



## **Concordia Student Union - Council of Representatives**

### **CSU Regular Council Meeting**

**Wednesday, May 8th, 2024**

**H-711 OR via Zoom, 18h30**

#### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson calls meeting to order at **18h34**

**We would like to begin by acknowledging that Concordia University is located on unceded Indigenous lands. The Kaniien'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**

**Chairperson:** Michelle Lam

**Council Minute Keeper:** Kyla Renee Jallow

**Executives present for the meeting were:** Harley Martin (General Coordinator), Tanou Bah (Student Life Coordinator), Kareem Rahaman (Finance Coordinator), Maria Chitoroaga (Sustainability Coordinator), Christian Taboada (Internal Affairs Coordinator), Talya Diner (Loyola Coordinator) and Hannah Jackson (External Affairs and Mobilisation Coordinator)

**Executives absent for this meeting were:** Alexandrah Cardona (Academic & Advocacy Coordinator)

**Councillors present for this meeting were:** Adam Mills (Arts & Science), Gabriel Makinde (Fine Arts), Salma Abuaysheh (JMSB), Dave Plant (Arts & Science), Guillermo Sebastian Anderson-Diaz (Arts & Science), Carleen Loney (Fine Arts), Moad Alhjoor (Arts & Science), Abdullah Al-Kabra (JMSB), Salma Hashem (Arts & Science), Omar Hassanein (Gina Cody), Nizar Sukah (Gina Cody), Ouswa Ben Rejeb (JMSB), Riley Cooke (Arts & Science), Kareem Abdeen (Independent), Salma Bennani Khir (Arts & Science), and Noor Al Afranji (Arts & Science)

**Councillors absent for this meeting were:** Baskaran Abishana (Independent), Isabella Providenti (Fine Arts), Sona T Sadio (Arts & Science), Giancarlo Laurieri (Arts & Science), Kendra Downe (Arts & Science), Chana Leah Natanblut (Arts & Science), Rohan Kumar (Gina Cody), Nassim Boutalbi (JMSB), Diana Levitin (JMSB), Michael Lecchino (JMSB) and Zina Chouaibi (Arts & Science)

Guillermo Sebastian Anderson-Diaz motions for a retroactive excusal for the March 10<sup>th</sup>, RCM

Seconded by Riley Cooke

Retroactively excused

### **3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Hannah Jackson motions to move the Speaker Series Budget Line to the Campaigns Department Budget Line under New Business- Substantive

Seconded by Tanou Bah

Harley Martin motions to change the order of points under New Business- Substantive

Seconded by Kareem Abdeen

Talya Diner motions to add under New Business- Informational – a referendum question

Seconded by Kareem Abdeen

Hannah Jackson motions to approve the agenda

Seconded by Tanou Bah

### **4. CONSENT AGENDA**

a) Executive Reports

b) Chairperson Report

c) Approval of Previous Minutes

d) Committee Minutes

Harley Martin motions to approve all items under consent agenda

Seconded by Hannah Jackson

## 5. PRESENTATIONS AND GUEST SPEAKERS

### a) Special Food Project

Presented by **Sankofa Farming Cooperative**

#### Who are we?

- Sankofa Farming Cooperative is a small, but fast-growing project.
- We focus on Black Indigenous healing and empowerment, relations to the land, Afro-Indigenous agricultural-cultural practices, and the distribution of free food to community members.
- We are a group of Concordia alumni, undergraduate and graduate students with diverse Afro-Indigenous backgrounds.

We call on Africans/Afro-descendants/Black and Indigenous Peoples to reclaim and seek the wisdom of their roots.

#### Sankofa Meaning:

##### San ko fa, yenkyiri:

*It is not taboo to go back for what was left behind:*

##### Se wo were firi na na wo san ko fa aa yenkyiri

*We must go back and reclaim our past so we can move forward, and understand why and how we came to be who we are today*

#### Vision and Purpose:

- Black and Indigenous peoples disproportionately face the detrimental impacts of climate injustice
  - land theft
  - lack of access to land
  - food deserts
  - diet-related health problems
  - farm-worker exploitation.
- Black Canadians and Indigenous peoples experience food insecurity at nearly twice the rate of white Canadians.

