

# SAF Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

## Tuesday, November 26th, 2019

**Meeting Time:** 18:00—20:00

**Meeting Facilitator:** Sebastián Di Poi

**Meeting Minute Taker:** Alexia McKindsey

### **Members in attendance:**

Sebastián Di Poi (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)  
Stefan Hodges (Student-at-large)  
Malo Gueguen (Student-at-large)  
Krista Jäger (GSA)

### **Members absent:**

Tara McGowan-Ross (SC)  
Maryam El Hebri (ASFA)  
Marin Algattus (CSU Executive)

## 1. Call to Order & Land Acknowledgement

### **a. Sharing relevant indigenous news/events**

#### **i. Anti-Colonial Panel**

- Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> 6:00 - 8:30 pm—QPIRG is hosting an anti-colonial panel at Frigo Vert.
- Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>: Cinema Politica screening
  - 7:00 - 9:30 pm—Hall Building,
- Welcome & introduction from Tamir, our new facilitator!

## 2. Review and Approval of Minutes

**Motion** to approve the October 29th, 2019 meeting minutes:

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

### 3. Review and Adoption of Agenda

- **Amendment to 6. Project Funding Allocation:** Amount requested from CATSGA has been changed to \$950.

**Motion** to adopt the agenda:

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

### 4. SAF General Updates

#### a. Using Slack

- Communications between BoD members have been moved to Slack.
- Slack is divided into different channels to host different conversation topics.
  - General channel: meetings/interesting updates about SAF.
  - Finances channel: updated P&L's.
  - Option for direct messaging platform
- Possibility to create groups for committees.
- Postings can be directed to one person or to entire channels
  - Entire channels will send notifications to every member involved.
- Slack should reduce the amount of emails sent out—more efficient communication.

#### b. Fixed BoD meeting times/dates

- Tamir will be sending out a When2Meet this week to determine a time that works for everyone.

### 5. Committee Updates

#### a. HR

- Review of Meeting November 18th

- Underwent staff evaluations.
- Changes being made to leaves and absences—haven't been changed yet but will happen.
  - Will include compassionate leave to compensate for relatives living out of province.
  - Mental health days will now count as sick days.
    - Mental health days were considered personal days in past.
- Went over hiring procedure.
- Sexual/psychological safety process is now more short-form—to increase efficiency.
- CEO had been head of HR in the past, but moving forward, the chair of HR will be a Board member.
  - Prevents CEO being implicated in handling of HR related decisions.

ii. Appointment of Emma as Chair of HR Committee

**Motion** to appoint Emma as Chair of HR:

- Moved by: Katherine
- Second by: Roy
- *Motion passed.*

**c. Finance Committee**

i. Review of Meeting Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup> (SAF Processes and Internal Controls)

- Committee met on Friday & talked about what the finance committee has done in the passed and where it can go moving forward.
- Budgeting has changed—one year budget changed to a three year budget.
  - Allows more planning into long-term finances and for a sustainable investment plan.
- \$40,000 put into a Desjardin account as contingency fund (earning 1% interest).
- QuickBooks program overview.
- Went over budget updates—monthly totals for remaining budget (coming in and going out).
- Went over updates and process of sustainable investment fund.

ii. Update on P&L (June 1st to Today vs. Prior year)

- Report on Google Drive (missing link).

**c. Marketing/Outreach**

- Will try to arrange a meeting over the holidays to work on next year's trajectory.

## 6. **Project Funding Allocation (9)**

- [Amount missing] left to allocate (\$17,837.50 being requested this month).

### **Project 1: AI & Democracy Panel**

- Requesting \$572.50
- SPC approved full funding.
- Project consists of a class that organized a panel on topic of AI with added democracy component—Marin is in the class.
  - Since they are doing it for a grade, they are highly motivated.
- Olivia met with them today and they will update us on outreach regarding social media.
- SAF has funded a panel of this class in the past.
  - Project will make sure that participants outside of the class be included.

### **Project 2: iGEM**

- Requesting \$900.
- SPC approved full funding.
- iGEM: International Genetic Engineered Machines.
- Proposing setting up workshops for students at 4th Space to demonstrate the possibilities of what genetic engineering can do.
  - Not a topic discussed very much but has lots of potential.
  - Beneficial to students not privy to the topic.
- Will include a one month residency in 4th Space demonstrating how synthetic biology is applicable and useful to students.
  - Panel on synthetic food engineering.

