

SAF Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, August 26th, 2020

[ONLINE]

Meeting Time: 11:00—13:00

Meeting Facilitator: Timir Baran Roy

Meeting Minute Taker: Alexia McKindsey

Members in attendance:

Sebastián Di Poi (SAF)

Oliva Champagne (SAF)

Stefan Hodges (Student-at-large)

Katherine Parthimos (FASA)

Payton Mitchell (ASFA)

Holly Mark-Hilton (CSU)

Roy Singer-Shay (CSU Council)

Jordan Landers (CASA)

Members absent:

Ariel Dabora (SAF)

Rebecca Black (SAF)

Krista Jäger (GSA)

Brett Cox (SC)

1. Call to Order & Land Acknowledgement

- Timir reads land acknowledgement.

2. Review and Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the July 30th, 2020 meeting minutes:

- Moved by: Roy
- Seconded by: Stefan
- *Motion passed*; all approved.

3. Review and Adoption of Agenda

Motion to approve the August 30th, 2020 agenda:

- Moved by: Stefan
- Seconded by: Jordan
- *Motion passed*; all approved.

4. SAF General Updates

a. Finance Update

- No updates.

b. BoD Resignations

- A few BoD members have resigned recently: Julien and Emma.
- We currently have 8 BoD members—recruitment will happen over the next month and a half or so for next year’s BoD.

c. BoD Renewals

- BoD members interested in staying on for another term can reach out to Seb.
 - Positions are also available for students and community members at large.
- We will need a confirmation as to who will be returning from this past year’s BoD—Seb will contact BoD members in the meantime.
- Feel free to reach out to Seb with any questions about, inquires about what taking on second mandate as a BoD member could entail, etc.
- Q (Jordan): Can you be on the BoD if you’ve graduated? Could consider it if so. A (Seb): Yes we have positions open to community members and students at large—includes graduated or graduate students.

5. Committee Updates

a. HR

- We are hiring a finance coordinator—if you know of any one who would be good at this job, please refer them to the posting & share the job posting within your networks—we need as many good applicants as possible!
 - People who have done strategic work with financing is a bonus!
- The finance coordinator position will be up for this and next week—interviews will start the second week of September..
- Q (Roy): Do we have a hiring committee for this position? A (Seb): Yes: Olivia, Seb, Ariel and Katherine.

b. SPC

- No updates.

c. Fincomm

- No updates.

d. Marketing/Outreach

- No updates.

6. Project Funding Allocation (5)

\$102,223 left to allocate (\$20,500 being requested this month).

Project 1: WNWN

- Requesting \$1,000.
- SPC recommends full funding.
- Presented by Seb.
- Project is for Waste Not Want Not—they will be doing class presentations with the goal of getting new students involved.
- Project will consist of a spin-off company that will focus on influence and engagement across Montreal.

- Initiatives of this spin-off company include: engaging the community, a compost picture campaign and overcoming pandemic challenges by teaching the community how to sort their own waste.
- Project is asking for a small request and they have lots of support on campus.
- Funding is for: Honoraria for class presentations and for the general project coordinator, graphic and video design, and marketing.
- We didn't have quorum at the SPC meeting so we could formalize a funding decision on this.
 - Olivia: SPC just consists of Brett for now and he is absent—Olivia & Seb will take over project presentations for this meeting.
- Olivia: SPC also discussed how the context of what this project is currently doing is very different from their past initiatives—tackles composting at home as opposed to on campus.
 - This kind of work require more capacity to educate people.
 - Concerns topics such as how to have a composting system at home, how people access those ressources—unsure if they are applying those aspects to this initiative.
 - Roy: Hopes they are! It is good to know how and where to compost.
 - Seb: The project is targeting people living in apartment buildings who may not have access to such ressources.
- Roy: Thinks project is great.
- Stefan: Enjoys that they were able to try out an online platform—seems like they are adapting well to the current situation.

Motion to allocate full funding to WNWN.

- Moved by: Roy
- Seconded by: Holly
- *Motion passed*; all in favour.

Project 2: School Schmool (revised)

- Requesting \$3,200.
- SPC recommends to deny funding.
- Presented by Seb.

