point not necessarily talked about at length, which is presenting alternatives to issues – the first thing everyone says is “what do you have to offer, what do you propose?” This is the reason for the importance of this document. It is not just against things, but is talking about concrete alternatives. I encourage you all to speak about austerity, and we will probably have hundreds of conversations with students about this, and the first criticism is that we have no alternatives. This document is important because it shows that we do. About the Positions Book, I



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understand the concerns and I think that once we re-examine the Positions Book we will be able to have a debate about the spirit of the document and whether it has been well-interpreted.

**Marion Miller:** In the same train of thought, I do not think that in each campaign we will use each argument, but it is great to equip ourselves with a large toolkit with all of the discourse and all of the tools, and depending on the context we can talk about tax brackets, software, etc. This gives us more possibilities and in the future if other coalitions and other groups do this, it gives ourselves a wide manoeuvring range.

**Marcus Peters:** I want to speak in favour of supporting this – reiterating what **Gabriel** was saying about offering solutions, even the mild positions of going against austerity. I have heard rumours about the president of the university having received some bonuses and pay, and the university is hit with \$30 million of tax cuts so it is interesting that these things are happening. We have to take more extreme approaches.

**Rami Yahia:** I think that what is important is exposing the fact that people are thinking about cutting on education and healthcare before looking at other alternatives.

**Benjamin Prunty:** I think that the basis of the document is simple – essentially what this represents is that right now, the dominant voice in society is the government, and it does not really have a mandate to do what it is doing. We have referendums on every major project. What is being done now is that the liberals ran not on a campaign of cutting every single social service, and now they are. We are setting a better example at the CSU of a mandate. What this represents is a unified voice and the value of that for social movements is extremely strong. There is a public discourse in opposition and it is a struggle to get that voice out at all. Adding 30 000 members' voices will create somewhat of a wedge to create more of a conversation at the political level. I do not have a lot of faith in the provincial government, but maybe we can mount some public pressure. We need to be united because united we are much stronger. Position campaigning is better than negative campaigning. We are not going to get people inspired if we are saying what we are against, we need to be in favour of something. About administrative salaries and rumours, I have had conversations with the administration, and there is very much an entitlement to exorbitant salaries despite losing so much of the budget. There needs to be public pressure to break through that entitlement. They work the same number of hours in a day and unless we can change that entitlement by this kind of wedge in the dominant discourse then it is just going to be more of the same and we will not progress anywhere as a society.

**Michael Wrobel:** In the broadest sense I am supportive of the document because it makes an important contribution to the discourse over austerity which is different from what is in the Positions Book, which states that we are opposed to privatization and the document does not really touch on that. Instead, it takes a completely different perspective on generating government revenue in order to spend on these programs. In a broader sense, the document makes an important contribution to the policy book. It talks about something entirely different from what is covered already.

### **VOTE**

In favour : 10

Opposed: 0



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Abstentions: 4 (**Simon, Omar, Sanaz, Michael W.**)

*Motion carries.*

### **8. QUESTION PERIOD & BUSINESS ARISING**

*No questions or business arose from this meeting of Council.*

### **9. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Marcus Peters:** Is there any possibility that the Senate could address the fact that MyConcordia now displays “shopping cart” instead of “course selection”?

**Lucinda Marshall-Kiparissis:** That was actually addressed at the last Senate meeting and it is something that Alan Shepherd does not like very much, and as far as I know it will be gone.

**Terry Wilkings:** This item is being brought up in various platform and it is on the to-do list, but there are lots of functional things to do first.

**Chloë Williams:** Just in case, I did dietary preferences last time, but if anyone is vegan, vegetarian or gluten free, we will make sure that you get food.

**Fadi Saijari:** I have a question about Council retreat since it got tabled last time.

**Terry Wilkings:** About Council retreat, this will follow Orientation as opposed to taking place before it since lots of people are travelling. Once the itinerary is set up, the issue will come back to Council since we might have to notwithstand the Standing Regulations.

**Gabriel Velasco:** This Saturday is an event by Alternatif around austerity and climate justice. Check out the CSU’s Facebook page and newsletter. The events will go over austerity as well as the environment and climate justice and how that plays into austerity and how the government is looking to replace lost funds. It will end off looking at global examples about how other countries have faced austerity such as Spain, Greece, and Germany. It will be really interesting and I encourage others to check it out.

**Lucinda Marshall-Kiparissis:** the First Peoples studies program is having a conference either today or tomorrow on the seventh floor with jam-packed programming running until the end of the weekend. Look it up to see the schedule. If you have any kind of interest in indigenous or First Peoples studies, police’s etc., this would be interesting.