- We are hopeful in the power of community to help us heal from this traumatic reality through empowerment, education, resource redistribution and community support.
- We use Afro-Indigenous farming practices that centers sustainable consciousness, and our relation to the land in service of our people
- Our volunteer days, distribution of food baskets, as well as sharing of traditional ailments and Afro-Indigenous knowledge emphasizes our dedication to food sovereignty.
- Our intergenerational goal is to increase accessibility to land, healthy food, and create a permanent community

### **The Three Sankofa Streams:**

#### **1. Farming:**

- CSA Baskets: Black Healing Centre, Head and Hands, Union Food Donation Program, DESTA, Black Healing Centre, Resilience Montreal
- Medicine Distribution
- Community and Collective Care of the Land in a process of re-empowerment
- Garden and Farming Activities
- Land Back Tax

#### **2. Education:**

- Experimentation and research of ancestral and indigenous horticultural practices
- Exploration and research of ancestral recipes and ailments
- Knowledge sharing through volunteer days, workshops and tabling
- This growing knowledge from research and community has the potential to evolve into educational classes that can be shared by Sankofa and offered to the community

#### **3. Cultural and Ancestral Activism:**

- Reclaiming lost and stolen knowledge
- Giving back to underrepresented communities
- Community building
- Sending back ancestral items to our tribes
- Being a voice in the Indigenous sovereignty movement and the Afro-Indigenous Montreal Community
- Rebuilding relations between the land and our community

**Activities** : Community volunteer days take place once a week.

## **Little Panthers Breakfast Program**

A Sankofa initiative with the intention of creating a free breakfast and educational program: This initiative to the Loyola campus that supports Black Indigenous families taking care of each other and their communities.

### **Partners:**

*Peoples Potato, Coop Cultivaction, CFC, and the PERFORM CENTER, NDG Food Depot, Head and Hands*

### **Accomplishments:**

- Growing Season
  - Weekly volunteer days at our plot at Loyola and Senneville
  - Produce Redistribution
  - Oil and tincture making
- Off Season
  - Knowledge, oil and tincture sharing through tabling
  - Workshops
  - Oil and tincture making and redistribution
  - Zine on ancestral ailment recipes
  - Participation in community conferences

### **Partnerships:**

- Perform Center (Health Sciences Department)
- Nature Positive Concordia,
- Coop CultivAction,
- Hamidou Horticulture,
- Concordia Greenhouse,
- Diasporic Plant Wisdom
- City Herbal Program
- Afro Youth Summit
- Black Healing Center
- Frigovert

### **Sankofa in the Future:**

- Plants to partner with the Noola Black Student Centre

- We are predominantly student run
- Emphasis on land accessibility
- Increased involvement internationally and nationally

**Budget:**

**Total amount requested:** \$80,000

Maria Chitoroaga motions to approve this project to go through the SSAELC FUND

Seconded by Christian Taboada

Chairperson calls a vote

13 votes for and 2 against

Motion passes

**b) Hive Free Lunch**

Harley Martin: If the Hive Free Lunch Program meets certain conditions, the CSU gives the Hive two installments of about \$23,000 each. For the funding, the Hive Free Lunch Program presents us with a report that gets approved by the council. Today we will be approving funding that they were supposed to receive in the summer of 2023 which is \$23,443

Harley Martin motions to approve the Hive Free Lunch Report from June 2023 and with that approval for the CSU to make the transfer as specified in the finance policy to the Hive Free Lunch program.

Seconded by Hannah Jackson

Motion passes unanimously

**6. APPOINTMENTS**

**7. NEW BUSINESS - SUBSTANTIVE**

**a. Speaker Series Budget to Campaigns Budget Line**

Hannah Jackson: We need the council's permission every time we request a large amount of money. As the external coordinator I managed 2 budget lines. One of them is the speaker

series and one of them is the campaign's budget. Part of the campaign's budget is the external fund, which people can apply for funding for their projects. This year we had a huge demand from the external fund. However, the Speaker Series budget ended up having an extra \$15,500 that was not used and we would like to move that money from the Speaker series budget that will go unused otherwise to the campaign's budget so that we can grant more money to the external fund applicants.

Hannah Jackson motions to reallocate the \$15,500 from the Speaker Series Budget Line to the Campaigns Budget Line for the External Fund.