### **Project 3: CEED**

- Requesting \$945
- SPC denied.
- Video documentary project empowering young Ugandans—networking.
- Very niche topic and organization that usually has lots of funding—may not need SAF.
- Budget wasn't transparent.
- They weren't partnering with the suggested Cinema Politica for screening.
- This project is more socially sustainable than environmentally sustainable.

#### Project 4: CATSGA

- Requesting \$950
- SPC recommended partial funding and reassessment when more information is presented.
- Project consists of a speaker series with two leading scholars of social justice and art therapy.
  - Accessibility to speak out and address sensitivities.
- Suggestion of potentially funding \$500.
- Asked to fund honorariums for speakers (3)—adjustment provided in external PDF doc.
- Asking SAF for twice as much as CCSL.
  - May be more suited for CCSL funding—SAF suggested to request more from them.
- SAF has never funded the Art Therapy department.
- Merging of two art therapy groups: Creative Arts Therapies Students of Colour Alliance & Queer Creative Arts Therapies Students.
- Q: General callout for definition of sustainability.
  - A: Covers broad spectrum—creates a system that is inclusive and capable of evolving with people, societies, communities, etc.; takes collective first.
  - A: FASA’s policy on sustainability: Environmental vs Social.
    - Environmental—examples include ethically sourced materials.
    - Social—Examples include wellness (mental health), fair wages (honorariums), volunteering and recognition of labour.
  - A: Closing a loop—how people’s interest being met in a way that allows them to continue surviving.
- Two panels applied funding; one was funded—what is different about them?
  - Perhaps due to limited knowledge on the topic of art therapy, whereas we had more knowledge on AI & Democracy panel (can’t decide what we don’t know).
- Suggestion of diversifying our knowledge in having more people on the SPC that can speak alternate fields & topics.
- Project maybe wasn’t specific enough in defining art therapy is, although could also be due to a void of knowledge.
- Q: Is a project that deals with the democratization of knowledge socially sustainable? A: Agreement from everyone.
- Q: Explanation of art therapy?
  - A: Alternative method of approaching therapy and mental health, using art—visual way of expressing feelings that can be more helpful than traditional therapy.
  - A: Art Therapy allows a different medium of expression and healing for mental health.

- Moving towards supporting other forms of therapy is important especially in contest with Concordia's services.
- Project is socially sustainable as it looks at two types of marginalized communities
  - Therapy is not that accessible.
  - This panel demonstrates how to apply to better services & therefore creates more opportunities for marginalized communities to access these services.
- Q: Do they know about CURE? (Community-University Research Exchange)
  - Developed a website for BIPOC folkx containing a database of resources for radicalized people dealing with mental health—SAF funded them \$9,000 for their website.

**Motion** to allocate full funding of \$950 to CATSGA.

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

### **Project 5: Anti-Colonial Week**

- Requesting \$1,500
- SPC approved \$1,300 in funding.
- Project consists of a counter US Thanksgiving dinner & programming held at the Frigo Vert.
  - First year's edition just consisted of a dinner; last year's added programming to it (panel); this year they are having two panels and a dinner.
- SAF has funded project every year—request went up by \$100 this year.
- Discussion in SPC about how this event attracts a usual crowd—they may want to expand their audience.
- Marin wanted to see more of a university based event, like First Voices Week (complimentary version to this event).
- Fee-levy collection only covers rent & is not funding the actual project.
- Frigo Vert has made lots of effort to make their products accessible
  - They make very little off of the food they sell—implemented a PWYC on Thursdays.
- Q: In their budget breakdown was there a line that we wouldn't want to give funding to? A: Posters—event is happening soon, so there wouldn't be any posters to fund.
  - Funding doesn't need to go to posters to reach a broader community.

### **Project 6: Concordia Greening**

- Requesting \$1,520

- SPC recommended funding \$550.
- Group of students that want to create sustainable spaces in Concordia buildings.
  - Will install vegetations across the spaces—funding would be spread out between those spaces.
- More of an aesthetic approach rather than a sustainable one.
- SPC took issue with funding another project they collaborated with (JSEC).
- Concordia planted 500 trees at Loyola (all native species) that capture carbon and put it back into the soil.
- SPC took issue with it being an indoor project—doesn't have the same carbon capture effects.
- One of research award winners from last year participated in this—seed planting workshop held alongside this project.
- Cool project but concern with connection to sustainability.
  - The only way climate change can be battled is in using plants, trees and animals to capture and reorganize carbon back into the soil.
- SPC recommended funding for their outdoor space, as carbon capture has more potential.
  - \$550 is for JMSB rear garden.
  - Can't speak to carbon capture in indoor spaces.
- Concern that vines being suggested for the Hall Building is an invasive species.
- There are still therapeutic aspects to having greening indoors—allows for air conditioning.

