

# SAF Board of Directors Minutes

## Tuesday, April 2nd 2019

**Meeting Time:** 18:00-20:00

**Meeting Facilitator:** Devon McKellar

**Meeting Minute Taker:** Jordan Beaulieu

### **Members in attendance:**

Mark Underwood (SAF) (left early)  
Oliva Champagne (SAF)  
Niall Heath (Student-at-Large)  
Raphael Yeung (ECA)  
Tara McGowan-Ross (SC)  
Emma Campbell (ASFA)  
Ashvin Ramasamay (CU Community)  
Arrien Weeks (GSA)  
Mariana Moreno Caro (FASA)  
Mackenzie Murray (CASA)

### **Members absent:**

Calvin Clarke (Student-at-Large)  
Marlene Iradukunda (CSU Council)  
Akira De Carlos (CSU Exec)

### 1. Call to order and territorial acknowledgement

### 2. Review & approval of previous meeting minutes

**Motion** to approve the March meeting minutes:

- Moved by: Emma
- Seconded by: Arrien
- *Motion passed*

### 3. Review & adoption of agenda

**Motion** to adopt the agenda:

- Moved by: Tara
- Seconded by: Raph
- *Motion passed*

### 4. SAF updates

#### **Project Coordinator**

##### **(1)** Reallocation of funds

- About \$20,000 unused funds reallocated from past projects to this year's budget
- More projects than ever this year
- \$27,000 left in project funding budget this year, including the reallocated funds

## (2) Denial of subs w/sections missing

- High project volume means Olivia won't be allowing unfinished submissions (sections missing, etc) to reach the SPC, so the board won't be looking over unfinished applications

## (3) Summary of metrics that relate

- Rejected 20 projects this year (8 last year)
- 56 requests this year (48 last year)
- 35 projects funded this year (40 last year)
- Had to reject twice as much \$ this year as last year (more requested this year)
- This year we have more budget (because of reallocated \$) and can continue allocating project funding through April (last year it was skipped)

Q: what will SAF do to increase its ability to fund more projects and match the growth in requests it's seeing. Could Concordia match SAF's contributions? Could SAF raise its fee-levy?

## CEO

- Mark on leave until Tuesday
- Research award selection committee went well, made selections even though it was very hard to choose
- Psychological and Sexual Harassment Policy has been assisted by someone at the sexual assault resource centre, Mark will meet with them to look over it sometime soon. Hopefully will be completed by April board meeting.
- Award ceremony April 11th, 5-8pm, Hive catering, wine, giving out awards. "Floating box" in MB building :-) Rebecca will be sending out an invite

## 5. Committee updates

### (1) CSU Election

- Rebecca made a general post on facebook in support of sustainability being a priority for students in the upcoming CSU elections
- Problematic to support specific candidates. Want to encourage students to do research for themselves. SAF gets fees from every student at Concordia and it's impossible to endorse something everyone agrees with.

### Finance Committee

- Running a little below total income, which is good because SAF is getting more money (Eric St Pierre reimbursements to come)
- Not expecting a lot of reimbursement requests until after exams are over
- Budget to actual looks good
- Spent less on payroll than budgeted so far
- \$5,000 under budget, on target to run as lean as possible as was Ariel's goal for the year
- Surplus will allow SAF to fund more projects (take extra money and reinvest it into projects)

## 6. Project funding allocations (9)

**\$27,818 remaining in allocations budget after SPC decisions**

### **Project 1: The Green Pod**

- Requesting \$277
- SPC allocated full funding
- One-time pop up event at the Concordia farmer's market; a pilot-project to raise awareness of their long-term goal (reoccurring at the farmer's market every week)
- Funds would be covering a blender, fruits and vegetables, reusable (?) cups (probably compostable cups)
- SPC thought it seemed like a cool project that might catch on as a sustainable and healthy food option on campus
- They're a student-led group trying to become a workers coop; they'll be tabling with SAF at the FLAC fest this week, will be giving out smoothy samples to make SAF's table more fun
- Q: Could the blender be a shared asset? A: They're applying to be a working group of the CFC to share the Mother Hubbard's space
- Budget of \$100 seems low, it would be good if they could get a better blender. They can submit a project revision request if necessary. Maybe a \$100 can do it, board seems to think so, lots of cheap blender testimonials!

