



Concordia Student Union - Council of Representatives

CSU Regular Council Meeting

Wednesday, June 14, 2023

H655.03 OR via Zoom, 18h30

1. CALL TO ORDER

The chairperson calls the meeting to order at 19h06.

We would like to begin by acknowledging that Concordia University is located on unceded Indigenous lands. The Kanien'kehá:ka Nation is recognized as the custodians of the lands and waters on which we gather today. TiohEá:ke/Montreal is historically known as a gathering place for many First Nations. Today, it is home to a diverse population of Indigenous and other peoples. We respect the continued connections with the past, present, and future in our ongoing relationships with Indigenous and other peoples within the Montreal community.

2. ROLL CALL

Council Chairperson: Michelle Lam

Council Minute Keeper: Kyla Renee Jallow

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

Councilors present for the meeting were: Adam Bouguila (Arts & Science), Kareem Abdeen (Independent), Riley Cooke (Arts & Science), Moad Alhjooj (Arts & Science) Mohamad Abdallah (Gina Cody School of Engineering), Nassim Boutalb (John Molson School of Business) and Salma Bannani Khir (Arts & Science)

Councilors absent for the meeting were: Adam Mills (Arts & Science), Salma Bannani Khir (Arts & Science), Sona T Sadio (Arts & Science), Yanira Margarita Coulson (Arts & Science), Jordan L Jerome Pitre (Arts and Science), Michael Lecchino (John Molson School of Business), Haru Noda (John Molson School of Business), Liam Doran (Arts & Science), Kerry Kinyuy (Gina Cody) , Lily Charette (Arts & Science), Katherine Bellini (Gina Cody School of Engineering), Boutaina Chafi (Arts & Science), Noah Mohamed (John Molson School of Business), Emmanuel Gaisie (John Molson School of Business), Paula Colmenares (Independent), Wan Hua Li (Fine Arts), Olivia Integlia (Arts & Science), Nathaniel Ouazana (Arts & Science), Samuel Thibodeau (Fine Arts), Shania Bramble (Arts & Science), Edel Kilkenny-Mondoux (Arts & Science), Ikrame Housni (Arts & Science), Marissa Profetto (Gina Cody School of Engineering)

Senate present for the meeting were:

Senate absent for the meeting were: Mahshid Rahbari (Arts and Science) and Dany Ariel Ishimwe (GCSE)

Executives absent for the meeting were: N/A

Adam Mills and **Liam Doran** requested to be excused

Riley Cooke motions to excuse Adam Mills and Liam Doran

Seconded by **Chrstitian Taboada**

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Hannah Jackson motions to approve the agenda

Seconded by **Riley Cooke**

4. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Approval of Previous Minutes

Hannah Jackson motions to approve minutes from council elections under the consent agenda

Seconded by **Riley Cook**

Motion passes

- b. Chairperson's Report
- c. Executive Reports
- d. Ratification of Committee Reports

Chairperson opens the floor to questions about reports under the consent agenda.

No questions were asked.

Riley Cooke motions to approve the Consent Agenda

Seconded by **Maria Chitoroaga**

Motion passes: Consent Agenda has been approved.

5. PRESENTATIONS AND GUEST SPEAKERS

a. Approval of the CAF Annual Report

Hannah Jackson: The Community Action Fund is a fund where Concordia has to sponsor community based organizations, initiatives, and projects. The CSU puts money in the fund in case of strikes. The external before me (Juliana), was the chair for the last year and I am the new chair. The members of CAF highly recommend that you sign up to be on it. The CAF has \$40,000 reserved and \$40,000 is how much was dispersed over the year before CAF ran out. The projects that were funded by CAF include;

- i. Iftar dinners hosted by the MSA
- ii. SHOPAO Festival
- iii. CLAC
- iv. The SLAM
- v. Menstrual, Reproductive & Trans ScarWork Clinic
- vi. Canopie: Fine Arts Project
- vii. EarthBound Futures
- viii. Anti-war solidarity exhibition.

The fund was opened late but it was successfully dispersed the entire amount and it will be reopened in June and the first meeting will be in September.

