



CSU Regular Council Meeting

Wednesday, December 13th, 2017

VA 245, 18h30, S.G.W. Campus

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. The Concordia Student Union 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.

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call

3. Approval of the Agenda

4. Consent Agenda

- a) Reports from Committees
- b) Approval of minutes – December 13th (RCM)
- c) Executive Reports
- d) Chairperson's Report

5. Presentations & Guest Speakers

(none)

6. Appointments

- a) Loyola Committee (1 spot)
- c) Policy Committee (2 spots)
- d) Finance Committee (1 spot)
- e) Appointments Committee (1 spot)
- f) AVEQ Committees
- g) CCSL

7. Returning Business – Informational

- a) Living Wage
- b) Election Reform Ad Hoc committee

8. Returning Business – Substantive

- a) Interim Finance Coordinator Pay
- b) Internal & Clubs Report

9. New Business – Informational

10. New Business – Substantive

11. Question Period & Business Arising

12. Announcements

13. Adjournment

1. Call to Order

Meeting Called to Order at 18h36

2. Roll Call

Executives present for the duration of the meeting were:

Omar Riaz (General Coordinator), Kamden Biggart (Finance Coordinator) Asma Mushtaq (Academic & Advocacy Coordinator), Veronika Rydzewski (Internal Affairs Coordinator), Maria Gabriela Polanco (Loyola Coordinator), Leyla Sutherland (Student Life Coordinator), Ahmed Badr (External Affairs and Mobilization Coordinator), Devon Ellis-Darity (Sustainability Coordinator)

Executives absent for the duration of the meeting were:

(none)

Councilors present for the duration of the meeting were:

Rim Hamila (Engineering and Computer Science), Sally Younis (Engineering and Computer Science), Camille Thompson-Marchand (Arts and Science), Khadidja Komah (Engineering and Computer Science), Dylan Applebaum (John Molson School of Business) Patrick Magallanes (Arts and Science), Rowan Gaudet (Arts and Science), Ali Sherra (Arts and Science), Aouatif Zebiri (Arts and Science), Tabea Vischer (Arts and Science), Eamon Toohey (Arts and Science) Ahmed Jemma (Engineering and Computer Science), Rory Blaisdell (John Molson School of Business), Mikaela Clark-Gardner (Fine Arts), Mustafa Bokesmati (Arts and Sciences), Marco Rossi (John Molson School of Business), Alexis Searcy (Arts and Sciences), Jonathan Roy (Arts and Sciences), Peter Zhuang (Fine Arts), Charlotte Genest (Arts and Sciences), Jarrad Haas (Fine Arts), Mohammad Hafiz (John Molson School of Business), Sophie Hough-Martin (Arts and Sciences), Daniel Abrams (John Molson School of Business), Kathy Khánh Trân Du (John Molson School of Business).

Councilors absent for the duration of the meeting were:

Alienor Lougerstay (Engineering and Computer Science), Tabea Vischer (Arts and Science), Camille Thompson-Marchand (Arts and Science), Julia Sutura Sardo (Arts and Science)

R. Blaisdell moves to omnibus the excusals

A. Sherra seconds the motion

In Favor: 12

Opposed: 0

Abstention: 1

The motion to excuse the absent members carries.

3. Approval of the Agenda

In Favor: 13

Opposed: 0

Abstention: 0

The Amended Agenda was approved.

6. Appointments

Chair: For new Councillors there are several committees of Council. I can't recall if we went over this before, but this is where the specialty committees are formed for specialized discussion and motions pertaining to those committees. Each executive chairs their own committee.

a) Loyola Committee

G. Polanco: We need a member for our group. We have events planned for the winter semester and want to confirm the Valentine's Day event for the first time at Loyola. We encourage you to join. Even if most of you study downtown, it is important to go to Loyola and give the campus visibility.

J. Haas moves to nominated themselves to the Loyola Committee

O. Riaz seconds the nomination

J. Haas: I live near Loyola and I would enjoy to see more activity there. I feel like I could spend a lot of time there. I study downtown but since I live there and spend a majority of my time there and could be committed to this committee.

In Favor: 18

Opposed: 0

Abstention: 0

Jarrad Haas has been nominated to the Loyola Committee.

b) Policy Committee

Chair: Jeremy Laxer is no longer part of Council as he is no longer a student, and Asma is chair of Policy.

