

Council Meeting March 21st Minutes
(CO-20140321)

Meeting facilitator: Gretchen King
Minutes taker: Liz Colford

Voting Directors: Audrey Dahl, Poya Saffari, Genevieve Moisan, Marilou André, Paramveer Singh Mann, Holly Nazar, Rupom, Tariqul Amin, Nishant Walia, Trevor Smith, Vinoth Ramaiah, Juliette Lees

Non-voting directors: Vignesh Shankar, Mohit Sharma, Nasim Changizi, Eric Chevrier

Observers: Liz Colford, David Clos Sasseville, Simon-Pierre Lauzon, Firas Al-Hamoud, 3 members of CSBC

Call to Order at 10:48

Adoption of the Agenda

Motion CO-20140321-01

BIRT the following agenda be adopted for council

1. Call to Order (1 min)
2. Adoption of the Agenda (5 mins)
3. Council Business
 - 3.1 Chair Report & Circulation of Attendance Sheet (3 mins)
4. Approval of Minutes from February 17 and March 3 (5 mins) [See ATTACHED]
5. Business Arising from the Minutes (50 mins) [See Appendix I, pp. 2-3]
 - 5.1 Motion about CJLO (Audrey Dahl) [see supporting docs: CSBC motion_21mars_council; CSBC_by-laws_ADcomments; CSBC_Consolidated_By-Laws_2012-1]
 - 5.2 Motion on councillor participation (Carla Farnesi)
 - 5.3 Accreditation follow-up (VP-Mob)
6. New Business (30 mins) [See Appendix I, p. 3-5]
 - 6.1 GA Agenda
 - 6.2 Motion to Rescind 20k for Accreditation (Audrey Dahl)
 - 6.3 GSA Jobs (Vinoth Ramaiah)
 - 6.4 Conflict of Interest Policy (Poya Saffari) [See ATTACHED]
7. Reports (80 mins) [See Appendix II, pp. 6-15]
 - 7.1 President (report from Feb.)
 - 7.2 Campaigns/Departments Advocate
 - 7.3 Finance Manager
 - 7.4 Service Manager

- 7.5 Other Reports (BoG, Senate, Academic Planning, Elections, Bylaw Committees)
 - a. Tabled reports from Special Meeting (Feb. 7th Packet)
 - b. Report from the Council of the School of Grad Studies (Carla Farnesi)
 - d. Sustainability Report (Trevor Smith)
 - e. Academic Program Committee (Audrey Dahl)
- 8. GSA Committee Appointments (5 mins)
 - 8.1 Appointment of the Elections Judicial Committee
- 9. Other Business (5 mins)
- 10. Adjournment

Amendment-01

Add 2 items to agenda – polling stations at Loyola, fee levies

Both items will become:

6.4 CRO stuff

6.4A: polling stations

6.4B: fee levy questions

Moved by Juliette

Seconded by Poya

Amendment-02

Under other business,

9.1 April 3 ASSE demo (time sensitive)

Moved by Trevor

Seconded by Juliette

Amendment-03

Elections committee proposes to add new point to agenda

Add discussion about slates to 6.1

6.1a) judicial committee

6.1b) slates

Moved by Holly

Seconded by Juliette

Amendment 04

Strike 5.3 until next meeting

Moved by Poya

Seconded by Audrey

Motion to omnibus all amendments

Moved by Audrey

Seconded by Juliette

Approved

Motion CO-20140321-02

BIRT that we approve agenda with all amendments

Moved by S

Seconded by

Approved

New agenda as follows:

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 - 6.1 GA Agenda
 - 6.2 Motion to Rescind 20k for Accreditation (Audrey Dahl)
 - 6.3 GSA Jobs (Vinoth Ramaiah)
 - 6.4 CRO stuff
 - 6.4a) polling stations
 - 6.4b) fee levy question
 - 6.4c) COI Policy (Poya Saffari) [See ATTACHED]
7. Reports (80 mins) [See Appendix II, pp. 6-15]
 - 7.1 President (report from Feb.)
 - 7.2 Campaigns/Departments Advocate
 - 7.3 Finance Manager
 - 7.4 Service Manager
 - 7.5 Other Reports (BoG, Senate, Academic Planning, Elections, Bylaw Committees)
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 - d. Sustainability Report (Trevor Smith)
 - e. Academic Program Committee (Audrey Dahl)
8. GSA Committee Appointments (5 mins)
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9. Other Business (5 mins)
 - 9.1 April 3 ASSE anti-austerity demo
10. Adjournment

3.1

Chair's report: Gretchen is concerned with reports coming in late and wants to talk about council's expectations for reports to facilitate reports being more timely and informative.

