

CSU Special Council Meeting – Agenda Wednesday, January 14th, 2015 H-767, 18h30, S.G.W Campus

- 1. Call to Order
- 2. Roll Call
- 3. Approval of the Agenda
- 4. Consent Agenda
 - a) Approval of Minutes December 10th, 2014
 - b) Standing Committee Reports
 - c) CUSACorp Report
 - d) Chairperson's Report
 - e) Executive Reports
 - f) Reports from University Bodies
 - g) Positions Book
- 5. Presentations and Guest Speakers
- 6. Appointments
 - a) Loyola Committee
- 7. Returning Business
 - a) Reggie's
- 8. New Business Informational
 - a) President's Report



- b) CSU Website
- c) Daycare Report
- 9. New Business Substantive
- 10. Question Period & Business Arising
- 11. Announcements
- 12. Adjournment



CSU Special Council Meeting – Minutes Wednesday, January 14th, 2015 H-767, 18h30, S.G.W Campus

1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting is called to order at 18h38.

We would like to acknowledge that Concordia university is on the traditional territory of the Kanien'keha:ka (Ga-niyen-gé-haa-ga), a place which has long served as a site of meeting and exchange amongst nations. Concordia recognizes, and respects the Kanien'keha:ka (Ga-niyen-gé-haa-ga) as the traditional custodians of the lands and waters on which we meet today.

2. ROLL CALL

Executives present for the duration of the meeting were *Katherine Bellini* (VP Clubs & Internal Affairs), *harles Bourassa* (VP Student Life), *Jessica Cabana* (VP Sustainability), *Anthony Garoufalis-Auger* (VP External Affairs & Mobilization), *Heather Nagy* (VP Finance), *Benjamin Prunty* (President), *Gabriel Velasco* (VP Loyola), and *Terry Wilkings* (VP Academic & Advocacy).

Councillors present for the duration of the meeting were Jeremy Blinkhorn (Fine Arts), Marie Brière de la Hosseraye (Independent), Scott Carr (JMSB), Jenna Cocullo (Arts & Science), Emily Fisher (Arts & Science), Faddy Kamel (ENCS), Paul Jerajian (Arts & Science), Lucinda Marshall-Kisparissis (Arts & Science), Caroline Messier-Gémes (JMSB), Marion Miller (Fine Arts), Nicholaos Mouzourakis (ENCS), Terry Ngala (Independent), Angelica Novielli (Arts & Science), Matthew Palynchuk (Arts & Science), Marcus Peters (Arts & Science), Thomas Radcliffe (Arts & Science), Michael Richardson (JMSB), Vicky Rodgers (JMSB), Taimur Tanoli (JMSB), James Tyler Vaccaro (Arts & Science), Chloë Williams (Arts & Science) and Rami Yahia (ENCS).

Councillors absent for the duration of the meeting granted reprieve were John Talbot (Arts & Science).

Councillors absent for the duration of the meeting not granted reprieve were *Gemma Acco* (Arts & Science), *Maylen Cytryn* (JMSB), *Jason Poirier-Lavoie* (Arts & Science), *Jeremy Tessier* (Arts & Science) and *Emma Wilson* (Fine Arts).

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Chair: We have one absence from John who is out of the city.

Vicky Rodgers moves to excuse **John Talbot**'s absence. Seconded by **Michael Richardson**.

VOTE



In favour: 15 Opposed: 0

Abstentions: 1 (Nicholaos)

Motion carries.

Vicky Rodgers pulls out *President's Report* from *4. Consent Agenda* to be discussed under *8. New Business – Informational*.

James Tyler Vaccaro adds CSU Website to be discussed under 8. New Business – Informational.

VOTE

In favour: 18 Opposed: 0 Abstentions: 0

Motion carries.

Vicky Rodgers moves to approve all items under *4. Consent Agenda*. Seconded by **Matthew Palynchuk**.

VOTE

In favour: 17 Opposed: 0

Abstentions: 3 (Nicholaos, Michael, Scott)

Motion carries.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

a) Approval of Minutes – December 10th, 2014

Ratified by consent.

b) Standing Committee Reports

Ratified by consent.

c) CUSACorp Report

Ratified by consent.

d) Chairperson's Report



Ratified by consent.

e) Executive Reports

Ratified by consent.

f) Reports from University Bodies

Ratified by consent.

g) Positions Book

Ratified by consent.