A. Mushtaq: We evaluate policy and do community work and send out referendum questions for fee levies. We have a capacity for two Councillors to join. We meet 2-4 times a month, 1-2 hours per meeting. I would encourage anyone who has time to commit to join us.

S. Hough-Martin moves to nominate themselves to Policy Committee

J. Haas seconds the motion

S. Hough-Martin: The bylaws and standing regulations have always fascinated me; I study Political Science so I am interested in it. I would like to work as a team member and think I have good skillsets, I don't mind paper work.

In Favor: 15

Opposed: 0

Abstention: 1

Sophie Hough-Martin has been nominated to Policy Committee

Chair: One spot will be open for next meeting.

d) Finance Committee

K. Biggart: Finance committee doesn't meet regularly but there is a great deal of expenditure to review. We have an empty seat if anyone is interested.

D. Abrams moves to nominate themselves

D. Applebaum sections the motion

S. Hough-Martin moves to nominate themselves to finance committee

V. Rydzewski seconds the motion

Chair: We have two Councillors for one seat so we will proceed to a secret ballot vote after motivations.

D. Abrams: I would like to sit on finance because I would like to be a part of major expenditures that the CSU goes through and know what we are spending money on for students.

S. Hough-Martin: I expressed interest in CSU finance with my motion with the CSU credit cards. I am experienced with student political finance and would also like to know where our money is going and manage student accountability.

R. Gaudet: I would like to bring up a point in that one of the reasons I stepped down was due to the lack of gender parity on the committee. That should be taken into consideration as a factor.

A. Zebiri: Point of information, what are the candidates' names?

Chair: Sophie and Daniel.

O. Riaz: Point of personal privilege, to mention to the student press who wouldn't like their pictures taken by the Concordian.

Chair: Yes, anyone who wouldn't like to be photographed please raise your hand or placard.

The Vote is carried out by Secret Ballot

Chair: At this point with the ballots tallied and Cory as my witness Sophie is appointed to Finance Committee.

S. Hough-Martin has been appointed to Finance Committee.

e) Appointments Committee

V. Rydzewski: We have one seat open for appointments committee, we essentially appoint students at large to different CSU committees. We will be appointing a senator shortly. It's not a demanding committee, please join.

J. Roy moves to nominate themselves

R. Gaudet seconds the motion

J. Roy: I sit on senate and as Veronika mentioned we are going to be appointing a senator soon so I would like to be a part of the process.

R. Blaisdell: Are you able to commit to more meetings than the ones appointing senators?

J. Roy: Certainly.

In Favor: 13

Opposed: 0

Abstention: 2

Jonathan Roy has been appointed to the Appointment Committee

f) AVEQ Committees

A. Mushtaq: Ahmed is at Loyola right now, so there is the mobilization committee (AVEQ) that meets once a week and the Accessible Education and Climate Justice Group that meets once a month. Our issue this year is unpaid internships and Climate Justice looks at climate justice issues. If you are interested, please nominate yourself.

A. Zebiri: How many seats are there?

A. Mushtaq: There is one seat on the mobilization committee and on the working groups two members are being sought.

R. Blaisdell moves to nominate themselves to the working group on accessible education

D. Applebaum seconds the motion

A. Zebiri: The working committees are Mobilization and Working Committees and these still have two seats for each committee. Two on Accessibility and Two on Mobilization

P. Zhuang: I am working on the Climate justice committee. I want to clear a few things up; it's not that hard of a group. There is no document that needs to be reviewed beforehand, you need to be at the meeting online and that's basically it. There are a few things you need to do, so if you wanted to nominate yourself go for it. There are a large number of people who are francophone so they will be speaking French as well.

R. Blaisdell: Can I nominate on condition as to further clarification as to what the committee is? My understanding of it may change.

A. Zebiri: The mandate of the mobilization committee, it's a bit different from ours. You're part of a group that's part of a campaign.

R. Blaisdell: Specifically with accessible education.

A. Mushtaq: Accessible education working group mobilizes against unpaid internships, work on supporting campaigns against sexual violence, austerity and promoting accessible education.