- SAF has funded this project for the past several years—project consists of creating an agendas containing community resources and artwork.
- Concern raised in previous meeting involved the printing and distribution of the agendas given the pandemic and asking for a suggested donation of \$5.
 - In the past, leftover agendas have ended up accumulating in spaces and weren't distributed to the intended audiences.
- Changes from last meeting's application: they cut down the number of printed agendas and they will distribute them through bike deliveries.
- Olivia: Project doesn't tend to reach a lot of first year students—they have a core audience.
- Concern over the fact that the project could be putting more effort into an online platform and engagement.
- CSU is not doing agendas this year—seemed like a perfect opportunity for School Schmool to link up with the CSU and distribute the agendas through them but they are not doing that.
- Project outreach is also not strong—feels like it could result in similar case as previous years.
- SPC wanted to have more data concerning the use rate of the agendas.
- Olivia: In the past years we've funded the printing of 1000 agendas—in their final report the project stated that they handed off all of those agendas—in reality, they dropped the agendas off at a location for them to sit and accumulated.
 - This could be what contributed to perpetual overprinting—distribution strategy at fault.
- Roy: In our last meeting we talked about potentially soliciting an amount of people who wanted the agendas—doesn't seem like they revised that.
 - Olivia: Asked the project to do that and they said that method wouldn't work with the printing company.
 - Olivia also suggested that the project create an online artwork and resource guide considering that's what the agenda focuses on—they didn't latch onto that idea either.
 - Seb: It could've been an easy process of them arranging it into a PDF file and sharing it, but they are not going to do that.
- Roy: Doesn't feel this project has adapted well to the current circumstances faced this year.
- Stefan: Enjoys how they are collaborating with bookstores and distributing the agendas via bicycles—this may be a better distribution strategy than in the past because people will intentional pick them up. Although [Stefan] also acknowledges that he does not have the

institutional memory of seeing them scattered and accumulated across Concordia as SAF staff members have seen in the past.

- Olivia: Understands but feels like the project could find the funding to print with another grant organization, especially given the project is not completely Concordia-based.
- Stefan: Doesn't make sense that SAF would fund that portion of the project.

Motion to allocate deny funding to School Schmool.

- Moved by: Jordan
- Seconded by: Roy
- *Motion passed*; Stefan abstains.

Project 3: FLY

- Requesting \$3,500.
- SPC recommends full funding with assessment of new information.
- Presented by Seb.
- Project consists of a film exploring themes related to marginal identities and blackness and how these are navigated in the world in order to better foster discussion and community.
- Project will allowing students who are not usually immersed in Black cinema and topics to explore such realms and find ways for them to better engage with the work of BIPOC classmates and identities.
- Project consists of a mix of Fine Arts and Arts and Sciences students.
- Project mentioned 95% of Fine Arts professors are white—wants to be able to have healthier discussions within the Fine Arts.
- Concerns mentioned by SPC: distribution strategy—project is utilizing their own personal networks to distribute the film—good place to start but not thorough.
 - Olivia: Project provided an update for accessibility and the long-term—the Black Initiative Fund will host the online screening, they are submitting the film to various Canadian film festivals and black publications, as well as, the video will also be available on Vimeo so it can be accessible to the world.
 - Olivia & Roy: Feels happy with that response.
- Seb: They have a thorough honorarium breakdown—located in their project folder.

- Roy: Thinks this is a great project to fund—information provided was very clear.
- Katherine: Also thinks this is a great project and feels happy with the update—no further concerns.

Motion to allocate full funding to FLY.

- Moved by: Katherine
- Seconded by: Payton
- *Motion passed*; all in favour.

Project 4: The Mindfulness Project

- Requesting \$6,800.
- SPC recommends to deny funding.
- Presented by Olivia.
- This project identifies a gap in the health services available at Concordia.
- Upon further discussion SPC found some issues:
 - Project is asking for a lot of funding for 20 students to do a mindfulness training.
 - Project is not as impactful or engaged with students as SPC hoped to see—only 12 people responded to a survey they conducted.
 - There are too many resources of this kind available online right now.
 - Project normally provides zen den and meditation spaces—this project seems less enticing.
 - Concern raised over project having students fund their mental health initiatives—it should be Concordia funding student's health services and not students funding their own health services.
 - This brings up broader institutional issues—they are trying to become a fee-levy organization and it connects to issue of austerity within an institution.
 - While it is good to fill in health care gaps, it is also good to be aware of bigger structural issues.
- Q (Olivia): Does anyone really love this project? A (Stefan): Agrees with the previous point—the project taking more money out of students pockets further the burden put on students as opposed to supplementing the health resources that currently exist that in themselves are also already overburdened.

- Q (Stefan): Seemed like the project was asking us to fund salaries as opposed to honorarium, is that allowed? A (Olivia): Not for start-ups. We've done it for organizations who need to hire contractors—if we do fund wages, we need a thorough breakdown of it.
 - Seb: Wage amounts also can't be greater than our own salaries and this project's wages are greater than ours.

Motion to deny funding to The Mindfulness Project.

- Moved by: Stefan
- Seconded by: Jordan
- *Motion passed*; all in favour.