**Motion** to allocate partial funding of \$550 to Concordia Greening.

- Moved by: Roy
- Seconded by: Jordan
- *Motion passed.*

### **Project 7: Youth Summit JSEC**

- Requesting \$1,500
- SPC recommended full funding.
- Jordan conflict of interest—not direct & more perceived, but still feels biased.
- Collaboration with McGill Business sustainability club.
- Project has scaled up—total budget is \$64,000.
  - Organization also upgrade from Business Beyond Tomorrow—separated and became JSEC.
- Project addresses gap in opportunities for business students to access sustainable practices.
  - Good way of teaching & encouraging business students on sustainability.

- Q: Clarify link to sustainability? A: Is a big event where various workshops are given from people of different fields speaking to sustainability. Educates community on sustainability and how that can be applied to the business world.
  - Different approach—conference consists of theoretical towards practical workshops.
- Q: Where is bulk of funding coming from? A: CSU (~\$20,000).
- Integration of a food festival—local food community & fair will be present.
- Ticketed event (\$20 for day one, \$25 for day 2, \$40 for both days).
- Budget is not clear as to where SAF’s funding will go—submitted on the day of.
  - Ecological products—could be for food fair (speculation).
    - ‘Products’ could mean a bag with stuff that you may never use.
  - Points in budget for transport & printing of name tags—things SAF doesn’t fund.
    - Name tags could be an option depending on how many people attend.
    - Project will use plantable seed paper for name tags
- Olivia mentions past funding example: SAF subsidized tickets instead of funding the actual event that charged tickets.
  - SAF has denied funding to ticketed events before.
- Q: Does this project create a culture of sustainability at Concordia? A: Encourages business students who don’t typically come in contact with this particular field of study.
  - Project is a \$40 ticketed off-campus event.
  - Concern that SAF’s name is going to be associated with an event charging tickets to students.
  - Is the event creating that culture overall, despite what section we are funding?
- The project doesn’t necessarily need SAF’s funding to make the event happen, do we want to be associated with it?
- Q: Could SAF’s money be allocated elsewhere? A: SAF could subsidize ticket prices for Concordia students.
- Q: Would we need to reassess funding if we make that change? A: We can make them an offer—SAF could pay for half (\$10 per ticket), which would equal up to the full amount of \$2,000.
- Q: Is it already advertised? A: Yes.
  - May be too late for the offer, but we can try.
- Event includes a sustainable event guide for on campus events.
- Two options:
  - Offer subsidize 100 people per day at \$10 per ticket.
  - Funding the seed name tags.
- Are we just helping the people that would already go? Could our funds be better invested elsewhere?

- Suggestion to use funds for something different—JMSB students are already planning on going and are willing to pay the full amount.
- Would this encourage and open this event up to students that wouldn't attend this event?
- Could extend the offer—a portion of the tickets be made available to non-JMSB students.
  - SAF can't micro-manage projects.
  - This is an event that could be made open to Fine Arts students, for example—more of a benefit than funding name tags.
- There is a possibility that there are JMSB students not in capacity to pay the \$40 price.
- Could make offer and evaluate before next Board meeting.
- Suggestion for \$20 ticket price but if you can't pay that amount, you pay \$10 instead—similar to Cinema Poltica's policy.
  - Concern that students wouldn't pay the full price either way.
- Sustainability is seen as a luxury in business world—\$40 to attend a conference is a large asking price.
- Q: If we consider a PWYC policy, would people pay full amount? A: Probably not.
  - May not make sense for SAF to fund.
- Fee-levy online opt outs is also a factor that affects this project.

**Motion** to request more information from Youth Summit JSEC as to what expenses SAF will be funding, propose that SAF funds ticket subsidization for 100 students a day at \$10 per ticket and have their answer relayed back to SAF for our January Board meeting.