### **Project 2: Ineffable (revision)**

- Requesting \$260
- SPC allocated full funding
- Play that applied last month, SAF board reminded them about the project revision process if they needed more money, they submit a revision request.

### **Project 3: Uzuri (revision)**

- Requesting \$300
- SPC allocated full funding
- Fashion show funded last month, their revision is to pay a local student to do clothes for the models, \$300 pays back the student for materials.

### **Project 4: WAMQWCA (We Ask More Questions Than We Can Answer)**

- Requesting \$710
- SPC recommends full or partial funding, excluding printing costs
- Expo for grad students in design, on topics each related to sustainability
- Big budget line on printing
- Department is contributing \$3,000

- Application contains a lot of buzz words
- Design is a fairly sustainable-minded department
- \$510 is their request without money for printing

**Motion** to allocate partial funding of \$510 to WAMQTWCA, stipulating that SAF will not fund printing:

- Moved by: Emma
- Seconded by: Tara
- *Motion passed*

### **Project 5: No Crying at the Dinner Table**

- Requesting \$1,500
- SPC recommends partial funding
- Documentary about an immigrant experience in Canada
- \$900 going to AirBnB in the budget, SPC not comfortable with this
- Brought up Mark's concern about SAF becoming a philanthropic group
- Could SAF develop a policy about accommodations, and AirBnB in particular?
- Should SAF have a printing policy as well? Does this vary by project? Do we differentiate between printing (publications, etc) and poster/promotional printing?

**Motion** for the SAF coordinators to draft a policy concerning AirBnB:

- Moved by: MacKenzie
- Seconded by: Tara
- *Motion passed*

- How do people feel about honorariums going forward? SAF has a policy against it but many have been funded this year anyway. Often these are very important for artists and film makers.  
**Will put on agenda for next month.**
- Why is SAF funding this project? Does it contribute to culture of sustainability?
- How is it getting disseminated so Concordia students can access it?

**Motion** to table this decision until after discussing CFF (move down the agenda):

- Moved by: MacKenzie
- Seconded by: Niall
- *Motion passed*

- Can't fund gas; could not fund transportation and accommodation but cover other expenses
- SAF can't be sure of how widely the film will be disseminated, but the applicant says their goal is to reach 250 Concordia students, and apply to 50 festivals globally
- Application mentions Montreal lacking stories about POC by POC
- Board wishes they provided a list of festivals, screenings, etc. they will apply to. Seems to be a lack of information there

**Motion** to request more info about where the film will be screened before investigating the possibility of offering retroactive funding:

- Moved by: Arrien
- Seconded by: Mariana
- *Motion passed*, MacKenzie abstains

## **Project 6: Faisen Pour 2**

- Requesting \$1,500
- SPC recommends partial funding
- JMSB marketing student charitable project; students can take boxes home with them, cook an extra portion, put the extra food in the box and drop it off at Concordia where it will be distributed to people who need food
- Bandaid solution? Doesn't address poverty, but does meet an immediate need
- How does SAF ensure the food is safe and the people receiving the food are protected? Does this concern cut hungry people off from food?
- Difficult decision for SAF to make
- Project does label boxes with ingredient types / common allergies
- Pushing more vegetarians options to help negate food safety concerns
- The container is compostable
- Band aid solution yes but is another avenue for people to address the community, biggest pro is perhaps the engagement and interaction rather than the food
- Funding requested fulfills most of the project's needs
- Who will carry on the project after the current student coordinators graduate? Difficult to institutionalize a charitable action
- Project works with Dans La Rue, they're thinking about incorporating as a non-profit, taking steps to create a long-term solution
- SAF does fund a lot of one-time events
- Mobilizes JMSB students (helps SAF build its connections there)
- It's not up to the Concordia Community to come up with a framework to address homelessness; forms of action and intervention is all students can do. Considering how awful the police are being with regard to homelessness in Montreal it's good Concordia students make efforts to be supportive
- Possible a little crash course could be given in a couple hours to teach people about food safety
- One person on their team is going to get certified on food safety, maybe that person could make a little pamphlet on food safety to give out to participants (all existing information which can easily be found online)
- \$1,500 covers almost all of their start up costs
- Flyer could be integrated into the sticker...sticker isn't compostable though. Compostable stickers do exist though! Micro managing?

