



Concordia Student Union - Council Of Representatives

CSU Regular Council Meeting

Wednesday, January 10, 2023

H-711 OR via Zoom, 18h30

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson calls meeting to order at 18h34

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

Chairperson: Michelle Lam

Council Minute Keeper: Kyla Renee Jallow

Executives present for the meeting were: Harley Martin (General Coordinator), Tanou Bah (Student Life Coordinator), Kareem Rahaman (Finance Coordinator), Maria Chitoroaga (Sustainability Coordinator), Talya Diner (Loyola Coordinator), Christian Taboada (Internal Affairs Coordinator)

Executives absent for this meeting were: Hannah Jackson (External Affairs and Mobilisation Coordinator) and Alexandrah Cardona (Academic & Advocacy Coordinator)

Councillors present for this meeting were: Adam Mills (Arts & Science), Moad Alhjoog (Arts & Science), Sona T Sadio (Arts & Science), Giancarlo Laurieri (Arts & Science), Kendra Downe (Arts & Science), Dave Plant (Arts & Science), Chana Leah Natanblut (Arts & Science), Salma Hashem (Arts & Science), Gabriel Makinde (Fine Arts), Salma Abuaysheh (JMSB), Abdullah Al-Kabra (JMSB), Omar Hassanein (Gina Cody), Rohan Kumar (Gina Cody), Nizar Sukah (Gina Cody), Salma Hashem (Arts & Science), Ouswa Ben Rejeb (JMSB), Michael Lecchino (JMSB), Diana Levitin (JMSB), Isabella Providenti (Fine Arts)

Councillors absent for this meeting were: Salma Bannani Khir (Arts & Science), Nassim Boutalbi (JMSB), Noor Al Afranji (Arts & Science), Zina Chouaibi (Arts & Science), Guillermo Sebastian Anderson-Diaz (Arts & Science), Carleen Loney (Fine Arts) Nassim Boutalbi (JMSB), Kareem Abdeen (Independent), Salma Bannani Khir (Arts & Science), Noor Al Afranji (Arts & Science), Baskaran Abishana (Independent)

Chairperson: I received excusals from Riley Cooke, who is not feeling well, Kareem Abdeen who is out of the country and Alexandrah Cardona who is ill with covid. Can I please get a motion to excuse them from tonight's meeting.

Harley Martin motions to excuse all three of them from tonight's meeting.

Seconded by Maria Chitoroaga

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Kareem Rahaman motions to approve the agenda

Seconded by Maria Chitoroaga

4. CONSENT AGENDA

Adam Mills: Thank you, Harley, for the report, which was talking about university finances and the plan that Concordia had to submit to the MES for deficit reduction in many ways. I have been thinking about what the CSU could do about it. Related to the Board of Governors report, Dave mentioned that there was push from faculty to have a more democratic process when it comes to university finances, but especially with the current round of budget cuts. I was doing some research around it and what some other universities are doing in similar circumstances. Memorial University in Newfoundland, for example, is an illustration of a case where students and faculty pushed for there to be greater budget conversations about that specific year, as well as the compromises that were going to have to be paid were brought to the university community rather than just decided upon by the university. I was just hoping to bring up the discussion about this if some people are interested.

Harley Martin: Just on a procedural note, in case we end up voting on anything here, maybe it is best to pull these minutes for discussion from the consent agenda and add them to the regular agenda for the meeting. Procedurally, I would like to just do that legitimately. So, Michelle, can we have Adam motion to pull that from the consent agenda and add it to the regular agenda for the meeting.

Chairperson: Yes, absolutely. I can pull that into New Business- Informational.

Harley Martin: Adam, you made some good points. I also did some research on what other universities are doing. There is an interesting article from Queens University that came out yesterday. It is a very similar situation, where suddenly there is going to be cuts and any small class or classes that are not as popular as others, particularly in the arts and science faculty will be cut. The reasoning being behind that according to the university, is because it is necessary to keep their finances in order. They had a town hall about this, which from my reading of the article did not seem to end particularly well or productively as it stands for now. They are in a similar position as to where Concordia is in. And like Adam is suggesting, maybe trying to have a more collaborative approach to addressing what is certain to be not a very pleasant time rather than just universities making the decision on one side and the response from faculty and students on the other. I think a town hall is not a bad idea in the format as a first step to try to pull information out of the university as to why we are in this situation. Depending on the university's cooperation or lack thereof, we can proceed from there.

Adam Mills: I think one way, you might have to sell it to them a little bit, but it should be a little bit appealing for them to take the heat off them if they inevitably decide that the community isn't happy with.

Harley Martin: I am open to suggesting that to them and seeing if we could have the relevant people present at the town hall and have that attended by faculty members and students and see what we can get to out of that. This is a very strange situation and I think it gets very confused with what is taking place now with the tuition hikes.

Adam Mills: Dave brought up last meeting that there is a letter from faculty. He put me in contact with the faculty member. I believe they are the head of the philosophy department, I just reached out to her to see where they are at. I have not yet heard back, but I would not mind keeping you all in the loop, once I find out more.

Harley Martin: The general premise here is that we are looking at how the union be useful in organizing some response to this in which we are going to get more information out of the university and then hopefully be able to make that move forward to something that is more productive.

Harley Martin: I suggest that some of us work on this over the next couple weeks and then for the next council meeting on the 24th, we return with whatever information we have? I will send a e-mail to everybody and everyone who wants to be involved in that can join and we will set a meeting time for next week to discuss that.

a) Executive Reports

b) Chairperson Report

c) Approval of Previous Minutes

d) Ratification of Committee Reports

5. PRESENTATIONS AND GUEST SPEAKERS

6. APPOINTMENTS

8. NEW BUSINESS – SUBSTANTIVE

9. NEW BUSINESS – INFORMATIONAL

10. QUESTION PERIOD & BUSINESS ARISING

Adam Mills: I have a quick question; I was wondering if there was any progress now that we have council settled after the by-elections. Such as info pages for council with the councillor's contact info on the CSU website.

Harley Martin: Yes, I sent it to the web developer on Monday and he is going to start uploading that at the end of this week. I also asked him to update the minutes because we are doing good now that they're posted again.

Dave Plant: Concerning that the councillors were going to do a dinner and training, I believe you mentioned for January, I wanted to know how that was looking?

Harley Martin: Christian and I are working on it. By the end of this week, we will try and schedule that, hopefully before everyone gets overly busy.

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tanou Bah: I am starting with orientation soon and if anyone would want to, work during that time, feel free to e-mail me and we can talk about the different roles.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Harley Martin motions to adjourn meeting at **18h53**

Seconded by Tanou Bah