



Concordia Student Union - Council of Representatives
CSU Special Council Meeting
Thursday, September 23, 2021
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: Hannah Jamet-Lange (Academic & Advocacy Coordinator), Harrison Kirshner (Internal Affairs Coordinator), S Shivaane (Loyola Coordinator)

Councilors present for the meeting were: Noah Mohamed (John Molson School of Business), Christopher Vaccarella (Arts & Science), Lily Charette (Arts & Science), Lauren Perozek (John Molson School of Business), Calvin Clarke (Arts & Science), Alina Murad (Arts & Science), Benjamin Harvey (Arts & Science), Edel Kilkenny-Mondoux (Arts & Science), Brandon Grimaldi (Arts & Science), Boutaina Chafi (Arts & Science), Ariane Drouin (Gina Cody School of Engineering), Marissa Profetto (Gina Cody School of Engineering)

Executives absent for the meeting were: Malcolm Asselin (Student Life Coordinator), Camina Harrison-Chéry (External Affairs & Mobilization Coordinator), Eduardo Malorni (General Coordinator), Aria Khaksar (Finance Coordinator), Faye Sun (Sustainability Coordinator)

Councilors absent for the meeting were: Nathaniel Ouazana (Arts & Science), Jeremy Deneault (John Molson School of Business), Nick Bonneau (John Molson School of Business), Paula Colmenares (Independent), Olivia Lafreniere (John Molson School of Business), Anais Gagnon (Gina Cody School of Engineering), Emmanuel Gaisie (John Molson School of Business), Ikrame Housni (Arts & Science), Tzvi Hersh Filler (Gina Cody School of Engineering), Samuel Thibodeau (Fine Arts), Shania Bramble (Arts & Science), Howard Issley (John Molson School of Business),

3. Appointment to the Fee Levy Review Committee

Hannah Jamet-Lange motions to table this agenda topic to the upcoming RCM. Seconded by **Boutaina Chafi**. Motion passes

4. Bylaw Amendment

Hannah Jamet-Lange presents the following motion. Seconded by **Brandon Grimaldi**. Motion passes.

WHEREAS Section 9 of the CSU By-laws states:

GENERAL ELECTIONS, BY-ELECTIONS AND REFERENDA

9.1.1 The Representatives and the Executives shall be elected annually in the Annual General Elections, which takes place during the month of March.

9.1.2 Candidates for the Executive run individually for the positions of General Coordinator, Finance Coordinator, The Academic and Advocacy Coordinator, External Affairs and Mobilization Coordinator, Internal Affairs Coordinator, Student Life Coordinator, Sustainability Coordinator and Loyola Coordinator.

9.1.3 Candidates for the Council of Representatives, Senate and Board of Governors run individually and independently.

9.2 The Council of Representatives shall appoint a Chief Electoral Officer for the Annual General Elections, by-elections or referenda. The Chief Electoral Officer shall be charged with the supervision of the said plebiscites and shall report the results of such in accordance with the by-laws.

9.3 The Annual General Elections and any by-elections or referenda held concurrently, and the Chief Electoral Officer's report of such shall be deemed to form part of the proceedings of the Annual General Meeting.

9.3.1 Vacant seats on the Council of Representatives may only be filled through a byelection called in accordance with these by-laws and regulations. If such a byelection is not held at the same time as the Annual General Elections, the report of Chief Electoral Officer shall be tabled at the first succeeding meeting of the Council following said by-election.

9.4 The following procedures shall be complied with:

a. The Chief Electoral Officer must file the results of a by-election with the Chairperson of the Council of Representatives on the day following the expiry of the deadline to contest same, indicating whether such a contestation has been filed;

b. If a contestation is filed, the Chief Electoral Officer must immediately file a copy of the decision rendered thereon with the Chairperson of the Council of Representatives;

c. The Judicial Board must immediately file with the Chairperson of the Council of Representatives a copy of any appeal of the decision of the Chief Electoral Officer;

d. Similarly, the Judicial Board must immediately file a copy of its decision on the appeal, or a notice of discontinuance, with the Chairperson of the Council of Representatives;

e. Upon the delays to contest or appeal having expired without the filing of a contestation or appeal, or upon a final decision being rendered or a notice of discontinuance being received, the Chairperson of the Council of Representatives shall call a special meeting of the Council of Representatives within five (5) days to receive the final results.

