

## **Council Meeting May 23rd 2014 minutes (CO-20140523)**

**Meeting Facilitator:** Gretchen King

**Minutes Taker:** David Clos-Sasseville

*Voting Directors:* Marie-Hélène Vanier (Arts and Science), Juliette Lees (Arts and Science), Trevor J. Smith (Arts and Science), Monique Boudreau (JMSB), Audrey Dahl (Arts and Science), Vinoth Ramaiah (ENCS), Tariqul Amin (ENCS), Genevieve Moisan (Fine Arts), MJF Rupom (ENCS), Biagina-Carla Farnesi (Independent), Marilou André (Fine Arts).

*Non-Voting Directors:* Vignesh Shankar (Vice-President External), Robert Sonin (Vice-President Mobilization), Nassim Changizi (Vice-President Internal), Mohit Kumar (President).

*Observers:* David Clos-Sasseville (Department Manager and Campaigns Advocate), Firas Al Hammoud, Roxana Bari (Finance Manager), Firas Al Hammoud, Longren Chen, Korosh Sabor, Eftekhairul Islam, Harkirat Singh, Houda Madnourne, Mohammad Jawad, Jonathan Summers.

*Absent:*

### **Final Agenda :**

1. Call to Order
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Council Business
  - 3.1 Chair Report & Circulation of Attendance Sheet
4. Approval of Minutes from April 25
5. Business Arising from the Minutes
  - 5.1 Funding Follow up
  - 5.2 Executive Bursaries Policy
  - 5.3 Follow-up on councillor participation
  - 5.4 Accreditation follow-up
  - 5.5 Advocacy Fee Question Amendment
    - a. Approval of GSA fee increase
    - b. GSA hired accountability to council and members
  - 5.6 Volunteer recognition awards & student scholarship
6. New Business
7. Reports
  - 7.1 Campaigns/Departments Advocate
  - 7.2 Service Manager
  - 7.3 President
  - 7.4 VP External

- 7.5 Other Reports (BoG, Senate, Academic Planning, Bylaw Committees)
  - a. Tabled reports
  - b. May Report from Academic Program Committee
  - c. Senate Report Jan-April (Holly Nazar)
- 8. GSA Committee Appointments
- 9. Other Business

## 1. Call to Order

5:09pm

## 2. Adoption of the Agenda

*Motion CO-20140523-01*

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

- 1. Call to Order
- 2. Adoption of the Agenda
- 3. Council Business
  - 3.1 Chair Report & Circulation of Attendance Sheet
- 4. Approval of Minutes from April 25
- 5. Business Arising from the Minutes
  - 5.1 Follow-up on councillor participation
  - 5.2 Accreditation follow-up
  - 5.3 Advocacy Fee Question Amendment
    - a. Approval of GSA fee increase
    - b. GSA hired accountability to council and members
  - 5.4 Volunteer recognition awards & student scholarship
- 6. New Business
  - 6.1 Executive Bursaries Policy
- 7. Reports
  - 7.1 Campaigns/Departments Advocate
  - 7.2 Service Manager
  - 7.3 President
  - 7.4 VP External
  - 7.5 Other Reports (BoG, Senate, Academic Planning, Bylaw Committees)
    - a. Tabled reports
    - b. May Report from Academic Program Committee
    - c. Senate Report Jan-April (Holly Nazar)
- 8. GSA Committee Appointments
- 9. Other Business
- 10. Adjournment

**Moved by:** Juliette

**Seconded by:** Audrey

*Amendment-01*

Be It resolved that a point Funding follow up be added under 5.1. The numbering of the following item will be adjusted accordingly.

**Moved by:** Geneviève

**Seconded by:** Juliette

*Amendment – 02*

Be It resolved that 6.1 be inserted under 5.2. The numbering of the following item will be adjusted accordingly.

**Moved by:** Audrey

**Seconded by:** Trevor

*The adoption of the agenda with the amendments all together is put forward.*

*Motion as amended (CO-20140523-01)*

1. Call to Order
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Council Business
  - 3.1 Chair Report & Circulation of Attendance Sheet
4. Approval of Minutes from April 25
5. Business Arising from the Minutes
  - 5.1 Funding Follow up
  - 5.2 Executive Bursaries Policy
  - 5.3 Follow-up on councillor participation
  - 5.4 Accreditation follow-up
  - 5.5 Advocacy Fee Question Amendment
    - a. Approval of GSA fee increase
    - b. GSA hired accountability to council and members
  - 5.6 Volunteer recognition awards & student scholarship
6. New Business
7. Reports
  - 7.1 Campaigns/Departments Advocate
  - 7.2 Service Manager
  - 7.3 President
  - 7.4 VP External
  - 7.5 Other Reports (BoG, Senate, Academic Planning, Bylaw Committees)
    - a. Tabled reports
    - b. May Report from Academic Program Committee
    - c. Senate Report Jan-April (Holly Nazar)
8. GSA Committee Appointments

## 9. Other Business

**Moved by:** Juliette  
**Seconded by:** Audrey  
**Adopted Unanimously**

### 3. Council Business

#### 3.1 Chair Report & Circulation of Attendance Sheet

Agreeing to circulate a doodle to find meeting date.