4.

Motion CO-20140321-03

BIRT we approve February 17th minutes

Moved by Juliette

Seconded by Tariqul

Approved

Motion CO-20140321-04

BIRT we table March 3 minutes until they are properly formatted

Moved by Holly

Seconded by Genevieve

Approved

5. Business arising from the minutes

5.1 CSBC

Motion CO-20140321-05

BIRT that GSA council ratify a referendum to cease CSBC fee levy of 0.54\$ from September 2014.

Moved by

Seconded by

Approved

11 for, 1 abstention

Amendment-01

BIFRT we add the following question on the ballot for the April 2014 Elections/referendum:

The Graduate Students' Association of Concordia University (GSA) is responsible for ensuring that fee levy funds contributed by its members entitle them to a voice in these organizations through democratic structures. It has been brought to the attention of the GSA council that the Concordia Student Broadcasting Corporation (CSBC), the governing body of CJLO 1690 AM, Concordia University Radio, unlike other fee levy groups, does not grant automatic membership to fee-paying GSA members. In February 2013 CSBC was given one year by the GSA council to modify their by-laws to correct this situation. This deadline has been passed without the requested modification. Given these concerns, do you agree to cease the CSBC fee levy of 0,54\$ per semester starting September 2014?

Moved by Holly

Seconded by Audrey

Approved

Motion CO-20140321-06

BIRT speaking rights be extended to CSBC for 5 minutes after allotted time.

Moved by Trevor

Seconded by Audrey

Approved

Motion CO-20140321-07

BIRT the amendment be tabled to the end of the meeting when we have time to address it depending on what we decide about the original motion.

Moved by Holly

Seconded by Audrey

Approved

Presentation by Angelica from CSBC at 11:36

5.2 Motion on councillor participation (Carla Farnesi)

Motion CO-20140321-08

Whereas there has been low participation by Councillors in GSA-led activities;

Whereas participation is defined as being actively involved in either the planning, promoting, attending, setting up/taking down of such activities;

Whereas there has been a lack of attendance and mobilization by Councillors in the GSA sub-committees

Whereas sending repeated regrets to attend council meetings does not preclude a councillor from being removed from office;

BIRT a review committee be organized and lead by VP Internal (?) to review the current mandate and expectations of councillors and provide a framework for future Councillors as to the necessary requirements for retaining office.

BIFRT This framework should be approved at the following council meeting and the by-laws should be modified or expanded to be aligned with this framework.

BIFRT this task should be accomplished for the next election scheduled in Spring 2014.

Striking the committee:

Councillors/members:

Nasim (chair), Trevor, Carla, Juliette, Mohit, Genevieve, Sarah

Moved by Vinoth

Seconded by Trevor

Approved

6.1 GA Agenda

Motion CO-20140321-09

BIRT we approve the following agenda for the upcoming General Assembly:

Agenda Friday April 4, 4-7pm

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of the Agenda
3. Appointment of Chair, Secretary, and Mood Watcher
4. Approval of the last General Assembly minutes on January 30th
5. Business arising
 - 5.1 president's report
 - 5.2 By-law changes
 - 5.2.1 Council honorariums (submitted by council)
 - 5.2.2 All GSA members being informed of council meetings (submitted by member)
 - 5.2.3 GSA makes budget available to members (submitted by member)
 - 5.2.4 GSA makes financial statements available to members (submitted by member)
 - 5.2.5 GSA audit GSA accounts and present to council (submitted by member)
 - 5.2.6 GA committee responsibilities (submitted by council)
 - 5.3 GSA stance on charter of values (submitted by council)
 - 5.4 Funds and subsidies policy (submitted by council)
6. New business

6.1 Support to fee levy groups (submitted by member)

6.2 Elections results, presentation of the new GSA executives and council

7. Other business

9. Adjournment

Moved by Audrey

Seconded by ?

Approved

Motion CO-20140321-10

BIRT we strike a judicial committee to meet within 48 hours of any complaints related to elections. At no time shall this committee be less than 5 members.

Nishant, Tariqul, Poya, Holly

No conflict of interest disclosed by councillors and all execs are mandated to serve on this committee as long as they have no conflict of interest.

Moved by Holly

Seconded by Trevor

Approved

Abstentions: Audrey, Poya

Motion CO-20140321-11

BIRT the GSA council removes the slate system from the election 2014-2015.

