

Food System SPF Policy -- in collaboration with the Sustainability Action Fund

Oversight Body: CSU Sustainability Committee, Council of Representatives, CSU Executive Team

Date Passed by Council: 2019

Date of Next Review: March, 2023

Related policies, bylaws, legislation: CSU By-Laws, CSU Code of Conduct, Positions Book, Concordia Undergraduate Admissions, other Policy Books in Standing Regulations.

Context

In 2013 and 2014, the CSU ran two referendum questions about food systems development on campus. The first asked students if they want students to support the new student run food system projects on campus, and the second asked students if they approve of the use of the *Student Space, Accessible Education & Legal Contingency Fund* to fund student-run food-systems projects.

Both referendums received a resounding yes, and so this policy has been drafted to help facilitate the growth of a student-run community food-system on campus.

Definition of a sustainable community food-system

A sustainable community food system is a collaborative network that integrates sustainable food production, processing, distribution, consumption and waste management in order to enhance the environmental, economic and social health of a particular place. (UC Berkley)

Definitions

“Council” means the Council of Representatives of the Student Union; “Executives” means a member of the Executive of the Student Union;

“member” means a person who fulfills the conditions of membership under section 3.1 of the By-Laws;

“Position” means a resolution that provides a binding directive to the officers of the Union on what the Union’s stance is in regards to an issue or topic of importance to its members;

“Student Union” means the Concordia Student Union;

“subsidiary” means any company operated by the CSU and its various operations;

“Sustainable community food-system” means a collaborative network that integrates sustainable food production, processing, distribution, consumption and waste management in order to enhance the environmental, economic and social health of a particular place;

“Sustainability” means the process and outcome of achieving social justice, economic equality, and environmental health by reducing our economic footprint and empowering communities;

“University” means Concordia University.

Purpose

This policy was developed following two successful referendums in 2013 and 2014, which surveyed the members about whether they would like to support a student run food system project, and if they would approve of the Student Space, Accessible Education & Legal Contingency Fund to fund said project. Both referendums received a resounding yes, so this policy has been drafted to help facilitate the growth of a student-run community food-system on campus.

Scope

1. This policy applies to the Food System Special Project of the Concordia Student Union, their functions, mandates, and responsibilities.
2. Any ordinary motion, resolution or regulation that deviates from these regulations can only be adopted with a clause stating that the motion operates regardless of the Code of Standing Regulations. The clause must state which article(s) are not to be applied towards the motion. Such a motion requires a 2/3 majority vote and will cease to have effect four months following its approval.
3. The following is a list of general provisions to apply to this policy:
 - 3.1. English and French can be used equally in any Student Union Meetings and elections materials.
 - 3.2. Any individual, club or student association who wish to use the Student Union logo must get permission from the CSU.
 - 3.3. In the case of any discrepancy between these regulations and the By-Laws, the latter shall prevail.
 - 3.4. In the case of any discrepancy between these regulations and any other regulations, these regulations shall prevail.

Policy Statement

Section 1: Application Procedure

- 1.1. The application procedure for the Food System Special Project will happen in the following steps, chronologically.
 - 1.1.1. Meet with the CEO of the Sustainability Action Fund (SAF). The project will proceed if they consider the project to be a sustainable food-system project after this meeting.
 - 1.1.2. Meet with the Sustainability Coordinator to determine whether the project fits within the framework of eligibility for the CSU's regulations. The Coordinator may defer to another team member or staff member if they are overburdened. Proceed only if the application has potential.
 - 1.1.3. Develop an action plan in consultation with the CSU and the CEO of the Sustainability Action Fund. Once there is a suitable action plan, proceed to the next step.
 - 1.1.4. Present the action plan to the Sustainability committee of the CSU.
 - 1.1.4.1 Projects may be requested to present to the Finance committee as well if requested by the Sustainability committee.
 - 1.1.5. Apply to the Sustainability Action Fund (henceforth referred to as SAF) for funding.
 - 1.1.5.1 If funding is approved, apply to the CSU for funding approval. A reporting mechanism will be set up if funding is accepted. Funding is contingent on a sufficient reporting mechanism between the CSU and accepted projects.
 - 1.1.6. Once funding is received, report progress to the CSU/SAF as requested and established during the approval period. Projects are eligible to receive additional funding if needed and approved by the CSU.

