



Concordia Student Union – Council of Representatives

CSU Special Council Meeting – Agenda
Wednesday, September 25th, 2019
CSU Conference Room, 19h00, S.G.W. Campus

Updated Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Election Dates
4. Senate (Closed Session)
5. Online Opt-Out Referendum Question Presentation
6. Strategic Planning Committee Creation Motion
7. Mental Health Week
8. Mental Health Ad-Hoc Committee
9. Mental Health Community Center (MHCC) Update
10. Budgetary Impact
11. CSU Purchase Policy
12. Sustainability Coordinator (Closed session)
13. Bursary Distribution
14. Student Union Building (Closed session)
15. Bathroom Renovations Plan (Closed Session)
16. CSU Jobs – Campaigns Coordinator Position & Hiring Committee
17. Adjournment

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.

Victoria Pesce moves to appoint **Rory James** as temporary Chairperson. Seconded.
Motion passes.

Naomi Barney Purdie moves to move the senate appointment to the front of the agenda. Seconded.
Motion passes.

2. Roll Call

Council Chairperson: Rory James
Council Minute Keeper: S Shivaane

Executives present for the meeting were: Patrick Quinn (Academic & Advocacy Coordinator), Désirée Blizzard (Finance Coordinator), Christopher Kalafatidis (General Coordinator), Marin Algattus (Internal Affairs Coordinator), Celeste-Melize Ferrus (Loyola Coordinator), Eduardo Malorni (Student Life Coordinator)

Councilors present for the meeting were: Hannah Jamet-Lange (Arts & Science), Christiane Sakr (Arts & Science), Ahmadou Sakho (Arts & Science), Leigh Kusaj (Arts & Science), Elias Huckel-Fidalgo (Arts & Science), Maha Siddiqui (Arts & Science), Victoria Pesce (John Molson School of Business), Salman Fahim Syed (Gina Cody School of Engineering & Computer Science), Elizabeth Tasong (Arts & Science), Esther Morand (Arts & Science), Naomi Barney Purdie (Arts & Science), Lindsay Surerus (Arts & Science), Arad Andrew Banis (John Molson School of Business)

Executives absent for the meeting were: Isaiah Joyner (External & Mobilization Coordinator)
Councilors absent for the meeting were: James Hanna (Gina Cody School of Engineering & Computer Science), Amman Houara (Arts & Science)

3. Election Dates

Chris Kalafatidis moves to Motion to Allow Earlier Elections for CSU 2019-2020. Seconded.

WHEREAS the Chief Electoral Officer has requested permission from the Council of Representatives to hold earlier elections in order to ensure a longer nomination period and increase participation in the upcoming By-Elections.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of Representatives not withstand Sections 245, 246, 296, and 314 in order to allow the CEO to call elections as early as October 21st.

Arad Andrew Banis: Will this be repeated annually?

Patrick Quinn: It will go through policy committee to determine that.

Victoria Pesce: Will everything else be moved too?

Chris Kalafatidis: We will move most things a bit so it's not two weeks before finals.

Leigh Kusaj: Do you have any specific dates?

Chris Kalafatidis: Yes, but they're not finalized.

Victoria Pesce: I don't feel comfortable moving it up so soon.

Salman Fahim Syed: I agree with this because last year's by-elections were in November and then delayed. I was affected by it. Moving it a week before might fix this issue.

Maha Siddiqui: If this is for more representation, I'm not sure that this is the best tactic. This can be better done by events, rebranding and marketing. Extending election dates might not do this. I'd be interested in alternative solutions.

VOTE

For: 4

Opposition: 6

Abstentions: 3

Motion carries.

4. Senate

Patrick Quinn moves to go into closed session.

Seconded. No Opposition.

WHEREAS student complaints should be taken seriously.

BE IT RESOLVED it be sent to appointments committee where the complainants present their motion.

Seconded.

VOTE

Motion fails.

Elizabeth Tasong moves to uphold appointments committee's decision of appointing Grace Cordeiro to senate.
Seconded.

VOTE

Motion carries.