**Katherine Soad Bellini:** If anyone has a new initiative and would like it to be advertised in student life, I could suggest them to contact me and I would share with them a time slot so that we can move forward as a team to make a greater impact.

**Marcus Peters:** Does anyone here live in Westmount? We are having issues with using their fields to play soccer.



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**John Talbot:** CSULive is a newsletter which goes out every week and very soon the submission form will be active on our website.

**Marion Miller:** The city of Westmount has very nice parks.

### **10. ADJOURNMENT**

**Rami Yahia** moves to adjourn.

Seconded by **Fadi Saijari**.

#### **VOTE**

In favour : 14

Opposed: 0

Abstentions: 0

*Motion carries.*

*Meeting is adjourned at 21h15*



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**CSU Special Council Meeting**  
**Wednesday, June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015**  
**H-429, 18h30, S.G.W Campus**

### **Summary of Motions Carried**

#### **2. ROLL CALL**

A motion was carried to excuse Jenna Cocullo.

– *Benjamin Prunty (Chloë Williams)*

#### **5. APPOINTMENTS**

##### **a) University Senate (Members-at-Large)**

*The following motion was carried:*

WHEREAS Mikaela Clark-Gardner, Maidina Kadeer, Lana Galbraith, and Kira Cormier were the most qualified candidates;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT that the Appointments Committee recommend Council to appoint Mikaela Clark-Gardner, Maidina Kadeer, Lana Galbraith, and Kira Cormier to Senate for the 2015-2016 academic year.

– *Chloë Williams (Michael Wrobel)*

##### **b) University Senate (Councillors)**

A motion was carried to appoint Michael Giesbrecht, Lucinda Marshall-Kiparissis, Aloyse Muller and Benjamin Prunty to the Senate.

– *Thomas Radcliffe (Michael Giesbrecht)*

##### **c) Library Services Fund Committee (LSFC)**

A motion was carried to appoint Simon Dansereau, Lori Dimaria and Chloë Williams to the Library Services Fund Committee.

– *Benjamin Prunty (Thomas Radcliffe)*





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### **d) CCSL**

A motion was carried to appoint Lori Dimaria, Jana Ghalayini, Katherine Soad Bellini, John Talbot and Rami Yahia to the Concordia Council on Student Life (CCSL)

– *Lucinda Marshall-Kiparissis (Leyla Sutherland)*

### **e) Fund Committee**

A motion was carried to appoint Marcus Peters to the Student Space, Accessible Education and Legal Contingency (SSAELC) Fund Committee.

– *Katherine Soad Bellini (Simon Dansereau)*

### **f) Student Governor**

A motion was carried to table the appointment of a student governor and an alternate governor to the Board of of Governors.

– *Terry Wilkings (Rami Yahia)*

## **7. NEW BUSINESS – SUBSTANTIVE**

### **a) Art Corner**

*The following motion was carried:*

BE IT RESOLVED THAT \$1,000 be allocated from the Student Space, Accessible Education and Legal Contingency (SSEALC) Fund for the purpose of creating an art corner on the 7<sup>th</sup> floor of the Hall Building.

– *Gabriel Velasco (Leyla Sutherland)*

### **b) Orientation Street Closure**

*The following motion was carried:*

WHEREAS the Concordia Student Union's Orientation activities provide new and returning students with the opportunity to get involved in clubs, faculty associations, departmental associations, fee levy groups, and other campus groups;

WHEREAS past orientation activities hosted by the Concordia Student Union have used the closure of Mackay street as a method to reach out to the greater Concordia community;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Concordia Student Union's Board of Directors approve of the Orientation team's plans to close down Mackay street between Sherbrooke and Maisonneuve for orientation activities on the dates of September 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015.



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– John Talbot (*Sanaz Hassan Pour*)

### **c) Annual Operating Budget**

*The 2015-2016 Annual Operating Budget was formally adopted by Council.*

### **d) 10 Billion Solutions**

*The following motion was carried:*

WHEREAS the CSU adopted a position in the 2014 by-election through referendum opposing budget cuts to the education sector and public sector in general (7.1);

WHEREAS the CSU adopted a position in the 2015 general election through referendum opposing the privatization of the academic sector and the public sector in general (7.2);

WHEREAS the CSU has adopted several positions through its Council of Representatives on fiscal alternatives and budgetary cuts (7.3-7.5);

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the CSU endorse La Coalition Main Rouge, and formally become a support member to the organization and its activities;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the CSU adopt the Coalitions' 10 milliard \$ de solution policy position into the CSU's positions book as part of developing our discourse for alternatives to austerity in Quebec.

– Terry Wilkings (*Michael Giesbrecht*)