**Motion** to allocate full funding of \$1,500 to Faisen pour 2 (for the boxes only):

- Moved by: MacKenzie
- Seconded by: Niall
- *Motion passed*, Ashvin abstains

### **Project 7: Show 450**

- Requesting \$4,000
- SPC recommends to deny funding
- Art exhibition, opportunity for art students to get critiqued by professionals outside of school, makes them eligible to apply for professional public grants after graduation
- Concordia should probably pay for exhibitions outside of the university so that students are equipped to work professionally immediately after graduating. Seems like a huge oversight of the fine arts department that this isn't common practice
- Fine arts degree not really viewed as a professional training by and large
- This would be a good conversation for SAF to have with the fine art faculty
- Is this filling a sustainability gap or an education gap?
- Very little practical / networking guidance in the fine arts program
- Is this a form of cultural / social sustainability? We want artists that can have a sustainable practice to have sustainable cultural environment
- Don't want fine arts department to use this as an advertising opportunity
- Band-aid solution?
- Could SAF fund the event and then go meet with people about why this gap exists?
- SPC would be more willing to fund something that provides a long-term solution to the issue
- Could support them by funding food and beverages
- They're working with a gallery in the Mile-End. Artists have to show outside the university in order to be eligible for government grants after graduation.
- All the students are graduating this year
- SAF could support in both the form of a funding contribution and by getting in touch with some contacts to help seek a tangible long-term change
- This project likely won't happen without SAF's funding
- SAF doesn't have power to influence curriculum change in the fine arts, also this process can take up to 3 years. It's also not really SAF's role.
- Recommend they look for a cheaper gallery? It would be a super tight timeline for the project though
- Arrien sits on a subcommittee of the fine arts council and can help advocate for this in the future

**Motion** to allocate partial funding of \$1,400 to Show 450 (excluding gallery deposit, security guard, and honorariums):

- Moved by: Ashvin
- Seconded by: Tara
- *Motion passed*

### **Project 8: CFF**

- Requesting \$5,000
- SPC recommends to deny funding
- Funded several years in a row by SAF, very established project (46 years old)
- Question was raised at SPC meeting as to why they're still relying on SAF for funding
- SAF often funds both the actual films screened and then also the festival that screens the films, which seems redundant
- Better to fund filmmakers themselves than the festival
- Asking for a lot of printing to be covered
- Generally a very big ask for such an established and predictable project

**Motion** to deny funding to CFF:

- Moved by: Tara
- Seconded by: Emma
- *Motion passed*

### **Project 9: EAHR x IARG**

- Requesting \$6,374
- SPC recommends to deny funding, don't want to fund printing
- High institution buy-in but weak student impact; held at FoFA gallery in June when students aren't really in the space much
- All within the art history department and SAF already funded CUJAH
- Honorariums requested will all be given to non-students
- Does looking at a piece of art count as an impact? A huge conversation to have someday...
- An event in June when no one is present doesn't seem like planning in the interest of students

**Motion** to deny funding:

- Moved by: Emma
- Seconded by: MacKenzie
- *Motion passed*

**\$24,408 left in allocations budget for next month**

### **7. Community Announcements**

- FLAC fest tomorrow at the Hive

### **8. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 20h05