5. Online Opt-Out Referendum Question Presentation

Chris Kalafatidis: Before opting out, the site will show what each organization does. If online opt-out does happen, the organizations I consulted want this to be shown.

Chairperson: A reminder that this is not a motion.

Emily: Procedure-wise, is this voted by a 2/3 majority?

Chris Kalafatidis: This is for moderating the fee levy itself. This is just an opinion. What it's asking or wanting to change is not within the authority of the CSU.

Victoria Pesce: How are you going to show that students are informed and that they know what they're opting out of? How do you know they're not just doing to get money back?

Chris Kalafatidis: One organization named a system, whereby there's a logo and a description and a 'learn more' that links to their website. This question binds us to ask organizations themselves what they want the students to be shown.

Naomi Barney Purdie: What was the by-law?

Chris Kalafatidis: The second part of 9.6.1

Naomi Barney Purdie: You're just asking right?

Chris Kalafatidis: It's not our decision. If they don't feel comfortable doing it, they don't have to.

Chairperson: You're arguing not over the merit of the question but the notification in itself, there's no need to debate. That'll happen after.

Emily: Standing Regulations 263, the referendum concerning fee levies. I disagree that this isn't a modification. When McGill instilled a similar change, they lost a percentage of their funding, which resulted in those fee-levy groups shutting down. Since 2008, close to 15% of students opted out, which had ramifications. That's why I'm here and why I'm concerned. I don't think you should say that this isn't a modification.

Chris Kalafatidis: In terms of a modification, it isn't. It's just an opinion. We're not passing this; we're going to ask them. Afterwards, you can educate them why you don't think this should happen.

Tara: Every single person who goes to opt out will be educated officially. In practice, that has not happened, definitely not at McGill.

Alex: You mentioned consulting fee-levy groups. Which fee-levy groups did you consult? And is there a document summarizing those positions?

Chris Kalafatidis: One group I can't name. This referendum question gives authorization for the conversation to start after assuming students want this. And we will begin asking organizations about their opinion. We have to.

Alex: Have any been consulted?

Chris Kalafatidis: No

Fern: What does the consultation involve?

Chris Kalafatidis: The fee-levy groups themselves should be consulted and should dictate what the consultation becomes. Whatever format they want, as long as there is a collaborative consult, we're fine.

Emily: I understand the difference between opinion and the logistical question. And it's true that students should collect signatures — it's a democratic process to make informed decisions. The opt-out system is complicated. I think making it online and offline simplifies things. It can just boil down to money. The opt-out event at Loyola, we've made changes where people with accessibility issues can get money back online. We exist to build a campus together we are proud of and this discussion gets shut down if it shifts to offline. Students get a right to discuss what happens with that money. There are 16 fee levy groups, the fact that you've talked to one group with one idea makes me uncomfortable. This referendum question is too hasty. It's too early to bring this to the student body. There are ways to bring this to students and discuss it before so you can take this back. I don't think we should skim past that democratic step.

Fern: What are you going to do if the fee levy groups don't want this?

Chris Kalafatidis: I wouldn't give up quickly in creating a better system that'll benefit everyone.

Victoria Pesce: I'm in for an opt out system because it's your money. It shouldn't be an option whether you don't pay or not. The way you have the conversation is very vital. You shouldn't reject the organization if you don't know what they do or don't think you'll use them. It's our job to create that awareness. Taking that money back won't lead to discussion.

Chairperson: There's no motion right now. You don't need to vote on this. This is just a notification.

Tara: We just wanted to give more context to this conversation. The deliberation on the exact amount in terms of being able to increase or decrease is a long and complicated process. And a lot of effort. An online process would blanket undo a lot of that careful work done by those fee-levy groups.

Elias Huckel-Fidalgo: You're against online opt out because it would make it too easy to opt out, for fear it would have repercussion on groups.

Emily: Not that it becomes too easy. I'm worried it would remove the nuance of it. The current process is respectful and in-person and moving that online cuts off that human connection. Fee levy groups exist to unite student body and moving it online will drastically cut that student connection and building community for years.