BIFRT the CRO make sure that people running for election would not campaign as a slate and campaign independently, or appear on the ballot as a slate

Moved by Vinoth

Seconded by Poya

2 yes, 3 no,

Abstentions: Poya, Tariqul, Audrey, Trevor, Marilou

Motion fails

Amendment-01

BIFRT if candidates have already produced materials related to the slate system, that the GSA will reimburse them.

Moved by Vinoth
Seconded by Poya

Approved

Abstentions: Trevor, Audrey, Genevieve

*** This is a very important issue that we would strongly recommend be a priority for the 2014-2015 GSA team***

6.4 CRO stuff
6.4a) polling stations

WHEREAS Election regulations XVII. ii. States that there should be three polling stations at the Loyola campus

WHEREAS the Loyola campus attracts around 30 votes in an average GSA election

WHEREAS polling stations are expensive, and the GSA has limited resources at its disposition

BIRT council changes Election Regulation XVII. ii. “Three polling stations on the Loyola Campus” to “One polling station on the Loyola campus.”

BIRT Election regulation XVII ii. 1 and 3 be removed from the document

BIRT Election regulation XVII ii. Be numbered as 1

Motion to strike this motion and leave this issue at the discretion of the CRO and the election committee.

Moved by Holly
Seconded by Poya

Approved

6.4b) fee levy referendum question

Motion CO-20140321-12

GSA advocacy services fee levy question with modifications:

Do you agree to keep the Advocacy services fee levy at \$2.50 per term? The use of GSA Advocacy services has increased dramatically over the past three years and we have added new staff members to meet this demand. This fee levy is used to fund projects to advocate for all students’ rights with a particular focus on the challenges facing international students. New projects will include but will not be limited to maintaining and increasing staff, holding more workshops, and developing campaigns that are more effective. By voting no you agree to

decrease the per term amount by 1\$ per term back to its past level of \$1.50 per term. By voting yes there you indicate there should be no change to the amount of the fee levy.

Moved by Audrey
Seconded by Juliette

Approved

Amendment-01

By voting no you agree to decrease the per term amount by 1\$ per term back to its past level of \$1.50 per term.

Moved by Poya
Seconded by Juliette

Approved

Amendment-02

This would bring your total GSA membership fee to **XX\$**

Moved by Audrey
Seconded by Juliette

Approved 4-1-2

There was discussion on this point regarding the status of this fee. Is it really a fee levy that students can opt out of? What is different between this fee and regular membership fees? The question including all amendments will be included on the ballot after approval by the finance manager who can clarify the meaning of this fee levy.

5.1

Return to Motion CO-20140321-05

The Graduate Students' Association of Concordia University (GSA) is responsible for ensuring that fee levy funds contributed by its members entitle them to a voice in these organizations through democratic structures. It has been brought to the attention of the GSA council that the Concordia Student Broadcasting Corporation (CSBC), the governing body of CJLO 1690 AM, Concordia University Radio, unlike other fee levy groups, does not grant automatic membership to fee-paying GSA members. In February 2013 CSBC was given one year by the GSA council to modify their by-laws to correct this situation. This deadline has been passed without the requested modification. Given these concerns, do you agree to cease the CSBC fee levy of 0,54\$ per semester starting September 2014?

Moved by Holly
Seconded by Audrey

Approved

Motion CO-20140321-13

6.3 GSA Jobs (Vinoth Ramaiah)

Be it resolved that GSA shall not recruit any non-registered or passed out graduate students for any kind of temporary or permanent jobs that possibly might arise in the future.

BIFRT the GSA will promote widely among members of any future positions.

Moved by Vinoth
Seconded by Nishant

Amendment - 01

BIRT the GSA shall prioritize GSA members, where qualified and when appropriate, for any GSA jobs that arise in the future.

Moved by Holly
Seconded by Juliette

Approved

9.1

Motion CO-20140321-14

April 3 Anti-austerity demo

Whereas austerity measures implemented by provincial governments have resulted in cutbacks to essential services that empower women, protect the environment, and raise living standards for the impoverished.

Whereas ASSE has called for a demonstration to take place on April 3 for students and citizens to defend against these austerity measures.

BIRT the GSA council encourage constituent students to take part in the demonstration on April 3 and to consider motions within their departmental associations to support the movement with a one-day strike.

BIFRT GSA executive announce this position as soon as possible to its membership and to ASSE

Moved by Trevor
Seconded by Holly

Approved unanimously



Motion CO-20140321-15

Motion to table all other items and adjourn.

Moved by Trevor

Seconded by Juliette

Meeting adjourned at 1:30.