Seconded by Adam Mills

Motion passes unanimously

## **b. Policy Amendments and Additions**

Harley Martin: Essentially, we need a councilor honorarium policy. Therefore, we will be discussing specific policy changes that will then be put into the policy on executives as well as committees.

### **Policy on Executive, Council, and Committees**

#### **Section 2 Council of Representatives**

2.11 Councilors are required to provide the CSU Administrative Coordinator with their date of birth, address, and a copy of one piece of personal identification.

2.11.1 The following documents can be used by Canadian residents to fulfil the personal identification requirement: passport, driver's license, provincial health card, permanent resident card, or Quebec birth certificate.

2.11.2 The following documents can be used by international students to fulfil the personal identification requirement: passport or any government-issued identification that includes date of birth.

2.11.3 The General Coordinator or Council Chair is responsible for requesting this information from Councilors once they have been elected.

2.11.4 Councilors made aware of this requirement must provide the requestor with this information within ten (10) business days upon taking office. Failure to do so will result in the temporary suspension of a Councilor's voting rights outlined in clause 3.2 of the CSU Bylaws. Full membership rights will be restored upon completion of clause 2.11 of this Policy.

#### **Section 3.2 Chairperson**

3.2.1.11.1 Complete the calculation and accompanying presentation for Councilor honorariums as per Sections 11.2 and 11.4 of this Policy.

## **Section 4: Committees**

### **4.1.1 Academic Caucus**

#### 4.1.1.3 Scheduling

4.1.1.3.1 The Policy Committee shall meet at least once per month beginning in September.

4.1.1.3.1.1 Should the committee not have considered any business, a report shall be submitted which indicates there is nothing to report in addition to the reason why the Committee did not meet.

### **4.1.2. Appointments Committee**

#### 4.1.2.3 Scheduling

4.1.2.3.1 Appointments Committee must convene no later than the second week of October. Beyond this, Appointments Committee shall meet as necessary to fill any and all vacant seats on CSU and University committees.

### **4.1.3 Black, Indigenous, Peoples of Colour (BIPOC) Committee**

#### 4.1.3.3 Scheduling

4.1.3.3.1 BIPOC Committee shall meet at least once per month beginning in September.

4.1.3.3.1.1 Should the committee not have considered any business, a report shall be submitted which indicates there is nothing to report in addition to the reason why the Committee did not meet.

### **4.1.4 Clubs and Spaces Committee**

#### 4.1.4.3 Scheduling

4.1.4.3.1 The Clubs and Spaces Committee shall meet at least once a month, but it is advised to meet more frequently.

4.1.4.3.2 Should the committee not have considered any business, a report shall be submitted which indicates there is nothing to report in addition to the reason why the Committee did not meet.

### **4.1.5 External and Mobilization Committee**

#### 4.1.5.3 Scheduling

4.1.5.3.1 The External and Mobilization Committee shall meet at least once per month beginning in September.

4.1.5.3.1.1 Should the committee not have considered any business, a report shall be submitted which indicates there is nothing to report in addition to the reason why the Committee did not meet.

#### **4.1.6 Fee-Levy Review Committee**

##### **4.1.6.3 Scheduling**

4.1.6.3.1 To review submissions for the byelections, the fee-levy review committee must convene following the last Monday of September and no later than the day preceding the start of the fall reading week.

4.1.6.3.1.1 Submissions approved by the fee-levy review committee must be transmitted to the Council Chair so that they may be considered by the Council of Representatives no later than the second Regular Council Meeting of October.

4.1.6.3.2 To review submissions for the annual general elections, the fee-levy committee must convene no later than five (5) days following the last Monday of January.

4.1.6.3.2.1 Submissions approved by the fee-levy review committee must be transmitted to the Council Chair so that they may be considered by the Council of Representatives no later than the February Regular Council.

4.1.6.3.3 Any resolution to put a fee levy to referendum shall require ratification by a 2/3 majority of the Council of Representatives.

#### **4.1.8 Loyola Committee**

##### **4.1.8.3 Scheduling**

4.1.8.3.1 The Loyola Committee shall meet at least once per month beginning in September.

4.1.8.3.1.1 Should the committee not have considered any business, a report shall be submitted which indicates there is nothing to report in addition to the reason why the Committee did not meet.

