

**Council Meeting April 20th 2015 minutes
(CO-20150420)**

Meeting Facilitator: Gretchen King

Minutes Taker: Liz Colford

Voting Directors: Korosh Sabor, Abihjit Joshi, Sapandeeep Singh Randahwa, Ribal Abi Raad,
Mathilde Ngo Mbom, Stas Kanutin, Leili Astaneh, Longren Chen,
Isabelle Johnston

Non-Voting Directors: Jawad Khan

Observers: Jon Summers, David Clos Sasseville, Robert Sonin, Rahul Kumar, Alex Ocheoha,
Trevor Smith

Meeting called to order at 6:05pm

DRAFT AGENDA

0. Attendance Sheet verification at 5:30pm

1. Call to Order (1 min)

2. Adoption of the Agenda (5 mins)

3. Council Business (5 mins)

3.1 Chair's report (see Action Items)

3.2 Decisions of Funding Committee (attached)

3.3 Motions within Advocacy Managers report (Stance against the austerity cuts,
Solidarity with the UQAM students, & May 1 Demonstrations)

3.4 Motion from member K. Riad

4. Approval of March 24th Council meeting minutes

5. Business Arising from the Minutes, Appendix I (90 mins)

5.1 Discussion on draft circulated by the Bylaws Committee (attached)

6. New Business (40mins)

6.1 BURSARY POLICY CHANGE (2/3rds vote): Reducing Executive Bursaries
(Sapandeeep)

6.2 BURSARY POLICY CHANGE (2/3rds vote): Executive Hours Log Book

(Sapandeeep)

6.3 BURSARY POLICY CHANGE (2/3rds vote): Executive Term in Office (Sapandeeep)

7. Reports, Appendix II (15mins)

7.1 Service Manager

7.2 Advocacy Manager (attached)

7.3 Campaigns/Departments Manager

7.4 President

7.5 VP Mobilization

- 7.6 VP External
- 7.7 VP Internal
- 7.8 Academic Advocacy (attached)
- 8. GSA Committee Appointments (5 mins)
 - 8.1 GA Planning
 - 8.2 Equity Retreat
 - 8.3 Student Life
 - 8.4 Election Judicial Committee
- 9. Other Business (5 mins)
- 10. Adjournment

Motion *CO-20150324-01* Approval of Agenda

Amendment *CO-20150324-01* to table (**which motion?**) until later in agenda (after new business)

Moved Trevor
Seconded Mathilde
Amendment carries

Motion CO-20150420-01 to adopt the agenda as amended

Moved Sapandeep
Seconded Korosh
Motion carries

3.1

Gretchen gave her report and councillors agreed with her that the bylaws already address tabled motion to have a policy about members being students

3.2

Motion CO-20150420-02 we accept the funding committee's decisions

Moved Isabelle
Seconded Ribal
Motion carries

Motion *CO-20150420-03* that we amend the agenda to add new motions that we forgot at the beginning

Moved Isabelle
Seconded Mathilde
Motion carries
Opposition noted: Ribal

These motions are:

Motion concerning a pool of external facilitators and CRO (6.9)

Moved Isabelle

Seconded Mathilde

Roddy's motion concerning taking a stance on budget cuts

Moved Isabelle

Seconded Mathilde

BIRT council endorse May 1st demonstrations (both= 6.7)

Moved Isabelle

Seconded Sapandeeep

Motion to act in solidarity with UQAM students

Moved Isabelle

Seconded Sapandeeep

Agenda now reads as follows:

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6.3 BURSARY POLICY CHANGE (2/3rds vote): Executive Term in Office (Sapandeeep)

6.4 ?

6.5 Facebook

6.6 Motion of appreciation (Korosh)

6.7 Austerity and May 1



6.8 Solidarity with UQAM and Concordia Students

6.9 External pool of facilitators

7. Reports, Appendix II (15mins)

7.1 Service Manager

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7.8 Academic Advocacy (attached)

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8.2 Equity Retreat

8.3 Student Life

8.4 Election Judicial Committee

8.5 Hiring Committee

9. Other Business (5 mins)

10. Adjournment

Motion *CO-20150420-04* to approve March council minutes

Moved: Mathilde

Seconded: Sapandeep

Abstention noted: Korosh

Motion carries

Motion *CO-20150420-05*

BIRT a special session of council be called to go through draft bylaws for discussion, debate and amending

Moved: Korosh

Seconded: Ribal

Motion carries

New Business

6.1

Motion *CO-20150420-06*

Whereas election regulation section III-2 states that the judicial board has 48 hours to address appeals

Whereas Keroles Riad's appeal was submitted on Saturday the 4th and as of now, Friday the 10th, a time for the appeal has not been determined despite the fact that 48 hours have already passed including more than 2 business days.