Section 2: Applicant Responsibilities

- 2.1. The applicant will be responsible for the work associated with any project. It must be well understood by applicants that their projects will operate independently of the CSU and SAF (outside of funding approval), and will need ample resources devoted to them as such.
- 2.2. The role of SAF is that of a collaborator, and their capacity to support the applicant should be respected as such. Applicants will seek help from the CSU first to avoid overburdening the SAF.
- 2.3. The CSU can offer support to applicants in the form of information, guidance, and funding.
 - 2.3.1. The CSU may offer additional support if possible. This will be at the discretion of the Executive Team in office at the time
- 2.4. The CSU will ensure that the disbursement of these funds will be to the benefit of CSU members. When possible, these projects should also benefit the community-at-large.

These benefits can come in the form of access to the service, but should also come from the sustainability practices of the service.

- 2.5. It is expected that additional sources of revenue and funding will be sought out by the applicant. Applicants should keep a record of other sources of funding they seek out.
- 2.6. Projects involving multiple partners will be prioritized. Partners can be passive supporters. It is best if supporters are campus-based, though the CSU will welcome and in some cases encourages external supporters.
- 2.7. Any expenses from the fund are subject to a 2/3rds vote of CSU council and a 4/5ths vote from the Fund Committee, as per the Special Bylaws I and J, as well as any relevant bylaws, regulations, position, and/or resolutions passed at a duly held General Assembly, Special General Assembly, or referendum.
- 2.8. This fund is meant to act as a grant that would replace the need for organizations to rely heavily (or even at all) on loans from third parties.

Section 3: Applicant Eligibility Requirements

3.1. Eligible applicants are:

- 3.1.1. Student-Run Groups. This can mean that their membership is predominantly undergraduate students, or that the board is predominantly student-run, or both. It is expected that as a minimum a majority of staff will also be students, and if they are not then it is expected that a clear emphasis on student involvement can be demonstrated.
- 3.1.2. Groups that will remain student-run, or overtly Concordia student-focused over time.

Section 4: Introduction Phase

4.1. Role of the CSU

- 4.1.1. The Executive will work with the applicant to ensure that the project is fit to be considered by Council. If the Executive has deemed the project to be within the scope of these regulations, then they will make recommendations to the applicant. These recommendations could include, but are not limited to, that the applicant:
 - 4.1.1.1 must return with additional information.
 - 4.1.1.2 must seek out additional funders.
 - 4.1.1.3 should seek out additional campus or external support and/or endorsements.
 - 4.1.1.4 is ready for the consideration of CSU committee(s) and council.

4.2. Start-Up Support

- 4.2.1. Start-up support, if granted, can be expected in the following ways:

- 4.2.1.1 Preliminary funding (studies/surveys/etc.)
- 4.2.1.2 Construction costs
- 4.2.1.3 Long-term operational support (ex: 3-year decreasing funding cushion; 50,000, 35,000, 20,000, as needed)
- 4.2.1.4 Access to the CSU financial office for support (if available).

Section 5: Required Sustainability Components

5.1. Projects must contain sustainability components, such as projects that:

- 5.1.1. Provide education to the community about food justice, food politics, and the issues of our current food system.
- 5.1.2. Encourage and sustain student representation in their administration and activities;
 - 5.1.2.1 This can be represented by a list of members interested in participating in the project, letters of support from key stakeholders, or through a clearly established promoter or promoter group.
- 5.1.3. Implicate all dimensions of sustainability, including environmental, social, and economic modes.
- 5.1.4. Involve the Concordia community and community-at-large with specific emphasis on the community that geographically surrounds the university.
- 5.1.5. Be as accessible to students and community members as possible.
- 5.1.6. Focus on the mental, physical, emotional and financial well-being of students (prioritizing this over financial profits).

5.2. Special considerations will be made for projects that have socially sustainable considerations, such as:

- 5.2.1. Accessibility for those with limited mobility
- 5.2.2. Financially accessible mechanisms, such as sliding-scale pricing, pay-what-you-can, or considerations for those who are financially overburdened.
- 5.2.3. Anti-oppressive mandates, including but not limited to decolonial, anti-racist, trans and queer positive, feminist practices