#### **4.1.9 Mental Health Committee**

- I suggest that we either scrap this from this Policy (as Mental Health Committee is ad-hoc and not a standing committee and therefore should not be in the bylaws) or motion to make it a standing committee. If the latter is option chosen the mandate would need to be more clear and specific. The composition could remain as is listed in the Policy.

#### **4.1.10 Policy Committee**

##### **4.1.10.3 Scheduling**

4.1.10.3.1 The Policy Committee shall meet at least once per month beginning in September.

4.1.10.3.1.1 Should the committee not have considered any business, a report shall be submitted which indicates there is nothing to report in addition to the reason why the Committee did not meet.

#### **4.1.11**

- This committee should be scrapped from the Policy as it was an ad-hoc committee that no longer exists

#### **4.1.13 Student Life Committee**

##### **4.1.13.3 Scheduling**

4.1.13.3.1 The Student Life Committee shall meet at least once per month beginning in October.

4.1.13.3.1.1 Should the committee not have considered any business, a report shall be submitted which indicates there is nothing to report in addition to the reason why the Committee did not meet.

#### **4.1.14 Sustainability Committee**

##### **4.1.14.3 Scheduling**

4.1.14.3.1 The Policy Committee shall meet at least once per month beginning in September.

4.1.14.3.1.1 Should the committee not have considered any business, a report shall be submitted which indicates there is nothing to report in addition to the reason why the Committee did not meet.

### **Section 4.4 Committee Chair**

4.4.1 The responsibilities of the Committee Chairperson shall be as follows:

4.4.1.1 Chair and administer all Committee meetings as per the mandate of the Committee.

4.4.1.2 Once Committee members have been appointed and quorum can be achieved, the Committee Chair shall endeavor to set a regular meeting time for each semester within five business days, in consideration of the Committee members' availabilities, in accordance with Section 4.1 of this Policy.

4.4.1.3 Prepare and notify members of the Agenda, any relevant documents, and instructions for each meeting (such as minutes or reports to review, or applications to grade) and send them at least three (3) business days before each meeting.

- 4.4.1.4 The Committee Chair shall be responsible for noting any absences, excused or unexcused, as well as the preparedness and participation of Committee members as per Section 11.3 of this Policy. The Committee Chair must include this information in the report specified in Section 4.4.1.7.
- 4.4.1.4.1 Additionally, the Committee Chair must inform each member of the Committee of their attendance, preparedness, and participation record no later than three (3) days following a meeting of the Committee.
- 4.4.1.4.2 Should the Committee Chair decide that a Committee member has failed to adequately prepare and/or participate fully, as per Section 11.3 of this Policy, the Committee Chair must state their reasoning when informing the member.
- 4.4.1.5 Should the Committee Chair fail to inform a Committee member of their absences, lack of preparedness, or insufficient participation, the Committee member shall not receive the fine in accordance with Section 11.3 of this Policy.
- 4.4.1.6 It is the responsibility of each Committee Chair to submit the final attendance and participation records of their Committee members, as specified in section 11.3 of this Policy, to the Council Chairperson no later than the Friday preceding the May Regular Council Meeting.
- 4.4.1.7 Submit a written report to each regular Council meeting containing all matters that have been considered and decided by the committee, including a closed session report for anything considered in a closed session of that meeting. This report shall include all Committee member absences, excusals, and any relevant notes on their preparation and participation as it pertains to Section 11.3 of this Policy. Should the committee have not considered any business, a report shall be submitted which indicates there is nothing to report.
- 4.4.1.8 Submit any resolutions passed at the committee's meeting to council for ratification and any recommendations it may produce for Council's consideration.
- 4.4.1.9 While committee chairs may not usually cast a vote, they may vote in the event of a tie.

## **11. Council of Representatives and Student-at-Large Honorarium**

11.1 Each member of the Council of Representatives is eligible to receive an honorarium upon completing their term of office which ends May 31st.

11.1.1 For Councilors elected in the March Annual General Elections who begin their term June 1st, the maximum payment shall be \$1400.00.

11.1.2 For Councilors elected in the November Byelection who begin their term in November, the maximum payment shall be \$1200.00.

