

# ANNUAL REPORT

## GSA EXECUTIVE TEAM 2022-2023

Dear Council and fellow graduate students,

It is with great pleasure that we present to you the annual report of the Graduate Students' Association (GSA) of Concordia University. As the executives of the GSA, we have had the honor of serving and representing the collective interests of the graduate student body throughout the year. This report provides an overview of our activities, achievements, and progress in fulfilling our mandate. Together, we have worked tirelessly to revive the graduate student life at Concordia, creating and supporting opportunities for collaboration, growth, and success. We are proud to share our accomplishments and reflect on the impact we have made on the graduate student community and beyond.

On a collective level, beyond their regular roles and responsibilities, the executive team undertook the task of reviving the events that had been halted due to the pandemic. The team successfully hosted a total of 11 events that catered to a range of 100-800 students each throughout the year. This included trips, team building events, informational events, and fun parties too. We also made it a point to collaborate with or support as many student organizations as possible with the intention to increase representation and expand connections leading to strengthened influence and advocacy on student issues. It also allowed us to pool our resources and share knowledge allowing us to enhance students' experiences.

This year we collaborated with CSU, ECSGA, JMGSA, and CUSP to name a few. We cannot emphasize the importance of these relationships and would highly encourage the next mandate to do the same.

This year we dealt with student issues on many different levels, some that we were able to address to a certain degree and some where we could only spark the conversation which hopefully will be continued by the next mandate going forward.

One such issue was on the front of the International Student Health Insurance File: A long-standing issue, this year we tried our best to bring our issue to the attention of both the management and students of Concordia. However, one year is simply not enough to push for this issue and requires the full attention of the council besides the other tasks already on hand for their roles.

Second, introducing initiatives like the Certification Program and the Flagship event

called KickStart to help build the professional careers of students in Concordia Graduate Body. We collected the necessary resources and set up provisions to execute these initiatives in the next mandate which we hope will support them in accomplishing them.

We also worked hard to increase our digital engagement with students. Our platforms like Instagram are valuable resources for students to find upcoming opportunities, and on-campus jobs, learn about ongoing student issues, and a platform to communicate with us. To support the same, this year we focused on an active and engaging digital presence and also promoted engagement with our platforms via initiatives like free GSA goodies to students. This overall helped students stay informed about the ongoings of GSA and for us to better understand and support our student community. Find support for the same in Appendix below.

Finally, it was our pleasure to support CSU in its initiative to build an on-call daycare that will benefit students for years to come.

#### The President:

As the official spokesperson of the GSA, the President did his best in his role in representing the interests of graduate students at Concordia University. He diligently managed relations with other student communities, student governments, and the university administration, fostering collaborative partnerships and advocating for the needs of our community. Additionally, the President oversaw the day-to-day operations of the GSA, providing guidance to the council of directors and all managers.

#### The Vice-President Internal:

The Vice-President Internal played a crucial role in supporting the President and ensuring the smooth functioning of the GSA. With a focus on member satisfaction, they coordinated responses to individual member inquiries and submitted regular reports to the Council, including a comprehensive quarterly expenditure report. The Vice-President Internal also chaired the budget and funding committee and the sustainability committee, promoting responsible financial management and sustainable practices within the GSA.

#### The Vice-President External:

The Vice-President External played a key role in representing the GSA beyond the university campus. Through regular attendance at meetings and active participation in external committees and organizations, he monitored socio-political and economic developments that could impact graduate students at Concordia. The Vice-President External strengthened relationships with student unions, developed new opportunities for collaboration, and coordinated information campaigns and action campaigns pertinent to GSA members. The Vice-President External also hosted and organized

events in collaboration with the Vice President- Mobilization to actively engage the student body and promote a sense of belonging within the graduate student community.

#### The Vice-President Mobilization:

The Vice-President Mobilization took charge of public and media relations for the GSA, engaging with external authorities, businesses, and governance agencies. She organized and led the GSA's mobilization efforts, including the recruitment and training of volunteers, and played a crucial role in enhancing student engagement across various digital and traditional channels. Through her efforts, small student organizations were revived under the GSA umbrella, creating a stronger and more interconnected graduate student network.

#### The Vice-President Academic and Advocacy:

The Vice-President Academic and Advocacy played a pivotal role in championing the academic rights and welfare of graduate students at Concordia University. She chaired the Academic Cabinet, the Appointments Committee, and Advocacy meetings, actively participating in shaping academic policies and representing the GSA in university meetings and committees. The Vice-President Academic and Advocacy collected feedback from students on academic conditions, ensuring that concerns were effectively communicated to the appropriate university bodies. She also provided valuable resources and assistance to students facing academic issues and advocated for student rights within the university administration.

