

CSU Special Council Meeting – Agenda Saturday, March 9th, 2018
CSU Conference Room, 10h30, S.G.W Campus

1. Call to Order

We would like to begin by acknowledging that Concordia University is located on unceded Indigenous lands. The Kanien'kehá:ka(Ga-niyen-gé-haa-ga) Nation is recognized as the custodians of the lands and waters on which we gather today. TiohEá:ke(jo-jya-gé)/Montreal is historically known as a gathering place for many First Nations. Today, it is home to a diverse population of Indigenous and other peoples. We respect the continued connections with the past, present, and future in our ongoing relationships with Indigenous and other peoples within the Montreal community."

Meeting is called to order at 10h49

2. Roll Call

Council Chairperson: **Caitlin Robinson**

Council Minute Keeper: **Elizabeth Tasong**

Executives present for the meeting were: *Sophie Hough-Martin* (General Coordinator), *John Hutton* (Finance Coordinator), *Camille Thompson-Marchand* (External & Mobilization Coordinator)

Executives absent from the meeting were: *Princess Somefun* (Internal & Clubs Director), *Michele Sandiford* (Student Life Coordinator), *Akira De Carlos* (Sustainability Coordinator) and *Alexis Searcy* (Loyola Coordinator), *Mikaela Clark- Gardner* (Internal & Clubs Coordinator)

Councillors present for the meeting were: *Margot Berner* (Arts & Science), *Paige Keleher* (Arts & Science), *Sophie Beauchamp Lizotte* (Arts & Science), *Victoria Pesce* (JMSB), *James Hanna* (ENCS), and *Eliza McFarlane* (FINE ARTS), *Zoe Zeitouni* (Arts & Science), *Jad Faraj Abi Semaan* (Arts & Science), *Marlène Iradakunda* (Arts & Science), *Lee Alejandro Boswell* (JMSB), *Arad Andrew Banis* (JMSB)

Councillors absent for the meeting were: *Hilal Ghanem (Arts & Science), Rory Blaisdell (JMSB), Jarrad Haas (FINE ARTS), Christopher Kalafatidis (Arts & Science), Rowan Gaudet(Arts & Science) Samantha Candido (Arts & Science) , Jane Lefebvre Prevost (Arts & Science), Samuel Miriello (JMSB), Eduardo Malorni (ENCS),Patrick Lavoie (ENCS), Patrick Quinn (Arts & Science), Danielle Vandolder-Beaudin (JMSB), Sami Hanbali (Arts & Science), David Ferraria (ENCS),*

3. General Elections 2019

Camille Thompson-Marchand:

Be it resolved that, notwithstanding standing regulation 299, nominations period starts on March 11th and end March 22nd at 9pm.

Be it further resolved that, notwithstanding standing regulation 314, campaign period start March 25th and end April 1st at 9pm.

Be it further resolved that, notwithstanding standing regulation 244, polling period start April 2nd and end at 9pm on April 4th.

Seconded by **Lee Alejandro Boswell**

Motion passes unanimously

4. International Student Referendum Question 5. Mental Health Referendum Question

John Hutton:

WHEREAS International students at Concordia pay \$1176 per year for the mandatory health insurance plan provided through Blue Cross, making it the single most expensive international student health plan in all of Canada; and

WHEREAS international students have consistently raised concerns with their health insurance plan's high cost, as well as clarity of their health coverage, limitations on coverage and refusals, unreimbursed medical fees, transparency of costs for medical services, barriers to accessing public clinics, and choice in health insurance plans; and

WHEREAS Concordia University negotiates multi-year contracts for international student health insurance plans without consulting students, only relying on past claims data; and

WHEREAS the Concordia Student Union has demonstrated success in negotiating contracts for its health and dental plan by securing low costs for students compared to other similar plans in Quebec (for example, CSU members pay \$175 versus \$332.81 at UdeM for a very similar level of coverage); and

WHEREAS in British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Newfoundland & Labrador, and New Brunswick international students receive full coverage under provincial medicare; and