## 11.2 Attendance, Preparedness, and Participation at Regular Council Meetings

11.2.1 Representatives elected in the March Annual General Elections who attend all Regular Council Meetings are eligible to receive up to \$800 should they meet the requirements specified in clause 11.2.4 of this policy and its subsection.

11.2.2 Representatives elected in the November Byelections who attend all Regular Council Meetings following their election are eligible to receive up to \$600 should they meet the requirements specified in clause 11.2.4 of this policy and its subsection.

11.2.3 Any representative absent without an excusal from a Regular Council Meeting shall be deducted \$100 from the totals specified in clauses 11.2.1 and 11.2.2.

11.2.3.1 Excused absences as specified in section 8 of this Policy shall not result in a deduction.

11.2.4 In addition to attendance, it is expected that Councilors come to RCMs having read all the documents sent by the Chair ahead of time, and have prepared accordingly.

11.2.4.1 If a Representative consistently evidences a failure to prepare for Regular Council Meetings, through action such as, though not limited to, asking questions specified in the documents themselves or being unable to participate in discussion, the Council or any member of the Executive team may recommend that said Representative be deducted \$50 from the appropriate total specified in clauses 11.2.1 or 11.2.2. This may be determined by a simple majority vote of the Council.

## 11.3 Attendance, Preparedness, and Participation of Committee Members

11.3.1 Each voting Committee member, regardless if they are elected in the Annual General Elections, the Byelections, or appointed as a student-at-large, is eligible for a maximum of \$200 per committee which they sit on, should they fulfill the conditions stipulated in this Policy, for a maximum of three (3) committees per member (a maximum of \$600)

11.3.2 A committee member may be granted two (2) excused absences from their Committee over the course of their mandate. Any request for excusal must be sent to the Committee Chair a minimum of two (2) days prior to the meeting, and clearly state why an excusal is necessary. The Committee Chair must grant this request if the reasons are legitimate, but may deny it if there are no grounds for an excusal.

11.3.3 Any committee member absent from a scheduled Committee meeting of which they hold a seat who has not been granted an excusal or has already used their two excused absences will be deducted \$100 from their Committee stipend.

11.3.4 In addition to attendance, it is expected that committee members come to all committee meetings having prepared accordingly and participate fully.

11.3.4.1 Adequate preparation for committee meetings consists of having completed all work assigned ahead of time and in understanding the work of the committee and the documents being evaluated. Evidence of a failure to prepare adequately will result in a \$50 deduction from the \$200 stipend at the discretion of the Committee Chair.

11.3.4.2 Full participation is evidenced by demonstrating knowledge of the items under consideration and in engaging in discussion. Evidence of a failure to participate fully will result in a \$50 deduction from the \$200 stipend at the discretion of the Committee Chair.

11.3.5 The Committee Chair shall be responsible for administering the attendance and participation record in accordance with Section 4.4 of this Policy and its relevant subsections.

#### 11.4 Presentation of Council Honorarium Report

11.4.1 The Committee Chair shall be responsible for administering the attendance and participation record in accordance with Section 4.4 of this Policy and its relevant subsections.

11.4.1.1 It is the responsibility of each Committee Chair to submit their final attendance and participation records for their committee members, as specified in sections 4.4 and 11.3 of this Policy, to the Chairperson no later than the Friday preceding the May Regular Council Meeting. This need include the total amount to be paid to each Committee member.

11.4.2 As per section 3.2.1.11 of this policy, the Chairperson shall administer the Regular Council Meeting attendance record with respect to the Bylaws.

11.4.2.1 Based on the specification in clause 11.2 of this Policy, the Chairperson shall calculate the amounts to be paid to each Councilor for their RCM attendance and participation and submit this information as part of their report for the May Regular Council Meeting.

11.4.2.2 The Chairperson shall present separate totals for each Councilor's RCM attendance and Committee participation as well as the total amount to be paid to each Councilor and submit this information as part of their report for the May Regular Council Meeting. The Chairperson must present this information during the May RCM. Should a Councilor be absent from the May RCM this should be noted during the presentation and the totals updated.

11.4.2.3 The Chairperson shall also calculate the amounts to be paid to students-at-large holding committee seats and include these totals in their report and presentation.

