

## **SAF Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

**Friday May 26th, 2023**

**[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)

Iqbal Hussain (SAF)

Katherine Parthimos (SAF)

Paige Keleher (Sustainable Concordia)

Angelica Antonakopoulos (Student-at-Large)

Sean Levis (CSU)

Elizabeth Malitastinic (Fine Arts)

Cassandra Lamontagne (Concordia Staff)

Asif Ali

### **Members absent:**

Erik Huang (Community)

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

Georgette Pascual (Arts & Science)

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. [April 26th, 2023] BoD Meeting Minutes**

**Motion** to approve the [April 26th, 2023] meeting minutes:

- **Moved by: Paige**
- **Seconded by: Asif**
  - In favour: 4
  - Against: 0
  - Abstain: 2

- *Motion passes*

### 3. Review and Adoption of Agenda

**Motion** to adopt the [May 26th, 2023] agenda:

- **Moved by: Paige**
- **Seconded by: Elizabeth**
  - In favour: 5
  - Against: 0
  - Abstain: 1
- *Motion passes*

### 4. SAF General Updates

#### a. SAF Budget to Actuals 2022-23

ii. SAF had planned for a deficit of between 40k and 50k for the fiscal year 2022-23 for the following reasons:

- Increased demand for funding and projects
- Meeting those demands
- Pushing further outreach
- Securing the increased fee-levies for the next fiscal year 2023-24

#### b. SAF Draft Budget 2023-24

ii. Notes:

- Our Fee-levy from Undergraduates has gone up to \$0.50/Credit starting this Fiscal Year 2023-2024
  - We are expecting that 20% of the allocated funds for projects will remain unused, and so will be rolled over to the next fiscal year
  - The Eric St.Pierre Foundation has agreed to donate to us \$5000 for project funding
  - The expenses has been adjusted to the expected inflation rate of around 5% as per the Prudent concept
  - We will continue to identify and expand our funding sources over the course of the fiscal year
- We are requesting an increase in Professional Development Benefits for staff from 500/employee to 750/employee for the following reasons:
  - \* Need for Updated Equipment for work, viz. Windows 11 compatible computers, Newer Apple Device for GFX and Marketing work, and better coverage for Course Expenses
- We are requesting an increase in Health & Wellness Benefits for staff from 500/employee to 750/employee for the following reasons:

- \* Need better coverage for Health-related expenses to reduce stress on Mental Health, and Existential matters
- The 6% and 6% Cost of Living adjustment is required to cover the following circumstances:
  - \* Increased Rent due to new real estate tax of 4%
  - \* STM Rate Hikes and related increase in commuting costs
  - \* Utility Rate Hikes, viz. Hydro, Internet, etc.

iii. Questions and discussion:

- Elizabeth and Sean: budget is clear and looks great
- Cassandra: SAF is a great example of fiscal responsibility to their community
- Sean: for the surplus of special project funding, does the rollover need to be voted on or does it happen automatically?
  - Iqbal: rollover happens automatically

**Motion** to approve the SAF 2023-2024 budget:

- **Moved by: Sean**
- **Seconded by: Asif**
  - In favour: 4
  - Against: 0
  - Abstain: 2
- *Motion passes*

**c. Summer Retreat**

- i. This time around the focus will be on brainstorming rather than strategic directions as it was last year
- ii. Will happen sometime in July

**5. Committee Updates**

**a. HR/Governance**

- i. Sean is leaving the board, last meeting is today. Replaced by Maria for the CSU sustainability position

**b. SPC**

- i. Regular project funding budget: \$9,604.05
- ii. Living Labs budget: \$33,402
- iii. SPC meeting had no quorum

**c. Finncomm**

- i. Just worked on the budget, no more updates

#### d. Marketing/Outreach

##### i. No updates

#### 6. Project Funding Allocation (7 projects to review)

a. **Regular Project Funding Budget:** \$[9,604.05]

b. **Living Labs Project Funding Budget:** \$[33,402]

#### Project 1: [CEED Uganda Internship]

- Requesting [\$7,778.96]
- Recommend to deny funding - and not for conversation
- Presented by [Duha]
  - Notes
    - Group of 3 students who want to participate in CEED's internship in Uganda
    - Project is related to tree planting and sustainability
    - SAF doesn't normally fund traveling expenses and vaccines etc.
    - Not really a project, just 3 students doing an internship. Doesn't fall under what we fund
    - Students will also be doing a workshop when they return, and have a letter of support from Rebecca Tittler
    - Paige: the discussion the SPC had was that we can fund much more impactful projects. We also didn't really support the voluntourism aspects of the project.