R. Blaisdell: Keep me on it!

D. Abrams moves to nominate themselves to the Accessibility Committee

D. Applebaum seconds the motion

R. Blaisdell: Seeing as we have a second nominee I will recuse my nomination.

M. Bokesmati moves to nominate themselves to the mobilization committee

M. Bokesmati: I know AVEQ is more francophone, are there limitations to me as an Anglophone?

P. Zhuang: I don't speak French at all so they translate for me right now. So it's okay if you don't really speak French, as long as you are able to make it to the meetings.

A. Zebiri seconds the motion

D. Abrams: I would like to sit on the Accessible Education working group because I myself have been affected by this issue and would like to help out

M. Bokesmati: I am already on the external committee of the CSU and have a general interest and would like to further my experiences with this.

R. Gaudet moves to approve the nominations by omnibus.

S. Hough-Martin seconds the motion

In Favor: 18

Opposed: 0

Abstention: 0

Mustafa Bokesmati and Daniel Abrams have been appointed to the respective AVEQ committees.

g) CCSL

L. Sutherland: Veronika and I as executives sit on CCSL, the Council on student life. It's a granting body, we fund student projects chaired by the dean of students and many members of the administration and faculty are involved. You get to approve these initiatives; there are currently three spots for undergraduate students. It's a once a month Friday morning meeting, if there are additional spots it can go back to student at large options. There have been three empty seats for undergraduate students all semester.

E. Toohey: I have a seat on it but would it be possible for me to step down as I needed to change my work schedule.

L. Sutherland: I would notify the chair of CCSL

Chair: So now we have four seats open

A. Zebiri: I would like to nominate Julia with their consent.

P. Zhuang: I have a question. How often do you meet?

L. Sutherland: About once a month.

J. Roy moves to nominate themselves

M. Clark-Gardner seconds the motion

P. Zhuang moves to nominate themselves

R. Blaisdell seconds the motion

A. Zebiri: I will speak for Julia. Julia said they now have a lot of time and would like to sit on this committee given that she has received project funding from it, and knows a lot about the funding process for CCSL and how to access other funding.

J. Roy: I want to get involved in the process of funding student initiatives that need it and want it so cool things can happen.

P. Zhuang: I've been doing project funding for the past year and semester so it would be good for me to learn those initiatives happening, and have done things like it before.

A. Zebiri moves to omnibus the nominations

J. Haas seconds the motion

In Favor: 16

Opposed: 0

Abstention: 3

The motion carries, the nominees are appointed.

O. Riaz moves to motivate for a recess at 19h08

Recess ended at 19h27

Chair: We will reconvene at this point with Returning Business Informational.

7. Returning Business – Informational

a) Living Wage

L. Sutherland: This is going to be briefer than planned, this is to inform Council that a project which I'm sure you might remember from my working plan that I wanted to look at the implemented policy to not pay CSU employees under 15 dollars an hour. Currently that does not reflect on the pay of executives. It's an issue that is important to address because none of the executives are in a comfortable position to advocate for increasing their own pay. For that reason I've looked into doing a survey of executive pays at other student unions and living wages in Montreal and elsewhere in the country. I would love to have Councillor input on this. It is something to be discussed, with many ways we can approach it. Executives have talked about things like a metro pass count be incorporated into executive benefits, and so on. It's not necessarily conducive at Council alone, so I would like to upload the resources of my research and a 'when to meet' on the Council Facebook page so it can be a little more in-depth than an executive bringing something forward to Council alone.

I'm also available if anyone wants to discuss it with me outside of that particular space. I will be posting all of that in a google drive folder for you to improve at your leisure.

M. Rossi: When was the last wage increase?

L. Sutherland: Each year, from my understanding the executive salary is increased to account for inflation but as far as a salary increase it might have been several years. The past finance coordinator was going to update me but I will need to look into that.

D. Abrams: What is the current salary of the CSU executive?

A. Mushtaq: It's minimum wage, along the poverty line.

b) Election Reform Ad Hoc committee

M. Clark-Gardner: We had our first meeting today. We discussed our concerns with current elections and what we'd like to accomplish long term. Hopefully our CEO will share their ideas with us and find an available time to attend our meetings. More people are welcome to join, I ask that you make it a commitment to come to we can have productive meetings without always catching people up. If anyone wants links to the Google Drive, things we've talked about, Caitlin put in the meeting minutes. We discussed turnout, the turnover rate, the need for institutional memory and went into depth. So look at the minutes, look at the measures we have for the upcoming general election.