Alexandrah Cardona motions to approve the CAF Annual Report

Seconded by **Riley Cooke**

Motion approved unanimously

b. CSU Operations Budget 2023-2024

Kareem Rahaman: Right now, we are in a positive state. We have \$15 million in assets with only \$700,00 in liabilities. For the last years budget, we predicted we would be in a deficit of \$259,000 but ended up with a surplus of half a million dollars. For this year we are predicting that we will have a surplus of \$83,000. Just to shed some light on why the surplus was so large last year; there was a situation with EDI where we had someone on leave. Additionally, there was a lot of part time positions as opposed to full time positions. The CSU also got a fee levy. Those are some of the factors that accounted for the large surplus. This year in the budget, we tried our best to account for all these things. In this particular draft, we left out EDI until we planned to staff someone. Next, going into all the subsidiaries. As I said, EDI will be budgeted after we know what we will do with it.

In terms of HOJO, we are expecting a deficit of \$1,000. We were advised to look into HOJO, Advocacy and LIC, because salaries are increasing. In two or three years, we predict that there will be a probable cash low within these subsidiaries, which will end up taking from the CSU's operational budget. As for the LIC, we predict that there will be a surplus of \$89,000 by the end of the year. For the Advocacy Centre, we predict that there will be a surplus of \$16,000 at the end of the year.

Getting into clubs, we essentially put in a large lump sum of money which will then be dispersed throughout the year. As clubs request their budgets, they would be paid out of this fund. The amount we put for this year is \$290,000. However, we predict there to be a deficit of \$67,000. We are also advised to put a fee levy increase there.

In terms of the operations budget itself, there are only a few notable changes. Last year \$1,500 was put in the council training account. This year we budgeted \$5,000. We plan to have more trainings, including trainings for the Chairperson and Minute Keeper. There is an honorarium for the traditional board members, but we are yet to see how much the exact amount is until we get the full minutes of that. But that would be something we account for in the next review of the budget.

In terms of the administrations salaries, which would be account #5400, which you see a change of \$24,000. That is one of the largest changes across the years. This was simply because all the positions were not filled last year, as I mentioned before. There was a 13% increase in how much money we allotted, so \$1,004 was not budgeted for last year.

Other notable changes would be account #5480 (staff appreciation dinner). Last year there was \$1,000 but this year we put in \$3,000. We also increased the food and clothing bank to \$1,600 because there was a deficit last year.

It was reported incorrectly last year as a \$2,000 budget, when it should have been \$25,000. So that change was made. As well as, we added the position of Orientation Coordinator this year, so as opposed to \$3,900 being budgeted, we put in \$9,300 this year.

That should be all regarding all changes in the budget. I would just like to reiterate that this budget will have to be revisited as new information comes in. As of right now, the statement on the financial position that we are in dated April 2023 and we are in June 2023, and we are yet to receive the new fee. So as soon as we receive that, we will compare the two and see if there are any drastic changes. We are still clearing up the budget from the last fiscal year. So,

there may be some changed there. As I said, the salaries may change as well, especially regarding EDI.

Christian Taboada motions to approve the CSU Operations Budget 2023-2024

Seconded by **Riley Cooke**

The Budget has been unanimously approved

6. APPOINTMENTS

a. Senate

Alexandrah Cardona: There has been a change in the senate schedule. The first senate meeting of the 2023-24 year will be held in October as opposed to September. The way that senators are broken down is that there are two associate executives. Four faculty association members. There are also four seats which can be interpreted as either having council or students at large. So there are a variety of openings. This year, besides the schedule change. There is also the fact that we do not have our faculty representative elected/appointed by the faculty associations. So as it stands currently, we are looking at having 8-9 senate seats open. So my proposal as Academic Advocacy Coordinator I would motion to give the new council the time to familiarize themselves with their roles as potential senators and then fill all of the seats during our September meeting.

Chairperson: If no one nominates themselves right now for the open seats, then they do not, but I still need to open the floor up in case people want to. Are there any councilors interested in joining senate?

Salma Bannani Khir and **Adam Bouguila** motion to appoint themselves on senate
Seconded by **Christian Taboada**

Chairperson: Salma and Adam, why do you want to sit on senate?

Salma Bannani Khir: I want to familiarize myself with the different parts of the CSU.

Adam Bouguila: I want to sit on senate because I previously sat on it last year. I know how senate works, the tactics used and how underrepresented students are in senate. I want to make sure that student's voices are heard. I want to bring my experience from last year to this upcoming year.

