



Concordia Student Union - Council of Representatives
CSU Regular Council Meeting
Wednesday, May 11, 2022
Via Zoom, 18h30

1. CALL TO ORDER

The chairperson calls the meeting to order at **18h33**.

We would like to begin by acknowledging that Concordia University is located on unceded Indigenous lands. The Kanien'kehá:ka Nation is recognized as the custodians of the lands and waters on which we gather today. TiohEá:ke/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.

2. ROLL CALL

Council Chairperson: Caitlin Robinson

Council Minute Keeper: Michelle Lam

Executives present for the meeting were: Eduardo Malorni (General Coordinator), Hannah Jamet-Lange (Academic & Advocacy Coordinator), Malcolm Asselin (Student Life Coordinator), Camina Harrison-Chéry (External Affairs & Mobilization Coordinator), Aria Khaksar (Finance Coordinator), S Shivaane (Loyola Coordinator), Harrison Kirshner (Internal Affairs Coordinator), Faye Sun (Sustainability Coordinator)

Councilors present for the meeting were: Alina Murad (Arts & Science), Lily Charette (Arts & Science), Caleb Woolcott (Arts & Science), Christopher Vaccarella (Arts & Science), Calvin Clarke (Arts & Science), Lauren Perozek (John Molson School of Business), Tzvi Hersh Filler (Independent), Jeremy Deneault (John Molson School of Business), Hassan Nabeel (Gina Cody School of Engineering), Ariane Drouin (Gina Cody School of Engineering)

Councilors absent for the meeting were: Katherine Bellini (Gina Cody School of Engineering), Boutaina Chafi (Arts & Science), Noah Mohamed (John Molson School of Business), Emmanuel Gaisie (John Molson School of Business), Paula Colmenares (Independent), Wan Hua Li (Fine Arts), Olivia Integlia (Arts & Science), Nathaniel Ouazana (Arts & Science), Samuel Thibodeau (Fine Arts), Shania Bramble (Arts & Science), Edel Kilkenny-Mondoux (Arts & Science), Ikrame Housni (Arts & Science), Marissa Profetto (Gina Cody School of Engineering)

Executives absent for the meeting were: N/A

Tzvi Hersh Filler motions to excuse all those who are absent. Seconded. Opposed by **Lauren Perozek**. Motion passes.

VOTE:

4 YES

1 NO

2 ABSTAIN

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

4. CONSENT AGENDA

Calvin Clarke motions to approve the agenda and all items under consent. Seconded by **Christopher Vaccarella**. Motion passes.

5. PRESENTATIONS AND GUEST SPEAKERS

6. APPOINTMENTS

7. RETURNING BUSINESS - SUBSTANTIVE

8. NEW BUSINESS – SUBSTANTIVE

a) International Healthcare Plan Statement

Eduardo Malorni presents the following motion. Seconded. Motion passes unanimously. *WHEREAS* the Graduate Student Association (GSA) has requested our support in their endeavour to lower the international healthcare plan costs,

WHEREAS the CSU has historically played a significant role in the conversations regarding the international healthcare plan,

WHEREAS the GSA's proposal would lower the costs of the international healthcare plan by 248\$ per student per year,

WHEREAS the CSU is not able to hold a referendum on this matter prior to the summer,

BE IT RESOLVED that the CSU sign the Letter of Support for the GSA,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the budgetary impact of the motion is nil.

Eduardo Malorni: The 2019-2020 executive team pushed to lower the fees for international health care plans, but that was not successful. The University renewed the existing healthcare plan. Students are rightfully upset with this and the GSA took the plan we had two years ago and executed it this year. The savings come to around \$5Million for students at Concordia. The University is not keen on giving up this health care plan, which is why we want to garner support via referendum question at our by-election. However, the University will have to notify Sun Life if they want to renew the contract during the summer so the by-election would be too late. This is why we want to sign this letter.

Calvin Clarke: In light of what's happening around the student healthcare plan, won't this have to change in November anyways because of what's happening with Studentcare?

Eduardo Malorni: Studentcare is the domestic student healthcare plan, this is separate and independent of that

Tzvi Hersh Filler: We are indicating financial support without actually doing that?

Eduardo Malorni: We aren't contributing money towards this. When international students come to Canada, they're forced to enroll in this plan. We're supporting the University switching their existing plan to this lower-cost plan, that also has the same coverage

Tzvi Hersh Filler: Who is this letter addressed to and what will it do?

Eduardo Malorni: It's addressed to the University saying that on behalf of the undergraduate student body, the current plan should be negotiated and recommending the plan that the GSA currently has

Eduardo Malorni: Congratulations to the GSA for seeing this through, this was a very bold and gutsy move.

Lourdu Reddy Alam (GSA): Thank you for your support

b) CERCLE Ratification

Eduardo Malorni presents the following motion. Seconded by **Christopher Vaccarella**. Motion passes unanimously.

