



**STUDENT SERVICES**

Concordia Council on Student Life

**Minutes of the Concordia Council on Student Life  
Held on September 27, 2024 10:00am  
Meeting held at SGW H-655**

**PRESENT:** Katie Broad (Acting Chair), Lauren Broad (Secretary), Leen Al Hijjawi, Moad Al Hjooj, Caroline Baril, Anna Barrafato, Elana Bloom, Melanie Burnett, Maria Chitoroaga, Dianne Cmor, Darren Dumoulin, Lauren Farley, Matthew Fishman, Julie Foisy, Sarah Rahimi, D'Arcy Ryan, Maria Safos, Elsa Younes.

**ABSENT WITH REGRETS:** Philippe Caignon, Cassandra Lamontagne, Irene Petsopoulos.

**ABSENT:** Annette Bowen, Sarah Caille, Melissa Calderisi, Rushin Makwana, Maya Youngs-Zaleski.

**GUESTS:** Daniel Amico (Minutes), Leanne Ashworth (CSU Housing & Job Resource Centre), Seif Bedair (Engineering & Computer Science Student Association), Aditya Deepak Thakkar (Graduate Students' Association), Dania Zeitoun (Concordia Student Union).

**1. Approval of the Agenda**

Maria Safos moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Elsa Younes.

*The motion carried unanimously.*

**2. Remarks from the Chair**

Katie Broad, Acting Dean of Students and Chair of CCSL, started the meeting and welcomed everyone to a new year at the Concordia Council on Student Life. She gave a brief introduction of herself and said the Territorial Acknowledgement. The Chair shared that as of the Fall 2024 semester, Concordia would offer a tuition waiver to First Nations and Inuit students whose communities are situated in Quebec, which would include most undergraduate and graduate programs and apply to full- or part-time studies. The project was largely spearheaded by the Indigenous Directions Office and had the full support of the Office of the Provost and Vice-President, Academic. The Chair also shared that the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation would be on Monday, September 30<sup>th</sup>. The date would publicly commemorate the Indigenous children that were impacted by residential schools and recognize the continued challenges faced by Indigenous communities.

The third annual Otsenhákta Student Centre Pow Wow occurred on September 13<sup>th</sup>, which celebrated Indigenous communities' cultures. Hospitality Concordia helped support the event to ensure its success. The Concordia community participated in the annual Shuffle, with a record of 1,026 participants who helped raise \$225,000 for student bursaries and scholarships.

With the Orientation/Frosh season over, the Chair congratulated the student associations for all their hard work on their various events. She thanked the Dean of Students Office, Facilities

Management and Campus Safety and Prevention Services for their help and support with all the student-led Orientation activities. She announced that the Dean of Students Office would be hosting their annual OF Thank You Event on October 10th, and she encouraged those who were invited to attend.

### **3. Umbrella Association Meet & Greet**

Representatives of the four student faculty associations (Arts & Science Federation of Associations, Commerce and Administration Students Association, Engineering and Computer Science Student Association, and the Fine Arts Student Alliance) and the two student unions (Concordia Student Union and Graduate Students' Association) had been invited to the meeting. Those that were available to attend (CSU, GSA and ECA) were invited to introduce themselves and gave a summary of their plans for the coming year. The Chair thanked them all for their time and assured them that the student associations have the support of all the departments represented at CCSL.

### **4. Approval of the Minutes from the Meeting of May 3, 2024**

Julie Foisy moved to approve the minutes from the meeting held on May 3, 2024, seconded by Sarah Rahimi.

*The motion carried unanimously.*

### **5. Business Arising from the Minutes of May 3, 2024**

There was no business arising from the Minutes of May 3, 2024.

### **6. Reports and Items of Information**

#### **6.1. HOJO 2023-2024 Year-End Report & 2024-2025 Budget and Request for Funding 2024-2025**

Katie Broad welcomed Leanne Ashworth, Manager of the CSU's Off-Campus Housing & Job Resource Centre (HOJO), to the meeting. Lauren Broad, Secretary of CCSL, reminded the Council that the CCSL confirmed its support of HOJO's essential services to students by annually earmarking \$20,000 from the CCSL Special Projects Fund to support its projects. The funding would be contingent on HOJO providing an annual presentation to the Council at the outset of the academic year. Leanne Ashworth gave a presentation to the Council that included the HOJO 2023-2024 Annual Report and Financials, as well as the current year's budget. Leanne Ashworth explained to the Council that HOJO wished to use the annual contribution for the 2024-2025 academic year specifically for the "HireNow *Embauche Express*" project, as described in the presentation. The total anticipated budget of the project was \$18,885.80.

The Chair thanked Leanne Ashworth for the presentation and invited the Council to ask questions. Outreach to students was discussed, and Elana Bloom shared that she would be happy to have HOJO's resources promoted at Health Services. Moad Al Hjooj added that the CSU had a communications department that was actively working on promoting the services. Julie Foisy asked if HOJO had worked with Career and Planning Services (CAPS) as there



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was some overlap in their work and so there may be potential partnerships for the aspects that survey students on what challenges they face. Caroline Baril shared that there was a new website for services on employment support and career opportunities where employers may look to hire students, short or long-term. Maria Safos shared how there was a financial literacy workshop planned, and there may be potential for HOJO to collaborate with FAAO on another workshop. Elana added that HOJO could potentially have a Spotlight Series event where they share their work and the project.

The Chair asked how this project could be sustainable beyond the fiscal year. Leanne Ashworth shared that new jobs would not be created for the project and that the funding would permit extra hours to be allocated to existing staff to focus on the project, while continuing their operational work.

