

SAF Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Friday October 21st, 2022

[ONLINE]

Meeting Time: 14:00- 17:00

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)

Katherine Parthimos (SAF)

Paige (Sustainable Concordia)

Brett Cox (Sustainable Concordia)

Erik Huang (Community)

Julia Maksymetz (GSA)

Cassandra Lamontagne (Concordia Staff)

Members absent:

Jessica Di Bartolomeo (Student-at-Large)

Roy Singer-Shay (Student-at-Large)

Willem Burnaby (Fine Arts)

Christopher Vaccarella (CSU Council)

Sean Levis (CSU Sustainability Coord.)

Sai Praveen Gudichuttu (CASA/JMSB)

Georgette Pascual (Arts & Science)

Kelley Boileau (ENG)

Mitchell McLarnon (Concordia Faculty)

*****NO QUORUM - Online voting***

Document:  ***October 2022 Online Voting information***

****All other project decisions were postponed to next month's board meeting****

****The other motions will be pushed as well to next month's board meeting (approving minutes/agenda)****

1. Call to Order & Land Acknowledgement

a. Sign up for next meeting

2. Review and Approval of Minutes

a. September 28th, 2022 BoD Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the [September 28th, 2022] meeting minutes TABLED until next BoD meeting.

3. Review and Adoption of Agenda

Motion to adopt the [October 21st, 2022] agenda TABLED until next BoD meeting.

4. SAF General Updates

a. No updates

5. Committee Updates

a. HR/Governance

i. Exit interview w/ Rebecca

ii. Courtney evaluations

iii. Seb's evaluations are next

b. SPC

i. Regular project funding budget: \$42,437.49

ii. Living Labs budget: \$92,039

c. Finncomm

i. [draft financial statements](#)

- Vote to approve electronically - final version will be ratified at AGM

Motion to approve the 2022 financial statements.

● **Anonymous votes (online)**

● In favour: 6

● Against: 0

● Abstain: 2

● Motion passes

d. Marketing/Outreach

i. Spreading our AGM event! Please share with your networks :)

- [Instagram Post](#) to share to stories
- [Facebook Event](#) to register

6. Project Funding Allocation (8 projects to review)

a. Regular Project Funding Budget: \$[42,437.49]

b. Living Labs Project Funding Budget: \$[92,039]

Project 1: [\[Decolonizing on Campus\]](#)

- Request for \$1,406.25
- SPC needs more information
- Presented by [Seb]
 - Notes
 - Collab between Decolonial hub, sustainable concordia and coop bookstore
 - Foster connections and networking to encourage university to work towards their decolonial goals
 - Hosted at 4th space
 - Reflection of different groups putting on the event
 - Broad themes at university and what attendees can do to further decolonial efforts
 - SPC supported goals of the project, Question around operating budgets
 - Project would like SAF to fund ASL interpretation, gifts, and food and drink. Rest will be paid for by hosting orgs.
 - Questions around gifts and what exactly they are
 - They are asking for little money, and makes sense that orgs are asking for money as this event went above and beyond their plans
 - Seb: fair ask based on operational budgets of host orgs.
 - Brett: conflict of interest due to being part of SC. Loved the project and agrees with the question of the gifts. Believes the gifts would be sustainable
 - Paige: likes that budget calculation is through, and conflict of interest due to being part of SC
 - Cassandra: SPC really liked the project. Good feelings about the project and very well thought out. A neat collaboration on decolonial ideas. Feels good about funding this project
 - Julia and Erik: in favor of funding
 - **Symbolic vote: for full funding**

The project application was withdrawn from funding consideration by the project team before a decision was made by the board

Project 2: [Aramark Video Screening (CUTV)]

