



## Concordia Student Union – Council of Representatives

**CSU Special Council Meeting – Agenda**  
**Thursday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017**  
**CSU Conference Room, 18h30, S.G.W. Campus**

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Roll Call**
- 3. Appointment of a CEO**
- 4. Bill 62**
- 5. Adjournment**

**Meeting officially called by CSU General Coordinator Omar Riaz as per By- Law 6.6.3**



## Concordia Student Union – Council of Representatives

### CSU Special Council Meeting – Minutes

Thursday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017

CSU Conference Room, 18h30, S.G.W. Campus

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting is called to order at 18h49.

*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

Council Chairperson: *Caitlin Robinson*

Council Minute Keeper (Interim): *Leyla Sutherland*

Executives present for the duration of the meeting were *Ahmed Badr* (External Affairs Coordinator), *Devon Ellis-Durity* (Sustainability Coordinator), *Omar Riaz* (General Coordinator), *Veronika Rydzewski* (Internal & Clubs Coordinator) and *Leyla Sutherland* (Student Life Coordinator).

Councillors present for the duration of the meeting were *Dylan Applebaum* (JMSB), *Rowan Gaudet* (Arts & Science), *Charlotte Genest* (Arts & Science), *Rim Hamila* (ENCS), *Eamon Toohey* (Arts & Science), *Tabea Vischer* (Arts & Science) and *Peter Zhuang* (Fine Arts).

Executives absent for the duration of the meeting were *Soulaymane El Alaoui* (Finance Coordinator), *Asma Mushtaq* (Academic & Advocacy Coordinator) and *Maria Gabriela Polanco* (Loyola Coordinator).

Councillors absent for the duration of the meeting were *Rory Blaisdell* (JMSB), *Mikaela Clark-Gardner* (Fine Arts), *Ahmed Jemma* (ENCS), *Khadija Komah* (ENCS), *Jeremy Laxer* (Arts & Science), *Alienor Lougerstay* (ENCS), *Patrick H. Magallanes* (Arts & Science), *Ali Sherra* (Arts & Science), *Julia Sutera Sardo* (Arts & Science), *Camille Thompson-Marchand* (Arts & Science), *Sally Younis* (ENCS) and *Aouatif Zebiri* (Arts & Science).

**Omar Riaz** moves to excuse **Asma Mushtaq**, **Soulaymane El Alaoui** and **Maria Gabriela Polanco** from this meeting of Council.

Seconded by **Rowan Gaudet**.

*Carries unanimously.*

**Omar Riaz** moves to add 4. *Bill 62* to the agenda, notwithstanding Standing Regulation 50.

Seconded by **Rim Hmila**.



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*Carries unanimously.*

### **3. APPOINTMENT OF CEO**

**Leyla Sutherland** moves to go into closed session  
Seconded by **Omar Riaz**.

*Carries unanimously.*

**Ali Sherra** moves to appoint Nicholas Roberts as the CSU's Chief Electoral Officer.  
Seconded by **Rim Hmila**.

*Motion carries.*

**Leyla Sutherland** moves to enter open session  
Seconded by **Ali Sherra**.

*Carries unanimously.*

### **4. BILL 62**

**Omar Riaz:**

WHEREAS the CSU represents the rights, interests, aspirations and needs of more than 30,000 students of Concordia University who come from different racial, ethnocultural and religious backgrounds, and countries, of whom many are Muslim women and men;

WHEREAS the CSU supports and adheres to fundamental rights and freedoms enshrined in international and domestic human rights instruments, such as the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and the Quebec Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms;

WHEREAS the CSU support high quality, universally accessible postsecondary education as a fundamental human right for all;

WHEREAS the CSU values and promotes the values and principles of equality, diversity, inclusion and an intersectional feminist and anti-oppression approach towards all its endeavors and actions;

WHEREAS the CSU is opposed to any law, regulation, policy and action, public or private, that has the effect of negating, diminishing, compromising and violating the fundamental rights and freedoms enshrined in international and domestic human rights instruments;

WHEREAS different provisions of Bill 62, as recently adopted by the Quebec National Assembly, bans the wearing of face coverings for people giving and receiving a public service, in the name of religious neutrality and gender equality;

WHEREAS these provisions of Bill 62 target and disproportionately affect Muslim women in Quebec, who are Concordia students and CSU members, and that overall Bill 62, in its



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application, produces exclusionary consequences for those that lead to further discrimination, penalization and marginalization;

WHEREAS several provisions of Bill 62 constitute a legislated barrier and deterrent for Muslim women's right to education, receive different services from and enjoy employment opportunities at Concordia University;

WHEREAS several provisions of Bill 62 essentially create, entrench and perpetuate discrimination against Muslim women in particular and Muslim families and communities in general;

Whereas several provisions of Bill 62 violates the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, particularly its guarantees of fundamental freedoms;

2. Everyone has the following fundamental freedoms:

- (a) freedom of conscience and religion;
- (b) freedom of thought, belief, opinion and expression, including freedom of the press and other media of communication;
- (c) freedom of peaceful assembly; and
- (d) freedom of association.

and equality rights,

15. (1) Every individual is equal before and under the law and has the right to the equal protection and equal benefit of the law without discrimination and, in particular, without discrimination based on race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, sex, age or mental or physical disability.