## **Policy on Elections and Referenda**

### **Subsection 3: Byelections**

1.3.1 Byelections shall be held in the month of November such that the nomination period begins the Monday following the end of the fall reading week.

Harley Martin Motions to approve the **Policy on Executive, Council, and Committees Section 2 Council of Representatives, Section 3.2 Chairperson, Section 4: Committees, Section 11 Council of Representatives and Student-at-Large Honorarium, and the Policy on Elections and Referenda**

Seconded by Tanou Bah  
Motion passes unanimously

### ***c. Councilor Honorarium 2023-2024 ASEQ***

Gabriel Makinde presents motion:

WHEREAS CSU Councilors dedicate their time and energy to their role as Council Members

WHEREAS the CSU has passed a policy for future Council members to receive an honorarium which does not apply to the 2023-2024 Council;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Councilors receive a one-time honorarium to recognize the time and labor they have held their position since June 2024 and \$500 for those elected during the by-elections

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT those who attended all council meetings, or were excused from a maximum of two, get the full \$750/\$500, those who missed more than three meeting, (excused) will get \$500/250, and those who missed more than three meetings, excused or not, shall receive no honorarium;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this motion is only considered passed upon the verification of the CSU's legal counsel;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if not approved for legal issues by the CSU's legal counsel the 2024-2025 Council of Representatives consider the above motion at the June RCM

THE BUDGETARY IMPACT IS TBD.

Seconded by Kareem Rahaman

Motion passed unanimously

#### **d. StudentCare MOU**

Presented by Harley Martin

We are looking to sign with them as a broker, so that they initiate the plan. There are a few adjustments. In the Memorandum of Understanding the data sent to StudentCare and Indemnification have changed.

ASEQ Student care MOU

*It has been a difficult year. But Studentcare has been very supportive in navigating the Concordia University stance in not providing student information.*

*No other university has taken this position*

*The CSU has been able to negotiate highly competitive rates and coverage for students. Could be the most affordable in the University*

*STUDENTCARE holds 90% of the Health and Dental student insurance plans*

The CSU will be entering in a new RFP for the 2024-2025 Insurance plan

*The CSU has reviewed and analyzed this agreement with our legal council to ensure its applicability and legal conditions*

*THE CSU has reviewed and analyzed this agreement with our legal council to ensure it's applicability and legal conditions*

*It is recommended to renew the CSU's partnership with STUDENTCARE*

Harley Martin Motions to council of representative to approve the MOU of student care

Seconded by Christian Taboada

Motion passes unanimously

#### **e. Sustainability Bursary**

Presented by Maria Chitoroaga

**WHEREAS** the Sustainability Coordinator and Sustainability Committee has had to significantly delay the bursary vetting process due to inability to convene committee meetings.

**WHEREAS** the possibility of reviewing bursary applications with the committee and to successfully distribute them to its recipient before the end of the mandate has long passed

**WHEREAS** the Sustainability Coordinator has reviewed the bursary applications according to the Bursary Distribution policy and has provided a list of all the applicants along with notes on their applications and the coordinator's rationale for why each recipient has been chosen

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the list of bursary recipients be approved by council so that all bursaries may be successfully distributed before the end of the mandate.

The budgetary impact is nil.

Seconded by Harley Martin

Motion passes unanimously

#### **f. *BHC BIPOC Mental Health Services Proposal***

Presented by Talya Diner

BLACK HEALING CENTRE'S MENTAL HEALTH CARE SERVICE PROPOSAL FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF CONCORDIA'S STUDENT UNION to use our remaining funds from The Mental Health Committee for the Black Healing Centre

#### **About Black Healing Centre (BHC):**

The Black Healing Centre (BHC) aims to design intergenerational programming that reimagines healing from a community-centered, artistic lens. By providing access to free and subsidized therapy to members of the community, we seek to counteract the shared trauma that often comes with the Black experience, and empower people of African and Caribbean descent in Tio'tia"ke (Montreal) to reclaim their mental, physical, emotional, and spiritual wellness. Our work to date providing mental health services to members of Montreal's Black communities (through e.g., our Collective Care Circles for 2SLGBTQIA+, women, and for men, Healing Through Art Days, Black Wellness Summit, and Nurturing the Natures: BIPOC Community Workers Retreat) has deepened our understanding of the barriers and issues that equity-deserving communities in Montreal are struggling with and the urgency with which they must be addressed. We mostly serve Montreal's Black Community; however, we also collaborate with other organizations in Montreal to support the mental, emotional, and spiritual well-being of other equity-deserving communities.