WHEREAS the housing crisis has been ongoing,

WHEREAS students have been particularly affected during the housing crisis,

WHEREAS the CSU has worked towards combatting the student housing crisis,

WHEREAS the student body voted 88.2% in favour of a second housing project to help combat student housing for Concordia Students,

WHEREAS the student housing crisis is a systematic problem that the CSU cannot solve on its own,

BE IT RESOLVED that the CSU sign the support letter for CERCLE,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the budgetary impact of this motion is nil.

Eduardo Malorni: UTILE has been building social housing for students and have been pretty successful. We are providing apartments at undermarket rates. They're trying to get more support from the government for this initiative. CERCLE is a request for a roundtable discussion with municipal and provincial governments. Hopefully the letter has impact because this is a systemic problem that will not get better

c) Roe v. Wade Statement

Eduardo Malorni presents the following motion. Seconded by **Calvin Clarke**. Motion passes unanimously.

WHEREAS last week saw the publishing of a leaked draft decision by the Supreme Court of the United States of America that would overturn the landmark 1973 Roe v. Wade ruling,

WHEREAS this decision, if finalized, will lead to millions of people losing access to safe abortions,

WHEREAS research has shown that banning safe abortions does not stop abortions from happening but merely increases the number of unsafe abortions driving up maternal death rates,

WHEREAS this will disproportionately impact marginalized communities,

WHEREAS the right to safe abortion and the right to choose are absolutely essential,

WHEREAS numerous politicians in Canada have mentioned that they would be in support of banning abortion in Canada,

WHEREAS, even though decriminalized in Canada, abortions are already highly inaccessible in some regions of Canada,

BE IT RESOLVED that the CSU publish a statement in support of increasing access to and upholding the right to abortions and the right to choose,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the budgetary impact of this motion is nil.

Eduardo Malorni: This is technically a geopolitical issue since it involves the United States, and according to our policies, we have to present this to council before writing a statement. If this is overturned, it is a huge step backwards. When America does things, it has impacts worldwide, which is why we need to proactively take a stand against this. We can also include resources for students who are American or in America. We're looking for permission to write and publish this statement

d) CSU Opt-Out

Tzvi Hersh Filler presents the following motion. Motion fails to receive a second.

WHEREAS the CSU has not obtained more than 25% vote participation within the past 5 years;
WHEREAS the role of the CSU is to represent the decisions of the students as best as it can, which includes respecting their decision not to participate in the CSU;

WHEREAS students may opt out of Fee Levy charges, and have often asked how to opt out of CSU charges;

WHEREAS Article 26 of the ACT RESPECTING THE ACCREDITATION AND FINANCING OF STUDENTS' ASSOCIATIONS allows for the possibility of a student requesting that the CSU not represent them;

WHEREAS Article 52 of the ACT RESPECTING THE ACCREDITATION AND FINANCING OF STUDENTS' ASSOCIATIONS allows for the possibility that the student association fee is refundable;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the following question be sent to referendum in the next CSU election, be it a special election or the 2022 by-election:

"The CSU currently acts as your highest representative within Concordia University, per the ACT RESPECTING THE ACCREDITATION AND FINANCING OF STUDENTS' ASSOCIATIONS. Several fees are added to your tuition to finance the activities and services of the CSU. Unlike the Fee Levy charges, these fees cannot currently be opted out from. Do you want the CSU to allow for the possibility of opting out from the CSU fees?"

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the budgetary impact of this motion is nil.

Zachary Fortier (The Link): What type of services are not currently able to be opted out of?

Tzvi Hersh Filler: University fees and CSU fees. Your group, and any fee levy, are able to by students. Any group or services under the University or the CSU cannot be opted out of

Zachary Fortier: What would students be opting out of?

Tzvi Hersh Filler: You can find them on the Concordia website

Caitlin Robinson: If a petition is being circulated, it will need to be presented to council as well

Tzvi Hersh Filler: The promoters of the petition can solicit feedback and advice from council and make it more specific

Caitlin Robinson: As long as the spirit of it doesn't change

Caleb Woolcott: This is a misleading question because it only quotes voter turnout as the only measure of engagement

Lauren Perozek: We have things that we can and can't opt out of. If the CSU fees are able to be opted out of, why wouldn't that have been done sooner? Why are they mandatory?

Tzvi Hersh Filler: I'm speculating that it just wasn't brought up. The most cynical answer is that the CSU does not have a financial interest in allowing people to opt-out. As a corporation, the CSU would prefer to stay on the side of not opting-out, which I think the stakeholders should have a say in and

Lauren Perozek: The CSU does work that positively benefit all students, even if they don't know about it

Hannah Jamet-Lange: I'd like this to be looked over by a lawyer and Judicial Board before we discuss this or send it to referendum. I can take this to the Judicial Board.

Tzvi Hersh Filler: I would be in favour of that and worthwhile to consult the lawyers

e) L'Organe

Eduardo Malorni presents the following motion. Seconded by **Hannah Jamet-Lange**. Motion passes unanimously.

