



STUDENT SERVICES

Concordia Council on Student Life

**Minutes of the Concordia Council on Student Life
Held on February 21, 2025 10:00am
Meeting held at SGW H-655**

PRESENT: Katie Broad (Chair), Lauren Broad (Secretary), Elana Bloom, Philippe Caignon, Maria Chitoroaga, Margaret Colton (on behalf of Julie Foisy), Matthew Fishman, Megan Fitzgibbons, Nadia Hardy, Cassandra Lamontagne, Erin Mullins, Irene Petsopoulos, Maria Safos, Christina Soulière-Gagliardi (on behalf of Sarah Caille).

ABSENT WITH REGRETS: Anna Barrafato, Melanie Burnett, Darren Dumoulin, Lauren Farley, Sarah Rahimi, D'Arcy Ryan.

ABSENT: Leen Al Hijjawi, Moad Al Hjoj, Annette Bowen, Rushin Makwana, Maya Youngs-Zaleski.

GUESTS: Daniel Amico (Minutes), Belen Blizzard (2SLGBTQIA+ Student Support Coordinator), Anna Timm-Bottos (CUCCR), Ryan Assaker (Arts & Science Federation of Associations), Jonah Doniewski & Julie Krier (Save the CUCCR).

1. Approval of the Agenda

Katie Broad noted that the presentation under "New Business" would take place at the beginning of the meeting, as Belen Blizzard had another commitment to go to. Maria Chitoroaga motioned to approve the agenda, seconded by Irene Petsopoulos. As there was no quorum, the Council agreed to accept the agenda without a vote and to proceed with the meeting.

2. Remarks from the Chair

Katie Broad started the meeting and wished the students good luck as midterms occur, and hoped that everyone was faring well with the recent snowstorms. She shared that Open House was hosted the past weekend and highlighted the work of the many students who were present to shared their experiences at the University and what they enjoy about being enrolled here with prospective students and their parents.

3. Approval of the Minutes from the Meeting of November 29, 2024

Maria Chitoroaga motioned to approve the minutes from the meeting held on November 29, 2024, seconded by Maria Safos. As there was no quorum, the motion would be approved at the next meeting.



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4. Business Arising from the Minutes of November 29, 2024

4.1 Presentation by CUCCR

The Chair reminded the Council that at the last meeting, Cassandra Lamontagne had spoken about the Concordia University Centre for Creative Reuse's status and financial challenges. The Council had discussed the possibility of providing financial support to CUCCR, however they felt that more information was needed. Therefore Anna Timm-Bottos, Project Coordinator at CUCCR, had been invited to give a presentation. The Chair also welcomed several students who would speak to the importance of the Centre: Julie Krier, Jonah Doniewski and Ryan Assaker. A presentation was given, and the final ask from CCSL was for a financial contribution of \$25,000: \$23,460.00 for student salaries and \$1,540.00 for student programming. Katie Broad thanked the presenters, who then left the meeting so that a discussion could take place. It was noted that without quorum, there would not be a vote at the meeting.

The Chair reminded the Council that there was approximately \$74,000 remaining in unused funds from the CCSL Special Projects Fund. This was the result of cancelled projects or unclaimed amounts that had accumulated over the years. In recent years, the unused funds had been used for the CCSL Big Hairy Ideas Competition, taking place in 2015-2016 and again in 2022-2023. The Chair noted that the Council could decide to use \$25,000 of the unused funds to support CUCCR, if they agreed, and that the balance would be left for another BHI Competition in future years.

A discussion ensued, with Council members asking about the sustainability of the CUCCR in future years: their concern was that CUCCR may return in the future requesting more funding from the CCSL. Cassandra Lamontagne confirmed that the University had committed to cover 75% of CUCCR's expenses for the next two fiscal years, FY26 and FY27, with the balance covered by other sources to be determined for FY27 and beyond. She agreed with the importance of securing long-term funding and stated that they had already started to pursue long-term sources, such as through Advancement and Alumni Relations, but that the process would take time.

Cassandra Lamontagne's hope was that support from the CCSL at this time would allow the CUCCR to continue its core services by expanding its student staff employment, giving the CUCCR more time to secure long-term financial commitments outside of the CCSL. Cassandra Lamontagne confirmed that the operating budget was for the salary of the Project Coordinator and the basic operating costs, most of which were covered by the University's contribution. Some Council members voiced their concern that the University was willing to cover the basic costs of running the Centre, but not enough to cover the budget in its entirety.

Several Council members noted how valuable the CUCCR had been in supporting students in their activities, as well as in providing resources for staff and faculty to operate and save in spending. Cassandra Lamontagne confirmed that there had been significant support from the



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student population and their efforts have been exemplified through the *Save the CUCCR* Campaign. She added that students had noticed a decline in services with loss of staff at the CUCCR and a reduction in service offerings.

The Chair thanked everyone for a thoughtful discussion and suggested that the Dean of Students Office prepare a motion to approve funding for the CUCCR, for consideration at the next CCSL meeting. The motion would be circulated by email prior to the meeting so that all Council members may review it ahead of time. The Council agreed to proceed accordingly.

5. Reports and Items of Information

5.1 CCSL Sub-Committees

CCSL Awards Sub-Committee

The Chair shared with the Council that the nomination deadline was Monday, February 3rd. 21 nominations were received, consisting of 10 undergraduates, 2 graduates, 2 faculty members and 7 staff members. The sub-committee would review the nominations online before the review meeting on February 26th. The recipients would be honoured at the Concordia Engagement Awards Celebration that would be held on Tuesday, April 22nd at the Loyola Chapel. Winners of the LIVE Centre Volunteer Recognition Awards and the Sustainability Champion Awards would also be recognized at the event. Everyone on CCSL would receive an invitation.

CCSL Special Projects Sub-Committee

The Chair shared with the Council that the winter application deadline was Monday, February 17th. 70 eligible projects were received, with a total requested amount of \$233,768.90. \$72,671.26 was available in the fund for all winter projects. The sub-committee would review the applications online before the review meeting on March 6th to make decisions on funding.

CCSL Student Groups Sub-Committee

The Chair shared with the Council that a new student group request had been received and would be reviewed by the sub-committee in the coming weeks.

6. New Business

6.1 Introduction to 2SLGBTQIA+ Student Support Coordinator

The Chair invited Belen Blizzard, 2SLGBTQIA+ Student Support Coordinator, to give a presentation to the Council about their role and the services they provide to students. The Council was invited to ask questions and share comments. The Chair thanked Belen Blizzard for their time. Several Council members noted that they would be interested in speaking more about possible collaboration and it was agreed that their contact information would be shared.



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7. Points of Interest

The following items were shared with the Council:

- Winter Reading Week: University services remain open however the University would be closed on Friday, February 28th;
- The deadline for students to start their application for Forces Avenir is March 31st;
- Graduate and undergraduate students preparing for graduation were encouraged to apply for the non-academic medals and awards by April 7th.

8. Next Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for March 21, 2025, at 10:00am, location TBD.

9. Termination of Meeting

Maria Chitoroaga motioned to terminate the meeting, seconded by Maria Safos.

The motion passed unanimously.