



STUDENT SERVICES

Concordia Council on Student Life

**Minutes of the Concordia Council on Student Life
Held on March 8, 2024 10:00am
Hybrid Meeting at SGW H-655 & on Zoom**

PRESENT: Lauren Broad (Interim Chair), Daniel Amico (Interim Secretary), Ashley Allen, Tanou Bah, Paul Blouin (on behalf of Diane Cmor), Lisa Crittenden (on behalf of Matthew Fishman), Julie Foisy, Sumaiya Gangat, Victoria Gorman, Charbel Hachem, Nadia Hardy, Cassandra Lamontagne, Irene Petsopoulos, Sarah Rahimi, D'Arcy Ryan, Maria Safos, Antoinette Scaringi, Maya Youngs-Zaleski, Masoumeh Zaare.

ABSENT WITH REGRETS: Elana Bloom, Kiara Madison Nunes-Mancini.

ABSENT: Annette Bowen, Melanie Burnett, Sarah Caille, Melissa Calderisi, Alexandrah Cardona, Darren Dumoulin, Hua Ge, Emma Girgis, Coco Mariano, Christian Taboada.

GUESTS: Teanna Munro (NouLa Black Student Centre).

1. Approval of the Agenda

Ashley Allen moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Victoria Gorman.

The motion was put to a vote:

In favour: 11

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

The motion passed unanimously.

2. Remarks from the Chair

The Chair started the meeting with a Territorial Acknowledgement. She hoped those that had time off for reading week enjoyed it and remarked that there were less than six weeks to the end of the winter semester. Lauren Broad went over the agenda of the meeting, confirming the budget presentations from Nadia Hardy for Student Services and D'Arcy Ryan for Recreation & Athletics, as well as department presentations from Teanna Munro from the NouLa Black Student Centre and Cassandra Lamontagne from the Office of Sustainability.

3. Approval of the Minutes from the Meeting of January 19, 2024

Victoria Gorman moved to approve the minutes from the meeting held on January 19, 2024, seconded by Maria Safos.

STUDENT SERVICES

Concordia Council on Student Life

The motion was put to a vote:

In favour: 9

Against: 0

Abstentions: 2

The motion passed.

4. Business Arising from the Minutes of January 19, 2024

There was no business arising from the minutes of January 19, 2024.

5. Reports and Items of Information

5.1 Student Services and Recreation & Athletics Financials Presentations

The Chair invited Nadia Hardy to present the financial report of the 2022-2023 year-end statement and the 2023-2024 approved budget. Paul Blouin asked if it were correct that the budget from 2022-2023 was perfectly balanced. Nadia Hardy confirmed that there had been a deficit, however the Student Services sector was fortunate to be able to cover the discrepancy with the surplus of past years. She noted that this would not be a sustainable option for future years.

The Chair invited D'Arcy Ryan to present the financial report of the 2022-2023 year-end statement and the 2023-2024 approved budget. After the presentation, D'Arcy Ryan called attention to the fact that only Student Services and Recreation & Athletics were asked to present their budgets to the Council and he wondered if it was necessary to continue to do so. D'Arcy Ryan explained that gathering information for the presentation was quite time consuming and he questioned if the Council benefited from the process. The Chair gave historical context that the CCSL used to approve the budgets before they were sent to the Board of Governors, and so the financial presentations had continued to be a point of interest for the Council. She thanked him for sharing the feedback and said that it would be taken into consideration.

5.2. CCSL Sub-Committees

5.2.1 CCSL Special Projects: update on the winter 2024 applications

The Chair invited Julie Foisy, Chair of the CCSL Special Projects Sub-Committee, to present an update on the winter 2024 Special Projects applications. Julie Foisy reminded the Council that there was \$165,000 available in the Special Projects Fund each fiscal year. \$20,000 was earmarked annually for the CSU Housing and Job Resource Centre (HOJO) and \$20,000 was earmarked for the Committee Participation Recognition Program (CPRP). The remaining \$125,000 was for the CCSL Special Projects Fund, with two application deadlines per year. In the fall semester, the CCSL sub-committee approved \$67,643, which left a balance of \$57,357 available for all winter semester projects.