8. Returning Business – Substantive

a) Interim Finance Coordinator Pay

L. Sutherland presents the following motion:

“Whereas each executive position at the CSU is expected to work full time. Whereas following the resignation of the previous Finance Coordinator, Soulaymane El Alaoui, Veronika Rydzewski became interim Finance Coordinator and assumed all duties under this role in addition to her regular tasks as Internal Coordinator. Whereas Veronika Rydzewski is effectively working two jobs and maintaining two separate portfolios. Be it resolved that Veronika Rydzewski be paid an honorarium of \$300 for every week of work as the interim finance coordinator, for a total of \$900 (as of December 13th).”

J. Haas seconds the motion

L. Sutherland: I wrote this for the previous meeting but retains its accuracy. We appointed a Finance Coordinator immediately after that. I witness first-hand Veronika took on a whole other portfolio, a large majority of it meant juggling two full-time jobs, and that finance requires consistency and it's important to recognize that they took on that workload. It is appropriate to pay them for that time.

D. Abrams: How was the number calculated?

L. Sutherland: Each executive makes just over 850 dollars every two weeks, so just over 400 dollars every week. I rounded it down a little bit because there is cross-over. I felt that was an appropriate amount realistically based on her presence.

D. Abrams: What happened last year when someone stepped down, were they paid the additional amount?

Chair: I believe no one filled in the role, there was no role.

A. Badr: Rachel took over.

R. Gaudet: There was no motion but I also believe that the resignation happened the day of or the day after a Council meeting and we appointed someone to the position.

Chair: So that's what happened last year.

In Favor: 18

Opposed: 0

Abstention: 1

The motion carries.

b) Internal and Clubs Report

A. Zebiri: I pulled this report because I had a few questions for the executive but during the break I had a discussion with the executive about them so the matter seems to be resolved. So the motion will be to approve the report.

In Favor: 19

Opposed: 0

Abstention: 1

The motion carries.

9. New business substantive

a) Two-Round Voting

A. Sherra presents the following motion:

“Whereas no electoral system is mandated on Council choosing a candidate to fill a vacant executive seat,

Whereas a vacant executive seat might have more than two competing candidates,

Whereas a First-Past-The-Post (FTPT) electoral system can vote in candidates with simple majorities. A simple majority is a majority in which the highest number of votes cast for any one candidate exceeds the second-highest number, while not constituting an absolute majority of (50%+ 1).

Whereas an absolute majority of more than 50% is required to vote in a new executive.

Whereas a two-round system eliminates all candidates but the two with the highest number of votes for a second round.

Whereas a two-round system ensures that the candidate chosen has an absolute majority of the votes.

Be It Resolved That Council use a two-round system when voting on vacant executive positions.”

J. Roy seconds the motion

A. Sherra: Last time when we were choosing an executive it took a long time, it is also better to have a system like this where we have most of Council chose an executive, more than 50%.

Putting that system in place in comparison to any other system in this situation would be best.

R. Gaudet: I agree with part of the motion and I like the two round system, but I am hesitant with this motion because the bylaws are purposefully broad in how to appoint a vacant executive position. It needs to be a larger discussion and not just a motion but potentially the bylaws as well. I like the style of voting whether I like adopting it in this form not so much, personally. It bears some flaws.

D. Applebaum moves to refer the motion to Policy Committee to provide a recommendation.

A. Zebiri seconds the motion

R. Blaisdell: If someone has put the work into preparing a motion for Council and chose not to bring it to a committee first, in their mind it was ready enough. We should garner them with the respect to discuss it instead of just referring it to a committee and with respect to the workload of a committee. I would suggest we not refer this to a committee, it's not late and we ought to have at least a ten minute discussion on it.

A. Zebiri: I hear the concerns of Rory and I agree that discussions should be had when we're looking at motions but this one specifically I personally don't know how this system functions. Referring it to Policy Committee will allow them to research it and form a policy to bring back to us, how this voting system would be applied and its procedures. We can discuss it but I don't have the information about this voting system and whether there are better voting systems. I wouldn't be able to engage in this discussion the Councillor would want to have.

