

# SAF Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

## Tuesday, October 29th, 2019

**Meeting Time:** 18:00—20:00

**Meeting Facilitator:** Devon McKellar

**Meeting Minute Taker:** Alexia McKindsey

### **Members in attendance:**

Mark Underwood (SAF)  
Oliva Champagne (SAF)  
Ariel Dabora (SAF)  
Rebecca Black (SAF)  
Roy Singer-Shay (CSU Council)  
Jordan Landers (CASA)  
Julien Golbaghi (ECA)  
Katherine Parthimos (FASA)  
Emma Campbell (Concordia Community)  
Tara McGowan-Ross (SC)  
Stefan Hodges (Student-at-large)  
Malo Gueguen (Student-at-large)

### **Members absent:**

Marin Algattus (CSU Executive)  
Maryam El Hebri (ASFA)  
Krista Jäger (GSA)

### 1. Call to Order & Land Acknowledgement

- Call for acknowledgement & support of hunger strike taking place in Kanesatake.
  - Protest is against land developers (who claim to own indigenous territories) on Oka Land.
  - The only political party to answer their calls was Jagmeet Singh.
- Rest to Resist holds fasts every Friday in solidarity.
  - 14 days without food.
- Q: Is Sustainable Concordia going to run a letter of support? A: Not officially, but [Tara] can mention it in tomorrow's meeting.

### 2. Review and Approval of Minutes

**Motion** to approve the September 30th, 2019 meeting minutes:

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

### 3. Review and Adoption of Agenda

**Motion** to adopt the agenda:

- Moved by: Katherine
- Seconded by: Stefan
- *Motion passed.*

#### 4. **SAF General Updates**

##### **a. CEO transition**

- Currently looking at candidates and have landed on one—update announcing new CEO will come later through email.
- Next two week projection: quick transition—Mark will be leaving by Nov. 8th & new CEO will start on the 4th.
  - Training will occur from Nov. 4th - 8th.
  - Mark will be around for the week after that to facilitate the transition.
- Hiring committee: Olivia, Mark, Tara (Ariel and Rebecca also had a role in decision).
  - Decision mainly rested in those who would remain apart of SAF after Mark leaves.
  - Mark invites everyone to reach out with any comments or concerns.

##### **b. Financial update: P&L**

- Quick rundown of profit & loss statement (June 1st - Sept. 30th).
  - Ariel has sent everyone the statement via email & will post it on Slack.
- Finance committee reviews how profit & lost statement is looking compared to budget.
  - Allows BoD to know about budget lines that aren't being spent & how we can allocate those funds elsewhere if necessary.
- Report shows:
  - Total fee levy revenue (May & Sept.—more to come in January).
  - Total income to date: ~127k.
  - SAF project funding is currently the largest expense line.
    - Before allocating funds, we look at how much money we have left in project funding—the time of year is also important to consider when making decisions.
  - Payroll & operating expenses are also large expense lines.
- Expect to see timely reports with less detail that will first be reviewed by the finance committee and then presented to rest of the BoD.

##### **c. Facilitator position**

- Devon will be leaving SAF after a lovely, hard-working two years!
- Call-out will be put out this week & will be out for two weeks.
- Hiring process is not super rigorous—will mostly be placed in CEO’s hands.
- Many thanks to Devon for all the time and handwork they put into SAF.
- Devon will potentially be here for the November BoD meeting.

#### 4. Committee Updates

##### Olivia updates:

- SPC went over recurring projects document & decided they wanted it to be a google doc.—to be more interactive.
  - Will send out to everyone once complete.
  - Goes over historical context of recurring project’s relationship to SAF (ICOP as example).
- Project by Expenses excel document.
  - Consists of expenses, deadlines and notes on when SAF followed up with project last—SPC would like to see this when meeting every month.
- Roughly went over KPI’s.
  - Organizational development approach rather than project focused.

##### Rebecca updates:

- This Friday (Nov. 1st): Sustainability Research Awards goes up—posters need to be put up & Rebecca would love to have volunteers!
- If BoD is in student groups/knows people that are doing sustainability research—please redirect to then to SAF’s Facebook page for posting!
- Attended Cinema Politica event last week (SAF funded the project).
- NextGenCities is currently up in fourth space until Nov. 29th.

#### 5. Project Funding Allocation

- **[Amount missing] left to allocate (\$11,072 being requested this month—with exception of ConcordAI).**

#### Project 1: Fruits of Our Labour

- Requesting \$500—presented by Jordan.
- SPC denied project
  - SPC decides whether or not to allocate funds if request is under \$1,500.

- Project consists of a one time event presenting a 20 min. documentary film of a man pursuing his dream of maintaining a winery—captures difficult work that goes into winery labour.
  - Will be shown in film festival at Concordia, online, etc.
- Concerns:
  - Film is not super accessible—may not reach a lot of people.
  - May not align with SAF's criteria for project funding.
  - Most of the funding request was towards food.
  - Director of film was directly involved in the winery (father's winery).
  - Not super inspiring of tangible change.