- Request for \$1,500
- More information needed
- Presented by [Brett]
- Notes:
 - Project submitted by a student, in collaboration with CUTV.
 - Want to make a video about aramark, who provide food to many places on campus
 - Aramark had ties to prison system and unsustainable practices
 - Implementing more sustainable alternative on campus
 - Implementing change in university food system
 - Creating a video and organizing a screening with invited speakers from food groups
 - Budget for outreach honoraria and food for event
 - SPC didn't see any issues with application
 - Video is already made, just not screened yet.
 - Paige: aramark having ties to the prison system, thinks it would be helpful and informative if they expanded on ties to the prison system and the larger issue. By feeding them, they are stating their investment in the prison industrial system. Also there's "aramark cares", a system for food packages, packaged for 12 cents an hour in prisons. Some brands of prepackaged foods present on campus are packed by prisoners. Ties could be confusing
 - Erik: Likes the idea of the project. Budget leaves a bit to be desired, clearer honorarium payment. Would trust that they source their catering from a sustainable source. Wants more clarity on detailed breakdown
 - Duha: they haven't responded to the questions yet
 - Erik: wants to wait for the responses
 - Seb: If this information is not given as it's been requested? Would people still be comfortable funding?
 - Brett: no, the budget is vague and unclear. Still precedent of seeing operating budget of CUTV, says no until that is submitted
 - Erik: hourly honorarium rate?
 - Duha: 19.00 per hour, and ask for job descriptions if its higher
 - Erik: hours possible to be paid is \$35/hr
 - Seb: seems that speakers would be getting honoraria? Since CUTV staff are already getting paid
 - **Symbolic vote: deny unless questions are answered**

Project 3: [Anti-Colonial Dinner (Frigo Vert)]

- Request for \$2,250
- More information needed
- Presented by [Cass]
 - Notes
 - Has been supported in the past by SAF
 - Collab with peoples potato and Midnight kitchen and native friendship center
 - Nov 21st - 25th
 - Deliberately critical alternative to colonial and damaging celebration of Thanksgiving
 - Vegetarian meals
 - Speaker line up and short films
 - Expecting 300 attendees
 - Budget will go towards space rental at native friendship center and to provide honoraria for speakers
 - Other funding from CCSL, frigo vert, CSU SC, QPIRG concordia and concordia food coalition
 - SPC: everyone was onboard with the project based on goals and the impact on students. Question of no funding from McGill sources. Application and budget were not well developed. Needed more detail in terms of budget and food breakdown. Wanted frigo verts operating budget too.
 - Duha: have sent over new budget breakdown, and answered questions
 - Applicants have sent over a previous application? Not sure why. They are not privy to some information as applicant was hired for grant writing
 - Meat for dinner is for carnivores attending, unclear of who is cooking the meat.
 - Duha: wants to emphasize that projects didn't receive feedback yet due to the timeline ahead of AGM and SPC meeting. Hopefully responses from applicants will come before online voting
 - Seb: was disappointed with application
 - Paige: maybe they sent old application thinking it had more information
 - Cassandra: wanted to hear from Duha about their feelings about the application and the project responses to the questions. Was it an ok response from them?
 - Duha: is confused by their response and disappointed. Believes it's a wonderful project and fully supports it content wise. Some lack of coordination that is happening right now. Is the lack of coordination on the level that the board doesn't feel comfortable supporting the project?
 - Cassandra: Did they respond to all of the questions we asked?
 - Project aligns with SAF values, but the lack of response and clear communication is making it difficult to back the funding of this project
 - Brett: agrees with that. Aligns with what Duha said. Leaning towards asking them to reapply. Would be one more chance as the event is in november. Asks aren't big on SAF's end
 - Seb: deny in current state and ask them to reapply?
 - Board: agrees
 - **Symbolic vote: deny funding**

Project 4: [Labre House Community Internship Coordinator]

- Request for \$3,456
- Removed from consideration for October 2022
- Presented by [Duha]
 - Notes
 - Mitchell is supervisor for the project, and would like more time to meet with the student applicant. Will be sending a new application with new budget next month

Project 5: [Defend the Body, Defend the Land (Cinema Politica)]

- Request for \$5,000
- SPC recommends funding
- Presented by [Seb]
 - Notes
 - Hosting a film series around progressive politics and climate action and decolonialism
 - Screening include post film discussions with filmmakers and organizations
 - Also asking for money from CSU and GSA
 - Asked for clarification on budget: will be using it on venue, equipment and honoraria
 - Asked for operating budget, Cinema Politica is \$70,000, small fee levy of 0.07 cents
 - Paige: feels good about project
 - Duha: applicants gave more details on equipment and honoraria breakdown.
 - SPC: loved project, large precedent for funding cinema politica
 - **Symbolic vote: full funding**

ONLINE VOTING

Motion to approve full funding to [Defend the Body, Defend the Land (Cinema Politica)].

