



## **Concordia Student Union - Council of Representatives**

### **CSU Regular Council Meeting**

**Wednesday, January 24, 2024**

**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), Christian Taboada (Internal Affairs Coordinator), and Hannah Jackson (External Affairs and Mobilisation Coordinator) Talya Diner (Loyola Coordinator) and Alexandrah Cardona (Academic & Advocacy Coordinator)

**Executives absent for this meeting were: N/A**

**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), 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), Nassim Boutalbi (JMSB), Diana Levitin (JMSB), Riley Cooke (Arts & Science), Noor Al Afranji (Arts & Science), Zina Chouaibi (Arts & Science), Kareem Abdeen (Independent), Salma Bennani Khir (Arts & Science), Michael Lecchino (JMSB), Guillermo Sebastian Anderson-Diaz (Arts & Science), and Carleen Loney (Fine Arts)

**Councillors absent for this meeting were:** Baskaran Abishana (Independent), Isabella Providenti (Fine Arts), and Gabriel Makinde (Fine Arts)

Chairperson: I did not get any requests for excusals at this time, did anyone want to request excusals for past meetings.

Nassim Boutalbi: I wanted to request an excusal from the last meeting. I was abroad and unable to attend the meeting due to the time difference.

Seconded by Riley Cooke

Nassim Boutalbi has been excused for the last meeting

Noor Alafranji: I would like to request an excusal for the last meeting and the December 13<sup>th</sup> meeting, I was out of the country and was not aware of who to email to request an excusal.

Seconded by Chana Leah

Noor Alafranji has been excused

Kareem Abdeen: I would like to request an excusal for the December 13<sup>th</sup> meeting, I was sick .

Secomded by Riley Cooke

Kareem Abdeen has been excused for the December 13 meeting

Zina Chouaibi: I would like to request am excusal for the last meeting, I was out of the country.

Seconded by Riley

Zina Chouaibi has been excused for the last meeting

Chairperosn: For the new councillors, if you need an excusal, please send an email to me before the meeting with a reason. There are up to six meetings you can miss with an excused absent. However, if you miss more than six, you will be removed as a councillor.

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

Kendra Downe: I would like to add the policy committee under appointments, as I am interested in joining this committee.

Seconded by Alexandrah Cardona

Motivation

Alexandrah Cardona: I wanted to add the policy committee to the agenda to address inability for the committee to meet due to lack of participation.

Chairperson: Policy committee has added under appointments

Chana Leah Natanblut: I wanted to add a motion to tonight's agenda. It is about a canned food and winter clothing drive for Indigenous shelters.

Seconded by Harley Martin

Motivation

Chana Leah Natanblut: It is important that people have the proper tools to survive the harsh Montreal winters. This can and clothing drive is specific to indigenous shelters as they are often overlooked. With inflation it is harder for people to get food. People get charitable during the holiday season but kind of stop after the holidays, it is important to continue the momentum of giving.

Chairperson: Thank you, this will be added to the agenda for tonight

Christian Taboada: I wanted to add a motion about Council training to the agenda.

Seconded by Riley Cooke

Motivation:

Christian: The motion is relating to policy and timing.

Chairperson: Council training has been added to the agenda for tonight

Hannah Jackson motions to approve tonight's agenda

Seconded by Riley Cooke

#### **4. CONSENT AGENDA**

##### **a) Approval of Previous Minutes**

Harley Martin motions to approve all items under consent agenda

Seconded by Adam Mills

#### **5. PRESENTATIONS AND GUEST SPEAKERS**

##### **a) Mid Mandate Report**

Harley Martin: The Mid Mandate Report is something that executives are obliged to write by the deadline, being this council meeting. It is a full summary of everything the union does. It is a big report. We can go through the report and give a summary of everything if you would like. You could review it and then prepare questions for it.

Dave Plant: Can you send it to all of us so that we could take our time and go over it and then prepare questions about it for the executives

Harley: The only new part that it contains is all the background of why we do certain things and why certain projects are in place. It would be helpful for the new councillors to read at the report . That is a great idea Dave.