9.5.1 A by-election may only be held during the fall and winter academic sessions on days when regular classes are held.

9.6.1 The Council of Representatives may choose to call referenda on amendments to these by-laws or on questions of importance to the Student Union. The Chief Electoral Officer's report on such referenda shall form part of the proceedings of the Annual General Meeting if such referenda are held concurrent to an Annual- General Election. The procedure set out in paragraphs a) to e) of Section 9.4 shall apply mutatis mutandis to referenda. Referenda may also be called by a petition of at least five-hundred (500) members presented to the Chairperson of the Council of Representatives a minimum of five (5) days before the announcement of the Poll. The stipulations of by-laws 5.3.2 and

5.3.3 apply, mutatis mutandis, to this by-law. Any petition concerning the introduction or change in a fee levy must in addition to receiving the respective amount of signatures, follow the dispositions of these By-Laws and CSU Standing Regulations.

9.6.2 In addition to the above, the promoters of a petition for the calling of a referendum are responsible to come and present their petition to the Council of Representatives prior to circulating it on campus. The purpose of such a presentation is only to allow for discussion between Council and the promoters and to solicit feedback on the proposed question. The Council of Representatives shall have no decision-making power regarding the wording of any question presented for discussion, nor over the ability of the promoters to pursue their petition, nor over the putting of that question to referendum.

9.7.1 Representatives and Executives elected at the Annual General Elections, shall take office on June 1st following said election. The elected executive members will start working on May 1st following the elections for a transition period of one month. During that month they shall be given training, have access to the documents related to their portfolios and will have the right to be present at all closed sessions of the Council of Representatives. They will also receive a salary equal to 50% of one month of the salary of an executive member in office for that fiscal year.

9.7.2 Representatives elected in a by-election, shall take office upon the Council of Representatives receiving the final results at a special meeting called by its Chairperson pursuant to Section 11.4.1.

9.8 Quorum for Annual General Elections, by-elections and referenda shall be 450 members.

9.9 No candidate for any position in Annual General Elections or by-election shall be elected by acclamation. In the case of an uncontested candidacy, the candidate shall only be declared elected upon obtaining a majority of votes in a ratification poll held during the Annual General Elections or by-election.

WHEREAS Section 21.2 of the Bylaws states:

21.2 Notwithstanding Section 21.1, amendments may be in force and effect upon approval by a two-thirds majority vote of the Council of Representatives, but shall be in force and effect only until the end of the term of office during which they are enacted, unless they have been confirmed by a simple majority of a quorum of the members voting in a referendum.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Section 9 of the CSU Bylaws be amended to the following, in place only temporarily until sent to and ratified by referendum:

9. Elections & Referenda

9.1. The Student Union shall hold a minimum of 2 elections per year for the purpose of electing Representatives, Executives and Senators, and for holding referenda.

9.2. The three types of Elections shall be Annual General Elections held in March, Byelections held in November, and Special Elections which may be called by a 2/3 majority vote of Council. Any election may only be held during the Fall and Winter academic sessions on days when regular classes are held and the polling phase may not be held on a day defined as a holiday with work restrictions within a religious calendar.

9.2.1. Representatives, Executives, and elected Senators shall be elected in the Annual General Elections which take place in the month of March.

9.2.2. Vacant seats on the Council of Representatives shall be filled in Byelections which take place in November.

9.2.3. Special Elections may only be held for the purpose of Bylaw Amendments and Questions of Importance following a 2/3 majority vote by the Council of Representatives.

9.3. The following dispositions shall apply to the election of positions

9.3.1. Candidates for the Executive run individually for the positions of Academic and Advocacy Coordinator, External Affairs and Mobilization Coordinator, Finance Coordinator, General Coordinator, Internal Affairs Coordinator, Student Life Coordinator, Sustainability Coordinator and Loyola Coordinator, but may campaign together.