5. PRESENTATIONS & GUEST SPEAKERS

No presentations or guest speakers at this meeting of Council.

6. APPOINTMENTS

a) Loyola Committee

Gabriel Velasco: As with the last meeting, there is one vacant councillor position so we can begin the nomination process. Is anyone interested in the one vacant Loyola Committee councillor spot?

Jeremy Blinkhorn: When does the committee meet?

Gabriel Velasco: The meeting day which works for everyone this year is on Monday afternoon, and we alternate between the campuses downtown and Loyola as much as possible. We are alright for councillors right now, but if you would like to join, you are more than welcome.

Rami Yahia nominates Faddy Kamel.

Faddy Kamel accepts.

Rami Yahia: **Faddy** is someone who likes to get involved in different activities and he is organized and would contribute greatly. He has many great ideas he has spoken to me about and would work well with this committee.

Faddy Kamel: So the committee basically manages everything on Loyola Campus? Does it do the services, events and things?

Gabriel Velasco: We have direct input in most things which happen with regards to the CSU on Loyola. We will be reviewing the budget and helping out other unions on campus with respect to funding.



Things to look forward to are a couple of events we are hosting. A project last semester was the Hive Cafe and now we will continue with the art project and finalizing this. I will bring you up to speed on everything though.

James Tyler Vaccaro: Do you have classes on the Loyola Campus?

Faddy Kamel: No, but the meetings alternate between downtown and there.

Gabriel Velasco: We alternate them by the week. There have been More downtown than at Loyola so far, so maybe this semester it will be the opposite to balance it out. It is not a huge deal if you are not a Loyola student. I recognize that there are no other committees available.

VOTE

In favour: 19 Opposed: 0 Abstentions: 0

Motion carries.

7. RETURNING BUSINESS – INFORMATIONAL

a) Reggie's

Vicky Rodgers: I had a lot of students who reached me in order to know what is going on with Reggie's, when is it due to be completed in terms of renovations, and also if there would be any conflict with Concordia's administration, and I would like to have some answers to these questions.

Benjamin Prunty: There is no conflict with the university regarding Reggie's. Maybe **Kate** could give a brief update about the progress and when we could expect construction to be finished.

Katherine Bellini: The last update we had was that we approved the conceptual design phase, and right now the architectural firm is increasing the amount of details on the space so that we can go to tender. As is stands, the project should be completed and the construction phase started in late February or March. The timeline needs to be adjusted so we cannot give a final date. I have not met with the representative since the break, which should happen this week, and next Council I will have the documents.

Benjamin Prunty: When we say that construction should start in February, this means that large expenses will need to be approved by Council, and then we will also need to answer questions as to whether or not board has legitimacy to approve such large expenses. This will be a large issue coming up and it will be up to Council on how to move forward. I will make recommendations, but I have not solidified them yet.

Vicky Rodgers: What is the worst case scenario in terms of a timeline?



Benjamin Prunty: September is the most likely scenario, no matter what.

James Tyler Vaccaro: Kate's presentation in November was really good and provided a lot of information. It might be useful to present a condensed version of that to students like in the newsletter, or have an information session or workshops. It will ease the amount of questions and raise interest at the same time.

Benjamin Prunty: There are multiple projects that we need to do that with, and we are considering something like a mandatory clubs event to tell them about these things, and we are looking at options to get the rest of the information out. We definitely need to do that since it is a big deal.

Katherine Bellini: The project was discussed at the Council retreat and I presented over two (2) days the project, so that we are all on the same page internally. Now we are considering creating some kind of presentation package to the students-at-large.

8. NEW BUSINESS – INFORMATIONAL

a) President's Report

Vicky Rodgers: The report reads, "On top of this, we will also need to be highly communicative about our financial situation and how we intend on resolving the significant cash-flow issues that we see coming during the mandate following ours." Last June I asked **Heather** a question concerning the fact that next year's executive cannot face certain challenges, and I would like to have some kind of answer on those financial issues for next year.

