

**Council Meeting August 27th 2014 minutes
(CO-20140827)**

Meeting Facilitator: Gretchen King
Minutes Taker: David Clos-Sasseville

Voting Directors present at 5:30pm: Jonathan Summers (A&S), Sriharsha Kolan (ENCS), Korosh Koochekian Sabor (ENCS), Eftakhairul Islam (ENCS), Leili Astaneh (ENCS), Suryadipta Majumdar (ENCS).

Voting Directors present after 5:30pm: Vivek Kumar (ENCS), Marilou André (FA)

Non-Voting Directors: Houda Madnounge (President), Mohammad Jawad Khan (VP External), Rohit Patil (VP Internal)

Observers: Roddy Doucet (Staff), David Clos-Sasseville (Staff), Keroles (Member), Geneviève (GradProSkills), Alex (member),

Final Agenda :

1. Call to Order
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Council Business
 - 3.1 Chair's report and notes from July 30 & Circulation of Attendance Sheet
 - 3.2 Council Attendance
4. Approval of Minutes from July 9 Council meeting
5. Business Arising from the Minutes
 - 5.1 VP Mobilization
 - 5.2 Councillor Appointments
 - 5.3 Accreditation Update
 - 5.4 Budget Update
 - 5.5 Retreat Update
6. New Business
 - 6.0 GradProSkills
 - 6.1 Motion regarding the Israeli offensive in Gaza
 - 6.2 GSA T-shirts
 - 6.3 Revisions to Department Allocation Policy
 - 6.4 Executive Bursary Policy
7. Reports
 - 7.1 Advocacy Manager
 - 7.2 Campaigns/Departments Advocate
 - 7.3 Service Manager
 - 7.4 Finance Manager
 - 7.5 President
 - 7.6 VP External

- 7.7 VP Internal
- 7.8 Academic and Advocacy
- 7.9 Other Reports (Appointments, BoG, Senate, etc.)
- 8. GSA Committee Appointments
 - 8.1 Communications Committee
 - 8.2 Academic Committee
- 9. Other Business
- 10. Adjournment

1. Call to Order

Call to order - 6pm

2. Adoption of the Agenda

Motion CO-20140827-01

Be It Resolved That The following agenda be adopted for todays Council meeting:

- 1. Call to Order
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 - 6.1 Motion regarding the Israeli offensive in Gaza
 - 6.2 GSA T-shirts
 - 6.3 Revisions to Department Allocation Policy
 - 6.4 Executive Bursary Policy Motion 1
 - 6.5 Executive Bursary Policy Motion 2
- 7. Reports
 - 7.1 Advocacy Manager
 - 7.2 Campaigns/Departments Advocate
 - 7.3 Service Manager
 - 7.4 Finance Manager
 - 7.5 President
 - 7.6 VP External

- 7.7 VP Internal
- 7.8 Academic and Advocacy
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Moved by: Jonathan
Seconded by: Suryadipta

Amendment-01

Change 6.4 for Executive bursary policy and remove 6.5

Moved by: Jonathan
Seconded by: Suryadipta

Amendment-02

To accept the changes to the motion on Palestine previously presented.

Moved by: Jon
Seconded by: Eftakhairul

Motion to Omnibus the two amendments.

Moved by: Suryadipta
Seconded by: Eftakhairul
Adopted

Motion as Amended (CO-20140827-01)

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 - 7.5 President
 - 7.6 VP External
 - 7.7 VP Internal
 - 7.8 Academic and Advocacy
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- 8. GSA Committee Appointments
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- 9. Other Business
- 10. Adjournment

Moved by: Jonathan
Seconded by: Suryadipta
Adopted

3. Council Business

3.1 Chair's report and notes from July 30 & Circulation of Attendance Sheet

Motion CO-20140827-02

Be It Resolved That after 30 minutes, if quorum is not achieved, the council meeting will be cancelled

Moved by: Korosh
Seconded by: Eftakhairul
Adopted

3.2 Council Attendance

The motion send with the packet has been withdrawn.