- **Anonymous**
 - In favour: 7
 - Against: 0
 - Abstain: 1
- *Motion passes*

Project 6: [Building a Mars Habitat]

- Request for \$5,000
- Recommendation to deny funding
- Presented by [Brett]

- Notes
 - Capstone project from engineering student, want to build a facility that can house life on mars
 - Colonization of mars to aid in overpopulation
 - Funding going towards materials
 - Hard no from SPC
 - Problematic nature of the project, philosophy behind it based on colonization, perpetuating fascist myth of overpopulation, eugenics etc.
 - Duha: question for Erik - haven't mentioned any money from capstone committee
 - Erik: students part of ENGR490: offered in a vacuum from other capstone courses. There is money allotted for this class from all other capstone groups. Applicants are also in civil engineering, which are usually theoretical capstones and require no funding. Erik offers for Duha to send any confusing capstone applications to him in the future
 - Engineering faculty has lots to unpack, and Erik wants to make sustainability more of a priority in engineering
 - Duha: maybe send engineering students to Organising sustainability workshop series?
 - No from board
 - **Symbolic vote: deny funding**

ONLINE VOTING

Motion to deny funding to [Building a Mars Habitat].

- **Anonymous**
 - In favour: 6
 - Against: 1
 - Abstain: 1
- *Motion passes*

Project 7: [Mobilizing Data for Justice: A skills development workshop in data activism (SLLFP)]

- Request for \$9,425.50
- -
- Presented by [Cassandra]
 - Notes
 - Sabrina hasn't responded yet to approve the project and move forward.
 - The reason they applied early for funding from SAF is to get it matched by another application that closes in early november
 - Cassandra to call sabrina and come back to this project later in the meeting.
 - Cassandra: will present the project, and a vote will only take place if Sabrina approves. If not, then no vote will take place

- Cool project that everyone was excited about. Takes place in May 2023
- Series of workshops bringing together activists, researchers and speakers to discuss ways to develop data activism
- Aim for project: to enhance capacity of social justice activists
- \$21,570 total budget. Matching grant they may or may not get is not included
- \$9,780 from SAF: pay honorariums to pay speakers, rest for food
- Living Labs goals: links to targets seem like a stretch
 - More applicable target: enhancing research at concordia, makes sense with the event
 - Liked this as living labs application
- SPC: awesome project, really well connected in faculties and professors.
- There are four speakers without university affiliation, and many speakers regardless of being academics are entrenched in the activist community.
- Erik: supports the project
- Duha: there's a variety of folks from different organizations. Duha is excited for this project as she is interested in data activism herself.
- Duha: new budget ask is \$9,225
- Erik: makes a lot more sense to spend living labs funding on as there are many profs and community members attached to it.
- Brett: looks like they answered all our questions at the SPC level well. Looks like an incredibly comprehensive project application. Agrees with Erik's point about the project falling well with living labs
- Erik: Are there any criteria we have to keep in mind before approving an ask for a project with a budget over \$10,000? Duha/Seb: expect to see longer term outlook, collaborations with concordia stakeholders
- Duha: many projects over \$10,000 were funded
- Erik: supports funding
- **Symbolic voting: full funding**

○ Additional info from Duha in email thread - October 25th 2022

Hi folks, I've heard back from Sabrina and Cassandra regarding the living labs component for Mobilizing Data for justice. Here are the questions that they have, which I communicated with the project and awaiting their response. The project needs to get a response before November 1st for the SSHRC application, so the proposal from Sabrina is that the board makes a vote about it today, but the project is informed of approval once they answer these questions. So the motion can include the stipulation that they answer to the following questions:

1. We would like to ask the Concordia profs on the core project team to commit to try to tie this in with classroom learning under curriculum target 5.1: Achieve a 20% threshold of sustainability-inclusive courses. If they are teaching in May, it could mean having their students attend for credit or help out with the conference. Or, if there is any kind of prep work on the resources portion of the project, perhaps that could happen in the winter semester. And of course, if neither is feasible or a good fit for any of their courses, it's fine. We would just like them to consider this as part of their application.
2. What is the SSHRC funding for? Can it be indicated in the project budget?