Heather Nagy: I gave an update of the cash flow analysis at the Council Retreat in full. Since we overcame this issue in October, the major problem I have written about is the nature of CSU activities and when they happen. The largest ones happen at Orientation before we get the fee levies in from the students in October. We overcame that this year with careful planning and maneuvering, and it looks like now the CSU will run into the next cash flow problem as early as next August or September. Next year's executive team will be in a time crunch for two (2) to three (3) months until they get their fee levies, but we have not yet devised a concrete plan to be brought to Council as to how to circumvent that. As it stands, this current year will not come up against any cash flow problems as all expenses are on track. I do not want to leave next year in a bad situation, and it may be as simple and when the Orientation expenses are paid, and at what time. We were proud to pay them off right away, but maybe we should have left paying some of the larger suppliers to October. We have some ideas about spending caps. A lot of this will be included in the mid-mandate report, or if you are interested in seeing it prior we can make time.

Vicky Rodgers: The issue is that the next year's elections will happen in two (2) months which does not give a lot of time for teams that plan on running to make some kind of financial projection of their capacities. When is the financial update going to be done, and when will the plan be known for future years?

Heather Nagy: Well a lot of that will be seen next meeting in the mid-mandate report, and hopefully



there will be other things to bring to the table in terms of changing the Standing Regulations or having Council adopt an idea of financial sustainability for the future of the CSU in the February or March meeting. I am very aware that elections are coming up and we should make sure that we have a better idea as a board, and that the board is going in the right direction. I have spoken a bit at Council and the Finance Committee about making sure that the way the budget is done next year will be more in collaboration with myself and the finance team, or Robert mostly, because it is sort of problematic coming into office and being asked for an annual budget without enough time to create one. These are the biggest concerns for the incoming team, that the budget should be set out for things like payroll increases, which is a major cost, administrative expense increases which lumps our phone, legal services and operational expenses, and the last big discretionary line that is all the student discretionary budgets lumped into one consolidated projected line, or how much can be expected to increase in those amounts. I am aware of the timeliness, but everything is timely in this job and I am not very worried. There will be about four (4) pages of finances.

Scott Carr: I was wondering if these finance reports have been sent out to councillors?

Heather Nagy: Some have been sent out.

Scott Carr: I have not received anything and it would be nice to see them.

Heather Nagy: I will send out the finance presentation done for Council Retreat and people can see where we are at with the finance projects.

Scott Carr: About cash flow issues, would it be possible to get an update about how the university's new accounting system would modify inflows of cash, and more for just in general, every student organization goes through the same cash flow issue in August so it is not that concerning.

Michael Richardson: Would you be able to know if there are cost-cutting possibilities that you could incur this year which might offset the challenges moving into next year?

Heather Nagy: Yes. Robert does all of the administrative salary projections according to the collective agreement, because that is his expertise and he is working on it right now. This will be in the midmandate report.

Michael Richardson: It might be a good idea to sit down with next year's executive and build next year's budget with them. New executives come in with little experience and you have all the experience. I would like to make this a formal recommendation.

Heather Nagy: I think that this should be a policy and that we should develop it as a Standing Regulation and submit it to the Policy Committee for review and bring it to Council to ratify. This should be in writing so that the CSU has knowledge of their own finances from year to year.

Benjamin Prunty: It is painful to cost-cut, but things like the fact that we have not hired a Sustainability Coordinator even though we wanted are part of this, simply because right now it is not a good idea. This is kind of the standard method of cost-cutting.



Vicky Rodgers: Do you plan to submit a fee levy increase?

Benjamin Prunty: No, definitely not. Council votes on this, but it is not in the plan.

Terry Wilkings moves to approve the President's Report. Seconded by **Chloë Williams**.

VOTE

In favour: 21 Opposed: 0

Abstentions: 1 (Nicholaos)

Motion carries.

b) CSU Website

James Tyler Vaccaro: I read The Link article and looked at the website – does it have the ability to do what the old one did on the backend like clubs access, updating information, etc? I do not see this feature.

Charles Bourassa: That will all be on the website by early February.

Chair: I was speaking with the IT coordinator and he walked me through the way clubs can become a new club. He showed me the application forms and abut six (6) clubs have set up pages so it seems to be accessible.