4. Approval of Minutes from July 9 Council meeting

Motion CO-20140827-03

Be It Resolved That the July 9th minutes be approved

Moved by: Kolan
Seconded by: Jonathan

Amendment

Correct Jonathan names, Scratch Jonathan objection to Firas motion, Councillors that aren't named (Marilou and Leili)

Moved by: Jonathan
Seconded by: Kolan
Adopted

Motion as Amended (CO-20140827-03)

Be It Resolved That the July 9th minutes be approved.

The following changes must be applied: Correct Jonathan names, Scratch Jonathan objection to Firas motion, Councillors that aren't named (Marilou and Leili)

Moved by: Kolan
Seconded by: Jonathan
Adopted

5. Business Arising from the Minutes

5.1 VP Mobilization

The Council proceeds to an election to appoint a VP Mobilization until next GA

Nominations:

Leili nominates Marilou, she accepts.
Korosh nominates Jonathan, he accepts.
Leili nominates Alex, he accepts.

The votes are cast by secret ballot.
Marilou wins by a majority

Motion CO-20140827-04

Be It Resolved That Marilou André be appointed as VP Mobilization until next GA.

Moved by: Jonathan
Seconded by: Suryadipta
Unanimously adopted

Motion CO-20140827-05

Be It Resolved That Alex be a back up appointee as VP Mobilization until next GA.

Moved by: Keroles
Seconded by: Leili
Abstention noted: Jonathan
Motion Carries

5.2 Councillor Appointments

Motion CO-20140827-06

Be It Resolved That Keroles Riad be appointed as Councillor for SIP Student seat.

Moved by: Jonathan
Seconded by: Leili
Unanimously adopted

5.3 Accreditation Update

5.4 Budget Update

Motion CO-20140827-07

Be It Resolved That the Summer budget be approved

Moved by: Kolan
Seconded by: Korosh
Noted Abstention: Keroles
Motion Carries

5.5 Retreat Update

Motion CO-20140827-08

Be It Resolved That the retreat plan be adopted.

Moved by: Keroles
Seconded by: Korosh
Motion Carries

Motion CO-20140827-09

Be It Resolved That the retreat Considered as an official meeting of the council.

Moved by: Jonathan
Seconded by: Marilou
Noted opposition: Korosh
Motion Carries

6. New Business

Motion CO-20140827-10

Be It Resolved That 6.0 GradProSkills be added to the agenda for 10minutes.

Moved by: Keroles
Seconded by: Korosh
Unanimously adopted

6.0 GradProSkills

Motion CO-20140827-11

Be It Resolved That Houda, Rohit and Leili represent GSA at GradProSkills

Moved by: Korosh

Seconded by: Jonathan

Motion Carries

Motion CO-20140827-12

Be It Resolved That an item on GradProSkills be added on the agenda of the next Council meeting.

Moved by: Keroles

Seconded by: Korosh

Motion Carries

Motion CO-20140827-12

Be It Resolved That the council takes a 5 min break.

Moved by: Korosh

Seconded by: Jonathan

Motion Carries

6.1 Motion regarding the Israeli offensive in Gaza

Motion CO-20140827-13

Whereas the State of Israel has been widely recognized by the global community as a colonialist, apartheid state that contravenes international law in its treatment of the Palestinian people

Whereas the State of Israel, on July 8, launched an offensive against the people of the Gaza Strip that killed over 2,000 and injured more than 10,000, many of whom are children and other civilians, in addition to displacing nearly 300,000 and destroying homes, schools, hospitals, and key infrastructure

Whereas the State of Israel is actively supported by the American and Canadian governments, among others

Whereas the GSA has an existing mandate from its General Assembly to support the global Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement against the State of Israel

Be It Resolved That Council reassert its support for the BDS campaign against the State of Israel

Be It Further Resolved That Council encourage the BDS Committee to investigate Concordia's relationship with the State of Israel and its institutions

Moved by: Jonathan

Seconded by: Eftakhairul

Amendment

Add the following: “Be It Further Resolved That Marilou be added to the BDS Committee”

Moved by: Marilou

Seconded by: Jonathan

Adopted

Motion as Amended (CO-20140827-13)

Whereas the State of Israel has been widely recognized by the global community as a colonialist, apartheid state that contravenes international law in its treatment of the Palestinian people

Whereas the State of Israel, on July 8, launched an offensive against the people of the Gaza Strip that killed over 2,000 and injured more than 10,000, many of whom are children and other civilians, in addition to displacing nearly 300,000 and destroying homes, schools, hospitals, and key infrastructure