Ideas for retreat: Training University and GSA structure (Councilors responsibility) By-laws, Financial Planning and budgets, and sensitivity training.

#### 4. Approval of Minutes from April 25

*Motion CO-20140523-02*

Be It Resolved That the minutes of the April 25<sup>th</sup> 2014 council meeting be approved.

**Moved by:** Audrey  
**Seconded by:** Juliette  
**Adopted**

Note: Vignesh will follow up with Roddy about the Conflict of interest on the website

#### 5. Business Arising from the Minutes

##### 5.1 Appeal Funding

Note: The continuation of this item is postponed for the council member to consult documentation.

**(Postponed Following 5.4)**

##### 5.2 Executive Bursaries Policy

*Motion CO-20140523-03*

Be It Resolved That the Executive Bursaries policy be adopted.

**Moved by:** Vinoth  
**Seconded by:** Marie-Hélène  
**Motion carries unanimously**

### 5.3 Follow-up on councillor participation

#### *Motion CO-20140523-04*

Be It Resolved That the councillors contract be adopted

**Moved by:** Carla

**Seconded by:** Juliette

#### *Amendment-01*

Be It Resolved That the “d” be inserted in “c” and “e” be adjusted accordingly and becomes “d”.

**Moved by:** Trevor

**Seconded by:** Juliette

**Adopted Unanimously**

#### *Motion as amended (CO-20140523-04)*

Be It Resolved That the councillors contract be adopted with the following modification: “d” will be inserted in “c” and “e” be adjusted accordingly and becomes “d”.

**Moved by:** Carla

**Seconded by:** Juliette

**Adopted Unanimously**

### 5.4 Accreditation follow-up

#### *Motion CO-20140523-05*

Be It Resolved That the decision will be made on how we accredit the GSA at the next GA. This debate will be supported by the document assembled by council until now.

Moved by: Audrey

Seconded by:

**NOT SECONDED**

#### *Motion CO-20140523-06*

Be It Resolved That GSA pursues accreditation with Kokobi.

**Moved by:** Vinoth

**Seconded by:** Juliette

#### *Amendment-01*

Be It Resolved That The Council will follow the process of the contract and be part of every step of the accreditation process as co-coordinator.

**Moved by:** Marilou

**Seconded by:** Juliette

*Sub-amendment - 01*

Strike “as co-coordinator”

**Moved by:** Marie-Hélène  
**Seconded by:** Juliette  
**Noted opposition:** Audrey  
**Noted Abstention:** Vinoth  
**Motion carries**

*Amendment-01 as sub-amended*

Be It Resolved That The Council will follow the process of the contract and be part of every step of the accreditation process.

**Moved by:** Marilou  
**Seconded by:** Juliette  
**Adopted**

*Motion as amended (CO-20140523-06)*

Be It Resolved That GSA pursues accreditation with Kokobi. The Council will follow the process of the contract and be part of every step of the accreditation process.

**Moved by:** Vinoth  
**Seconded by:** Juliette  
**Noted opposition:** Audrey  
**Noted Abstention:** Carla, Trevor  
**Adopted**

**5.1 Appeal Funding (back from being postponed)**

*Motion CO-20140523-07*

Be It Resolved That the Council approve the 500\$ funding for Okokok.

**Moved by:** Juliette  
**Approved by:** Trevor  
**Noted Abstention:** Genevieve  
**Adopted**

**5.5 Advocacy Fee Question Amendment**

**a. Approval of GSA fee increase**

*Motion CO-20140523-08*

Whereas a fee levy is the name used by fee levy organization for cotisation (\$) from their members to be able to exist;

Whereas a fee levy organization is a specific type of organization described by fee levy «No campaign» organizers as: « Fee levy groups are student organizations and initiatives at Concordia University that are student- elected through the referendum process. Fee levy groups are made up of Concordia undergraduate (and sometimes graduate students) as well as community members from wider Montreal communities. Fee levy groups receive all or part of their operating budgets from a per-credit Concordia student fee levy. Fee levy groups are autonomous from the administrations of Concordia University, the CSU, the GSA, and all academic bodies and associations. »  
(source: <http://www.qpirgeconcordia.org/?p=4801>)