Charles Bourassa: If anyone has recommendations, we are meeting tomorrow to talk about the content and page structures, so you can send things my way if there is anything.

Benjamin Prunty moves to take a ten (10)-minute recess. Seconded by **Matthew Palynchuk**.

VOTE

In favour: 14 Opposed: 1 Abstentions: 0

Motion carries.

Meeting enters recess at 19h07.

Meeting reconvenes at 19h22.

c) Daycare Report



Terry Wilkings: I figured I would just give a bit of a history of how we got here - over the summer, several discussion were had indicating a lack of support the university has been providing to student parents. There was the Concordia University Student Parents Centre (CUSP) Report which outlined various barriers to success student parents face which came out in September. We presented to Council the options of producing a report on daycares and the CSU. Luckily, Council agreed to finance the report and we were working in collaboration with Sara Mengel, who has been working in the child service sector for several years in both Quebec and Ontario, and she diligently reviewed a lot of the resources available in a public form. She also discussed this with key actors at other university daycare systems such as the one at the Students' Society of McGull University (SSMU) and the Confédération des Associations d'étudiants et étudiantes de l'Université Laval (CADEUL) which also has a student-run daycare service. The report outlines many different elements - all of the requirements which must be satisfied in order to qualify as a centre de la petite enfance (CPE) (subsidized daycare), and substantial considerations which must be included in being prudent moving forward. Besides that, in the byelections in November we asked a question to students asking if the CSU should continue prioritizing this, and students were overwhelmingly in support - 87% voted in favour, which was the second most supported question besides the student housing initiative. Following this outcome, we spoke with Roget Cote the VP Services and set up a meeting before the end of the semester. I was very pleased as it was a very positive gesture made when Roger decided to include Martine, the director of space planning of the university, in the meeting, which is a strong indicator of them planning to do this instead of postponing it for several months. They were concerned with what our preferences were and whether we were aware of the bureaucracy to qualify as a CPE and what that means, and the production of the report was helpful in demonstrating to the university that we are aware of what we are getting ourselves into before applying for a permit to operate. Secondly, we need to apply for the permit to become a CPE. Several locations have been discussed at both campuses and I do not really want to go into specifics since these are hypothetically suggestions which are now being explored. I received an email from Roger half an hour before the meeting saying that we will meet soon to discuss the feasibility. Besides that, I can answer questions about the daycare document. I had sent it out relatively late (later than ideal), but some councillors are very passionate about having the project succeed. If you want to set up a meeting outside of Council, we could discuss how to move forward. Heather will touch on the finances.

Heather Nagy: Sarah Mengel initially gave us several Excel tables which delineated the costs she foresaw in the running of a daycare and its set-up. I consolidated all of those numbers into the finance estimates in the document, and it is a very rough overview of the sorts of supplies necessary for each of the stations, going from necessary to ideal, including an office and kitchen set-up. We must serve one hot meal and two (2) snacks at a minimum. The operating costs in terms of staff is in three (3) columns in the document on page 17 which start with twenty-four (24), fifty (50) and eighty (80) as the number of spots, which indicates the number of children. The details are in the report. The feasibility of the CSU financing this project and at what level, and also to do the estimate for that against what the provincial subsidy would be is in a box at the bottom of the page on page 17.

Terry Wilkings: Something I forgot to mention which I spoke about to **Michael** is that the biggest variable before speaking definitively is where the daycare will be located. The size of the space will determine the number of spots. We are required 2.3 feet per child from age x to y, and this changes per



age of the child. After this, we will scope the scale of the renovations. The biggest variable or unknown in the project is the space and where it will be. Hopefully we will know very soon though.

Heather Nagy: One last thing abut the finances – the provincial subsidy listed in the table is just one subsidy available to CPEs under the Ministère de la famille. We also have access to a set-up grant which is on average \$8 000 but could range from \$5 000 to \$20 000. It is sort of difficult to estimate costs without knowing the space though. Everything would follow from this. Overall from this document though, it seems financially feasible.

Terry Ngala: In terms of location, do you have any leads?