**Motion** to reject full funding of [\$7,778.96] to [CEED Uganda Internship].

- **Moved by: Asif**
- **Seconded by: Paige**
  - In favour: 5
  - Against: None
  - Abstain: 1
- *Motion passes*

#### Project 2: [Hamidou Horticulture]

- Requesting [\$6,050]
- To be considered for special projects fund instead
- Presented by [Duha]
  - Notes
    - Discussed in last meeting and at SPC, a motion was made to approve full funding

- pending the approval the office of sustainability and Pietro
- Heard back from office of sustainability: rejection for living labs funding
- Hamidou is a project that sells local and ancient vegetables from afro-descendant populations in montreal. They also have a CSA basket program
- Not approved for living labs
  - Cassandra: Apologizes because there was a lot of thought put into the discussion surrounding the project and the support from SAF.
  - Lots of discussion surrounding the project at the office of sustainability
  - Answers to OOS questions weren't answers
  - Concordia seems to be more of a convenient channel for their project, not a true partnership with the university
  - Weren't interested in providing food to campus markets or food sources
  - OOS point of view was that they weren't prioritizing concordia
  - Baskets were not an active and intentional plan, they were made from leftover food
  - Hamidou wants to expand their basket program and workshops at the greenhouse. Didn't seem like a forward thinking plan for their future to make it a more concordia oriented event
  - Hamidou was encouraged to get in contact with Concordia student groups, but they weren't very proactive on getting these connections
  - Experiential learning aspect of the application wasn't well articulated
- Duha: we should have a discussion around this since to be approved for regular project funding there is no experiential learning component, so the project can still be approved through special project funding
- Duha: SAF didn't see eye to eye with the OOS's decision and wanted more discussion to be on the same page as the OOS in regards to what is meant by student engagement, experiential learning etc.
- Cassandra: I want to be clear that the perspectives were from the living lab point of view, everything I mentioned was in direct connection to living labs criteria
- Elizabeth: is it possible to give Hamidou more time to implement the OOS comments?
  - Seb: it will take a lot of time to implement these changes, and if they wanted to they would have implemented those changes already. However the project can still fit within regular project funding
  - Sean: because they applied to living labs, maybe giving them more time to rearrange and reconsider their application and reapply to regular funding would be good
- Asif: I motioned to reject the project because it's not a primarily concordia project.
  - Duha: it is a project run by employed concordia students and takes place in concordia's greenhouse and spaces. Hamidou was also funded in the past
  - Asif: seems to be more business oriented rather than SAF's other goals
    - Seb: SAF isn't necessarily against for profit businesses. If they have accessible resources and employment SAF takes those into account. It is not impossible to vote on a for-profit business at SAF
    - Hamidou is also part of the horticulture school at concordia, and they have student interns working with them, their roots are growing at Concordia

**Motion** to have [Hamidou Horticulture] to reapply and be reconsidered for special project funding instead of living labs.

- **Moved by: Sean**
- **Seconded by: Elizabeth**
  - In favour: 3
  - Against: 1
  - Abstain: 1
- *Motion passes*

- Duha: we can actually vote right now on if they will be approved for regular project funding. Since they have applied already and SAF suggested to go to living labs funding due to SAF's special project fund running low
- Sean: the feeling behind his motion was that he wanted to give the applicants a chance to remake their application if they were looking for specific resources the living labs provided to the project and that special project funding didn't.
  - Seb: there's not other resources about that they're looking for that is unique to living labs. Their intentions were to apply to SPC anyways

**Motion to approve full funding** [Hamidou Horticulture] of [\$6,050] under special project funds.

- **Moved by: Sean**
- **Seconded by: Elizabeth**
  - In favour: 3
  - Against: 1
  - Abstain: 2
- *Motion passes*

*Seb framing remaining projects to discuss*

- \$3550 remaining in SPC fund
- For where they stood project and food forest project: the funding for both of these projects is less time sensitive. If we were to push them to June that would not hinder the project's timeline at all.

**Motion to table discussion** of [Where They Stood: The Animated Series (phase 2)] and [Loyola Food Forest Restoration Project] until June's Board meeting.