## Project 2: ConcordAI

- Requesting [unclear amount]—presented by Julien.
- SPC recommended to deny.
- Artificial intelligence based project centred around a Hackathon discussing climate change & presenting challenges to willing student participants.
- Organization is requesting \$15k from a bunch of different funding sources—not clear how much they are requesting from SAF.
- Hackathon was held last month—SAF can't fund retroactively.
- Project has also applied for retroactive funding before & SAF funded some of that request as a one-time exception (~\$3,050).
  - They were given a warning that SAF doesn't fund retroactively.
- Project also consulted SAF for advice on organizing a climate change Hackathon.
  - SAF expected the application would come in the previous month.
  - Project put SAF's logo on all of their advertising for this Hackathon—maybe to make up for last event that didn't have the logo?
  - Logo wasn't on their promotions the first time because the request was retroactive.
- SPC discussed that it seemed like they didn't really need the money given it was sent in so last minute and was sloppily done.
  - Emma mentioned the application seemed like a copy of the last one SAF received.
- Tara went to the event & is writing a blog post about it.
  - Got impression of potential green-washing.
  - Can't speak to how functional the event was because it revolved around topics completely out of their domain of understanding.
- Olivia would like to know if BoD wants another revised application.

- May be a good time to set a boundary on retroactive funding & SAF warned them already about not sending in requests for retroactive funding—no revision.
- Q: Is organization involved in military research? A: No.
  - Is sponsored by a lot of AI companies that may be involved in such domains.
  - Something to consider given our land acknowledgement & how SAF's logo is compromised.
  - Didn't seem like work was related to military research and is instead more focused on climate change, but good to know.

**Motion** to deny funding of ConcordAI.

- Moved by: Emma
- Seconded by: Malo
- *Motion passed.*

**Project 3: ICOP**

- Requesting \$2,500—presented by Malo.
- Social case competition that gives opportunities to MBA students to work for NGO's around the world.
  - This year's consists of an NGO located in Kenya (Santé Africa).
  - 15 participating teams have to come up with solution to a problem.
- SPC recommended full funding.
- Requesting 38% of their total budget, making SAF largest contributor if we choose to fund.
  - SAF has funded them since 2013.
- SPC mentioned the low student engagement.
  - Is a good thing in this case as the more engagement, the less efficient the work is— involves ground work in Africa.
- Project has since cleared up the colonialist/imperialist dynamics mentioned in past BoD meeting.
  - Santé-Africa approach them—not as hierarchical as initially perceived.
- Mention that this is the only MBA student opportunity that engages in non-profit work.
- Previous BoD was skeptical of their ability to contribute uniquely to this issue.
  - Project is now giving an intro-crash-course to students to better understand the context.
  - Made a package to prep students for competition.
- Q: What is the funding going towards? A: Food and venue (JMSB 9th floor).

- Concern that project only benefits students outside of Concordia & how this consequentially affects our fee-levy only being put towards a specific group of MBA students.
  - Effects change & solutions somewhere else in a significant way.
  - Could give the students leverage to do that same work here, although hypothetical.
  - Not fair to judge its impact in Africa, more about judging the impact it gives to the students directly involved.
  - Care package also shows that they are taking steps to inform and involve the students at large.
  - Impact may be bigger in long run than that other projects SAF has funded.
- Mandate reminder!—Does this project contribute to a culture of sustainability at Concordia?
- Project impacts some people in a very larger way as oppose to a small impact on many people.
  - Olivia is currently an MBA student & mentioned its value and uniqueness—not a lot of non-profit work available to these students.
  - One of our Board members from last year (CASA rep. Mackenzie) also made that statement.
- Q: What is the difference between the previous applications received and this one? A: Every year is a different non-profit; last years was an NGO in Brazil working with families facing domestic abuse—BoD connected more with this project.
  - Other issues found in last month’s application includes it being sponsored by Mastercard.
  - Holes in budget were since addressed.
- Q: How are non-profits sustainable? A: They are socially sustainable— offer entrepreneur skills, education, training for better eco-system, etc.
- Q: How many teams did they engage last year? A: 12—this year has the largest cohort (15).
- Breakdown of budget:
  - Hospitality: \$750
  - Breakfast: \$550
  - Cocktail dinner: \$1,440
- A: Where are they getting the food from? A: Has to be an approved caterer (Aeromark, Hive, Nilufar, etc.)
  - Sometimes projects will use Aeromark because it’s a packaged good—includes staff, dishes, etc.
- Q: What is Aeromark? A: A company that owns most of the food distribution on campus—they provide food for ICE detention centres.
  - Sometimes they have to go with the company due to constraints in the system.
- Mention that while feedback & measures taken to fix concerns with project is reassuring we should also voice concern about project potentially playing into the cycle of western

exploitation these African countries historically endured, putting them in poverty in the first & how projects like this are now going back in to 'save' them.