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

### **Project 8: ARMADAS**

- Requesting \$4,000
- SPC recommended to deny funding.
- Project consists of a capstone about constructing robots that will autonomously transport, inspect and build complex frameworks for buildings.
- Project is requesting funding for the materials to build the robots (4).
  - Autonomous robots that need 'legos' to build the buildings.
- Project was an assignment given by NASA that will have to be given back when completed; therefore this project does not create a culture of sustainability at Concordia.

- Q: Why do we think this won't create a culture of sustainability at Concordia? A: The project will have to be given back to NASA, therefore the only direct relation to Concordia would be its being on display in the EV building
  - It is ultimately connected to the broader scientific world and not Concordia.
- SAF has funded other capstones and in those cases they were asked that the final product be given back to the community in some way.
- In terms of social sustainability, automation can be seen as a red flag.
  - Think about purpose and direction, especially in relation to labour.
- Project is reducing amount of energy used in construction—only link to sustainability that makes sense.
  - Mention of Jevons paradox: the more energy efficient something is, the more energy is consumed due to increased demand.

**Motion** to deny funding to ARMADAS.

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

### **Project 9: Katalis**

- Requesting \$5,000
- SPC recommended reassessment with more information.
  - Regarding how equipment will perform, be maintained and used in the community.
- Outreach project that sends students to a Haitian school to teach students about science and engineering.
- Second year project is in action—last year they sent 10 students.
- Project will install water filters & solar panels to improve quality of school—school is now depending on gas for their energy.
- Funding from SAF will be used to fund solar panels and water filters.
  - Skeptical that the \$5,000 would fully fund those tools.
  - Budget was a bit unclear.
- Concern about project being international—does not directly effect Concordia students.
- Additional information requested from project following their application:
  - They have partnered with a school and various other organizations in Haiti—building up their connection with local businesses.

- The filters do not require maintenance and will be given out to other schools in the vicinity
  - Goal for one water filter per house.
  - Solar panel is only be accessible to the school.
- Working budget line of \$20,000 in external funding is not confirmed—coming from misc. sources.
  - Katalis is also part of CSU, could be worth sourcing from them.
- Q: How many students will be impacted? A: 30.
- **Motion** to allocate full funding of \$5,000 to Katalis
  - Moved by: Julien
  - Seconded by: Roy
  - *Motion put on hold*—needs further discussion.
- International development projects have always been tricky for SAF in the past—could be a good way to distance ourselves from projects like this.
- Skeptical that solar panels won't need future maintenance.
- Concern that only benefit towards Concordia is funding 30 students for this trip.
- Concern that project doesn't fit into SAF's vision.
- Student organization is fairly new & is still being tested—no feedback or history of how the project faired in past.
- Concern that project doesn't benefit Concordia at large—project is taking place in Haiti.
  - Suggestion to fund solar panels and water filters for lead contamination at Concordia campuses.
    - JMSB has solar panels.
- Could fund other areas—deny funding with recommendation to reapply with a different requests.
- Q: Is the project working on sustainability in Haiti? A: Upgrading school & paying people to install new systems
  - Will they have funds to fix those new systems?
- Concern that installing these supplies could lead the community to charge for clean water (example).
  - Seems like they have enough on-ground support to prevent something like this from happening.
- Q: Is the project not directly involved with putting in these supplies? A: They are distributing water filters (pre-made), but solar panels will be installed by contractors.

- Q: Do water filters need to be replaced? A: Assuming so, yes.
- Q: Is there contingency/succession plan for that? A: The organization would send students down to Haiti each year to continue building and working on on what they've already done.
- Director of school has solar panels on his home & therefore can maintain the solar panels at school—not super legitimate.
- Concern brought back to this being a project that is not directly impacting Concordia community.

**Motion** to allocate full funding of \$5,000 to Katalis.

- Moved by: Julien
- Seconded by: Roy
- *Motion denied*; 6 opposed, 2 abstentions.

**Motion** to deny funding to Katalis.

- Moved by: Jordan
- Seconded by: Roy
- *Motion passed*; 6 in favour; 2 abstentions.

**Funded \$4,275.50 worth of projects today—[amount missing] remaining in allocations budget.**

7. Community Announcements & Ancillary Items

- Anti-Colonial week

8. Adjournment

**Motion** to adjourn meeting.

- Moved by: Roy
- Seconded by: Malo
- *Meeting adjourned at 7:57 pm.*