D. Abrams: One of the reasons why I motioned to put it to Policy Committee is that there are places in our Bylaws and Standing regulations that might contradict this motion. They would be able to verify what would be best and what other universities do in these situations. With the elimination of two possible candidates there is the debate of whether there should be a tiered voting system and what is most democratic. I think Policy Committee is well-equipped to handle this and I commend the work put into this motion and that it was brought forward.

R. Blaisdell: When we see these motions, our jobs is to read them and prepare for them. We're supposed to reflect on them and if we're not informed we can become informed or we can abstain. We should stop deferring things for other people to discuss if it's been brought forward to the table, if not we can go to the person who's submitting it. Nothing is stopping us from contacting the person who submitted the motion beforehand. I'm not saying anyone hasn't done their work but we should be mindful of our expected duties. This is something very important, how we vote in people. All of Council should have to agree on it and have at least a discussion and a consensus on it instead of a few people on a committee making a decision or a recommendation. They can bring it back to Council, but this is something that everyone's job is to discuss together because it will affect this group moving forward long term.

A. Zebiri: I am not comfortable working or discussing this motion without research done and submitted to Council about this particular voting system. I am not going to spend hours on the web trying to find information about all the voting systems and making comparisons and inquiring. We're asking that a proposal be made by a committee to make Council's life easier.

M. Clark-Gardner: What Ali brought forward is important and something needs to be in place to create consensus on how to assign executive positions. Maybe we should be a bit more thorough with this and how it interacts with other standing regulations. If it goes to Policy it will come back and we will have a discussion on it. We should look at the bigger picture and how this might be an issue in other places.

R. Blaisdell: If you don't think Council has the information to make a decision, that's fine. I would then request that we send it back to the person who submitted it and ask them to go back and present it as a proposal instead of just submitting a motion, to simplify matters. It would provide the tools to make the decision. Sending it to Policy seems like an excuse not to discuss it.

A. Zebiri: I agree that the person who submitted this motion needs to be engaged in the research, I still want Policy Committee to go over it because they know the Standing Regulations really well. I would suggest Ali come to the Policy Committee when this point is discussed to create a space for their input to be included. Help needs to be given by Policy Committee.

R. Gaudet: This conversation has shifted in an odd way from where it was considering bylaws to research documents on electoral formats. I am one to argue for the most information possible but this is shifting the discussion to not necessarily where it needs to be. This is an appointment, a vote from a board of directors. My main issue was the way that we have appointed executives last year made a shift away from the usual, which the General Coordinator and the President would pick someone and Council could either ratify it or not. Over the last couple of years this has shifted to an interviewing process and because of that there is a discrepancy with how we're acting in accordance to the Bylaws. They're stuck in the past but I don't think we need to implement this very specific or detailed format for how to appoint someone. I don't think trying to strip conversation of the appointment process is necessary. Broad rules and small changes to the Bylaws to suggest Council play a more active role in the process would be more appropriate than making specific regulations. For whatever reason if an executive position is vacated, Council will know where it stands. Sometimes it takes longer than it needs to but that's the cost of not over-specifying things and bylaws that dictate actions to the letter.

P. Zhuang: Not everyone will be okay with doing the research because it would also be good to send to Policy Committee because this is kind of their job. We can do the research together and it can be brought back to Council to give us a clear idea of how it works.

M. Bokesmati: Rowan said most of what I wanted to say about the conversation being swayed away. I feel we should recommend things to the Policy Committee rather than give it all to them,

and give them the full opinion and suggestions as to what the next step should be. It's a small procedure but we're the ones who are going to vote for executives, so it's our own system that we prefer to follow. We should have a discussion on what system we and the next Council is going to follow. Just suggestions to the Policy committee rather giving them the whole analysis of the issue.

A. Sherra: I didn't want to speak until I understood what others wanted out of this. I did a lot of research and not just in regards to this but this is kind of what I study as a Poli-Sci major, and in regards to explaining what the two-round system is and what I am trying to accomplish is ensuring that anyone that is chosen must have at least a 50%+1 of Council's consent, obviously this is because last time we discussed this there was a lot of discussion about choosing people with the highest amount of votes without necessarily having a majority which I find undemocratic. In addition to that those two systems that were provided are considered... there's the List System which is inappropriate, and so the other system we can chose is either the First Past the Post or the Two Round system. The other systems don't work for this.