3. Why is a hybrid format not considered for speakers, in order to lower airfare and emissions?
 4. Is the \$6500 in honoraria for the 15 speakers, or for community activists to be able to participate as attendees? There is some language to suggest either or both.
 5. Are any of the non-Concordia invited researchers speaking about research that was collaborated on with Concordia researchers?
- Clarification from Cassandra in email thread - October 28th 2022:
 - For clarification, we don't need a specific or "right" answer for questions #2-5 in order to approve this as a LL project-- we just want to know the answers to these questions one way or another.
 - For #1, we do need confirmation that some of the profs would consider integrating this into their coursework if it's feasible to do so.
 - As they need a response by November 1, the motion to approve full funding could include language such as "pending the project team's response to the following questions".

Project 8: [Making/Meat/Matter (SLLFP)]

- Request for \$10,000
- -
- Presented by [Duha/Seb]
 - Notes
 - Discussed last month. Already approved for living labs funding, but denied by board
 - Students who are creating a board game to educate on the complexities of meat production industry
 - Liked project and given greenlight according to living labs standards
 - Board wasn't comfortable funding NDAs and copyright
 - Project organizers weren't pleased with the board's response. They said that it wouldn't be used for marketing but for educational purposes
 - Reapplied asking for production cost for 500 games
 - SPC: why are they making 500 copies of the new game? Is there no local supplier that isn't in China?
 - Responding about suppliers and 500 copies: They said the quote they submitted was the most cost effective option. Difficult to find a printer that has the capacity to print custom games. Not necessarily going with the supplier in the application. 500 copies insures that theres extra in case of damages
 - Paige: can't they make prototypes?
 - Duha: they did make prototypes already, they are at the stage where they want to produce the game.
 - Paige: would feel better about the project if they went for a more zero waste approach for production, and finding a local supplier.
 - Cassandra: wasn't a good fit for CCSL. But without SAF they won't have funding. But doesnt see it as a problem. Wants to see an application where they've done the work to find a sustainable manufacturer with a reasonable amount of copies. Glad that the budget

and copy issue was caught, and it doesn't make sense for me.

- Cassandra: CCSL library staff are interested in the game and hosting it in the library.
- Paige: if it's hosted in the library, maybe five copies would make sense? Much more sustainable
- Erik: Are they selling the games? Duha: no. They don't have 500 people to give the games to either. 500 was the supplier minimum.
- Erik: maybe open source the boardgame? DIY style?
 - Duha: didn't seem interested in open source. Going on Concordia's legal team advice. Part of PhD research so they want to protect intellectual property
- Brett: way too many if's in the project. Why don't they do the research to find a sustainable manufacturer. Why should we trust that you will find one proper? Cool that they have a letter of support from a professor and the library. Not a realistic plan. Seems eager and passionate, but so many if's and lack of concrete assurances for it to make sense to fund them.
- Julia: technology sandbox: 3D printers available at concordia, 3D printed materials and paper, SAF could supply labour and material costs
- Erik: deadlines aren't critical, doesn't seem like a big deal if it's pushed back. If approved the project would represent a 10th of the budget for living labs. Maybe can be revisited at the end of the year?
- Paige: would want to playtest it
- **Symbolic voting: deny funding**

7. Community Announcements and Ancillary Items

a. SAFAGM

- i. Tuesday, October 25th, 6-8 PM

b. Blood Quantum film screening

- i. Wednesday, October 26th 6:30-9 PM
- ii. Film and Q&A with guests
- iii. Director Jeff Barnaby passed away last week :(
- iv. Please share and come!

c. Campus Sustainability Month

- i. Rest of October, ending with Frigo Vert /SC/Office of Sustainability [halloween mixer](#) on October 31!

d. **Julia's and Brett's last meeting :(**

8. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 15:52pm