

SAF Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Friday February 25th, 2022

[ONLINE]

Meeting Time: 16:00- 18:00

Meeting Facilitator: Abraham Dawidziak Kiermaier

Meeting Minute Taker: India-Lynn Upshaw-Ruffner

Members in attendance:

Sebastián Di Poi (SAF)

Duha Elmardi (SAF)

Courtney Witter (SAF)

Rebecca Black (SAF)

Brett Cox (Sustainable Concordia)

Jessica Di Bartolomeo (Student-at-Large)

Faye Sun (CSU)

Roy Singer-Shay (Student-at-Large)

Julia Maksymetz (GSA)

Willem Burnaby (Fine Arts)

Christopher Vaccarella (CSU Council)

Sai Praveen Gudichuttu (CASA/JMSB)

Georgette Pascual (Arts & Science)

Cassandra Lamontagne (Concordia Staff)

Members absent:

Erik Huang (Community)

Kelley Boileau (ENG)

Mitchell McLarnon (Concordia Faculty)

1. Call to Order & Land Acknowledgement

a. Sign up for next meeting

2. Review and Approval of Minutes

a. [February 1st, 2022] BoD Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the [February 1st, 2022] meeting minutes:

- **Moved by: Willem**
- **Seconded by: Roy**
 - In favour: Majority

- Against: none
- Abstain: 1
- *Motion passed; approved*

3. Review and Adoption of Agenda

Motion to adopt the [February 25th, 2022] agenda:

- **Moved by: Brett**
- **Seconded by: Chris**
 - In favour: All
 - Against: None
 - Abstain: None
- *Motion passed unanimously; approved*

4. SAF General Updates

a. SAF 15th anniversary - \$10,000

i. Gathered committee thoughts, want to do something community facing. Have a grant available for those doing community facing work

- Funding is for Concordia students doing community facing work
 - Application is similar to SAF, but removed the impact to Concordia section. More condensed application
 - Ideas must be for communities in which the applicants are already engaged with
 - Advertising this from mid-April to May, grants awarded in May
 - 5 grants at \$1,500
- Want to hear thoughts from board
 - Roy: likes the idea, great that it is for community building. Lots of students at Concordia have connections to groups outside and want funding. It's a great opportunity, he hopes we can do more like it in the future. Could provide more external funding opportunities
 - Julia: great idea, great way to bring in more applications and great publicity for community orgs.
- Seb: would like to vote to move the funding towards 15th anniversary celebration from its original allocation to Batiment 7

Motion to move the Batiment 7 funding of [\$10,000] towards the [SAF 15th anniversary celebration].

- **Moved by: Georgette**

- **Seconded by: Roy**
 - In favour: all
 - Against: none
 - Abstain: none
- Motion passed unanimously; approved.

Jessica arrives: 4:30pm

5. Committee Updates

a. HR/Governance

- i. Will be reviewing hiring policy, equity/inclusion policies, inflation policies. Didn't have quorum last meeting but will be discussed at next meeting

b. SPC

- i. Regular project funding budget: \$26,814.39
- ii. Living Labs budget: \$97,293
- iii. Revision request for Healing through art days approved
- iv. Approved full funding for 3 projects

c. Finncomm

- i. Some fee levies funding came through
 - Still delays in communications
 - LOC set up
 - Committee didn't meet yet due to delays with Concordia's new financial systems
- ii. 7 T4's and 34 T4(a)'s completed.

d. Marketing/Outreach

i. Sustainability Research Awards

- The board can apply
- Deadline to apply is March 15th

ii. Budgeting and Accounting 101 Workshop

- March 10th

iii. Community Organizing ICYMI

iv. Reimagining Safety Panel

- March 8th

v. Postering for SRA's on Monday

6. Project Funding Allocation (9 projects to review)

a. Regular Project Funding Budget: \$[26,814.39]

b. Living Labs Project Funding Budget: \$[97,293]

Project 1: [Healing Through Art Days]

- Revision request, budget line change.
- Approved
- Presented by [Duha]
 - Notes
 - Project from Black Healing Center
 - No changes to budget apart from moving a \$1,000 budget to art materials from food.
 - Must deliver art materials to participants
 - SPC thought it was reasonable and approved it

Project 2: [Solvent Recovery Initiative grant applications]

- Unlock \$[7,000] of remaining funds.
- Unlock full funds
- Presented by [Duha]
- Notes:
 - Approved for the \$22,000 and \$7,000 would be released if they applied for grants
 - Sent in applications for NSERC grant and Concordia's office of Vice President and Graduate Studies. Haven't received any news, but still pending
 - Just wanted to know they are looking, but wanted to bring it to the board to see what they thought, and if it's enough to release the remaining \$7,000
 - Roy: they did what was asked, so we should approve the unlocking of funds
 - Cassandra and Julia agree

Motion to approve the unlocking of the remaining [\$7,000] to [Solvent Recovery Initiative].