The proposed mental health care services aim to build upon this foundation, offering tailored support to Black and BIPOC students at Concordia University. By implementing a combination of group therapy sessions and workshops, the Black Healing Centre seeks to foster a supportive

environment that addresses unique challenges and promotes holistic well-being among the student community.

**Project Overview: Black Healing Centre’s Student Collective Care Circles**

The Black Healing Centre Mental Health Care Proposal for Black, Indigenous and Students of Color (BIPOC) at Concordia University outlines a comprehensive three-year plan spanning from September 2024 to August 2027. This proposal aims to address the unique mental health needs and challenges faced by BIPOC students on campus through a combination of group therapy sessions and workshops

The proposal is structured into two phases, each spanning an academic year, and includes the provision of Student Care Circles and Mental Health Workshops. Through these initiatives, BHC seeks to create an environment of support, understanding, and empowerment, where students can explore themes specific to their experiences and access culturally relevant mental health care.

**BIPOC Students Collective Care Circles Breakdown**

Timeline	<b>Year One: September 2024- August 2025</b>	<b>Year Two: September 2025-August 2026</b>
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<p>Services</p>	<p><b>Run 2 Collective Care Circles</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. 10 sessions of Group therapy offered to Black students exploring themes specific to the Black experience in Concordia.</b></li> <li><b>2. 10 sessions of Group therapy offered to BIPOC students exploring themes surrounding their campus life experience.</b></li> </ol> <p><b>Focus groups:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 2 BIPOC students focus groups to learn and hear what kind of wellness activities BIPOC Students would like throughout the year.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Run 2 Collective Care Circles</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 10 sessions of Group therapy offered to Black students exploring themes specific to the Black experience in Concordia.</li> <li>2. 10 sessions of Group therapy offered to BIPOC students exploring themes surrounding their campus life experience.</li> </ol> <p><b>Workshops:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. BIPOC Nervous System Regulation Workshop and another workshop from students based on student feedback from the first year.</li> </ol>
<p>Team</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. One clinical supervisor, we would propose Dr.Lisa Ndejuru she is a psychotherapist who has more than 20 years of experience as a therapist and supervisor, she also facilitates most of BHC’s Care circles.</li> <li>2. Two trained creative arts therapists.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. One clinical supervisor, we would propose Dr.Lisa Ndejuru she is a psychotherapist who has more than 20 years of experience as a therapist and supervisor, she also facilitates most of BHC’s Care circles.</li> <li>4. Two trained creative arts therapists.</li> </ol>
<p>Hours</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The staff listed will provide twenty (20) sessions during the 2024 - 2025 academic year. The sessions will be made available for up to twelve (12) participants per group per semester. The minimum number of groups available shall be two (2).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The staff listed will provide twenty (20) sessions during the 2024 - 2025 academic year. The sessions will be made available for up to twelve (12) participants per group per semester. The minimum number of groups available shall be two (2).</li> </ul>

**Revenue:****Source: CSU****Amount: 40k per year****Status: Pending****Expenses:**

Item	Description	Amount
BHC admin costs	15% Administrations cost	<b>\$6,000.00</b>
Materials and miscellaneous costs	Drama Therapy tool kit	<b>\$2,000.00</b>
Facilitators	2 Creative art therapists doing 10 hours per week for \$25 per hour to facilitate 1 Black student group, and 1 BIPOC student per semester for a total of 4 Collective Care Circles Throughout the year. Estimating 12 participants per group for a total of 40 Students per Collective Care Circle. And over 200-500 students for the focus group/workshops. The Student Collective care Circles would run during the fall and winter semester. The facilitators would use June to August to plan for the activities for the following school year.	<b>\$24,000.00</b>
Program Coordinator	Liaison between Concordia and BHC. Ensuring facilitators and students have everything they need. \$2000 for Fall and Winter Semester.	<b>\$4000</b>
Clinical Supervision	Clinical support for Collective Care Staff by Dr. Lisa Ndejuru. \$2000 per semester. For Fall and Winter Semester.	<b>\$4000</b>

Total:

**\$40,000**

### **Conclusion:**

The proposed mental health care services aim to provide essential support to Black, Indigenous and Students of color at Concordia University. By implementing a combination of group therapy sessions and workshops, the Black Healing Centre seeks to foster a supportive environment that addresses the unique challenges and promotes holistic well-being among the student community. We look forward to the opportunity to collaborate with the Concordia Student Union in implementing these vital initiatives.