Esther Morand: This is a terrible idea. On behalf of a lot of undergraduate students in ASFA who also thinks it's terrible, it'll kill jobs. We're students, we're poor. If we had the means to opt out, we would to save money. People who are voting don't necessarily know what opt out means and this is a terrible idea.

Elizabeth Tasong: How is it like doing the opt out experience in person? Do they change their minds?

Emily: Normally, we get 200 students a year that opt out. This varies. All of those interactions are very respectful, it's a transfer of information. We're happy to share opinions and ideas and share resources. A few in-depth conversations and then picked and chose which conversations. Most students didn't know the names of organizations or care.

6. Strategic Planning Committee Creation Motion

Arad Andrew Banis reads the motion. **Victoria Pesce** seconds.

WHEREAS the Concordia Student Union usually has a yearly turnover of Executives and Councilors; **WHEREAS** the Concordia Student Union has no longer-term plan beyond the one-year plans that Executives and Councilors bring with them;

WHEREAS the CSU's General Manager has requested that a 5-year strategic plan be developed, with all major stakeholders involved a consultation process, to ensure smooth continuation of the CSU and its core identity;

WHEREAS a strategic planning ad-hoc committee was formed on April 10th, 2019, comprised of the previous General Coordinator (Sophie Hough-Martin), the current General Coordinator (Chris Kalafatidis), one Councilor (Arad Banis), and the General Manager (Robert Henri);

BE IT RESOLVED THAT a new strategic planning ad-hoc committee be formed immediately, comprised of: the General Manager; the General Coordinator; and (3) Councilors. This committee will be dissolved on April 30th, 2020.

Arad Andrew Banis: Turnover is very important. There should be one core CSU identity. This would be crucial for it. It consults all other committees to make sure it's something we're all moving forward with.

Chris Kalafatidis: This is an amazing idea. There's a crazy turnover, councilors are only here for a year. It goes very fast and you do very little in a year. The CSU is a large organization, and a lot of people's lives are at stake. We need a 5-year plan that will outlast executives. Maybe even financial responsibility in the long-term.

Maha Siddiqui: What's the reason for forming it? We do need a cohesive vision, but I thought that's clearly outlined in the mission statements. By upholding those values, won't that be enough? I'm unclear on what the plan is for and what it will do? How is this ad hoc committee going to achieve that?

Arad Andrew Banis: Last year, we looked at all the services the CSU offers. What trajectory do we see this organization taking in the next few years? Looking at the CSU and all it contains, how are we moving it forward? What are our long-term overarching decisions? The whole purpose is overall strategies.

Naomi Barney Purdie: One of the councilors that have been here for a while, was there a difference?

Rory James (Chairperson): It was too soon to see results.

Patrick Quinn: This is a novel idea that's worth exploring, I think you should vote yes. It's probably good to have a strategic plan to outlast the members. It's not just the small, it's also the large organizational questions. It's a great governance idea.

Ahmadou Sakho: What specific powers would it have? Just recommendations or would you have a budget?

Arad Andrew Banis: As far as the motion goes, there is no budget and no executive power. It's a recommendation platform. Those recommendations are not enacted until council votes for it.

Maha Siddiqui: I think it's a good idea. As long as we don't limit the actions of members and their mandates. We need to be careful about that.

Elias Huckel-Fidalgo calls to question.

Alex: I understand that this doesn't have any power. What will this committee do that isn't already happening? What stops the CSU from making motions that overhauls a long-term plan?

Arad Andrew Banis: We come month by month to make decisions and we don't have time to ask opinions. We're asking for 5 people to search for appropriate solutions and then present it.

VOTE

For: 10

Opposition: 1

Abstentions: 2

Motion carries.

Chris Kalafatidis moves to make committee next meeting. **Victoria Pesce** seconds.

Passes.

Hannah Jamet-Lange: Can we move the Sustainability and then CSU jobs up the agenda?

Marin Algattus: Mental Health is not that long. Ad Hoc Committee first.

Hannah Jamet-Lange moves to limit next point to 10 minutes.

Motion passes.

8. Mental Health Ad-Hoc Committee

Marin Algattus reads the following motion. **Elizabeth Tasong** seconds.