Alexandrah Cardona: I wanted to let the councilors know that, there are extra obligations while being on senate. For example, there is a policy waiver that you signed and there are reports that come along with this. There are different requirements for attending the senate meetings which are different from the regular council meetings. You would be considered to have resigned if you do not attend a

senate meeting. For anything that I missed just make sure to review those prior to orientation.

Salma Bannani Khir withdraws her nomination.

Kareem Rahaman motions to appoint **Adam Bouguila** on senate

Seconded by **Riley Cooke**

Motion passes

Adam Bouguila appointed on senate

b. Appointments Committee

Harley Martin: The appointments committee meets especially over the summer and the later part of the summer/early fall which may be a bit intensive. However, it lightens up. The importance of it is so we can fill the other student at large seats that desperately needs to be filled. We have three so far which means we fulfilled quorum, but it would be nice to have other people to have on the committee in case some people cannot make it.

Chairperson: Are there any councillors interested in joining the appointments committee ?

...

Chairperson: If not we can come back to the next meeting in September.

c. BIPOC Committee

Tanou Bah: This committee gives out a lot of bursaries. We have no body sitting on this committee currently and it would be great to have some members.

Chairperson: Are there any councillors interested in joining the BIPOC committee ?

...

Chairperson: If not we can come back to the next meeting in September.

d. Clubs & Spaces Committee

Christian Taboada- We are the foundation of student groups on campus. We decide who passes on the torch to all the students on campus. We make a change that is valuable and not interchangeable with anything else in this University. Valuable and non-interchangeable choices. Have a lot of clubs to review. It is a generally fun committee, as we get to review clubs.

Chairperson: Are there any councillors interested in joining the clubs & spaces committee ?

...

Chairperson: If not we can come back to the next meeting in September.

e. External Committee

Hannah Jackson: The external committee is in charge of dispersing external fund, which is similar to CAF. We give money to organizations on and off campus that qualify under the CSU positions book.

Chairperson: Are there any councillors interested in joining the external committee ?

...

Chairperson: If not we can come back to the next meeting in September.

f. Fee Levy Committee

Kareem Rahaman: The Fee Levy Committee reviews all things related to fee levy. For those that do not know, a fee levy is something you pay with every credit you have at Concordia. So, if you care about where your money is going, please join the Fee Levy Committee.

Adam Bouguilla moves to nominate himself.

Seconded by **Nassim Boutalb**

Chairperson: Adam can you tell us why you would like to join the committee.

Adam Bouguilla: I want to join the committee because it is important to see where the funds are going and how Concordia uses the funds.

Nassim Boutalb motions to appoint **Adam Bouguilla**

Seconded by **Riley Cooke**

Motion passes

g. Finance Committee

Kareem Rahaman: Similar to the fee levy committee, we review proposals related to finances. All assets over \$10,000 have to pass through the finance

Adam Bouguilla moves to nominate himself to the Finance Committee

Seconded by **Christian Taboada**

Adam Bouguilla: Finance is the most important part. I want to make sure CSU is spending their money wisely.

Nassim Boutalb motions to appoint **Adam Bouguilla** to the Finance Committee

Seconded by **Mohamad Abdallah**

Motion passes.

h. Loyola Committee

Talya Diner: The Loyola Committee is important in making sure that the CSU is present at the Loyola campus. We organize events there and distribute Loyola funds to Loyola based initiatives.

Chairperson: Are there any councillors interested in joining the Loyola Committee?

...

Chairperson: If not we can come back to the next meeting in September.

i. Mental Health Committee

Talya Diner motions to create ad hoc the mental health committee for this mandate

Seconded by **Maria Chitoroaga**

Motion passes: Mental Health as an ad hoc committee

Talya Diner: The motivation for this ad hoc committee is that it is important to create this committee so that we can continue the ground work that has been laid for us by the last executive team. It is important that we have appropriate mental health services for the students.

Alexandrah: The mental health services have been fee levied following a referendum request. The mental health committee is a few years into the making. There were different aspects of it that were created in the last mandate. So, in essence, there are several aspects to cover with the support of councillors. Going forward, we want to discuss how to make the Mental Health committee sustainable for the CSU.

Chairperson: Are there any councillors interested in joining the Mental Health Committee?

...

Chairperson: If not we can come back to the next meeting in September.

j. Policy Committee

Alexandrah Cardona: The policy committee reviews and updates policies. We help the union to become more efficient. We also keep internal documents in order. If having good policies are dear to your heart please join the committee.