The Chair thanked Leanne Ashworth before she left the meeting and explained that HOJO would be contacted in the following week with the Council's decision.

The Council discussed the agreement that CCSL had with HOJO for the annual funding. Concerns about the dependency on the funding and its equitability were brought up, and it was noted that the funding that was provided to HOJO was not operational and allowed the service to expand its important work in other ways. Lauren Broad suggested that if members wished to further discuss the agreement, it could be revisited in a future meeting.

Elana Bloom put forth the following motion, seconded by Elsa Younes:

***Be it resolved that:***

*The Concordia Council on Student Life approve the transfer of the annual contribution of \$18,886 to the Off-Campus Housing and Job Resource Centre (HOJO) via the CSU for the "Hire Now Embauche Express" project.*

***The motion carried unanimously.***

### **6.2. Committee Participation Recognition Program: Review of 2023-2024 Recipients**

The Chair reminded the Council that every year, funding was provided to students that sit on the various university bodies at Concordia. The purpose was to encourage students to be a part of various University governing bodies and to reward and acknowledge their participation through financial compensation. For the 2023-2024 academic year, there were 30 students who received the financial award, totalling \$18,009.05.

Elana Bloom asked what was the purpose of the funding, and if there was any extra work that the students must do besides attend the meetings. The Chair shared that attending these councils was a financial barrier for those who must work less to attend. The Chair also clarified that the funding was only for the students that do not already get paid as part of their work for attending the councils through salaries. Elsa Younes shared that as a student representative, it

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was very helpful to encourage students to attend these meetings. D'Arcy shared that it was unfortunate that only 30 of the 69 potential students obtained funding; he wondered if what CCSL offers is not enough to draw students and stated that it was a lost potential to hear student voices.

Lauren Broad added that the financial award was calculated based on the Quebec resident tuition rate per credit for the year of participation; it adjusts according to the rate, which amounts to ~\$570 as the average amount of what each student received last year. Lauren Broad would share the information on CPRP after the meeting, and encouraged anyone who wished to further discuss the CPRP can request to have it added on the agenda for the next CCSL meeting.

**6.3. CCSL Sub-Committees:**

The Chair shared that CCSL had three sub-committees that needed members. She explained their mandates and who was needed as members on each sub-committee:

**6.3.1 CCSL Special Projects**

The Special Projects sub-committee reviews the applications for the CCSL Special Projects Fund and allocates funding to the projects. The Chair shared the time-sensitivity of filling this committee. A day would be set-aside to review the projects, which would be either during the week of October 16<sup>th</sup> or 23<sup>rd</sup>.

The sub-committee includes:

*Dean of Students as the Chair*

*5 undergraduate students (only 2 CSU executives)*

*2 graduate students*

*1 Continuing Education student – replaced by an additional undergraduate student as needed*

*1 faculty member*

*1 Student Services staff member*

*Secretary of CCSL (voting member)*

Leen Al Hijjawi, Moad Al Hjoj and Elsa Younes volunteered to sit as undergraduate student representatives, and Anna Barrafato volunteered to sit as the Student Services staff member representative.

**6.3.2 CCSL Awards**

The CCSL Awards sub-committee distributes awards to students, staff and faculty at Concordia for their outstanding contribution to student life.

The sub-committee includes:

*The Dean of Students or a delegate (Chair)*

*3 undergraduate students*

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*1 graduate student*  
*1 Student Services staff member from CCSL*  
*1 faculty member from CCSL*  
*CCSL Secretary (non-voting)*

Leen Al Hijawi Maria Chitoroaga, and Elsa Younes volunteered to sit as undergraduate student representatives, and Irene Petsopoulos had volunteered prior to the meeting to sit as the Student Services staff member representative. Julie Foisy agreed to chair the sub-committee once again.

**6.3.3 CCSL Student Groups**

The Student Groups sub-committee acts as a consultative body to the Dean of Students Office in approving new and disbanding existing student associations, groups and clubs. A meeting would be set for October.

The sub-committee includes:

*Dean of Students or delegate (Chair)*  
*2 student representatives from CCSL*  
*1 Student Services staff member from CCSL*  
*1 Permanent Observer from CCSL*  
*CCSL Secretary (non-voting)*

The Chair shared that the workload requirement for the sub-committee was very low, as the Dean of Students Office will have already vetted the requests, so the committee would discuss and provide a recommendation on behalf of the Council.

Elana Bloom volunteered to sit as the Chair, Matthew Fishman volunteered to sit as a Permanent Observer, and Maria Chitoroaga volunteered to sit as one of the student representatives. Irene Petsopoulos had volunteered prior to the meeting to be the Student Services staff member representative.

Lauren Broad added that she would share details about the remaining vacant seats for all the sub-committees after the meeting and that anyone could reach out to her with questions.

**7. New Business**

There was no new business at the meeting.

**8. Points of Interest**

The following items were shared with the Council:

- CCSL Special Projects Fund deadline was October 7<sup>th</sup>.
- Fall Convocation was October 15<sup>th</sup>. Students must register by Monday, September 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Reading Week was the week of October 14<sup>th</sup>: many services, including Health Services, would remain open.
- Career and Planning Services' Career Fair was October 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> in the EV atrium.



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- Accessibility Centre for Students with Disabilities' Career Fair was October 31<sup>st</sup> in MB9.

**9. Next Meeting**

The next meeting was scheduled for October 25th, 2024, at 10:00am in H655.

**10. Termination of Meeting**

Julie Foisy motioned to terminate the meeting, seconded by Elsa Younes.

**The motion carried unanimously.**