WHEREAS the student fee levy group known as L'Organe has been dormant for two years,

WHEREAS there have been multiple unsuccessful attempts to restart the group,

WHEREAS all contact was lost with the previous Board,

BE IT RESOLVED that the CSU Council of Representatives recommend to the University to temporarily pause the collection of the fee for L'Organe,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the attached Letter be sent to the Concordia Board of Governors,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the budgetary impact of the motion is nil.

Eduardo Malorni: When COVID hit, a lot of groups struggled to garner members, and L'Organe is one of them. They are a fee levy and every semester students pay a portion of their tuition to L'Organe. They've been dormant for two years and the Board dissolved themselves, which in hindsight they might not have been allowed to do that, and have stopped communicating with us. For the past two years, students have been paying into this fee levy. The University formally requested that we either find students to restart this club or put the fee on pause. This happened to L'Organe previously in 2013, and we sent a similar letter to ask them to put the fee on pause until they're active again. The fees already charged will not be refunded, it'll remain in their account until they're active again.

Zachary Fortier (The Link): Can you expand on what you meant when you said the money would not be refunded and just sit there?

Eduardo Malorni: That money collected from students goes into an internal account that is accessible by the Board of the group.

Calvin Clarke: If L'Organe is dormant for longer, what happens to the money?

Eduardo Malorni: A group has never disbanded forever. It's not impossible for the University to refund students, but it gets tricky when the money has been taken so long ago and students who graduated wouldn't know they were refunded a few cents

Calvin Clarke: The money wouldn't go back to the University, it would go back to the CSU?

Eduardo Malorni: I would argue that it be transferred to the CSU since the money is dedicated for student services. If the money was never to be claimed, I would argue it would have to go to the closest fee levy group or the CSU. There's no precedent for this so I don't have a clear answer

Fawaz Halloum: The value of money diminishes over the years, wouldn't it be more important right now to get that money back?

Eduardo Malorni: I understand the money is losing value and there are many better purposes of this. I can ask to see if we can put this money in a short term GIC, but I think there will be pushback from the University since that isn't our money and no one has authority over that money other than L'Organe. There would be a lot of legality to explore here but I can bring it up

Calvin Clarke: Maybe it would be good for the new team to look into policies to prevent this

e) Building Steering Committee

Eduardo Malorni presents the following motion. Seconded by **Christopher Vaccarella**. Motion passes unanimously.

WHEREAS it will require professional experience as well as student passion to fulfil the Student Center project,

WHEREAS the CSU currently does not have the members to fill these experienced spots internally,

BE IT RESOLVED the CSU create a steering committee composed of the following voting members:

One (1) Executive of the Concordia Student Union

One (1) Councillor or Student at Large

One (1) Member with experience in applying for Grants

One (1) Member with experience in Private Equity

One (1) Member with experience in Municipal Politics

The General Manager of the CSU (Chair)

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the budgetary impact of the motion is nil.

Eduardo Malorni: The building purchase has been completed and we're really excited about it. We've already had groups reaching out to us wanting to be involved. We chose these members based on what the building project will require. Once we have a full team, we would have to come back to council to appoint them. We can reach out now to people that we think would be a great fit for this role.

f) Bonuses

Eduardo Malorni motions to enter closed sessions. Seconded by **Christopher Vaccarella**. Motion passes unanimously.

Lauren Perozek presents the following motion. Seconded by **Christopher Vaccarella**. Motion passes.

BE IT RESOLVED that all executives receive a bonus of 20% of the total salary earned between June 1st and May 31st.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT that this motion be passed notwithstanding the CSU's Finance and Operation Policy section 14.4

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the budgetary impact of the motion is \$30,490,90

VOTE:

8 YES

1 NO

Christopher Vaccarella presents the following motion. Seconded by **Calvin Clarke**. Motion passes unanimously.

BE IT RESOLVED that the chairperson and minute keeper receive a bonus of 25% of the total salary earned between June 1st and May 31st.

Eduardo Malorni motion to enter open sessions. Seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

Christopher Vaccarella motions to ratify the minutes of closed session. Seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

9. NEW BUSINESS – INFORMATIONAL

10. QUESTION PERIOD & BUSINESS ARISING

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Harrison Kirshner: Thank you for the great year, we've appreciated the involvement that councillors had in committees and at council

S Shivaane: For Asian Heritage Month, we're going to publish an open letter

S Shivaane: Camina mentioned to receive a lot of money for murals, the one in the lounge area is almost complete

Malcolm Asselin: it was an honour to be an executive for two years, thank you to all the councillors and everyone

Eduardo Malorni: Thank you for sticking through this year

Caitlin Robinson: Thank you for a great year

12. ADJOURNMENT

Harrison Kirshner moves to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by **Eduardo Malorni**. Motion carries.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM.