

SAF Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Tuesday September 5th, 2023

[ONLINE]

Meeting Time: 10:00- 12:00

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)

Asif Ali (GSA)

Maria Chitroaga (CSU)

Erik Huang (Community)

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

Elizabeth Malitastinic (Fine Arts)

Georgette Pascual (Arts & Science)

Cassandra Lamontagne (Concordia Staff)

Members absent:

Sandra Mouafo (Living Labs)

~~Angelica Antonakopoulos
(Student-at-Large)~~

Kelley Boileau (ENG)

Mitchell McLarnon (Concordia Faculty)

1. Call to Order & Land Acknowledgement

a. Sign up for next meeting

b. <https://tenochtitlan.thomaskole.nl/>

- ii. A recreation of what is currently Mexico Citye

2. Review and Approval of Minutes

a. [August 1st, 2023] BoD Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the [August 1st, 2023] meeting minutes:

- **Moved by: Maria**
- **Seconded by: Paige**
 - In favour: 7

- Against: 0
- Abstain: 0
- *Motion passes*

3. Review and Adoption of Agenda

Motion to adopt the [September 5th, 2023] agenda

- **Moved by: Paige**
- **Seconded by: Maria**
 - In favour: 7
 - Against: 0
 - Abstain: 0
- *Motion passes*

4. SAF General Updates

a. SAF AGM date set - October 26th, 6-8 PM

- i. Application period between 9/15-9/29

b. Resignation of Angelica Antonakopoulos from SAF BoD

- i. Not responsive, 4 missed meetings with no excusal. Based on constitution there is an automatic resignation
- ii. Brings us to 9 board members, quorum is now at 5 board members

c. Point about new SLLFP process to discuss

- i. Many faculty see the project lead having to be a student a barrier. Sometimes for faculty there isn't a student yet, and making sure there is the right person for this leadership role is important
- ii. Maybe for living lab program only, there should be a demonstrated leadership opportunity for students, and the applicant project lead wouldn't necessarily have to be a student
- iii. Faculty could provide the avenue for students to learn these leadership roles
- iv. A new section will be added that will require the application to explain how students will be involved in leadership roles
- v. Paige: is there a limit into how far you could be from Concordia? Is there a limit for recent graduates/being a project leader without being a student:
 1. Cassandra: There are opportunities for non-students to be involved, but the project lead has to be a student normally, but if a faculty comes forward and wants to invite/support a student in the leadership position. Must prove that the project is oriented towards supporting student leadership
- vi. Duha: this makes a lot of sense. A lot of the times its an issue when we're expecting professors to have students hired already when they don't actually have secured funding.

- vii. Seb: this is an important shift for living labs applications. We should decide if we are moving forward on this in this meeting.
- viii. Georgette: sounds like this would be a positive move, Maria agrees, Elizabeth is also in favor
- ix. Seb: the living labs is missing out on a lot of projects due to faculty not having students in place yet to work on the project, and the desire to pay students from the get go of the project rather than only afterwards if they receive the funding

Motion to change the living labs project application as outlined above.

- **Moved by: Claudette**
- **Seconded by: Elizabeth**
 - In favour: 6
 - Against: 0
 - Abstain: 1
- *Motion passes*

5. Committee Updates

a. HR/Governance

- i. New application for board members
- ii. New anti oppression questions into the application: “why is anti-oppression important to consider in applications?” and another question that asks what the applicant would do if they disagreed personally with the project but must consider its alignment with SAF values regardless
- iii. Will be up to 2 candidates for each open seat at the AGM, candidates will be vetted beforehand

b. SPC

- i. Regular project funding budget: \$60,529.05
- ii. Living Labs budget: \$82,442
- iii. Approved funding for Disorientation \$500

c. Finncomm

- i. No updates

d. Marketing/Outreach

- i. No updates

6. Project Funding Allocation (9 projects to review)

a. **Regular Project Funding Budget:** \$[60,529.05]

b. **Living Labs Project Funding Budget:** \$[82,442]

Project 1: [ENVS 668 Winter 2024 (Living Labs from July)]

- Requesting [\$14,601]
- Project rescinded
- Presented by [Cassandra]
 - Notes
 - Project rescinded as an application. Project lead has been in talks with department head regarding co-teaching
 - Can reapply again if departmental conversations don't go favorably
 - Not being considered for funding as of right now

Project 2: [Dis/Orientation 2023 (QPIRG Concordia)]

- Requesting [\$500]
- Full Funding approved
- Presented by [Duha]
 - Notes
 - Funding approved by SPC
 - Dis/Orientation takes place during orientation every year and organised by QPIRG Concordia and McGill. Provide alternative perspectives to student life, resources and activism
 - SAF and Office of Sustainability is collabing on doing a workshop as part of the orientation
 - Funding is going towards promo materials

Project 3: [How Do You Play With Earth?]

- Requesting [\$2,545]
- Recommendation for full funding
- Presented by [Seb]
 - Notes
 - Immersive interdisciplinary art event: celebrating the harvest season and sustainability
 - Activate, reciprocate, cultivate.
 - Project is collabing with many groups on campus like FASA and Art Matters
 - Funding is for honoraria for 14 artists, food for event

- Remaining funding is coming from Sustainable Concordia
- SPC felt comfortable that the project would be a success, and recommended full funding

Motion to approve full funding of [\$2,545] to the [Community Ambassadors Program (The Refugee Center)]

- **Moved by: Haman**
- **Seconded by: Georgette**
 - In favour: all
 - Against: none
 - Abstain: none
- *Motion passed;*

Project 4: [Festival Defund la Police 2nd edition]

- Requesting [\$3,000]
- Requesting more information
- Presented by [Paige]
 - Notes
 - On sept 17th as part of disorientation
 - Family friendly celebration surround abolition and social transformation
 - Many organizers are concordia and mcgill students
 - Parc Vinet in Little Burgundy
 - Budget: food, childcare, water stations, accessibility measures
 - Food from midnight kitchen, parc ex curry collective, peoples potato
 - Questions: more information requested: registration for event? They are promoting the event on socials and have a registration on Facebook. Cross promotion. Campus outreach via student unions and volunteers

Motion to approve full funding of [\$3,000] to the [Festival Defund la Police 2nd Edition]

- **Moved by: Georgette**
- **Seconded by: Maria**
 - In favour: all
 - Against: none
 - Abstain: none
- *Motion passed;*

Project 5: [Black Women's Studies 40th Anniversary Commemoration]

- Requesting [\$21,024]

- Requesting more information
- Presented by [Duha]
 - Notes
 - Project organised by Harambec collective. Harambec aims to defend the rights of Black women and non-binary people using the Black Radical Feminist Perspective
 - 40th anniversary of first ever Black women's history in Canada, still being taught at Concordia today
 - Bilingual and hybrid event held in library and 4th Space
 - 2 round table discussions, award ceremony, and exhibition
 - Launch of Black Speakers Series
 - Round tables on Black Women's Activist groups, and Black women and families
 - In house archivist who has been doing research to display things in the exhibition
 - Exhibition will be up a few months post-event
 - ASL interpreters and childcare offered
 - Budget: was a large amount of money, conversation at SPC was around the high amount. SPC recommended to highlight the most important things they need within the budget
 - Duha met with organizers to go thru highlighted items: includes part of Dr.Esmerlda Thornhill's honoraria, student coordinators, expo coordinator, food from petit mains, award plaque
 - If SAF funding doesn't work out they may be able to get funding from Heritage Canada or Simone de Beauvoir institute
 - Elizabeth: looks great
 - Maria: project is a great initiative but it is a lot of money. Do they have other places they can get funding from? Maybe CCSL?
 - Georgette: maybe we can approve 17k and potentially they can apply to other funding for the rest? 10k?
 - Duha: maybe we can do an item based approach?
 - Maria: into funding salaries and honoraria for professors?
 - Asif: why are we holding back funding if we all like the project?
 - Paige: yes we all like the project so I agree we should just fund it and not hold back

Motion to approve full funding of [\$21,024] to the [Black Women's Studies 40th Anniversary Commemoration]

- **Moved by: Asif**
- **Seconded by: Elizabeth**
 - In favour: 5
 - Against: none
 - Abstain: 2
- *Motion passed;*

Project 6: [Concordia Underground Tours]

- Requesting [\$2,000]

- Requesting more information
- Presented by [Cassandra]
 - Notes
 - Deigned to provide alternative community based tours in ways that official concordia tours don't
 - Rebooted by Social Economy Focused student levy SEIZE
 - Part of Dis/Orientation
 - Aim is to empower students with knowledge they need to engage in the community and take advantage of all the resources Concordia has to offer
 - 300 for tour materials: binders, t-shirts and stickers. 400 for prizes: plants from greenhouse and books from coop bookstore. Honoraria for tour organisers
 - SPC really liked this project, students will get lots of valuable information that may get lost on regular concordia tours
 - If this goes well, it will be folded into the operating budget of SEIZE for next year
 - SPC didn't want to fund stickers, SPC also recommended adding resources to list. They would need 3-6 t-shirts, quote is from Urban Customs shop, using reused t-shirts with custom printing
 - Question on honoraria: are they being paid by SEIZE already? They responded: received in-kind \$1,000 from Seize. If SAF funds honoraria, then they would want to pay volunteers. Unclear about who is a volunteer and who works for Seize already, what is surplus work from Seize contract or not?
 - Paige: seems like theyre trying to compensate for the extra time this event would take a normal Seize staff member to do? And 1,000 would go to one of the coordinators?
 - Cassandra: confusion aside, people really liked this event
 - Duha: binder item can be scratched
 - Maria: Cyndy (the other coordinator) is working for Seize on their website. Still unclear on whether this means theyre paid by SEIZE already
 - Cassandra: if its the case where theyre all working for seize and their request is to compensate additional hours, how do we feel about this?
 - Paige: the complications around pay feels off, but likes the project regardless. Confused of amount of people being funded.
 - Duha: Tess and Cyndy are the two workers. On the website it says Jess, emails says Tess.
 - Cassandra: seems like they're funding two board members to help with this work? Seems like theres a bit of semantics going on
 - Asif: lets table the project until everything is clarified
 - Paige: maybe we approve one coordinator and not the other? Clarify amounts, itemized answer is needed
 - A decision needs to made now since it starts next week
 - Maria: considering its a successful project with interest, i'd be inclined to fund it

Motion to approve full funding of [\$2,000] to the [Concordia Underground Tours]

- **Moved by: Maria**
- **Seconded by: Cassandra**
 - In favour: 4

- Against: 1
- Abstain: 1
- *Motion passed;*

Project 7: [OpenWaste.ai (Living Labs)]

- Requesting [\$13,944]
- -
- Presented by [Duha]
 - Notes
 - Last Living Labs we will be discussing in the current iteration of the Living Labs Program
 - Project previously known as digitizing waste
 - Based on PhD work by a Concordia student
 - Supported by Zero Waste Concordia and Facilities Management
 - Bringing together a team around solid waste, policy, facilities management. Building an open source management system for waste
 - Main goal is to help concordia reach its zero waste topic
 - All the tools and data will be free and open to all
 - Encourage researchers and developers to gain from the knowledge provided in this project and develop better systems
 - Software will predict ways to improve local waste systems
 - Openwaste system will be tests using Concordia's systems
 - Gathering survey information on waste related policies
 - 13,944: bulk of their funding is coming from elsewhere, 2 million dollar multi-year project
 - Project approved by university for living labs
 - Cassandra: inviting past established best practices since its a very research-integrated project. Open Source and collaborative nature of the project and making it scalable to a bunch of different settings is great. Alot of the funding they are requesting from us is to get students involved so we counted this as a good living labs project. Exciting to be a part of something much bigger, like the reimaging chinatown project
 - Asif: asking for a source/website to look at. Asking about phd research itself.
 - Duha: not ready yet since this project is part of the research
 - Maria: likes the project

Motion to approve full funding of [\$13,944] to the [OpenWaste.ai (Living Labs)]

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

Project 8: [Waste Invaders Part 2]

- Requesting [\$2,000]
- -
- Presented by [Duha]
 - Notes
 - 2nd time they're applying
 - Came out of the SAP program at the Office of Sustainability
 - Arcade game designed to teach users about waste through gaming
 - Applying for funding to make some changes based on experience of game existing
 - Game was at CUCCR then 4th Space
 - Wants to move the game to the 7th floor of the Hall Building
 - Maria: moved already, really popular there!
 - Had around 270 plays over 8 months. Hoping that once its moved more students can access it
 - Integrated into Ca-va ou? website
 - Redesigning a level element that would eliminate the different separation of parts of the game to make one continuous game
 - Applied to AFSA for \$200 but haven't gotten a response
 - Budget is for hours of a student doing the redesigning and scripting and coding. \$200 is for raspberry pi coding tool

Motion to approve full funding of [\$2,000] to the [Waste Invaders Part 2]

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

Project 9: [Press Start Employment Initiative]

- Requesting [\$8,900]
- -
- Presented by [Duha]
 - Notes
 - Have not been very responsive to Duha
 - Not urgent due to lack of response
 - Youth program based out of Batiment 7. Works in different youth issues like employment and schooling
 - Came out of a direct response from youth in Point-saint-charles, need from consultation process to work around employment opportunities for young people

- Mentorship program for youth that connects them into people in different fields. Normally mentors come from universities or community organizations
- Not necessarily interested in mimicking capitalist way of work, youth was not interested in hustle culture workplaces. Project is looking for alternative ways of working
- Weekly workshops around anti-oppressive themes
- Received funding from SHIFT and will be applying to CSU
- Connections to concordia: mentor for fall semester is a concordia organization, Haven't responded yet on who it is. Wants to also rebuild relationship with the greenhouse
- Budget is extremely vague, Duha asked for a new budget and many other questions
- Cassandra: where did they find their funding in previous years? We don't normally fund ongoing operational funding
- Seb: they seem to use a lot of grants within their auxiliary projects, but I can't speak much to the operational funding of the press start program. Gets the impression that their operating budget is very small
- Duha: press start is a pretty grassroots program from what I know

Motion to table the [Press start Employment Initiative] project.

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

7. Community Announcements and Ancillary Items

- a. Organizing Sustainability is open! Apply here & share this:
<https://forms.gle/rdKi5EFdOagXbGyk9>
- b. Sustainable Concordia & A Growing Arc have an event tomorrow at Parc Jean Drapeau called 'Sowing seeds for the future'. Happening between 12 pm to 5 pm.
https://www.instagram.com/p/Cw1NVRBLD1c/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link&igshid=MzRlODBiNWFiZA==
- c. Sustainable Process and Project Development workshop w/ Duha and Sandra!
 - i. <https://fb.me/e/vXLazMmjQ>

8. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting

- **Moved by: Paige**
- **Seconded by: Maria**
 - In favour: all
 - Against: none
 - Abstain: none
- *Motion passed;*