Terry Wilkings: We are discussing having the daycare be located on either the downtown campus or at Loyola. What Martine was trying to communicate is that the university has a finite amount of space that they call their own and many competing actors are trying to procure this space. Just the fact that this is being spring-boarded as a priority is a great indicator. Now it is just a matter of sussing out the priorities of the university in terms of their own projects and how we can insert the need for this in the general need of space. Downtown, we are looking in the Quarter Concordia area.

Vicky Rodgers: Are the internships planned for the Child Studies program going to be paid or unpaid?

Terry Wilkings: There was a section (pretty minimal) talking about the pedagogical benefits of the CSU having a daycare centre. It is feasible for students at Concordia to do the internship here, and in terms of whether they will be paid, I think this is a conversation to be had once the daycare exists. We are way too early in to the process to determine whether it would be paid or unpaid. I would like for it to be paid though because I think that interns should be paid, although I do not feel that we could respond right now.

Taimur Tanoli: As a new councillor I think that the project is a great initiative. I was wondering, space constrictions aside, have we done some kind of analysis to see how many spots we would need?

Terry Wilkings: Fortunately you missed my rants about the CUSP report, as in it it describes the national average in terms of student parents in post-secondary as being around 11%. In the quantitative aspect of the report there was an unbiased survey (no mention of student parents) with a 10% response rate. If the national average was 11% and the response rate was around 10%, it might be safe to say that it is actually around 10%. Something which I have considered is the ability of us to collaborate with the GSA, however I have not fully approached the conversation yet. I am speaking with many uncertainties right now, though what we might be able to do is earmark spots for the GSA and maybe have finances from them, but I would rather know th space before speaking in numbers. There are a lot of graduate students and international students as well. Concordia has a non-traditional student body with a lot of mature students and permanently part-time students, and I would like to be able to satisfy the demand for this service.

Marion Miller: I am a student in Art Education and I just wanted to clarify that education internships are run closely in collaboration with the MELS and none are currently paid. I think the project would be great if Education students would push for paid internships. There is a huge number of hours required



for these, but I think it would be great if we started pushing for paid internships since there are such a large number of stages. I just wanted to separate the two issues.

Scott Carr: If I am not mistaken, there is still a significant amount of funding which needs to come from somewhere. Where would it come from? Also, I noticed in terms of insurance, where is that included?

Heather Nagy: About the last comment, the set-up costs say without construction, but are also under the assumption that under the CSU, the university administration would graciously grant us their space. Those particular costs you normally see would not be included as it is assumed that the CSU's insurance would be able to cover it. Things like rent and phone were included in the original estimate but we decided to take them out since they are particular to the CSU. In terms of where the money would come from, it would be Council's discretion, but maybe the SSAELC since it is about space.

Terry Wilkings: In terms of the start-up costs, that is where we feel that the SSAELC would be used, and in terms of operating costs, there could be a collaboration with the Graduate Students Association (GSA) in terms of subsidies and grants. There has already been a long-term reshuffling of the internal CSU expenses throughout the year, and luckily we assumed that the by-election question would be successful, and seeing as it has been, we have taken that into consideration in terms of constructing longterm plans for the CSU.

Vicky Rodgers: What kind of financial range would we be looking at concerning the SSAELC?

Terry Wilkings: The reason why we mentioned the big unknown variable is because that will determine the range with respect to this question. If the space bigger, it will be larger, but if the space is smaller, it will reflect that. I would feel a lot more comfortable responding to a range once we know the space.

Vicky Rodgers: What is the biggest range possible?

Benjamin Prunty: The Advocacy Centre was over \$100 000 and not very large, but this will be larger, though not as large as Reggie's and The Hive. We do not know the specifics.

James Tyler Vaccaro: Are you reallocation the existing operating budget or removing funding from other portfolios? Without an increase of the fee levy, is what you are getting at?

Benjamin Prunty: Basically, the way we look at the SSAEL, is that at some point it will have to become operating for whatever purpose. Say we buy a building, which is not likely, someone would need to operate the building ,so we would just shift the purpose of the fund. It is not like taking it out of operating and reducing funding to something else though.

James Tyler Vaccaro: I know the university runs one or two daycare services at Loyola and the Grey Nuns. Has there been any conversation with the administration to collaborate with these to cut cost and use the space?