WHEREAS Manitoba and Ontario offer international student health insurance plans that cover the equivalent of provincial medicare at a cost of \$606-\$624; and

WHEREAS Quebec provincial law requires that international students have health insurance, but there is no specification that it may only be provided by the university; and

WHEREAS International students under most circumstances do not have the option to opt-out of the Concordia health plan, even if they would otherwise be able to enrol in a different health insurance plan; and

WHEREAS the CSU and Graduate Student Association have been attempting to request information about the plan and to negotiate with Concordia administration about the health plan since October, but have been consistently stalled and delayed; and

WHEREAS the executives of the CSU and GSA have drafted and endorsed a detailed plan to assume management of the international student health plan, initiate an RFP, and negotiate a better & cheaper health insurance plan; and

WHEREAS a student-run health insurance plan would add the benefits of democratic self-management, transparency and accountability, and would be negotiated by parties with stronger motivation to minimize costs and maximize quality of the plan;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the following question be put to referendum in the CSU's 2019 General Elections to add to the CSU Positions Book: Do you support the CSU adopting the following positions:

Student Health Care

- 1. That the CSU endorses the provision of full RAMQ coverage to all international students upon arrival in Quebec, and will advocate it to the Government of Quebec.*
- 2. That until the Government of Quebec extends full public health coverage to international students, international student health insurance shall be delivered on the principles of democratic student control, transparency and accountability, consultation with international students affordability, quality and choice of provider, and not-for-profit delivery.*
- 3. That the Concordia Student Union and Graduate Student Association shall work together to provide an international student health insurance plan for Concordia students, rather than the Concordia administration.*

Seconded by **Margot Berner**

John Hutton: Concordia has the most expensive international student health care plan, and it does not have the best quality.

Lee Alejandro Boswell: Would this be passed for the next school year

John Hutton: This is essentially a positions book

Arad Andrew Banis: I think the wording may make it hard for some students to fully understand the motion

James Hanna: The CSU is not a lobbying organization meant to lobby for certain legislation. I want something more actionable than this position. The CSU should provide their own plan to improve experience for international students.

Margot Berner: This does not mandate something specific, it allows the CSU to try to achieve these goals in numerous ways.

Sophie Beauchamp: This only mandating it to go into the positions book

Arad Andrew Banis: I would like to see a fourth position that says international students should be able to opt-out of the University health care plan since that is their democratic right.

John Hutton: It is somewhat contradictory to say we want the union to provide a plan but also opt-out for a better plan.

Margot Berner: I think it's a bad idea to tell the University we'd be willing to let students opt-out if we are not able to provide our own plan.

John Hutton: I support that if there is an insurance plan students should be able to opt-out, however, I am not sure how to currently go about an effect opt-out system, so I am not quite comfortable to make that a central point at the moment. However, I do support it in principle.

James Hanna: I think the opt-out inclusion would work well in the positions book.

Marlene Iradakunda: I think voting for the motion as-is is the best idea, and later amendments could always be added.

Arad Andrew Banis: Moves for the motion to be amended to That the CSU endorses the provision of full provincial coverage to all international students upon arrival in Quebec, and will advocate it to the Government of Quebec.

That until the Government of Quebec extends full public health coverage to international students, international student health insurance shall be delivered on the principles of

democratic student control, choice of provider, transparency, accountability, consultation with international students, affordability, quality and not-for-profit delivery. ☒

That the Concordia Student Union and Graduate Student Association shall work together to provide an international student health insurance plan for Concordia students, rather than the Concordia administration.

Seconded by **Camille Thompson-Marchand**

James Hanna: We don't have the resources or bureaucracy of a lobbying organization so I have an issue with this on those grounds.

Sophie Beauchamp calls the question

Seconded by **Margot Berner**

Vote

For: 9

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

6. Adjournment

Sophie Beauchamp-Lizotte motions to adjourn

Seconded by **Margot Berner**

Adjourned at 11h33