

SAF Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Tuesday January 10th, 2023

[ONLINE]

Meeting Time: 14:00- 16:00

Meeting Facilitator: Abraham Dawidziak Kiermaier

Meeting Minute Taker: India-Lynn Upshaw-Ruffner

Members in attendance:

Sebastián Di Poi (SAF)

Duha Elmardi (SAF)

Katherine Parthimos (SAF)

Paige Keleher (Sustainable Concordia)

Angelica Antonakopoulos (Student-at-Large)

Sean Levis (CSU)

Erik Huang (Community)

Elizabeth Malitastinic (Fine Arts)

Kelley Boileau (ENG)

Cassandra Lamontagne (Concordia Staff)

Members absent:

Courtney Witter (SAF)

Mohammad (Haman) Jamali
(Student-at-Large)

Asif Ali (GSA)

Rasha Ali (CASA/JMSB)

Georgette Pascual (Arts & Science)

Mitchell McLarnon (Concordia Faculty)

1. Call to Order & Land Acknowledgement

a. Sign up for next meeting

2. Review and Approval of Minutes

a. [December 8th, 2022] BoD Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the [December 8th, 2022] meeting minutes:

- **Moved by: Paige**
- **Seconded by: Sean**
 - In favour: majority
 - Against: none

- Abstain:
- *Motion passes*

3. Review and Adoption of Agenda

- Cassandra suggests modifying the agenda to discuss time sensitive projects first.
- Duha highlights priority projects in the agenda doc

Motion to give priority to the highlighted projects in the agenda:

- **Moved by: Cassandra**
- **Seconded by: Erik**
 - In favour: majority
 - Against: none
 - Abstain:
- *Motion passes*

Motion to adopt the [January 10th, 2023] agenda:

- **Moved by: Angelica**
- **Seconded by: Kelley**
 - In favour: all
 - Against: none
 - Abstain: none
- *Motion passes unanimously*

4. SAF General Updates

a. SAF anti-oppression training scheduling

i. SAF wanted to organize an anti-oppression training - getting BoD availabilities

5. Committee Updates

a. HR/Governance

i. First Meeting with new BoD

- Meeting January 17th to discuss wages
- Goal to bring SAF wages up to a standard that is equitable and reflects reality

b. SPC

- i. Regular project funding budget: \$23659.54
- ii. Living Labs budget: \$79,526.50
- iii. Approved Hungry Bin Pilot Project for full funding

c. Finncomm

i. dec meeting info

ii. Fall financial overview

- Agreement on how to disperse additional fee levy revenues this term
- \$40,000 instead of \$20,000 is going towards project funding. \$15,000 to cover cost-of-living increase for staff
- Deficit won't be an issue this year, \$10,000 is going to reduce deficit
- Financial reflection on living labs funding will be happening next year

Motion to approve the allocations of funds in the budget.

- **Moved by: Cassandra**
- **Seconded by: Erik**
 - In favour: all
 - Against: None
 - Abstain: none
- *Motion passed*; approved unanimously

d. Marketing/Outreach

i. Met before the break

- Takeovers
- Giveaway on instagram for back-to-school

6. Project Funding Allocation (11 projects to review)

a. Regular Project Funding Budget: \$[37,387.49]

b. Living Labs Project Funding Budget: \$[89,039]

Project 1: [Drag Brunch]