- **Moved by: Brett**
- **Seconded by: Roy**
 - In favour: all
 - Against: none
 - Abstain: none
- *Motion passed unanimously*; approved.

Project 3: [World's Challenge Challenge Competition - Sustainable Shipment Boxes]

- Requesting [\$307.64]
- Approved full funding
- Presented by [Brett]
 - Notes
 - Part of competition for sustainable packaging event
 - Group of concordia students wanting to create sustainable shipping options
 - Materials are straightforward, specific budget numbers
 - Main concern is lack of outreach
 - Project has good value, and it's a small request, so SPC agreed to approve funding, and suggested doing further outreach with other orgs. Like CP3 and CUCCR
 - Roy: curious about their prototype: sounds like it could work, but is curious/skeptical how it works logistically. But is a fan of the project and supports the funding

Project 4: [Compost Club Concordia]

- Requesting [\$660]
- Approved full funding
- Presented by [Willem]
 - Notes
 - By two sustainability ambassador students at concordia
 - Teaching students about composting, organizing two events
 - Providing vermicompost systems for free
 - Long term goal to form a composting club at concordia
 - Reaching students thru social media, discord and posters
 - Workshops in march
 - Asked for \$660 for materials, bins and coconut core. Also receiving funding from ASFA
 - SPC loved project so they approved full funding
 - Georgette: really likes the project
 - Seb: excited that vermicomposting is coming back at concordia
 - Chris: excited for the project, hopefully create an awesome culture at concordia, that will

hopefully lead to concordia being better with their waste management systems

Project 5: [Generation All: Reimagining Montreal Panel]

- Requesting [\$1,250]
- Approved full funding
- Presented by [Cassandra]
 - Notes
 - 1 time panel event on March 29th, on ageism and intersectionality in context of pandemic
 - 3 panelists to speak on intersectionality in montreal
 - Moderator: concordia alumnus, founder of Apathy is Boring
 - Aim of panel to inspire people to thoughtfully engage with topics, garner interest in issues discussed
 - Requesting \$1,250 from SAF, where \$1,000 is for honorariums (\$250 each)
 - SPC felt that the project was really good, reasonable budget and in line with SAF values. Important topic, perspective rarely included in sustainability, ageism has been exacerbated by pandemic, and it's an important topic to discuss and support
 - Partnering with Engage Concordia - will attract older audience members, hopefully creating an intersectional environment that the event strives for
 - Roy: likes intersectional approach, especially with ageism and the context of Montreal, and how different it is depending on family and culture. Great panel to fund

Project 6: [Solar Powered RC Plane Capstone]

- Requesting [\$1,603.57]
- Requesting more information re: budget/outreach
- Presented by [Chris]
 - Notes
 - Are solar panels on a plane even possible? What kind of planes best suit it? Project is trying to see if it would work, and what types of aircraft could support the panels
 - Important project - if they could find an answer it could change the industry and make air travel more sustainable. Great that students are trying to excel this project
 - They also consider light and noise pollution which are often unconsidered
 - Have gofundme, but did not mention why specifically
 - Outreach is vague, how will all of it be set up?
 - When/where will they get the materials? More clarity on source of materials
 - Seb: interesting that they are lining up with the edml lab. SAF project supporting another SAF project. But agrees that the budget is unclear. SAF funded a similar project but with cars and solar panels
 - Georgette: potencial is impressive but would feel more comfortable funding it with a clearer budget
 - Julia: loves spirit of the project, but would like to know more about its relation to concordia
 - Willem: project doesn't have a clear connection to concordia community, but liked that

completed project would be on display at concordia. Also mentioned this project becoming a stepping stone for projects taking it further. Overall he feels that there needs to be more info on the budget, would like to see more concrete plans for engagement with the concordia community and more outreach via social media or project updates. Needs more work but really likes the project

- Cassandra: doesn't feel comfortable funding until more info about how it impacts/engages with concordia
- Roy and Willem: deny funding but encourage reapplication with requested info
- Gofundme and capstone are only sources of funding, along with edml

Motion to deny funding of [\$1,607.57] to [Solar Powered RC Plane Capstone], and invite them to reapply and let them know SAF's concerns with the project.

- **Moved by: Julia**
- **Seconded by: Roy**
 - In favour: majority
 - Against: none
 - Abstain: 1
- *Motion passed*; approved.

Project 7: [Waste Invaders]

- Requesting [\$2,400]
- Recommendation to approve pending securing space on campus
- Presented by [Seb]
 - Notes
 - Another sustainability ambassador project, spin off of space invaders
 - Create a physical arcade game for waste sorting
 - Hard to measure success of game to teach sorting, but are in communication with zero waste concordia and facilities management
 - SAP has vouched for project
 - Funding for equipment, art supplies, graphic design artist
 - SPC felt project was unique approach to waste sorting, making education engaging and fun
 - Finish by the end of the semester
 - Biggest concern: where is this going to be located? Haven't secured a space yet. Discussed what would be a good place
 - Want to approve funding pending securing a space on campus
 - Ask for a letter from administrator to prove they secured a space
 - Roy: sad that we have to incentive waste management through a game, but access to knowledge is unequal, but it's a good idea nonetheless
 - Cassandra: people from other countries and provinces really don't know what goes where in waste/recycling, so it would be a good way to learn
 - Julia: Could it be a web app? Likes that it has a physical locality. Could there also be a

link that can be shared to reach more people?