STUDENT SERVICES

Concordia Council on Student Life

The sub-committee, consisting of Julie Foisy, Lauren Broad, Irene Petsopoulos, Victoria Gorman, Charbel Hachem and Christian Taboada, met on February 21st and reviewed 46 eligible applications. Julie Foisy shared that the total amount requested for the 46 projects to be reviewed was \$178,498.97: there were 37 applications requesting \$5,000 or less (for a total of \$83,717.83) and 9 applications requesting over \$5,000 (for a total of \$94,781.14).

36 projects were approved, with a total amount allocated of \$57,354.54: this included 32 projects requesting \$5,000 or less, with \$41,334.54 allocated; and 4 projects requesting over \$5,000, with \$16,020 allocated. There remained a balance of \$2.46 in the Special Projects Fund.

The sub-committee recommended to the Council that they consider reducing the maximum amount requested from \$20,000 to somewhere between \$5,000 and \$10,000. The reasoning is that students may have unrealistic expectations of what amount they may receive from the Special Projects Fund.

On average over the past 4 years, CCSL has received between 2 and 4.5 times more in requests per year than what was available in the fund. Because of this, many applicants receive only a fraction of what they request from the CCSL. The sub-committee believed that this was creating high expectations and felt that the maximum amount requested should be reduced to a more realistic amount.

If the Council agreed, a motion would be prepared for the April Council meeting to be considered for approval. Any changes would take effect in the 2024-2025 funding year.

D'Arcy Ryan asked whether lowering the amount would give pressure to the sub-committee to fully fund the applications. Julie Foisy responded that the sub-committee would continue to review projects robustly and with scrutiny. The Chair added that the overall spirit of lowering the limit is to give the applicants more realistic expectations. The Council agreed to consider a motion at the next Council meeting.

5.2.2. CCSL Awards: update on the nominations

The Chair invited Julie Foisy, Chair of the CCSL Awards Sub-Committee, to present an update on the CCSL Outstanding Contribution Awards nominations. The sub-committee received 21 nominations, one of which was ineligible, as a letter of support was not provided, despite follow-up. Of the 20 that were considered, there were 6 undergraduate students, 3 graduate students, 3 faculty and 8 staff nominations. The sub-committee met on February 20th to make their decisions. A total of 8 recipients were chosen: 2 undergraduate students, 1 graduate student, 2 faculty members and 3 staff members.

It was noted that the Engagement Awards Celebration would be held on Tuesday, April 16th from 4–6pm at the Loyola Chapel. The Council would receive an invitation in early April and they were encouraged to attend.

6. New Business

To learn and create more opportunity for collaboration, the Chair recalled that several offices that support students had been invited to present at the Council meetings throughout the year. Lauren Broad hoped that the presentations would expand the CCSL's understanding of what was available at the university and to spark interest.

6.1 Presentation from the NouLa Black Student Centre

The Chair invited Teanna Munro from the NouLa Black Student Centre to give a presentation to the Council about their department and the services they provide to black students. The Council was invited to ask questions and share comments. The Chair thanked them for their time.

6.2 Presentation from the Office of Sustainability

The Chair invited Cassandra Lamontagne to give a presentation to the Council about the Office of Sustainability. The Council was invited to ask questions and share comments. The Chair thanked them for their time.

7. Points of Interest

The following items were shared with the Council members:

- The student association elections were happening over the next several weeks
- The Concordia Engagement Awards Celebration was to be held on April 16th at 4pm at the Loyola Chapel. All Council members would receive an invitation.
- Entrance bursaries for newly admitted students would be open from March 3rd to April 3rd
- In-Course bursaries would be open from April 1st to May 1st
- Work-study applications could be submitted as of March 15th and will be posted on the FAAO's work-study webpage as of April 1st
- The Loyola Sustainability Research Centre would host their annual *Sustainability Across Disciplines* conference from March 11th – 15th. The theme was "Hope and agency in uncertain times"
- The Stingers' Women's hockey team won their 3rd consecutive RCQ championship and would be representing Concordia at the U Sports Women's Ice Hockey Championship hosted by the University of Saskatchewan.

8. Next Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for April 5, 2024 at 10am, in-person at SGW-H-655 or virtually on Zoom.

9. Termination of Meeting

Maria Safos motioned to terminate the meeting, seconded by D'Arcy Ryan.



STUDENT SERVICES

Concordia Council on Student Life

The motion was put to a vote:

In favour: 12

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

The motion passed unanimously.