- Requesting [\$1,500]
- Requesting more information
- Presented by [Duha]
 - Notes
 - Organized by JMSB and CASA cares
 - Events to support LGBTQ+ organizations
 - 3 MTL drag queens at the lunch
 - Accessibility options at events, sustainable sourced food for catering
 - \$25/ticket - \$1,700 projected for ticket sales
 - SPC questions: performers were not confirmed, space wasn't confirmed. Since then they have confirmed all of the performers and venue. Changed funding asks: funding honoraria for 3 performers (\$900/each) and food. Have a confirmation from fundraiser organization
 - Venue is wheelchair accessible according to project organizers
 - Erik: What information are we requesting?
 - Duha: we asked for confirmations and got all of the confirmations we asked for.
 - Duha: I feel that they responded to all our asks, its up to the board now to decide if they're interested in supporting this
 - SPC: language of conversation in application felt condescending at times, didn't sound like solidarity at all times. Felt more performative/saviorism.
 - Duha: we asked if they were involved with any queer groups on campus, and they didn't respond to that question. Why didn't they fundraise for something more local instead of a national organization?
 - Erik: Is it performative or is it JMSB students actually trying to do a good thing?
 - Angelica: If we're concerned about the optics of how the messaging of the subject matter, do we trust that this group has followed up with the proper resources and consulted the community?
 - Erik: agrees and is well said
 - Erik: doesn't want SAF to be nepotistic, but it might be helpful to see if anyone on the team is involved in other community work. Does anyone recognise the names on the list?
 - Duha: has no experience working with that JMSB org or CASA cares
 - Erik: might be a good opportunity to work with JMSB and see how they handle the event. For \$1,500 I'd be willing to risk it not working out perfectly
 - Erik: the drag brunch might be quite progressive for the target audience of the event
 - Cassandra: the project organizers have gotten the blessing from the fundraising organization. They got endorsement of that group, and the drag queens are looking forward to it presumably, so it would be a shame to not have funding. Could be a good chance to connect with JMSB and work with them
 - Seb: highlighting where we stand as an organization, what we focus on is different and at a different stage potentially than JMSB does not tend to talk about as much. Seems to be a calculated nervousness to fund, but could be a learning and growth opportunity to build a bridge between SAF and business students
 - Erik: Besides the final report, is there a measure of accountability we can use to see how the project would go? Maybe a SAF member could attend and have feedback? Or we can ask the drag queens?

- Duha: absolutely interested in attending. We also ask for testimonials from participants. It is not part of the BoD's role to attend events though.
- Abraham: would go in a group!
- Drag brunch outing??
- Erik: reassured him that SAF can feel this event out and see how future events could work out with JMSB

Motion to approve full funding of [\$1,500] for the [Drag brunch] project.

- **Moved by: Erik**
- **Seconded by: Elizabeth**
 - In favour: all
 - Against: none
 - Abstain: none
- *Motion passed*; approved unanimously

Project 2: [Deep Time Walk in Tiohtia:ke/Montreal (SLLFP)]

- Requesting [\$2,012.50]
- Recommendation for full funding (pending LL approval)
- Presented by [Cassandra]
 - Notes
 - Inspired by deep time-walk app - listen to a podcast at the same time as walking to discover the history of the world
 - This project takes that concept, professors and grad students are creating a live version of that same concept, localizing and intergenerationalize the history of Tiohtia:ke
 - There will be elders and non-indigenous people throughout a walk
 - Interdisciplinary history examining the history of the island of montreal
 - Hope that the event can be recreated and extended, even with an app like the original to have more of an impact
 - Budget will go to research assistant grad student honoraria, indigenous elders gifts, honoraria and transportation costs
 - SPC liked application: list of profs and external indigenous elders was impressive. Project could address missing piece of indigenous perspectives in time walks
 - Received greenlight for living labs approval
 - Great experiential learning opportunity for students to learn about sustainability in different disciplines

Motion to approve the full funding of [\$2,012.50] to the [Deep Time Walk in Tiohtia:ke/Montreal] project.

- **Moved by: Elizabeth**
- **Seconded by: Erik**
 - In favour: 6

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

Project 3: [BHC Black Wellness Summit]

- Requesting [\$4,600]
- -
- Presented by [Duha]
 - Notes
 - Project by Black Healing Center
 - Have funded BHC in the past
 - BHC wanted to make Black mental health accessible to the community. Their goal is to make a physical space to house these events and resources
 - This project: they want to organize a 2 day summit to address systemic harms that come from systemic oppression and how they affect Black mental health. Intergenerational space of rest and recharging for black community members
 - 10 activities for 2 days, around 30 people per event
 - \$4000 for facilitator honoraria, \$200 for active listeners
 - Active listeners are trained to listen and do pulse checks and provide a space for people to calm down in triggered scenarios
 - Scheduled for the end of february
 - Erik: Even if they don't have CRRF funding, the project seems really awesome and he is for funding it. Maybe our approval could help with receiving other funding
 - Paige: likes project too and supports the BHC

Motion to approve full funding of [\$4,600] to [BHC Black Wellness Summit].