9.3.2. Candidates for the Council of Representatives and Senate run individually and independently.

9.3.3. No candidate for any position in Annual General Elections or Byelections shall be elected by acclamation. In the case of an uncontested candidacy, the candidate shall only be declared elected upon obtaining a majority of votes in a ratification poll held during the Annual General Elections or Byelections the candidacy was submitted for.

9.3.4. Representatives and Executives elected at the Annual General Elections, shall take office on June 1st following said election. The elected executive members will start working on May 1st following the elections for a transition period of one month. During

that month they shall be given training, have access to the documents related to their portfolios and will have the right to be present at all closed sessions of the Council of Representatives. They will also receive a salary equal to 50% of one month of the salary of an executive member in office for that fiscal year.

9.3.5. Representatives elected in the Byelection shall take office upon the Council of Representatives receiving the final results.

9.3.6. Elected Senators shall start their term in accordance with the University Bylaws.

9.4. The Quorum for Annual General Elections, Byelections, Referenda, and Special Elections shall be 450 members.

9.5. Elections shall be overseen by the Chief Electoral Officer, who shall be appointed by the Council of Representatives. The Chief Electoral Officer shall be charged with the supervision of the said elections, ensure Student Union regulations on Elections and Referenda are followed, and shall report the results of such elections in accordance with the by-laws and regulations.

9.5.1. The Annual General Elections and any referenda held concurrently, and the Chief Electoral Officer's report of such shall be deemed to form part of the proceedings of the Annual General Meeting.

9.5.2. The Chief Electoral Officer's report of the Byelections and any Special Elections shall be received at the first succeeding meeting of the Council following said Byelection or Special Election.

9.6. The following procedures shall be complied with:

9.6.1. The Chief Electoral Officer must file the results of an Election or Referenda with the Chairperson of the Council of Representatives on the day following the expiry of the deadline to contest same, indicating whether such a contestation has been filed.

9.6.2. If a contestation is filed, the Chief Electoral Officer must immediately file a copy of the decision rendered thereon with the Chairperson of the Council of Representatives.

9.6.3. The Judicial Board must immediately file with the Chairperson of the Council of Representatives a copy of any appeal of the decision of the Chief Electoral Officer.

9.6.4. Similarly, the Judicial Board must immediately file a copy of its decision on the appeal, or a notice of discontinuance, with the Chairperson of the Council of Representatives.

9.6.5. Upon the delays to contest or appeal having expired without the filing of a contestation or appeal, or upon a final decision being rendered or a notice of discontinuance being received, the reception of the final results shall be added as the very first agenda point of the next regular meeting of the Council of Representatives.

9.7. Referenda on the Student Union Fee or the introduction, change, or removal of a non-CSU fee-levy may be called to be held during the Annual General Elections and Byelections. Referenda on amendments to these Bylaws or on Questions of Importance may be called to be held during the Annual General Elections, Byelections and Special Elections. Referenda must be called a minimum of 5 days before the beginning of the campaigning period. The Chief Electoral Officer's report on such referenda shall be submitted concurrently with the report on

the Election during which they are held. The procedures set out in 9.6. shall apply mutatis mutandis to referenda.

9.7.1. The Council of Representatives shall have the sole authority to bring to referendum a change in the amount of the Student Union Fee.

9.7.2. A referendum concerning the creation, modification, or removal of a non- Student Union fee levy may only be called to be held during the Annual General Elections and the Byelections and must follow the dispositions of these Bylaws and the regulations of the Student Union. Referenda on the creation or removal of said fee-levy may be called by a petition of at least 750 members presented to the Chairperson of the Council of Representatives alongside any other dispositions laid out in the regulations of the Student Union, ratified by the Council of Representatives a minimum of 5 days before the beginning of the campaigning period. The promoters of a petition for the calling of a referendum are responsible to come and present their petition to the Council of Representatives prior to circulating it on campus. The purpose of such a presentation is only to allow for discussion between Council and the promoters and to solicit feedback on the proposed question. The Council of Representatives shall have no decision-making power over the ability of the promoters to pursue their petition.