Terry Wilkings: Absolutely. One element is an outdoor play space, and when exploring these, one possible outcome was the sharing with the Grey Nuns daycare. The university is appreciative of this



need along with the limited ability to fund this.

9. NEW BUSINESS - SUBSTANTIVE

No informational new business was discussed at this meeting of Council.

10. QUESTION PERIOD & BUSINESS ARISING

Katherine Bellini: Since there are new councillors and I take care of ordering of food, does anyone have any dietary needs they would like to share with me? Are there any vegans, gluten-free or vegetarian people?

Marcus Peters: This is to Terry – next time you make report, please make the font a lot darker.

Terry Wilkings: I will re-re-iterate this to the designers.

Scott Carr: What is the Student Space, Accessible Education and Legal Contingency (SSAELC) Fund earning in returns currently?

Heather Nagy: We renewed our GICs and they are at 1.4%.

Scott Carr: The current CPI is higher. Essentially, we are losing money every day that it is in there.

Heather Nagy: No, we are gaining 1.4% as it is a GIC.

Benjamin Prunty: We are dealing with it right now. We kind of have complicated mandates for investment firms and bureaucratic structures. We are talking with Divest Concordia and we also have the BDS mandate, and so we are working on these things. Last week we met with an investment firm and we are prioritizing our investments right now, there are just a lot of people to talk to. It is moving forward though.

Vicky Rodgers: The 1.4% return, are we talking nominal rate or real rate of return?

Heather Nagy: I will say that we invested \$9.2 million, renewed the GIC with Scotia Bank, and have a guaranteed return of 1.4%, so we will get 1.4% on the \$9.2 million. I wrote down the question of what we are losing if we are not invested in something else and will get an answer for you.

Paul Jerajian: It is most likely nominal. GICs are 1.4% across the board, nominal.

Nicholaos Mouzourakis: The inflation rate was 1.95% in Canada in 2014.

Scott Carr: What is going on with our health plan premiums and rates? How much is the margin that the CSU is making one the administrative fee? What ended up happening with that scenario? What are the projections for future years, and how are we dealing with it?



Heather Nagy: I feel like I do not have all the answers but I will bring this back for the next meeting. I will put it in my report and bring it back at the next meeting and get in touch. I have a meeting with the Alliance pour la santé étudiante du Québec (ASEQ) on Friday.

Benjamin Prunty: It is in the budget. I do not know the specific number either though. **Heather** and I had a conversation about putting this on the website as soon as possible, although this is not the right number. Basically, what we are at is the top of where we can be before we need to decrease or increase the amount of healthcare we can provide. We have not started these conversations with ASEQ about what we are planning for next year. We will return to Council, though I do not know specifically when, but before elections.

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Matthew Palynchuk: The Undergraduate Journal of political Science and Political Affairs is asking for submissions. If you have anything related to political science, feel free to submit it.

Charles Bourassa: We have an SPF deadline tomorrow at midnight, in roughly 24 hours. The application can be found on the website under Student Life. If you have any questions, contact me during office hours from 12h00-14h00. We have \$5000-\$6000 to be given away.

Katherine Bellini: We kind of compiled all of the new clubs we approved this year and it might be interesting to note that there are about fifteen (15) new clubs that we have approved. This is really exciting and I hope that there will be more coming during the winter semester. If you want more information, contact me and soon and we will update everything on the website.

Chair: I wanted to give a thank you to **Terry** who collected the documents and responded to councillors. Everyone was in good hands, myself included.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Marcus Peters moves to adjourn. Seconded by **Matthew Palynchuk**.

VOTE

In favour: 19 Opposed: 0 Abstentions: 0

Motion carries.

Meeting is adjourned at 19h58.



CSU Special Council Meeting Wednesday, January 14th, 2015 H-767, 18h30, S.G.W Campus

Summary of Motions Carried

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

A motion was carried to excuse John Talbot's absence.

- Vicky Rodgers (Michael Richardson)

6. APPOINTMENTS

a) Loyola Committee

Following a vote by roll call, Faddy Kamel is appointed to the Loyola Committee.

8. NEW BUSINESS – INFORMATIONAL

a) President's Report

A motion was carried to approve the President's Report.

– Terry Wilkings (Chloë Williams)