- Feels like impact is really positive regardless and ultimately good for this specific situation.
- We would be supporting an initiative that takes less of a capitalist approach to problem solving.
  - Application is working towards making their work more sustainable.
  - The real benefit is towards a couple students that will make a large impact.
- Q: Does this project ever take on local initiatives? A: I in ICOP stands for international—the entire organizing team is also international students.
  - Really great because they can design programs that work for international students (different perspective from domestic students)—adds to culture of sustainability.
- Mention of project having a positive impact, but not as enthusiastic about this project as others SAF has received.
- SPC recommended full funding—maybe we should respect that?
  - Always good to reference rest of BoD, because SPC is a small group of the same people making decisions.
- If there are no strong objections to deny, how can we fund their budgeting partially or fully?
- Q: Do we typically fund food or cocktail parties? A: Yes, we fund alcohol and venues a lot.
- If we fully fund, we can suggest a different caterer than Aeromark.
  - Event is happening on Saturday—has already been chosen but can't remember which company.
- Q: What's the relevancy of having a cocktail dinner? A: Necessary for networking & involves participants who are working through a long day.
- Suggestion for request for more info about NGO & caterer to make more informed decision.

**Motion** to allocate full funding of \$2,500 to ICOP.

- Moved by: Malo
- Seconded by: Tara
- *Motion passed*; two abstentions.

### Project 3: LPSU

- Requesting \$8,075—presented by Jordan.
- Project consists of a provincial student-run initiative that organizes workshops to educate on the climate change crisis and work towards reducing harmful impacts.

- Project wasn't clear on what SAF would be funding—budget was vague.
  - Thought SAF would fund all events.
  - Request of \$15k for workshop with no detail as to what the workshop would entail.
    - Requested funding for self-care events but didn't specify what that meant—example.
- SPC recommended to deny but encourages re-application.
- Suggestion & welcome for broader conversation as to how everyone feels about operational funding.
- Budget had very little details & specifications especially considering large request—skeptical about usefulness of allocation.
- Mention of poor engagement—project is limited to one department & may not be as broad as it comes across.
- Stefan looked into their Facebook group—looks like they do a lot of work (mostly workshops).
- Would be nice to provide operational funding rather than funding smaller events.
  - Funding given towards the Hive (example) was operational to some extent, but very directive in early years—this project presents itself as very broad and too vague.
- Suggestion to deny funding with strong recommendation to reapply.
  - Application was strong, but needs help—they didn't seem to understand the application process.
- Marin suggested funding the silkscreen workshop.
  - Olivia mentioned that it may set a bad precedent of the quality of applications we accept.
  - We also don't know if they want to buy a silkscreening apparatus or if they want to have a workshop centred around silkscreening, fund honorariums?—Everything is unclear.
- Q: Can we consider a retroactive application for the silkscreening workshop with detailed comments on what we look for in an application? A: We denied ConcordiAI for retroactive funding; Matilda (LPSU) did speak to Mark about applying for SAF awhile ago and it was suggested to them that they reach out to Olivia; there's a lot of information in the application procedure—expectations & help resources are clearly laid out on our website & application process.
- SPC mentioned that they are asking for lots of other funding sources, but 80% of their funding is being requested from SAF—could have spread out requests more equally.
- Olivia will meet with them to explain issues surrounding the operational budget.
- Project is overall well liked.

**Motion** to deny funding to LPSU with request that they reapply after meeting with Olivia for more specifics regarding the scope of their application.



- Moved by: Tara
- Seconded by: Roy
- *Motion passed; one abstention.*

## 6. Community Announcements & Ancillary Items

- Thursday, Nov. 7th (5:30 pm - 8:30 pm): SAF will be holding a combined Board appreciation & goodbye to Mark & Devon.
  - Old BoD members will be invited so the new & old members can meet.
  - To be held at Brutopia—SAF will have drink tickets!
- Bernard Street (missed the date, so sorry!): Cherie Dimaline's 'Empire of Wild' book launch—Tara will be the interlocutor.
- Nov. 15th: Tara's poetry book, Scorpion Season will be coming out!
- Verdun Greenhouses (Lasalle Boul.): Community market held every Wednesday—last time there was chilli & homemade cornbread for \$5.
- October 30th (7:00 pm - 9:00 pm): Concordia Food Coalition is having their AGM in the Hive.
- October 30th (12:00 pm - 6:00 pm): Concordia Farmers Market in happening in the EV.

## 7. Adjournment

**Motion** to adjourn meeting:

- Moved by: Emma
- Seconded by: Tara
- *Meeting adjourned at 7:42 pm*