9.7.3. The Council of Representatives may choose to call referenda on amendments to these Bylaws by a 2/3 majority vote.

9.7.4. Referenda on Questions of Importance may be called by the Council of Representatives or by a petition of at least 750 members presented to the Council of Representatives a minimum of 5 days before the end of the Campaigning period. The promoters of a petition for the calling of a referendum are responsible to come and present their petition to the Council of Representatives prior to circulating it on campus. The purpose of such a presentation is only to allow for discussion between Council and the promoters and to solicit feedback on the proposed question. The Council of Representatives shall have no decision-making power over the ability of the promoters to pursue their petition, nor over the ability of the promoters to put that question to referendum. Questions of Importance shall be defined as anything falling under the scope of the Student Union umbrella or any matters deemed important by the student body.

9.7.4.1. Notwithstanding this, should the Council of Representatives think that the proposed question is in contradiction with the current Bylaws or CSU Regulations, it shall send a request for a reference decision to the Judicial Board. The Judicial Board shall issue a report containing an interpretation of whether the proposed question is in contradiction with the CSU Bylaws or Regulations to the Council of Representatives and to the promoters of the petition. If the Judicial Board's report concludes that the question is in contradiction with the Bylaws or Regulations, the Council of Representatives shall have the power to remove the question from the ballot by a simple majority. Until such a removal from ballot is voted upon by the Council, the promoters of the petition shall have the same rights to collect signatures and campaign as any other promoter of a petition.

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

Hannah Jamet-Lange: We're making the old bylaws clearer, the largest change is to the section on referenda. We'll have to change that fee-levies who want to modify will no longer need to petition, they can modify by submitting the documents in the fee levy policy, we are also adding special election in the event that there is something that needs to happen quickly and we need the flexibility and students will be able to be more informed on these decisions.

Chairperson: For the CEO report it says the next meeting of council, but everywhere else says the next *regular* meeting. Can we get an amendment to fix this?

Hannah Jamet-Lange presents the following amendment. Seconded by **Christopher Vaccarella**. Motion passes.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT section 9.5.2 to include the word *regular* before the word *meeting*.

5. Policy on Fee Levy Applications

Hannah Jamet-Lange presents the following motion. Seconded by **Christopher Vaccarella**.

Motion passes.

WHEREAS Policy Committee approved the revised Policy on Fee-Levy Applications on September 21st, 2021;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Policy on Fee-Levy Applications be approved.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the former Policy on Fee-Levy Applications be rescinded at the time this new policy is put in place.

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

Hannah Jamet-Lange: This was led by Eduardo, the former Chair of this committee, and these changes will fix internal contradictions and inconsistencies that we noticed. One of the biggest changes is that this committee has to approve the fee-levy before it goes to Council, this will ensure proper consultation.

6. Policy on Elections and Referenda

Hannah Jamet-Lange presents the following motion. Seconded by **Calvin Clarke**. Motion passes.

WHEREAS Policy Committee approved the Elections and Referenda Policy on September 21st, 2021;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Elections and Referenda Policy be approved.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the former version of the Policy on Elections and Referenda, as well as the Electoral Officer Appointments Policy be rescinded at the time this new policy is put in place.

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

Hannah Jamet-Lange: I reorganized it to make it more consistent, organized, and coherent. It would also make it easier to have all policies on elections to be in one place. We also added that the polling period cannot overlap with religious holidays

7. Policy on Executive, Council and Committees

Hannah Jamet-Lange presents the following motion. Seconded by **Christopher Vaccarella**.

Motion passes.

WHEREAS Policy Committee approved the Policy on Executives, Council, and Committees on July 28th, 2021;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the revised version of the Policy on Executives, Council, and Committees be approved.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the old version of the Policy on Council and Committees be rescinded;

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

Hannah Jamet-Lange: We did this one earlier in the year, we added the mental health committee as a standing committee, we added more members-at-large seats for the BIPOC committee, we also clarified quorum for committees

8. ADJOURNMENT

Hannah Jamet-Lange moves to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by **Christopher Vaccarella**. Motion carries.

Meeting adjourned at 7:03 PM.