It doesn't mean that we have to have a Two Round system but if we have more than two candidates it ensures an over 50% support. In regards to getting this sent to Policy, I'm not necessarily in support of that because they have a lot to do and this is something that is missing in our Bylaws. It's not about choosing this over other Councils in the future, but to create a system that would benefit everyone. Obviously time is a big part but having a democratic election in which more than 50% of Councillors agree on one member. This is only about Executive seats.

Chair: The motion on the table is to refer the matter to Policy Committee

In Favor: 6

Opposed: 12

Abstention: 2

R. Blaisdell moves to table this to next Council meeting and open up the floor to amendments for potential conditions.

L. Sutherland seconds the motion.

R. Blaisdell: A motion and a suggestion, to table it to later and if we're going to agree on when and what revisions will take place.

L. Sutherland: I agree with the point Rory made earlier about receiving Council documents and approaching people before meetings. That being said that if you have more information it would be good to voice it to Ali, for clarifications or information to be provided.

D. Abrams: I would say that I'd like to see maybe a ranking choice voting system be put into place. Consistency is important. We have people saying that this is the only viable system but it's not the system we're using in our regular elections. If we're saying certain systems are the only systems of choice maybe we need to apply those considerations to other election processes as well.

Chair: The motion on the table is to table the motion so we don't get on the topic of comparing systems.

R. Blaisdell: For those who might not have noticed, I've been finding the exact parts for the voting systems page on what Ali's proposal is, what it means, right now I am putting up other resources on the group. Let's mutually agree that we're going to check it out and come back with opinions on voting systems. It's interesting and some of us may never consider this.

S. Hough-Martin: I was going to point out Rory posted those lists, and agree we ought to follow that advice. We ought to do our research.

A. Sherra: I'm going to come back to one of the comments with regards to the best electoral system. The reason we don't use that system during other CSU elections is because of the costs. A two-round system on a university level would cost too much. That's why.

J. Haas: We should table this for now, as others have mentioned many of us have never dealt with this before. The page shows many different ways we can vote.

P. Zhuang: In Ali's motion, we already have to have a majority vote already. I believe we already need a majority vote to appoint Executives. I'm not sure why this is needed.

A. Sherra: The reason is last time we debated this there was discussion about choosing the one with the highest votes. You have three people but they have less than 15% support, and that's the First Past the Post system, and I find it undemocratic.

P. Zhuang: Wouldn't that person get the 50%? What if none of the three candidates get that support? Are they just not going to be chosen even though one surpasses the others?

A. Sherra: This is a knock-out system, the second round would be between two people which would create the 50% majority.

D. Applebaum moves to call the question.

R. Gaudet seconds the motion.

In Favor: 19

Opposed: 0

Abstention: 0

The motion carries, the question has been called.

Chair: The motion on the floor is to table this until the next meeting.

In Favor: 17

Opposed: 2

Abstention: 2

The motion carries.

L. Sutherland: I would like to highlight for a last time that for this to be effective, we should let Ali know or do your own research to be effective next time. In a non-judgemental way, please review Council documents ahead of time. It is an effective way to be able to act during these meetings with everyone feeling they have the information they need.

Chair: I will remind everyone to send me their documents early, thank you.

10. New Business Informational

a) Retreat

O. Riaz: There are unanswered questions and I will make this informational to prepare for the retreat available tonight. All the activities and programming, a quick schedule: We will leave here from the H building behind Reggie's. Four executives are driving in Minivans as cheaper alternatives to a bus. I will put up the document in Google Sheets who is going in which Car. Ahmed for example is driving up on Saturday and will be able to accommodate people for that. There are only three people who have yet to confirm their attendance. We will leave here at 6pm

and we should arrive by 8pm. If you are going to need to go later than six let your car's driver know. We will do icebreakers, play games and go skating for those that have skates. At the Chalet location we can rent tubes and snowshoes but not skates. On Saturday once we wake up we will have pancakes and the food menu available tonight. Outdoor activities and coming in for indoor activities. We will bring a projector so if anyone has movies or suggestions let us know. Sunday after breakfast we will prepare to return to Montreal.