- **Moved by: Sean**
- **Seconded by: Asif**
  - In favour: 5
  - Against: 0

- Abstain: 1
- *Motion passes*

### Project 3: [Indigenous Art & Sustainability (SLLFP)]

- Requesting [\$10,000]
- Rejected full funding
- Presented by [Cassandra]
  - Notes
    - A project discussed at SPC
    - Rejected from living labs unless they could address significant concerns
    - Series of 6 pop-up events taking place during the summer
    - 3 held at concordia, 3 at Milton park
    - Led by concordia archives, the pedalbox gallery and mossy society as well as Commune
    - Commune aims to support the unhoused community of Milton park
    - Free events to the public
    - Houseless indigenous artists will be invited to create traditional art
    - Dialogue between passerbys and artists
    - Requesting \$17,000, all wages to organisers for the time spent of this project
    - \$4232 is honoraria for artists
    - Pedalbox received funding for Quebec gov't
    - \$700 from Milton Park
    - \$500 from mossy society
    - In-kind resources from Art hives and CUCCR
    - Big problem with budget: facilities management was said to be contributing \$11,352. This is a big contribution, but the project they are funding is the trike itself from pedalbox gallery. The conversation with facilities was only about the trike and not indigenous artists
    - SPC discussed these concerns about the budget, and Duha communicated them to the organisers
    - Their living labs targets were Waste 2.2 and Climate 3.5: both weren't applicable targets to the project
    - Research 4.1 was closest match since one team member's PhD research is surrounding pop-up art hives
    - Experiential learning relied on students who approached and engaged with indigenous artists. Not a strong enough link
    - Concerns to be addressed:
      - Doctoral project mention was tangential: wanted more information about how the events are being tied into research. Responded with what the research was but did not tie it to the event
      - Concern about indigenous artist engagement in the project: how come they weren't included in the application? None of the team members are indigenous. Paternalistic language about how beneficial it is to the indigenous artists. Response: no they're not partnering with any indigenous orgs. But through Commune they interface with a lot of indigenous artists. SPC didn't feel they could have the deep exchange with indigenous artists and students the application

mentioned without indigenous involvement in the application.

- Budget questions: reduced events from 6 to 4 to reduce amount from SAF: still 64% they are asking from SAF
- Their answers did not change our opinion about not funding the project at the SPC

**Motion** to reject full funding of [\$10,000] for the [Indigenous Art and Sustainability (SLLFP)].

- **Moved by: Asif**
- **Seconded by: Angelica**
  - In favour: 5
  - Against: 0
  - Abstain: 1
- *Motion passes*

#### Project 4: [Exploring Sustainability Across the Arts (ESA) - (SLLFP)]

- Requesting [\$10,000]
- Approved for full funding
- Presented by [Cassandra]
  - Notes
    - A year long initiative aiming to explore sustainable alternatives to vinyl signage in museums and cultural spaces.
    - Vinyl pvc lettering is commonly used for its affordability and look, but it doesn't degrade for 1000 years
    - Project is housed in FOFA gallery at concordia: aims to increase sustainability in the arts in and around Concordia
    - Project includes a panel and half-day workshop on creative reuse, a free toolkit for students and faculty, a student publication featuring 5 essays with student perspectives on sustainability
    - Travel and accommodations for Susan Kart from Western University sustainable art incubator, honoraria for student writers, honoraria for proofreaders, design fee for a student designer for the toolkit and publication
    - Have funding from Canada Council for the Arts, FOFA gallery, and Western University
    - SPC liked the project and was shocked to see how polluting vinyl can be. These workshops can be great for art students to learn alternative ways to be more sustainable and hands-on learning.
    - Project meaningfully met experiential learning opportunities as well as sustainability targets
    - Susan's travel is not by air but by train. SAF doesn't fund airplane fare. Applicants also clarified other questions surrounding budget
    - Project was greenlit for living labs funding
    - Paige: comfortable funding train travel, transportation can often be the least accessible part of participation



- Sean: How much is left in the living labs budget?
  - Duha, we have around 33k and the new budget coming in

**Motion** to approve full funding of [\$10,000] for the [Exploring Sustainability Across the Arts (ESA) - (SLLFP)] project.

- **Moved by: Sean**
- **Seconded by: Paige**
  - In favour: 6
  - Against: 0
  - Abstain: 0
- *Motion passes unanimously*

#### Project 5: [Chinatown Re-imagining Forum (SLLFP)]

- Requesting [\$25,000]
- -
- Presented by [Duha]
  - Notes
    -

**Motion** to table the discussion for the [Chinatown Re-imagining Forum (SLLFP)] project for the June Board Meeting.

- **Moved by: Paige**
- **Seconded by: Sean**
  - In favour: 6
  - Against: 0
  - Abstain: 0
- *Motion passes unanimously*

#### Project 6: [Where They Stood: The Animated Series (phase 2)]

- Requesting [\$9,470]
- Tabled to June 2023
- Presented by [Paige]
  - Notes
    - Tabled to June Meeting

## Project 7: [Loyola Food Forest Restoration project]

- Requesting [\$10,000]
- Tabled to June 2023 - Unofficial recommendation of \$5,870
- Presented by [Seb]
  - Notes
    - Tabled to June meeting

## 7. Community Announcements and Ancillary Items

### **a. Share SC Internal Coordinator post!**

## 8. Adjournment

**Motion** to adjourn the meeting and start the weekend.

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

*Meeting adjourned at 18:00.*