Whereas the « virtual advocacy centre » is not run by student-elected through elections;

Whereas the « virtual advocacy centre » is not autonomous from the administration of GSA;

Whereas the fact that the « virtual advocacy centre » may be considered in GSA accounting as a se charge of the advocacy accounting proves that this « organization » is not autonomous from GSA, which contravene to fee levy organization definition;

Whereas the « virtual advocacy centre » is in fact an advocacy service that GSA provides to its members and not a fee levy;

Whereas a fee levy offer an opt-out option and that it would be almost impossible for GSA to monitor who opt-in and who opt-out the « advocacy fee-levy » before providing services;

Whereas the disguised of an increase in GSA membership fee is not justified since the increase itself seems justified as stated in the ballot question: advocacy need increase;

Whereas transparency from GSA has been asked by members in different forms in General Assembly and council and that councillors themselves asked other organizations to be more transparent (for example CSBC), there is no justified reasons when it comes to our own GSA fees to not be transparent to our membership by calling a cat, a cat;

Whereas council is preoccupied by GSA fee increase that was not properly presented in TWO GSA elections and that this increase was actually billed to student in fall 2013;

Whereas an increase in GSA fee for advocacy purposes is justified and members are likely to accept;

Be it Resolved that GSA fee that planned to be charged to members in fall 2014 go back to the amount of fall 2012 and that the total of money collected without proper members approval in fall 2013 be kept aside until proper membership approval;

Be it Further Resolved that this GSA fee increase will be brought by a team of councillors (to be nominated by council during this present meeting) in the next General Assembly to

a vote in which the motion specifically state that this is a GSA fee increase and not a fee levy;

Be it Further Resolved that in the case of an agreement from members in General Assembly, the GSA fee increase collected from GSA members without proper approval in fall 2013 could be uses as the one not collected this fall 2014.

**Moved by:** Audrey

**Seconded by:** Carla

**Adopted**

## **b. GSA hired accountability to council and members**

### *Motion CO-20140523-09*

Whereas that council is preoccupied by the omission of council amendment to the ballot question of 2014 elections and by the previous omission of council ratification of the ballot question of elections 2013 about increasing GSA fees for advocacy;

Whereas this issue resulted in a misrepresentation of council ratification ballot question to our members;

Whereas to go back to this question for a second year takes time to councillors and members, time that could have been used to take care of other important issues;

Whereas CRO and DRO were hired and paid to carry the responsibility of conducting elections and referendum questions properly;

Whereas GSA hired have to be accountable to members and council;

Be It Resolved That council motion to censure Simon-Pierre Lauzon (CRO) And Roddy Doucet (DRO) for not having presented the question as ratified by council to GSA members in 2014 elections.

**Moved by:** Audrey

**Seconded by:** Marie-Hélène

**Abstention noted:** Trevor, Juliette

**Adopted**

## **5.6 Volunteer recognition awards & student scholarship**

### *Motion CO-20140523-09*

Be It Resolved That GSA offer an award to GSA volunteers monthly and by semester. To qualify, a volunteer would need to do at least 15h in the month for the monthly award and 30h minimum for the semester award.

Be It Further Resolves That the monthly award should be a 20\$ award and the Semester a 50\$ award in the form of a gift card at the Concordia Bookstore.



Be It Further Resolves That GSA seeks nominations for volunteers of the semester awards from departments.

Be It Further Resolves That GSA will keep track of the GSA volunteers hours in the work performed, and the Outreach coordinator and an executive will be responsible for reviewing these hours as well as the nominees from the departments.

**Moved by:** Vinoth  
**Seconded by:** Juliette  
**Not voted, see commit.**

It is noted that there was a process to recognize volunteer work in the previous year. It is suggested that the VP-Internal, Trevor and Marilou be in charge of looking into that and creative perhaps a new process.

*Motion CO-20140523-10*

Motion to commit the above to VP-Internal, Trevor and Marilou

**Moved by:** Marie-Hélène  
**Seconded by:** Juliette  
**Adopted**

## **6. New Business**

### **7. Reports**

#### **7.1 Campaigns/Departments Advocate**

#### **7.2 Service Manager**

#### **7.3 President**

#### **7.4 VP External**

#### **7.5 Other Reports (BoG, Senate, Academic Planning, Bylaw Committees)**

##### **a. Tabled reports**

##### **b. May Report from Academic Program Committee**

##### **c. Senate Report Jan-April (Holly Nazar)**

## **8. GSA Committee Appointments**

## **9. Other Business**



## **10. Adjournment**

**Adjourned at 8:01**