L. Sutherland: Maybe it's easier to say we're going to leave at six but if you can't let Omar know so we can coordinate. If you can't leave town until after six, if not the expectation is that we're leaving at six.

O. Riaz: I will post a small list of what you'll need, like warm clothes. Or games you'd like to bring, and so on. That's all for the retreat.

J. Haas: Will there be Wi-Fi?

O. Riaz: No.

R. Blaisdell: I would ask, during the times that you are doing a lot of the physical on-site activities, are there inclusive options for those who cannot participate in cold outdoor activity?

L. Sutherland: We planned for everyone who wants to stay indoors, and as a general note and the retreat is meant to be enjoyable and fun. If there is anything you need please let us know.

A. Mushtaq: If anyone hasn't submitted their food allergies make sure that information is shared with Omar.

K. Komah: What time the Saturday car is leaving?

L. Sutherland: Based off the Saturday "leavies" availabilities because Ahmed will be driving up along with Asma so we'll coordinate that.

E. Toohy: Are there people going up on Saturday? Oh okay. Leavies? Okay.

11. Question Period and Business Arising

L. Sutherland: I am hoping Council is okay with a lenient understanding of Business Arising. As some of you may know there were allegations made against members of Concordia's English Department regarding sexual misconduct and predatory behavior. This is upsetting news and we have a statement, we signed off as CSU executives. I would like to read it and if Council is on board they can sign off on it as representatives of many students. I can post it on Facebook.

R. Blaisdell: We're bringing this up at Senate Friday as well?

L. Sutherland: Absolutely.

"The CSU is extremely disappointed to have learned about the allegations of abuse and sexual misconduct that have been reported through multiple news outlets and blog posts regarding Concordia English Department.

To begin, it is absolutely essential to say: we believe survivors.

Given the context of the last few months in regards to allegations of sexual violence, it comes as no surprise that perpetrators exist within our own communities. It is important that the university, the administration and the named individuals & departments be held accountable.

Today Alan Shepard stated that "the environment that we have in our university and departments is safe". Clearly, this is not the case. It's vital that this be acknowledged and that this case be thoroughly investigated. Now is not the time to pretend that these sorts of behaviours have not existed and been fostered in academic settings - it is a time to address them and commit to the work that is necessary in order to create better, safer learning environments as well as better ways to hold people accountable.

It's important to consider the perspective from which these allegations emerge - one of having witnessed but also of feeling a degree of complicity through maintained silence. This is not the first allegation in our community and it won't be the last - it's important to be conscious of what is kept in the dark by silence and complicity and to push back against the overwhelming amount of harassment and sexual violence that coats our societies, our spaces and our communities. Academia is no exception.

Actions are vital and the CSU is committed to advocating and supporting students. This year the CSU signed on to Our Turn in a continued effort to push for better sexual violence policies on campus. Members of our executive team attended the reading of Bill 151: An Act to prevent and fight sexual violence in higher education institutions in Quebec City and have worked in

collaboration with AVEQ and Our Turn to see necessary amendments made to make this bill more effective.

We are here to represent and support students. We encourage students to seek out the support they might need through resources below (or to add more), and we remain available to any and all students who want to engage in these discussions.

Sincerely,

The CSU Executive Team”

I posted resources to the Sexual Assault Resource Center and Center for Gender Advocacy, Our Turn which as Councillors we signed on to as well as phone numbers for two different hotlines for assault.

R. Blaisdell: As I was driving in I heard Alan Shephard on the CBC with his response statement and said something about a campus-wide investigation. We had a presentation by Marcus Peters a couple months ago with his undergraduate survey and the statistic I'd like to bring up is the discrimination on campus, it's an overwhelming majority is experienced in the academic setting. What was reported to the CSU in their research was reported within Academia, with professors and classrooms. Where these issues exist on campus the last place you would expect for them to occur is in a classroom environment, especially as a university. It's not to say that it's acceptable anywhere else, but that it is disheartening we hear about it within our respective faculties. This is where we can email our deans and associate deans, people can say as a representative of 35,000+ undergraduate students, "I do not agree with this". Make it known because when Leyla talks about this silence, it's not speaking up whether you know or not. Having your voice heard in an affirmative sense is what matters.