WHEREAS mental health effects many undergraduate students;

WHEREAS a student took her life on campus;

WHEREAS the CSU should support students and contribute to an environment helping them *thrive and build a community*;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the CSU develop a mental health ad-hoc committee mandated to carry out a mental health month/week/year, develop mental health initiatives and work collaboratively with other student groups advocating for mental health and creating support systems.

Marin Algattus: I'd like to create a group of councilors and students that want to talk about Mental Health to support students with mental health in the context of university health.

Hannah Jamet-Lange: Could we have the presentation before we vote on this motion?

Marin Algattus: The presentation is focused on the \$10k.

Hannah Jamet-Lange: Can we then do both motions after? We're already talking about the week. If we don't know what that is...

Chairperson: So, there are two motions. You want to do motion 1, presentation, and then motion 2. Motion 2 for the \$10k and separate from the week. Can we separate that finance from this motion?

Naomi Barney Purdie: I'm in favor. It's a good thing. We have a lot of mental health issues. With or without budget, its good.

Arad Andrew Banis: We're doing it weird format. Without the \$10k, what does the committee do?

Marin Algattus: It would work with other groups as CSU representatives. The committee would work with them to create events or create talking spaces. We could hold free events to support those who may not have friends.

Melize Ferrus: Considering that we just gave mindfulness money and we have a lot of services, is this original?

Marin Algattus: I think CSU should support those services.

Melize Ferrus: Is anyone in the CSU qualified to know what student needs?

Marin Algattus: I'm a student, I know what I need.

Esther Morand: This is a good idea. I've used the mental health services and I've seen the problems. There's a lot of work to be done. I'd just like to know about structure and organization because there's a lot of work.

Chairperson: 4 minutes more. If what you have to say doesn't change your vote, you can share after.

Naomi Barney Purdie calls to question.
Motion passes.

Marin Algattus reads the following motion. **Salman Fahim Syed** seconds.

WHEREAS the mental health ad-hoc committee needs funding to develop activities;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT a \$10,000 from the endowment fund be allocated to fund a portion of the initiatives to be decided by the mental health committee.

Marin Algattus: There's a website called postsecret.com where people send in secrets honest, emotional secrets. It's relatable and it shows people how they're not alone. It gets a lot of views. Frank Warren does a lot of speeches. The benefit for Concordia is that it promotes community, empathy. We don't know the struggles of other people. I already have one secrets box to distribute postcards. I'm already in talks with various groups on campus who want to support it. It will be in the CSU office. As they expand, we'll build connection. The ad-hoc mental health committee will work on this with Stronger Than Stigma and psych services. The \$10k is for the

speaker itself. I'm looking for funding from elsewhere as well. I will obviously negotiate. \$10k is the max. The budget will be from endowment. Committee will decide what goes to what and determine the breakdown. Since it's a committee, they will have voting rights over budget. The committee would expand my scope and host more events, like suicide prevention awareness. \$100 per 9 events.

Elizabeth Tasong: I like the idea. But I'm wary about the presentation because it focussed on the speaker. And I think having this committee centred on this current proposal would be doing a disservice to students. We should be filling the gap. The BIPOC committee discussed inviting biopic psychologists to do free services. Concordia has a list of organizations and I think working directly more with those would be doing students more of a service. This current proposal is centred on having a specific idea rather than the variety of services.

Chairperson: We have 3 more minutes. Is this a point you want to table or send to this committee you created?

Esther Morand: I see a lot of interesting events. There are persistent problems within mental health at CU now. I'd rather the committee focus on those things rather than creating new events.

Hannah Jamet-Lange: An ad hoc committee is a good idea. But I don't know how this plan is going to work. We have an annual campaign, and this seems equivalent to that. The internal coordinator will be working on this but who else? Other staff will probably have to help with free labour, which can be draining and destructive for mental health. And one paid person working on it isn't enough. Also, \$10k is way too much for one speaker. How many people will be able to hear that? I don't see the concrete benefit. We should focus on things that need fixing. A speaker can't provide for that.

Chairperson: Is there a motion to extend with parameters?

Ahmadou Sakho: I move to extend by 5 minutes.

Chairperson: I will give everyone 60 seconds.