Project 5: Not Going Back

- Requesting \$6,000.
- SPC recommends to gather more information.
- Presented by Olivia.
- Project consists of a film addressing times of crisis and how social movements and socio-economic circumstances are radically changing with COVID-19—attempts to capture all the radical grass movements currently happening, as well as applying social change theory to it.
- The film will be made this semester and integrated into Concordia curriculum, consisting of: a documentary, a web platform, a report guide, an event panel and a film screening.
- SPC enjoyed how throughout the project was in their application and followup questions, as well as being impressed with the critical lens applied to this topic.
- Project is asking for a lot of funding—Olivia asked for more info and a new budget was put in the project folder this morning.
- Budget:
 - In terms of honorariums—no one is receiving over \$300 except for two people.
 - Project is trying to get funding from other multimedia companies.
 - SAF would be mostly funding the production of the film and some of the web components.
- Brett wanted more info on their stakeholders—project provided a big list.
 - They sent back a detailed and thorough explanation and list.
 - SHIFT is more of an intellectual partner than a financial.

- Q (Seb): Did they say why SHIFT wasn't able to fund them? A (Olivia): They didn't provide a clear answer in the document provided.
 - They could see it as a conflict of interest, as one of the project members formerly worked for SHIFT.
 - Seb: Understand, but the size of SHIFT's funding pool is large and other funding opportunities are stark.
 - Olivia: Also good to consider that SAF is funded by students and SHIFT is funded by billionaires—they could have easily funded this project.
- Roy: Academia should be contributing more to this project, but [Roy] feels it's an important project and would want to give partial funding.
- Seb: There are only two or three students involved—although unclear if they are actually students.
- Roy: Sees the impact for students if the project is going to be incorporate into the curriculum.
- Q (Stefan): Did they say how they would offer the panel to the community? Through SHIFT? A (Olivia): The panel and web platform will be co-hosted by SHIFT and offered to students and the wider public. They don't explicitly say on the web platform that the film will be available online—they just states the report will.
- Stefan: Wonders how it will be distributed to students.
- Olivia: The web platform will have a map, resource guide and host the two events—doesn't think film will be available publicly.
- Q (Payton): Is this a film about the 'Not Going Back' campaign? A (Olivia): That is the name of the film and and it includes reports about transformative change in times of crisis.
 - Payton: Knows some of the stakeholders—'Not Going Back' is a pan-Canadian recovery program in canada—assumes they would follow a process similar to this but not sure how that would look like.
 - Olivia: SPC wasn't able to make a recommendation for these reasons—the project is happening really fast but we are still missing some info (regarding accessibility and content of the film).
 - Payton: These groups are working together on a day of action (September 12)—not sure how much time that gives them—makes sense to ask them for more info.

- Q (Roy): Do we want to ask them for more info? Would that be beneficial? A (Seb): Based on their timeline, it seems like they would still have enough time to to continue planning if our decision was pushed to next month.
- Olivia: Roy mentioned partial funding—there’s a lot of alignment between this project and the work SAF does. We could table the project to next meeting or partially fund it—we need a reason if we do decide to table it.
- Payton: Can reach out to people involved in the project if needed.
 - Olivia: That could be a conflict of interest as BoD members are the ones making the funding decision—usually [Olivia] reaches out to projects as a neutral communicator as [Olivia] doesn’t make funding decisions.
- Q (Stefan): What information are we short on? Access? A (Seb): How strong the project ties to students (in terms of production and impact).
 - A (Olivia): Accessibility of the film in the long-term and student engagement.
- Olivia: It’s a great project—if people feel strongly about it we could partially fund it.
- Stefan: Also feels like it’s a great project—just concerned about funding a project not focused on campus—we could offer \$3,000 in partial funding (half of their request).
 - Olivia: We funded the other film project seen today for \$3,500.
- Seb: Important to note their timeline—their research starts October 15, writing the report and guide starts in November—we have time to table the project if we need to.
- Holly: Unsure whether we should fund this project or not—not sure how the project directly affects students as they only listed one involved Concordia student (Master student).
- Jordan: Gaining more info could be good before making a funding decision.
- Stefan: Agrees—gives us the chance find out exactly how they are involving students.
- Q (Olivia): Holly & Jordan—do you have specific questions? A (Holly): Wants to know how it would affect students directly as opposed to the general community A (Jordan): Wants more info regarding accessibility of film and content.

Motion to table Not Going Back and address concerns and questions brought up by the Board of Directors.

- Moved by: Holly
- Seconded by: Roy
- *Motion passed*; all in favour.

Funded \$4,500 worth of projects this month—\$97,723 remaining in allocations budget.

7. Community Announcements & Ancillary Items

- Share the finance coordinator job posting in your networks!
- We currently don't have a date for a September meeting—Seb will send out a When2meet for that meeting.

8. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the July 30th, 2020 meeting.

- Moved by: Roy
- Seconded by: Holly
- *Meeting adjourned at 12:09 pm*