Chairperson: Is the suggestion to send it to everyone now and then during the next meeting people prepare questions about the report? If council feels that having it sent to you rather than a presentation will suffice then we can do that.

Adam Mills motions to accept the report and prepare questions for the next RCM

Seconded by Riley Cooke

Chairperson: I recommend that councillors take the time to read the report because it is very important .

#### **6. APPOINTMENTS**

##### **a) Policy Committee**

Alexandrah Cardona: Currently the Policy Committee, as of the Fall 2023 semester, was filled with three councillors and one student at large. There were invitations and emails sent out to contact the members. Adam Mills and our student at large have replied but many others did not. Since Fall 2023, we did not have enough participation from our councillors and could not meet quorum. My hope is either that the current appointees reaffirm their commitment if they want to stay, or that

the appointments can be refilled with councillors that want to participate. The councillors right now are Noor, Moad, and Salma Bennani, as well as Adam Mills who has been active.

Noor Alafraji: I am very much interested in being in the committee. I missed the initial email, so I apologise for not responding. I would love to discuss things one on one or with the members of the committee to get to know each other.

Moad Alhjoor: I would like to apologise for not being up to date on my emails for the CSU, I would like to stay on this committee as a lot of good work can be done here

Salma Bennani: I would also like to stay on the committee. I have had many issues with my CSU email. I am interested in policy and want to help the school.

Alexandrah Cardona: If anyone has issues, we have IT support and I can contact you in other ways if you would like. The committee is complete, so we do have enough members.

## **7. NEW BUSINESS - SUBSTANTIVE**

## **8. NEW BUSINESS – INFORMATIONAL**

### **a) Chana Leah Natanblut presents motion**

WHEREAS A canned food drive and winter clothing drive will benefit people living in poverty and who are homeless by receiving these items through a shelter.

WHEREAS Concordia University should fight the ever-growing homeless crisis by collecting and donating canned food and winter clothing to shelters. Concordia needs to donate winter clothing and canned foods to homeless shelters to help the homeless people in our city.

WHEREAS Concordia University must be proactive in helping the homeless community by collecting donations.

BE IT RESOLVED That the CSU engage in a canned food drive (including nonperishable food items) and winter clothing drive.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That the CSU have this drive in the EV and JMSB buildings for one week.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT The items donated be split and sent to The Old Mission Brewery ( a homeless shelter), Resilience Montreal and The Native Women’s Shelter of Montreal (a homeless shelter for indigenous women)

Seconded by Riley Cooke

Motion passes

Motivation:

Chana Leah Natanblut: This clothing and canned food drive would help the lives of Indigenous children and adults in shelters downtown. A lot of these shelters are in desperate need of donations, and it is important that we do our part in supporting Indigenous communities, as much as possible, as we are living on territorial land. I am sure we have all seen how many homeless people live in Montreal, especially in the Guy-Concordia Metro.

Harley Martin: Who would be overseeing the whole operation? Is there going to be any promotion for it? If so, is there a plan to promote it?

Chana Leah Natanblut: I would promote it through designated CSU poster areas, Instagram, word of mouth, and perhaps tabling. I can oversee it, if anyone wants to help me with it that would be great. We could advertise this for two weeks to give people time to donate.

Hannah Jackson: An initiative similar to this has happened before. We did an earthquake drive with the Turkish Students Association. It is within the mandate of the CSU. The campaigns department often can table for initiatives like this. You do not have to worry about the promotion. It is just about putting in a design request. The CSU can easily post it on social media as well.

Kendra Downe: I want to suggest including Resilience Montreal, they are a shelter that is underfunded. The shelter also supports Indigenous communities.

Chana Leah Natanblut: The shelter I mentioned is a partner with Resilience Montreal. We could split the food and clothing to go to both shelters, as they are part of the same organization.

Chairperson: Would you like to add that to "Be it further resolved.." as a friendly amendment.

Chana Leah Natanblut: Yes, I can add Resilience Montreal to the motion.