Chairperson: Are there any councillors interested in joining the Policy Committee?

...

Chairperson: If not we can come back to the next meeting in September.

k. SSAELC Fund Committee

Harley Martin: The SSAELC Fund is a large pool of money that the CSU has for the legal contingency fund. We fund major renovations, projects, and student spaces. When things need to go through there they are passed by council and the SSAELC Fund. The committee does not meet much but we review large projects related to the union.

l. **Chairperson:** Are there any councillors interested in joining the SSAELC Fund Committee?

...

Chairperson: If not we can come back to the next meeting in September.

m. Sustainability Committee

Maria Chitoroaga: In this committee we review bursary applications , sustainability applications as well as different initiatives and events that we want to plan related to sustainability. It is a fun committee to be on.

Riley Cooke moves to nominates themselves
Seconded by **Christian Taboada**

Riley Cooke: I was once on this committee before and it makes me happy to help people who need money. I want to continue to contribute and help as much as I can.

Mohamad Abdallah motions to appoint Riley Cooke on the Sustainability Committee
Seconded by **Christian Taboada**

n. Student Life Committee

Tanou Bah: In this committee we money give to student groups. I would be happy if you all would join this committee.

Chairperson: Are there any councillors interested in joining the Student Life Committee?

...

Chairperson: If not we can come back to the next meeting in September.

o. Concordia Council on Student Life (CCSL)

Tanou Bah: I really enjoy being a part of the CCSL. We work on large projects and funds. We get to support a lot of students and vote for awards.

Tanou Bah, Christian Taboada, and Alexendrah Cardona move to appoint themselves to the Council on Student Life

Seconded by **Maria Chitoroaga**

Chair person: Why do each of you want to join this committee?

Tanou Bah: This is the council on student life and as the student life coordinator, this pertains to my role and portfolio.

Christian Taboada: My portfolio already deals with student groups on campus. So I am well aware of groups that are funded by Concordia

Alexendrah Cardona: As an executive I am not as familiar with this committee, unlike Christian and Tanou. However, as a student, I am very curious and interested in filling student seats if they are already not all full.

Maria Chitoroaga motions to appoint **Tanou Bah, Christian Taboada, and Alexendrah Cardona** to the Council on Student Life

Seconded by **Riley Cooke**

Motion passes

p. CSU Community Action Fund (CAF)

Hannah Jackson: the CAF funds grassroots community initiatives that are in line with our positions and mandate. It keeps us set up in case we ever strike. It feels great to be able to help people.

Salma Bannani Khir moves to nominate herself

Seconded by **Riley Cooke**

Chairperson: Why do you want to join CAF?

Salma Bannani Khir : I like helping people.

Christan Taboada motions to appoint **Salma Bannani Khir** on the CAF

Seconded by **Riley Cooke**

Motion passes

7. NEW BUSINESS – SUBSTANTIVE

Nassim Boutalb motions to renew the **International Student Services Advisory Committee**

Seconded by **Riley Cooke**

Nassim Boutalb: This ad hoc committee was created to address issues from the ISO office. We conducted a survey about the students' attitudes toward these services. We have had constructive conversations with ISO staff and dean of students and want to continue the great work.

Chairperson entertains a vote

International Student Services Advisory Committee renewed by a unanimous vote

Nasim Boutalb moves to nominate themselves to be on the committee

Seconded by **Kareem Rahaman**

Motion passes

Nassim Boutalb: I want to join this committee because we accomplished a lot of great things in the past years and I want to continue such initiatives.

Kareem Rahaman moves to nominate themselves to be on the committee

Seconded by **Hannah Jackson**

Kareem Rahaman: As an international student, the work that this committee does is impactful and I want to be part of it.

Mohamad Abdallah motions to appoint **Kareem Rahaman**

Seconded by **Christian Taboada**

Motion passes: **Kareem Rahaman** appointed as the chair of the **International Student Services Advisory Committee renewed by a unanimous**

8. NEW BUSINESS – INFORMATIONAL

9. QUESTION PERIOD & BUSINESS ARISING

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

11. ADJOURNMENT

Nassim Boutalb motions to adjourn the meeting

Seconded by **Riley Cooke**

Meeting adjourned at 20h08