We would also like to take this opportunity to express our sincere appreciation for the exceptional contributions made by our dedicated staff members throughout the year. Their unwavering commitment and hard work have played a crucial role in advancing the goals and objectives of the Graduate Students Association (GSA) at Concordia University.

Enmanuel De Jesus, our Services Manager, has successfully organized social functions, trips, and cultural events, ensuring seamless logistics and enriching experiences for our members.

Kiana Boudreau, our Communications and Campaigns Manager, has diligently maintained effective communication channels, both internally and externally, while enhancing our online presence and fostering collaboration among our sub-associations.

Sabrina Smith, our Office Manager, has demonstrated exceptional administrative skills, ensuring the smooth operation of the GSA house and providing valuable support to the Executive team.

Aman Bajaj, our Finance and Faculty Manager, always went above and beyond his job profile, his sincere dedication to improving the student experience was unparalleled. He was not only faithful to his important tasks but always had the most positive attitude that motivated the team.

The GSA owes a debt of gratitude to our staff members for their outstanding dedication, professionalism, and passion in serving the graduate student community. Their contributions have been instrumental in the success and growth of the GSA, creating a vibrant and inclusive environment for all members at Concordia University.

In conclusion, we would like to express our sincere gratitude to the council, staff the graduate student body, and the entire Concordia University community for their unwavering support and engagement throughout the year. We are immensely proud of what we have achieved together and remain committed to our mission of advancing the collective interests and promoting the general welfare of graduate students. As our roles and responsibilities are passed on to the incoming executives, we are confident in their ability to continue the important work we have started. We look forward to seeing the GSA thrive and flourish, fostering a vibrant and inclusive graduate student community at Concordia University. Thank you for your trust and collaboration, and we wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

Sincerely,

The Executives of the Graduate Students' Association (2022-2023)

Bhanu Kiran Kacharapu- President

Thenmozie Rajan- Vice President Academic and Advocacy

Sai Santosh Ella- Vice President External

Yash Sharma- Vice President Internal

Hiral Parekh- Vice President Mobilization

## Appendix:

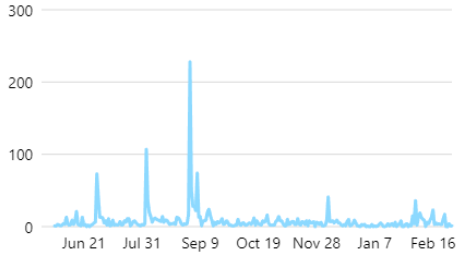
### Page Profile Visit- Facebook

#### Page and profile visits

Export

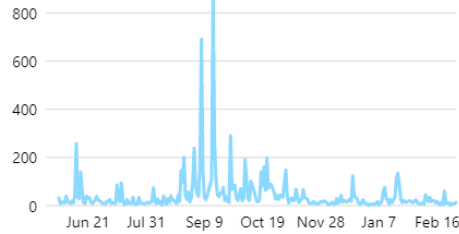
##### Facebook Page visits

2,158 ↑ 137.4%



##### Instagram profile visits

11,665 ↑ 44.2%



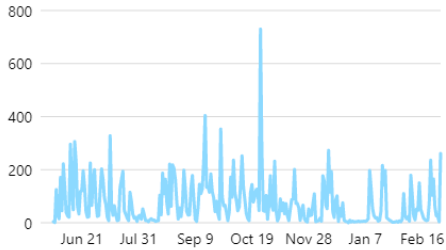
### Reach- Facebook and Instagram

#### Reach

Export

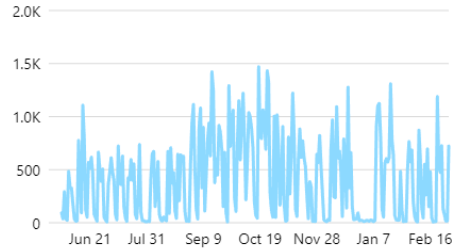
##### Facebook Page reach

4,645 ↑ 16.9%



##### Instagram reach

8,094 ↑ 56.4%



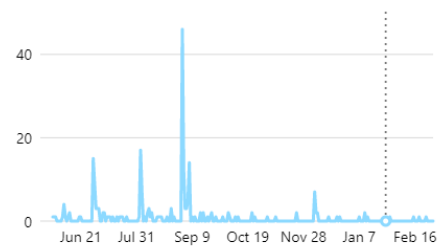
### New Likes and Followers:

#### New likes and follows

Export

##### Facebook Page new likes

231 ↑ 220.8%



##### New Instagram followers

1,211