Motion to approve full funding of [\$2,400] to [Waste Invaders] pending proof that they have secured a space on Concordia's campus.

- **Moved by: Roy**
- **Seconded by: Willem**
 - In favour: majority
 - Against: none
 - Abstain: 1
- *Motion passed*; approved.

Project 8: [ICOP Social Business Case Competition]

- Requesting [\$2,500]
- Recommendation to approve \$500 of funding for snacks/coffee from Cafe Intermission
- Presented by [Duha]
 - Notes
 - Social business competition beginning together 10 teams from JMSB, solving challenges faced by NGOs
 - Students asked to develop strategy for NGO org. "One Track International"
 - ICOP will release care package to start building strategies
 - Competition May 7th
 - \$2,500 from SAF, received other funding. \$500 for snacks and coffee for 60 people. \$2,000 for a cocktail diner for networking event following competition
 - SPC didn't feel comfortable for \$2,000 for 60 person event, didn't feel comfortable funding networking event at Reggie's, but did feel comfortable with snacks and coffee
 - Roy: thinks org for snacks is good, but the NGO has some problems, especially in their about page. Points out that NGO is working against problems with interracial adoption/trafficking. Helping communities worldwide to fit kids back into communities
 - Duha: a bit of white savior complex, but they are not trafficking children out of countries.
 - Willem: interesting competition, NGO is trying to bring communities together. For snacks: cafe intermission is a great cafe that supports immigrant workers and women. Money is going toward supporting that local business. Allocation of money fits great with SAF values

Motion to approve partial funding of [\$500] to [ICOP Social Business Case Competition], for snacks and coffee from Cafe Intermission.

- **Moved by: Willem**
- **Seconded by: Chris**
 - In favour: all
 - Against: none
 - Abstain: none

- *Motion passed unanimously*; approved.

Project 9: [PWYC Food Baskets]

- Requesting [\$10,000]
- Recommendation to approve full funding
- Presented by [Brett]
 - Notes
 - PWYC food baskets since beginning of pandemic providing food on a PWYC scale for concordia community and wider community
 - Demand for baskets has increased by 80%
 - Project is growing
 - Asked for \$10,000 to pay for 200 baskets at \$50 each
 - Community aspects: including resources in baskets and students make the baskets. Testimonials as well for feedback on baskets
 - SPC had nothing but great things to say
 - A big chunk of the budget, but it is a great project to fund and SAF is doing their job
 - Roy: How many more funding cycles do we have before SAF receives more funding.? (Julia: until June, 3 months) Great project but skeptical of large amount of funding. Believes Frigo Vert has other funding options and lots of community support. Would be unfortunate if another project came in the next 3 months and SAF didn't have enough money
 - Willem: February and March receive the highest applications, and applications usually fall in later months. Wants to fully fund project. Project is really strong, and has high community building, accessibility and food security. Hits so many positive points, so worthwhile to spend a large sum of money. Receiving \$15,000 from ccsl, \$500 from gofundme, contributing \$8000 themselves. Seem to be going all out to make this project a reality
 - Faye: Is it possible to see their financial statements/operating budget before approving? They have a statement that was presented to the CSU council, there's a surplus.
 - Courtney found financial document at the bottom of Frigo Vert website
 - Cassandra: why aren't they using their surplus funding for the basket program? What are they planning to use that funding for?
 - Willem: Is their contribution from that surplus?
 - Seb: ran \$8,100 deficit in 2020, \$4,750 surplus in 2021
 - Courtney: \$194,000 in rollover funds
 - Seb: Roy's point feels strengthened by this rollover
 - Roy: management can be a bit disorganized. Frigo probably approached SAF because it is easy to get funding. For an org. that has been around for so long, it shouldn't be difficult for them to fund money elsewhere. If we gave \$5,000 they could surely find other sources for the rest. There are also many sources for PWYC and food around concordia. Wants to be more conservative with the funding due to high number of connections Frigo has, and would rather money go to students that have less connections and opportunities for funding

- Julia: given the convo around financials, uncomfortable providing any funding before clarification on funding. In full support of the spirit of the program. As Roy outlined there are many other sources for food for people. Wants more information before any funding is given

Motion to deny the funding of [\$10,000] to [PWYC Food Baskets], and request more financial statement information from Frigo Vert.

- **Moved by: Roy**
- **Seconded by: Georgette**
 - In favour: majority
 - Against: none
 - Abstain: 2
- *Motion passed; approved.*

7. Community Announcements and Ancillary Items

a. Share SAF's events!

Seb leaves 17:55pm

8. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 17:57pm