**Tanou Bah:** I do not think this is the most useful use of the funds. For \$40,000 to be used for only 20 students is not that effective. This seems like it will only benefit 20 students, it does not seem like the best use of our money. I would like to see more applications from other organizations.

Talya Diner: I think those are great points, I wanted to bring this proposal to council for discussion. My concern was that there are many students not being served from this fee levy.

Kareem Rahaman: I do think that there are many options. I want this to be done very well. We want to have a service to serves all students.

Hannah Jackson: I know a lot about the Black Healing Centre, it seems like they will work with a small group. Support groups can be good, but they can be unattended, the CSU and Mosaic offers support groups. I am worried that we are replicating services that already exist.

Talya Diner: The reason these circles are being proposed is because group therapy gets more participation than workshops. I would entertain a motion to either accept or reject this proposal and we could do some more work on the Mental Health Committee. I would like to get to BHC with an answer on what we decide on tonight.

Kareem Rahaman **motions to reject** the proposal

Seconded by Guillermo Sebastian Anderson-Diaz

### **g. Bonuses**

Kareem Rahaman motions to enter a closed session

Seconded by Hannah Jackson

Adam Mills motion to enter open session

Seconded by Guillermo

### **Executives**

1. Harley Martin: 10 % bonus
2. Tanou Bah: 10% bonus
3. Hannah Jackson: 10% bonus
4. Kareem Rahaman: 10% bonus
5. Christian Taboada: 2% bonus
6. Alexandrah Cardona: 2% bonus
7. Maria Chitoroaga: 5 % bonus
8. Talya Diner: 6% bonus

### **Chairperson and Minute Keeper**

Harley Martin motions to ratify the minutes in the closed session

Seconded by Kareem Rahaman

1. Chairperson: 50% bonus
2. Minute Keeper: 50% bonus

## **8. NEW BUSINESS – INFORMATIONAL**

Talya Diner: The Concordia Food Coalition have been encountering problems with Concordia's administration. The main mission of the CFC is to replace the food service provider Aramark with something that is sustainable, community led and directed, and student owned. The university administration has been saying that students do not want sustainable food providers. Part of a larger campaign, the CFC is going to be campaigning around a referendum question. They will be collecting signatures on the referendum question after I have let council know about the situation at hand. The referendum question would be brought at the November By-elections, however it could be subject to change.

Referendum Question to present to CSU Council for the purposes of collecting signatures: The Concordia Student Union be mandated to see through the abolition of multinational corporate food service provision on campus, and through the establishment of a community owned social enterprise to provide on campus strategic collaborations, and direct financial support, and in partnership with the wider Concordia community.

Chairperson: Thank you Talya

Christian Taboada: I would like to request an excusal for my late report. Towards the end of this semester there are a lot of events with all the clubs. With my role I am expected to attend a lot of those events, while I also had final exams. I submitted my report however, it is late due to those reasons.

Christian Taboada motions to add their report to under Consent agenda

Chairperson calls a vote

Chairperson: According to the number of votes, council will not be accepting your report

## **9. QUESTION PERIOD & BUSINESS ARISING**

Christian Taboada: I would like to request an excusal for my late report. Towards the Winter semester there are a lot of events with all the clubs. The club's budget has been used up to about 98% of its totality

Motions to send add their report to the consent agenda and excuse their late submission

Objection by Moad Alhjooj

Chairperson calls a vote

Chairperson: According to the vote, we will not be accepting the request for excusal on your executive report. If we do have an SCM, Councilors will be given a chance to go over your report.

## **10. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **11. ADJOURNMENT**

Harley Martin motions to adjourn the meeting at **22h59**

Seconded by Kareem Rahaman