BE IT RESOLVED:

- That the CSU declare that Bill 62 is unacceptable and unconstitutional state-sanctioned discrimination against Muslim women and their families on the basis of gender and religion, among other grounds;
- That the CSU declare that Bill 62 is state-sanctioned violation of Muslim students at Concordia of their right to education as well as their right to employment and access to related services that are fundamental to their well-being, freedom and academic as well as professional endeavours;
- That the CSU, in partnership with other student unions, community organizations and other stakeholders in Quebec and elsewhere, undertake all necessary and proper democratic means to protect Muslim students at Concordia from such stated-sanction discrimination, challenge the constitutionality of Bill 62, and promote the respect of fundamental civil rights and freedoms of all Concordia University students and alumni.

Seconded by **Rowan Gaudet**.



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**Omar Riaz:** Many people have contacted the CSU about denouncing this bill so this motion was prepared by Walter Tom today. In light of the time line it was brought forward at tonight's SCM.

**Rim Hmila** moves to amend the motion to add:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Concordia Student Union will publicly and actively advocate against Bill 62 and all parties involved in its passage;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Concordia Student Union supports all Concordians affected by Bill 62, and will extend to them its resources, including but not limited to legal assistance and representation;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Concordia Student Union will work to institute policies for Concordia University to be a place of protection (safespace) from the discriminatory ramifications of Bill 62.

Seconded by **Rowan Gaudet**.

*Amendment carries via unanimous consent.*

**Rowan Gaudet** moves to amend the motion to add "And refuse to adhere to Bill 62" at the end of the third "be It resolved" clause.

Seconded by **Rim Hmila**.

*Amendment carries via unanimous consent.*

**Omar Riaz** moves to amend the motion to add "and call on Concordia University to publicly denounce Bill 62" at the end of the motion.

Seconded by **Ali Sherra**.

*Amendment carries via unanimous consent.*

### 5. ADJOURNMENT

**Omar Riaz** moves to adjourn.

Seconded by **Rowan Gaudet**.

*Carries unanimously.*

*Meeting is adjourned at 20h32.*



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### **Summary of Motions Carried**

#### **2. ROLL CALL**

A motion was carried to excuse Asma Mushtaq, Soulaymane El Alaoui and Maria Gabriela Polanco for the duration of the meeting.

– *Omar Riaz (Rowan Gaudet)*

#### **3. APPOINTMENT OF CEO**

A motion was carried to appoint Nicholas Roberts and the CSU's Chief Electoral Office.

– *Ali Sherra (Rim Hmila)*

#### **4. BILL 62**

*The following motion was carried:*

WHEREAS the CSU represents the rights, interests, aspirations and needs of more than 30,000 students of Concordia University who come from different racial, ethnocultural and religious backgrounds, and countries, of whom many are Muslim women and men;

WHEREAS the CSU supports and adheres to fundamental rights and freedoms enshrined in international and domestic human rights instruments, such as the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and the Quebec Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms;

WHEREAS the CSU support high quality, universally accessible postsecondary education as a fundamental human right for all;

WHEREAS the CSU values and promotes the values and principles of equality, diversity, inclusion and an intersectional feminist and anti-oppression approach towards all its endeavors and actions;

WHEREAS the CSU is opposed to any law, regulation, policy and action, public or private, that has the effect of negating, diminishing, compromising and violating the fundamental rights and freedoms enshrined in international and domestic human rights instruments;

WHEREAS different provisions of Bill 62, as recently adopted by the Quebec National Assembly, bans the wearing of face coverings for people giving and receiving a public service, in the name of religious neutrality and gender equality;

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application, produces exclusionary consequences for those that lead to further discrimination, penalization and marginalization;

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- (d) freedom of association.

and equality rights,

15. (1) Every individual is equal before and under the law and has the right to the equal protection and equal benefit of the law without discrimination and, in particular, without discrimination based on race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, sex, age or mental or physical disability.

BE IT RESOLVED:

- That the CSU declare that Bill 62 is unacceptable and unconstitutional state-sanctioned discrimination against Muslim women and their families on the basis of gender and religion, among other grounds;

- That the CSU declare that Bill 62 is state-sanctioned violation of Muslim students at Concordia of their right to education as well as their right to employment and access to related services that are fundamental to their well-being, freedom and academic as well as professional endeavors;

- That the CSU, in partnership with other student unions, community organizations and other stakeholders in Quebec and elsewhere, undertake all necessary and proper democratic means to protect Muslim students at Concordia from such stated-sanction discrimination, challenge the constitutionality of Bill 62, and promote the respect of fundamental civil rights and freedoms of all Concordia University students and alumni, and refuse to adhere to Bill 62.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Concordia Student Union will publicly and actively advocate against Bill 62 and all parties involved in its passage;



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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Concordia Student Union supports all Concordians affected by Bill 62, and will extend to them its resources, including but not limited to legal assistance and representation;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Concordia Student Union will work to institute policies for Concordia University to be a place of protection (safespace) from the discriminatory ramifications of Bill 62 and call on Concordia University to publicly denounce Bill 62.

– *Omar Riaz (Rowan Gaudet)*