Naomi Barney Purdie: I do think the committee is a good idea, but I have concerns on budget. This is important but I'm more willing to create the committee and then have them come back if they need money.

Melize Ferrus: I don't like the idea of a suicide prevention week. There's nothing you could say to me in a day to stop myself from doing something. I'd prefer supplemental psychologists once a week.

Elias Huckel-Fidalgo: I would like to move to amend the motion. So, once the committee has members, they are to discuss and come back with a revised budget.
Seconded by **Ahmadou Sakho**.

Marin Algattus: The motion is to give \$10k and then we decide what to do with it.

Esther Morand: In the committee, I want to know everyone's opinion in council. I think it's good if we keep speaking. We can talk about it when we appoint members.

Chairperson: The motion on the table is about funding. The incidental motion is to send that to the committee. Is there objection to that tabling?

VOTE

For: 11

Opposition: 0

Abstentions: 1

Motion carries.

Chairperson: This will be discussed by that committee.

Marin Algattus: My vision is that anyone who wants to be part of this will be on it.
Christiane Sakr, Elizabeth Tasong, Esther Morand and Melize Ferrus and Ahmadou Sakho raise their hands.

Jarrad Haas moves for next agenda point to be in closed session.

12. Sustainability Coordinator (Closed session)

16. CSU Jobs – Campaigns Coordinator Position & Hiring Committee

Hannah Jamet-Lange: It is highly irresponsible that the CSU didn't deal with this earlier. We should already have someone in that position and have them in training. They will not be properly trained. It is important to have a campaigns coordinator. There was already one Campaigns assistant that got cut. They are overworked. It is highly irresponsible to cut their hours. It is important to have this department for student involvement. I only got involved with the CSU because of Campaigns. I'm going to quote collective agreement, article 16.16.02. Before taking away this position, you would need to lay off everyone else. You would need to restart the Campaigns department, which is not a good idea since the people working there currently already know what to do. It's extremely important to have the institutional knowledge to function in this position. It would otherwise be hard to start campaigns again. Having no campaigns coordinator full-time would overturn the long-term goals, to learn from scratch how to do the job.

Eduardo Malorni moves for an extra 20 minutes and then table everything.

Hannah Jamet-Lange: I just want a solution from an executive.

Eduardo Malorni: Hiring and firing is factually incorrect. Because she is resigning, we don't need to do that. Campaigns is not the only department. Designers also have a bad workload doing work on weekends. Campaigns is awesome. Everyone else is awesome too.

Chris Kalafatidis: I encourage that after this discussion we adjourn.

Marin Algattus: Campaigns only does annual campaigns. I have external campaigns from other departments. We're all overworked but willing to make sacrifices.

Hannah Jamet-Lange: May I ask where it says that about resigning?

Eduardo Malorni: Can I send it to you tomorrow?

Marin Algattus: I feel like this should be a 1-1 conversation.

Maha Siddiqui: I'm not pleased with the executives and the way this is happened. You keep having HR mishaps. There is a gross incompetence in hiring. The current Campaign coordinator has been pushing for 2 months since she resigned for interviews and nothing has happened. It doesn't take 2 months to renegotiate a contract.

Hannah Jamet-Lange: The campaigns assistant and coordinator don't -

Marin Algattus: They refused to help me.

Hannah Jamet-Lange: It's bad that the first time she heard about this was just a coincidence. She hasn't yet been consulted about what is best for the position.

Maha Siddiqui: This is something that needs a lot more debate. You want to restructure how staff is. We're all overworked and understaffed. I don't agree with the proposed model. The campaign coordinator is there to advocate for students. The fact that you want to mix up certain positions is ridiculous. I want to see more debate. It's unfortunate that that next meeting will be 2 days before she leaves. She should be there be part of that discussion, for once.

Hannah Jamet-Lange: I think we should table that for the next meeting and ask Irmak to be there for that.

Jarrad Haas moves to table this for next meeting with Irmak there. Seconded by **Naomi Barney Purdie**.

Motions passes.

17. Adjournment

Jarrad Haas moves to adjourns.
Council adjourns at **2330h**.