Christian Taboada: I just want to share with you Chana Leah, there is an organization called Welfare Avenue, they often do clothing and food donations in homeless communities. The organization is run by students from different universities, many of them are Concordia students. So, if you want to reach out to them, I can send you their information.

Chana Leah Natanblut: Thank you so much for letting me know. I would love that.

## **b) Council Training**

Christian Taboada presents motion

**WHEREAS** the trainers we reached out to did not get back to us;

**WHEREAS** the CSU offices were close until January 8<sup>th</sup>;

**WHEREAS** there was not enough time to plan a new wave of trainings after the break;

**WHEREAS** rushing a mandated training would not be taught to everyone;

**WHEREAS** it is hard to get all of the councillors in attendance in short notice for these mandatory meetings;

**WHEREAS POLICY 2.2** of the Sexual Violence and Safer Space Policy states that councillors must complete three hours of consent training by October 1<sup>st</sup> of their mandate. Councillors elected in by-elections must complete the same consent training prior to February 1<sup>st</sup>.

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** consent training be held at a future date after the by-elections, prior to March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024, notwithstanding policy 2.2

**THE BUDGETARY IMPACT** is nil.

Seconded by Kareem Rahaman

Motion passes

Motivation:

Christian: I did not want to breach policy. We also wanted time to reach out to the right people to ensure we could still plan proper training.

Sona Sadio: Could someone reiterate for me the reason why the trainings have not happened yet?

Christian Taboada: In October there were ten councillors, so we would have had to do the training twice, contacting everyone and paying everyone double for the two waves of training. In November, when the new councillors were selected, we set a deadline to February 1<sup>st</sup>. However, now there is not enough time to plan the training, so we decided to extend the deadline.

Guillermo Sebastian Anderson-Diaz: I can imagine there would be some frustration since we new councillors feel like we cannot participate as much because we do not understand the rules and the norms of meeting like this. I feel like perhaps a form should be sent explaining how the meetings are run and the different terminology we should know.

Tanou Bah: I sent out an email to all the councillors about a dinner and training on how to be a councillor for February 5, if you respond to the google form, we can do it as soon as possible. Most of you have not responded to the form. During this training, we would break down how to be a councillor.

Harley Martin: Just for the councillors, I want to clarify a bit further. We have eight mandated trainings on topics but nothing on how to be a good councillor. We are trying to have that for the first time in February.

Dave Plant: If we are doing semi-training in the next week that is great. For more in depth training, it does make sense to do it when the newly elected council will be elected.

Harley Martin: The 2023-2024 council will have 'How to be a Councilor' training on the 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> of February, you all just need to respond to the google form sent by Tanou.

Hannah Jackson: The sexual violence training, consent training, LGBTQ training, race training, etc are what Christian is referring to. These are the courses that cannot be rushed as they must be taught by experts, therefore the deadline has been extended. The 'How to be a good councillor training' is not in our by-laws, we are implementing that now because we know it will be helpful. I understand it is inconvenient that it is happening so late. However, the basics of how to be a councillor will be as soon as possible.

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

### **10. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Harley Martin: Please fill out the form that Tanou sent to you all regarding availability for the CSU training dinner.

Adam Mills: I would like to welcome everyone to the Loyola Vanier library tomorrow. Michael, Alexandrah and I are on the Library Services Fund Committee. There will be some new art pieces by Concordia Fine Arts Graduates that will be put up in the library and I welcome you all to attend

Hannah Jackson: The Campaigns department will be having semester long program of events called Get Radical, from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm every Tuesday. There will be several workshops about the mobilisation against tuition hikes for example. You are welcome to attend any of the workshops that spark your interest. Several student associations have voted to strike for Jan 31-Feb 2<sup>nd</sup>. Many

associations are having general assemblies about when they will be striking. I urge you all to try to find out what your faculty is doing. You can talk to the CSU campaigns about how to get involved.

## **11. ADJOURNMENT**

**Tanou Bah motions to adjourn meeting at 19h31**

**Seconded by Tanou Bah**