Whereas the regulation clearly outlines a timeline where candidates have 3 days to appeal and the board has 2 days to convene, it is easily predictable that elections timeline must accommodate at least 5 days after the announcement of results for the appeal process. The proximity of Easter holidays to elections was an organizational failure.

Whereas GSA does not even have a complete judicial board in place.

Whereas the candidate has the right to due process and a fair hearing that can NO LONGER be provided as the regulations have already been violated by the board.

BIRT the appeal be automatically accepted and that the CRO's decision of disqualification be overturned.

BIFRT the CRO announces that Keroles Riad has won council's INDI seat by acclamation.

BIFRT the CRO announces how many votes the candidate received in the senate race and adjust the results accordingly if necessary.

Moved: Isabelle
Seconded: Korosh

Amendment *CO-20150420-02*

That we remove the "Whereas" clauses and that the motion now reads only:

BIRT Council is censured for not upholding the elections regulations.

Moved: Isabelle
Seconded: Leili
Motion carries

6.1 Reducing executive bursaries

Motion *CO-20150420-07*

BIRT the bursary provided to the executives of GSA shall be reduced from \$1100 per month to \$900 per month.

Amendment *CO-20150420-03*

BIFRT this motion take effect immediately

Moved Sapandeeep

Seconded Leili

Opposition noted: Mathilde

Now the motion reads:

BIRT the bursary provided to the executives of GSA shall be reduced from \$1100 per month to \$900 per month.

BIFRT this motion take effect immediately

Moved Sapandeeep

Seconded Ribal

Motion carries with amendment and 2/3 majority

6 for, 3 opposed

Opposition noted: Isabelle, Mathilde

Motion *CO-20150420-08*

BIFRT the saved \$200 per executive shall be used for Graduate student's professional development across all faculties and accordingly adjusted in next year budget by the budget committee.

Moved: Sapandeeep

Seconded: Ribal

Motion carries

Motion *CO-20150420-09* to go into closed session with Secretary and chair remaining.

Moved by Korosh

Seconded by Leili

Approved.

Motion *CO-20150420-10* to move out of closed session

Moved Mathilde

Seconded Isabelle

Motion fails to carry

Abstention noted: Sapandeeep

Motion *CO-20150420-11* to omnibus 6.2 and 6.3 together

Moved Korosh

Seconded Leili

Motion to omnibus carries

Opposition noted: Sapandeep, Isabelle, Mathilde

BIRT the working hours of the executives shall be recorded by keeping a new log book in the GSA office and a weekly e-mail shall be circulated by the office manager to all the graduate students providing information about the working hours.

BIRT Executives cannot take a paid leave from work.

BIFRT Executives will be eligible for bursaries only if they complete a minimum of 20 hours a week in the GSA office. In case of conflict, office manager's weekly report will have the final say.

BIRT If any Executive leaves his/her position before the end of his/her term in office (1 year), he /she needs to return 25% of the amount earned as bursaries at the time he/she leaves the position.

Amendment *CO-20150420-04*

Mathilde: Change weekly email to monthly report and strike last clause

Moved Mathilde

Seconded Isabelle

Amendment carries

Amendment *CO-20150420-05*

Strike 6.3

Moved Ribal

Seconded Korosh

Amendment carries

Opposition noted: Sapandeep

Abstention noted: Leili

Amendment *CO-20150420-06*

Change office manager to president

Moved Sapandeep

Seconded Leili

Amendment carries

Motion now reads as follows:

BIRT the working hours of the executives shall be recorded by keeping a new log book in the GSA office and a monthly report shall be circulated by the office manager to all the graduate students providing information about the working hours.