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Be It Resolved That Council reassert its support for the BDS campaign against the State of Israel

Be It Further Resolved That Council encourage the BDS Committee to investigate Concordia’s relationship with the State of Israel and its institutions

Be It Further Resolved That Marilou be added to the BDS Committee

Moved by: Jonathan

Seconded by: Eftakhairul

Noted Abstention: Keroles

Adopted

6.2 GSA T-shirts

Motion CO-20140827-14

Whereas the GSA requires greater visibility among the student population, especially considering its upcoming accreditation drive;

Be It Resolved That the VP Internal have GSA t-shirts produced for councillors, executive, and staff by September 2, 2014;

Be It Further Resolved That these t-shirts be made from organic cotton in sweatshop-free conditions.

Moved by: Jonathan
Seconded by: Korosh

Amendment-01

Be It Resolved That a tasteful indication Made in sustainable ways, Matching the colours of the accreditation campaigns. Approximately a budget of 750\$.

Moved by: Keroles
Seconded by: Korosh
Adopted

Amendment-02

Be It Resolved That the date be changed for September 12th

Moved: Jonathan
Seconded by: Korosh
Adopted

Notes: A tasteful indication Made in sustainable ways? Matching the colours of the accreditation campaigns. Approximately a budget of 750\$.

Motion as Amended (CO-20140827-14)

Whereas the GSA requires greater visibility among the student population, especially considering its upcoming accreditation drive;

Be It Resolved That the VP Internal have GSA t-shirts produced for councillors, executive, and staff by September 12, 2014;

Be It Further Resolved That these t-shirts be made from organic cotton in sweatshop-free conditions.

Be It Further Resolved That a tasteful indication Made in sustainable ways, matching the colours of the accreditation campaigns. Approximately a budget of 750\$.

Moved by: Jonathan
Seconded by: Korosh
Unanimously

6.3 Revisions to Department Allocation Policy

Motion CO-20140827-15

Be It Resolved That the revised Allocation policy be adopted

Moved by: Marilou

Seconded by: Leili

Amendment

Be It Resolved That the deadline be changed for April 30th

Moved by: Jonathan

Seconded by: Keroles

Adopted

Motion as Amended (CO-20140827-15)

Be It Resolved That the revised Allocation policy be adopted

Be It Further Resolved That the Deadline be changed for April 30th

Moved by: Marilou

Seconded by: Leili

Adopted

6.4 Executive Bursary Policy

Motion CO-20140827-16

Whereas GSA respects the involvement of students belonging from various nationalities and involvement in GSA is not restricted only to the members with good financial standings;

Whereas we as graduate students, and especially true for international students, endure financial hardships as we are expected to finance our education and living expenses while pursuing studies,

Whereas the Executive Bursaries Policy for executives implies that executives may be compensated at the end of the semester, with the proportion awarded to the discretion of the Council;

Whereas this arrangement as it has been outlined in the Executive Bursaries Policy has the potential to restrict the bursary to zero, further placing executives in precarious financial situations;

Be It Resolved That an option be implemented for executives to allow for semester-based amounts outlined in the Executives Bursaries Policies be averaged out across the semester and awarded on a monthly basis.

Be It Further Resolved That executives must still submit an Action Plan, Monthly Reports, and a Semester Report as currently outlined in the Executive Bursaries Policy.

Be It Further Resolved That the following be added to the 'Executive Bursary Policy'

“5. International student in precarious financial situation

International student in precarious financial situation can ask for their bursary to be awarded monthly. In such case the following apply:

A. The applicant must make a written demand to the council, which will be sent along with Monthly report.

B. In case, of not being able to have a council meeting because of not achieving quorum, the applicant would get paid without any assessment, because of the above mentioned reasons.

C. The assessment by the council for the allocation of the bursary will be based on the monthly report provided by the applicant.

D. In case of bursary rejection to the applicant, a two third majority will be required to discard the payment and also the respective councillor will be liable to give acknowledgement on the very same moment about what respective endeavours of applicant made them to take such steps.”

Moved by: Keroles

Seconded by: Marilou

Amendment

Remove last clause and add “Be It Further Resolved That the following be added to the ‘Executive Bursary Policy’

“5. Monthly bursary option

Allow for executive who choose to request monthly bursaries be awarded if councils accept their monthly reports.”