D. Abrams: Out of curiosity when was this statement drafted?

L. Sutherland: Today.

D. Abrams: Would it be possible for us to receive these statements ahead of time?

P. Zhuang: I understand sending emails to deans and all that, right now it's kind of a hard time because I don't think you could email them and we don't have the technical power to do that.

S. Hough-Martin: I wanted to say that I would personally the Executive should act as quickly as it did. I would rather hear their support after the fact than not at all. I would have rather known

ahead of time but these things need to be addressed as quickly as possible. It's affected a lot of people personally. If you don't feel comfortable emailing your dean but it is an option and a good one to reach out and make sure the administration is being held accountable.

R. Blaisdell: To respond to Peter, this is something that you are allowed to do. I have had success doing this, even with Deans who have no idea who I am. It's about being eloquent and being respectful. Oftentimes these people aren't oppositional. You're 100% allowed to email them, and if you don't get a response reach out to them again. It's part of your job. When I have an issue with my taxes, I write to my MP. That's what they're there for. I've gotten some good solutions from that. You are a venue for your students, to help them. I encourage everyone to do that. It's one of the main things you can do other than coming here.

A. Mushtaq: There's multiple ways in which Councillors can be effective in communicating their concerns. At the same time I don't want to impose everyone be communications specialists, some of us learn from practice or from templates. If someone isn't comfortable or doesn't know where to start, you can approach us. I can write emails for you. We can discuss strategies, it's a perfectly safe space to do so. Some prefer different approaches and some prefer to take the onus, it speaks to our own personalities. There's nothing to get too discouraged about, and the statement that was prepared was good and reinforces our commitment to our term. It's not something just to bring to Council and decide here, you can continue reaching out to us. All the resources and tools are available. You have other student associations to engage with as well.

J. Haas: I would like to say I agree with how the CSU Executive team dealt with this. It was written today and they brought it up in the meeting, it wasn't written five days ago and they let us know as soon as possible. I feel with an issue as important as this especially with what's gone on recently it's important we don't tolerate it.

P. Zhuang: I have a question for the Executive team, is there any way possible we can send these to all Executives and Deans as from the CSU as a large body? It would make them accountable if the Executive team as a whole stands up to all the deans to let them know, and then Councillors can talk to students about it.

L. Sutherland: Obviously all Council documents that are public you're welcome to use them however you'd like. In this case I am preparing a version of this with the CSU letterhead and signed by the CSU and I can add that it was adopted at Council. If you want to email it to professors please attach it. Something we've talked about is that this is our first statement and

expression of concern, there is certainly a second step here for figuring out what we're going to ask of our University in terms of accountability with our University. We will meet, Asma and Mikaela and following that meeting we may have a better idea of what public demands ought to be made. It would be better to circulate those with people in power at the University. It's important that if Council signs on that it be shared and that faculties and departments know that it is an issue.

M. Clark-Gardner moves to call the question

J. Roy seconds the motion

M. Clark-Gardner: There is a consensus that this is an important statement to make our voices heard and that it needs to be addressed.

In Favor: 21

Opposed: 0

Abstention: 0

The motion carries unanimously.

D. Ellis-Darity: I wanted to announce that I am resigning as the chair of BIPOC and Kamden is taking over. I wanted to let people know.

P. Zhuang: Who is?

D. Ellis-Darity: Kamden, you know Kamden? He was already on the committee and I need to reduce my workload.

A. Mushtaq: I want to add that this wasn't included in Appointments but there is a space on BIPOC committee for a Councillor. We also need a community member in Student at Large.

12. Announcements

D. Ellis-Darity: Tomorrow in the MB foyer there's the Waste Not Want Not composting fair. There's contests and prizes and you can win coffee cups and test your knowledge on recycling and composting. Brownies, apples and bananas are going to be available.

A. Badr: Tomorrow is the deadline to apply for recipes for a change, I urge anyone who is interested in Social Justice to get involved in this workshop series. There are many events and a second workshop coming so check the CSU facebook page.

O. Riaz moves to adjourn.

R. Gaudet seconds the motion

Meeting adjourned 20h34