- **Moved by:** Paige
- **Seconded by:** Erik
 - In favour: majority
 - Against: None
 - Abstain:
- *Motion passed*; approved

Project 4: [Space and Bioengineering Challenge]

- Requesting [\$2,720]
- Requesting more information
- Presented by [Erik]
 - Notes
 - Is a competition by women in engineering org and space concordia's space health division. Interdisciplinary event between engineering and biology students at concordia
 - Theme is to revolve around circular life systems for space and earth applications.

- Focusing on clean water in space and in remote communities on Earth
- Other funding is coming from ECA and sponsors
- Want funding from SAF to fund misc expenses and catering for lunch. Banners, posters and lanyards. Other funding is paying towards cash prizes and materials
- Want to hold the event in february at the end
- Accountability and stakeholders: have reached out to many STEM student associations and space orgs in canada. Have support from the VP of partnership and experiential learn at concordia
- Will be contacting indigenous directions for more information of water in remote communities
- Duha: requested information on a sustainability judge. Project seemed to have a stronger connection to space over environmental and indigenous connections. No connections with folks who have knowledge on technological impacts
- Response: The commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) has confirmed their support and will be providing judges and mentors. Have spoken with indigenous directions who connected them with a York professor who will oversee the competition and provide feedback. Open to recommendations from SAF
- Erik: comment on use of promo materials?
 - Angelica: takes issue with part of the funding going towards plates and utensils, against single use items towards landfill waste. From a sustainability perspective this single use plastic line directly contributes to waste
- Erik: Who are they getting catering from?
 - Duha: booking at approved caterers
 - Cassandra: Aramark is on catering list
 - Erik: Does SAF have a list of caterers?
 - Seb: no but it is in our contract that we don't approve of Aramark caterers
- Angelica: likes the project, just not what our funding is going towards
- Erik: there's issues with what the funding is going towards: banners and posters, lanyards, plates, pens, and notepads
- Duha: agrees with Erik in terms of the language surrounding the issues of water insecurity, sounds kind of white-savior
 - Erik: agrees, similar to drag brunch in that way
 - Cassandra: yes the language is paternalistic
- Erik: drag brunch was more reasonable since financing was going to drag queens, but in this scenario most funding is going to not necessarily sustainable sources
- Angelica: funding is going towards extras of the project not the functioning of the project, the way they are approaching the subject matter is a bit concerning. Understands that not everyone is well educated on indigenous issues, particularly in STEM the expression of the language surrounding indigenous issues can be lacking. Not comfortable funding the project
- Erik: there's a lot of potential for something cool. Would invite them to reapply next year to make it a great initiative with more planning
- Cassandra: How does finding water in space relate to finding water in indigenous communities? I don't see the relationship, and doesn't understand how event will work in that sense
- Paige: it's not like there isn't water on Earth, the government just doesn't care about providing water to indigenous and remote communities

- Erik: good point, true and agrees that the two topics don't fit unless they're advocating for space communism?
 - Erik: the project theme reinforced belief amongst engineers that tech solutions are more important than structural and social solutions. We have the technology, it's just not profitable.
- Paige: feels the rage!
- Erik: will let organizers know they can reach out to him to discuss further

Motion to deny funding of [\$2,720] to [Space and Bioengineering Challenge].

- **Moved by: Erik**
- **Seconded by: Angelica**
 - In favour: all
 - Against: None
 - Abstain: none
- *Motion passed, approved unanimously*

Project 5: [Canopy: The Hidden life of Humans]