Motion *CO-20150420-12* to table 6.2 to next council

Moved Isabelle

Seconded Mathilde

Motion to table carries

Motion *CO-20150420-13* to move out of closed session

Moved Ribal

Seconded Isabelle

Motion carries

6.5 Campaigning on facebook

Motion *CO-20150420-14*

We decided to vote on each clause separately. How do I properly make mention of that in the minutes?

BIRT council is censured for passing a motion (# CO20150324-04) when there was a conflict of interest

Moved Isabelle

Seconded Mathilde

Motion fails

Opposition noted: Ribal, Stas

Abstention noted: Sapandeep, Abhijit

BIFRT council censure the meeting chair Andrea Figueroa for not holding council accountable

Motion fails

BIFRT council rescind the motion

Motion fails

For: Isabelle

6.6 Motion of appreciation (Korosh)

Motion *CO-20150420-14*

BIRT the president will send a letter of appreciation to the CRO to thank him for his work

Moved Korosh

Seconded Abhijit

Motion *CO-20150420-15* to table to the April council meeting

Moved Isabelle



Seconded: Ribal
Abstention: Korosh

6.7

Motion *CO-20150420-16*

We the Council of Directors of the Graduate Students Association of Concordia University hereby endorse the following statement and resolution.

We believe that a University education should be accessible to all and that all citizens deserve unfettered access to quality well-funded social services regardless of economic class.

We renounce the Couillard Liberal Regime and their short-sighted adherence to neo-liberal policies that favor corporate concerns over social benefits. We acknowledge that recent budget cuts will affect accessibility, placing undue stress upon our members and further deplete the already struggling social services that are the backbone of our communities.

We call upon the Quebec government to open dialogue not just with the corporate-influenced Board of Governors and senior University management who exercise their demands but with students, professors and staff about how best to move towards free quality post-secondary education.

Thus, BIRT the GSA takes an active position in the student-led anti-austerity movement through ensuring our members are kept aware of demonstrations, acts of solidarity and other events taking place in Montreal and abroad as well as offering logistical and organizing support.

BIFRT we call upon the Provincial Liberal government to cancel all proposed and existing austerity measures.

BIFRT we endorse nationwide demonstrations against austerity that will take place on May 1.

Moved Isabelle
Seconded Sapandeeep
Motion fails
For: Korosh, Isabelle

Amendment *CO-20150420-07*
Add the words "related to education".
Moved Korosh
Seconded Leili
Amendment fails
Opposition noted: Ribal, Isabelle

6.8

Motion *CO-20150420-16*

We the Council of Directors of the Graduate Students Association of Concordia University hereby endorse the following statement and resolution. We reject political targeting of student leaders upholding mandates given to them through their memberships.

We deplore Education Minister Francois Blais' admonition to expel “two to three students” per day in an attempt to intimidate students from participating in General Assemblies and popular demonstrations.

We recognize that the violent disposition of the Montreal Police in the face of student democracy will only escalate conflicts.

We applaud the recent Quebec Superior court decision that student associations and assemblies preserve pluralism and ensure student representation in political debates.

In light of the above BIRT, the GSA takes a position against the political expulsions of students at UQAM and the sanctioning of students on strike at Concordia, as well as any comparable actions taken against student leaders, professors or staff at any other CEGEP or University.

Moved Isabelle
Seconded Ribal
Adopted unanimously

Approaching the end of the meeting and everyone is getting anxious to cover the remaining motions they are worried about

...and jumping forward to

8.5 Hiring Committee

Motion *CO-20150420-17*

BIRT Sapandeep, Isabelle, Mathilde be appointed to the hiring committee.

Moved: Leili

Seconded: Korosh

Motion carries

Abstention noted: Isabelle, Mathilde, Sapandeep, Ribal

And now we return to 6.7

Motion *CO-20150420-18* to rescind decision from earlier

Moved Korosh

Seconded Isabelle

Motion carries

Opposition noted: Ribal

Motion is as it was before:

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Moved Isabelle
Seconded Korosh
Motion carries
Opposition noted: Mathilde, Ribal

7. Reports
CO-20150420-19
BIRT council approve all reports and allocate executives' bursaries
Moved Ribal
Seconded Isabelle
Motion carries
Abstention noted: Stas

Meeting adjourned at 9:30pm. Unanimous approval made known by everyone heading for the door.



Notes:

- 6.9 tabled (pool of external chairs CROs, etc)
- need to add budget committee to committee appointments