Moved by: Keroles

Seconded by: Jonathan

Sub-Amendment

Add “In case, of not being able to have a council meeting because of not achieving quorum, the applicant would get paid without any assessment, because of the above mentioned reasons.”

Moved by: Keroles

Seconded by: Jonathan

Noted opposition: Leili

Adopted

Amendment as sub amended

Remove last clause and add “Be It Further Resolved That the following be added to the ‘Executive Bursary Policy’

“5. Monthly bursary option

Allow for executive who choose to request monthly bursaries be awarded if councils accept their monthly reports.

In case, of not being able to have a council meeting because of not achieving quorum, the applicant would get paid without any assessment, because of the above mentioned reasons.”

Moved by: Keroles

Seconded by: Jonathan

Noted opposition: Leili

Adopted

Motion As Amended (CO-20140827-16)

Whereas GSA respects the involvement of students belonging from various nationalities and involvement in GSA is not restricted only to the members with good financial standings;

Whereas we as graduate students, and especially true for international students, endure financial hardships as we are expected to finance our education and living expenses while pursuing studies,

Whereas the Executive Bursaries Policy for executives implies that executives may be compensated at the end of the semester, with the proportion awarded to the discretion of the Council;

Whereas this arrangement as it has been outlined in the Executive Bursaries Policy has the potential to restrict the bursary to zero, further placing executives in precarious financial situations;

Be It Resolved That an option be implemented for executives to allow for semester-based amounts outlined in the Executives Bursaries Policies be averaged out across the semester and awarded on a monthly basis.

Be It Further Resolved That executives must still submit an Action Plan, Monthly Reports, and a Semester Report as currently outlined in the Executive Bursaries Policy.

Be It Further Resolved That the following be added to the ‘Executive Bursary Policy’

“5. Monthly bursary option

Allow for executive who choose to request monthly bursaries be awarded if councils accept their monthly reports.

In case, of not being able to have a council meeting because of not achieving quorum, the applicant would get paid without any assessment, because of the above mentioned reasons.”

Moved by: Keroles
Seconded by: Marilou
Noted abstention: Leili
Carries with 2/3 majority

Motion CO-20140827-17

Whereas no increment or inflation adjustments have been made to the money allotted to executive in the last four years.

Whereas Projected salaries approved by previous Council and GA including two new position was \$58500 annually, the new accepted Policy suggests to call payments as bursary (i.e. Direct payment through checks not from university pay roll).

Whereas for year 2014-2015 the new actual Executive proposal as bursary (i.e. considering payments for VP-Academic, VP-Mobilization for 8 months and others for 12 months) the annual sum of salaries of all executives will be \$57200 which is less than the budget approved last year i.e \$58500.

Whereas for future years if the new Executive proposal as bursary is accepted the sum of annual salaries of all executives will be \$66000. Therefore a raise of \$7500 will be done in total i.e. (\$66000-\$58500). This raise will not impact a lot on the budget in the coming years.

Whereas the executives cannot commit to the other jobs they face monetary problems for their survival.

Be It Resolved That the bursary for executives be set at \$1100 per month

Be It Further Resolved That the 'Executive Bursary Policy' be adjusted accordingly by changing article 4B for the following:

“1. The bursaries are to be allocated by semester. The amounts for each semester represent an amount of 1100\$ per month which goes as follows:

- Summer Semester (June to August): 3300\$
- Fall Semester (September to December): 4400\$
- Winter Semester (January to May): 5500\$”

Moved by: Keroles
Seconded by: Vivek

Motion CO-20140827-17

Be It Resolved That the debate about the bursary increase be sent to the GA

Moved by: Korosh

Seconded by: Leili

Noted Abstention: Keroles

Carries

Considering the Time, the council jumps to other business

7. Reports

7.1 Advocacy Manager

7.2 Campaigns/Departments Advocate

7.3 Service Manager

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8. GSA Committee Appointments

8.1 Communications Committee

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9. Other Business

Motion CO-20140827-18

Be It Resolved That the GA be on 7th floor Hall building

Moved: Eftakhairul

Seconded: Kolan

Quorum lost at 21:30

10. Adjournment