- Requesting [\$3,500]
- -
- Presented by [Duha]
 - Notes
 - Interdisciplinary research creation project by art students
 - Spreading optimistic environmental and sociological environmental outcomes
 - Growing vines in concordia greenhouse, artists will work on contributions to the Sky Gardens: working on making clay dwellings, sound designers making interactive soundscapes with sensors
 - Also doing everything using recycled materials
 - DIY recycling design workshop with CP3 and CUCCR
 - Final installation will be late april or early May
 - \$3,500 budget for materials. Total material costs split between FASA and SAF
 - Will be displayed in Concordia greenhouse
 - Angelica: how long will the installation be up?
 - Duha: greenhouse is reviewing application as a visiting project, waiting approval
 - Angelica: concerned about lack of foot traffic after exams, less opening hours for greenhouse in the summer
 - Elizabeth: likes the project, arts are usually really wasteful. So if art students see they can make a sustainable project and get it funded, it could be encouraging
 - Angelica: likes the gentle approach to environmental sustainability and activism, could be a good way to open the conversation in a non aggressive way. Reaching that branch of people is important
 - Duha: a lot of things are up in the air, no funding is approved, project is dependant of confirmation of funding
 - Angelica: what happens if they can't secure the greenhouse? What will happen to the

funding if they're approved?

- Duha: funding will be received upon receipts, so if it doesn't work out, unused money can be reallocated

Motion to approve full funding of [\$3,500] to the [Canopy: The Hidden Life of Humans] project.

- **Moved by:** Angelica
- **Seconded by:** Elizabeth
 - In favour: all
 - Against: None
 - Abstain: none
- *Motion passed;* approved unanimously

Project 6: [Hungry Bin Pilot Project]

- Requesting \$856.95
- Approved full funding
- Presented by [Seb]
 - Notes
 - Already approved
 - Project coming from concordia greenhouse and other student
 - Buying a hungry bin composter, one of the best vermicompost bins
 - Will allow them to utilize vermicompost in their projects and the plants in the space
 - SPC felt it was a good use of funds
 - Managed by ABC Compost group
 - ABC Compost will be in charge of redistributing compost to other groups

Project 7: [Textile Shredder for CUCCR]

- Requesting [\$1,861.04]
- Requesting more information, suggestion to move SLLFP funding
- Presented by [Erik]
 - Notes
 - Mechanical engineering textile capstone project
 - Machine to process old textiles into fluff
 - Letter of support from CUCCR
 - Working with capstone staff and CUCCR
 - Have approved funding from Capstone already
 - Funding going towards industrial hardware and materials
 - Two budgets: one using reclaimed materials from EDML library, one that considers needing to buy new materials
 - Really good fit for a living labs project, Duha suggested switching their application. But the organizers didn't have time to make the new form, so it remains an SPC project.

- How does the machine work?
 - Erik: Has a hopper on the top that takes the material, goes through steel teeth that grinds through material.
 - Erik: the nature of Capstone projects means that ensuring the machine works can only be figured out once its been fully built and tested, so Erik will be keeping plans like this one for future iterations, allowing for the reuse of parts and materials.
- Cassandra: is in full support of the project. Feels its very valuable and cool for students to be involved in
- Duha: CUCCR plans to be a hub for textile recycling in montreal since the city doesnt currently have one
- Erik: can this project be moved to living labs later?
 - Seb: unprecedented but would set a bad precedent for approval processes. In anycase right now, Seb isn't worried about it straining the pool of funds in the SP funding

Motion to approve full funding of [\$1,861] to the [Textile Shredder for CUCCR].

- **Moved by:** Elizabeth
- **Seconded by:** Erik
 - In favour: all
 - Against: none
 - Abstain: none
- *Motion passed;* approved unanimously

Motion to table the 5 projects: [Anti-colonial dinner (Frigo Vert), The Language of Sustainability (SLLFP), Labre House Internship Coordinator, MATTEReality: Sustainable Studios (SLLFP), and Sustainable Transformations (SLLFP)] to next meeting.

- **Moved by:** Cassandra
- **Seconded by:** Elizabeth
 - In favour: Majority
 - Against: None
 - Abstain: 2
- *Motion passed;* approved

7. Community Announcements and Ancillary Items

- a. Erik: Le Petit Vélo Rouge AGM on Friday at 6pm, H655
- b. Erik: Employee Sustainability Ambassador for Dept. of Mech. Indu. Aero. Engineering

8. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting.

- **Moved by:** Erik
- **Seconded by:** Sean
 - In favour: all
 - Against: none
 - Abstain: none
- *Motion passed;* approved

Meeting adjourned at 16:12.