

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

**Tuesday August 1st, 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)

Sandra Mouafo (Living Labs)

Paige Keleher (Sustainable Concordia)

Asif Ali (GSA)

Maria Chitroaga (CSU)

### **Members absent:**

Angelica Antonakopoulos  
(Student-at-Large)

Erik Huang (Community)

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

Elizabeth Malitastinic (Fine Arts)

Georgette Pascual (Arts & Science)

Kelley Boileau (ENG)

Cassandra Lamontagne (Concordia Staff)

Mitchell McLarnon (Concordia Faculty)

## **1. Call to Order & Land Acknowledgement**

### **a. Sign up for next meeting**

## **2. Review and Approval of Minutes**

### **a. [July 5th, 2023] BoD Meeting Minutes**

**Motion** to approve the [July 5th, 2023] meeting minutes:

- **Moved by:** Erik
- **Seconded by:** Mitchell
  - In favour: 8
  - Against: 0
  - Abstain: 0

- *Motion passes*

### 3. Review and Adoption of Agenda

**Motion** to adopt the [August 1st, 2023] agenda, with modification of putting general updates at the end:

- **Moved by: Georgette**
- **Seconded by: Erik**
  - In favour: 8
  - Against: 0
  - Abstain: 0
- *Motion passes*

### 4. SAF General Updates - moved to the end

#### 5. Committee Updates

##### **a. HR/Governance**

- i. Katherine Evaluations
- ii. Revision to BoD application

##### **b. SPC**

- i. Regular project funding budget: \$71,029.05
- ii. Living Labs budget: \$82,442

##### **c. Finncomm**

- i. No updates

##### **d. Marketing/Outreach**

- i. No updates

### 6. Project Funding Allocation (3 projects to review)

**a. Regular Project Funding Budget:** \$[71,029.05]

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

### Project 1: [The Food Forest (FFP)]

- Requesting [\$3,040]
- Motion to deny funding by Cassandra, seconded by Erik
- Presented by [Sandra]
  - Notes
    - Discussed via email, motion to deny by cassandra, seconded by erik
    - Cassandra: motioned against project b/c project is taking place off campus. In an early stage which will likely mean it would be unsuccessful for the students involved. They want it to be a SAP project but the link was never made. Project feels like it's at an undeveloped stage that won't benefit concordians.

**Motion** to deny funding to the [Food Forest (FFP)].

- **Moved by: Cassandra**
- **Seconded by: Erik**
  - In favour: 9
  - Against: 0
  - Abstain: 0
- *Motion passed;*

### Project 2: [Community Ambassadors Program (The Refugee Centre)]

- Requesting [\$10,000]
- -
- Presented by [Duha]
  - Notes
    - Motion was made, 5 votes in favor, six votes needed for majority
    - Duha: project by the refugee center, applied for funding in june. Project that introduces experiential learning system for students to address barriers in institutions for those in marginalized communities. Students will meet with experts and community workers and create a project to address an issue of their choosing. Project emerged from the refugee advocacy group. Students will apply and work 20 hours per week on the project. Training will be provided by the refugee center. Project in partnership with immigration department at concordia
    - Maria: thinks its a good project, would vote in favor
    - Motion by Georgette to approve full funding, Cassandra seconded

**Motion** to approve full funding of [\$10,000] to the [Community Ambassadors Program (The Refugee Center)]

- **Moved by: Georgette**

- **Seconded by: Cassandra**
  - In favour: 8
  - Against: 0
  - Abstain: 1
- Motion passed;

### Project 3: [ENVS 668 Winter 2024 (Living Labs)]

- Requesting [\$14,601]
- -
- Presented by [Cassandra]
  - Notes
    - “Bringing Anishanabe Knowledge holder in to teach” - living lab project
    - To bring Shannon Chief into course on indigenous people and resource management. Course requires an indigenous educator
    - No framework to pay Shannon Chief to take of co-educator role through concordia, last time the course happened the professor split their pay within Shannon
    - \$9601 for Shannon’s salary, amount is matched by geography department to pay other professor
    - Want to work with Shannon to develop framework with concordia to make it possible for indigenous knowledge holders to be co-professors. \$2,000 to pay Shannon and other key folks to develop those recommendations
    - Want to host a public lecture in April on environmental governance in canada. Also book launch event in January, launching the result of last year’s students in the class with Shannon. \$1,000 for each event
    - \$1,000 in honorariums for additional honoraria for guest speakers
    - Engagement from faculty and students is strong. A student who previously took the course will be coordinating events.
    - Applies to research target 4.1: addressed through book launch. Felt it was a good fit for the target
    - Project also applies to the 2040 curriculum plan: graduates to link their training to broader issues.
    - Experiential learning: strong case of this
    - Applicable project to living labs
    - SPC agrees that it's important for an indigenous person to teach this course. SPC wants to support it to address these barriers, but there's a bit of unease about funding salaries for professors. Mitchell would bring the conversation to the faculty research group. Questions around process for co-lecturing
    - Mitchell: Will take to the faculty research group: sessional contracts. Followed up on some questions from the SPC: A sessional lecturer has precarious employment and there's deductions on every paycheck for the union. Someone like Jen will have received a sessional contract. Would the geography dept. recognise Shannon for teaching the class last year? What's next? Is this going to be an ongoing application? How can we facilitate access for students to these educators? Could Shannon be recognised as part time

- faculty?
- Cassandra: Got a copy of the book and it contains very high quality research. Also a course syllabus.
  - Plan for bringing recommendations to Concordia: Bring to the chair of indigenous directions and the Geography and planning department
  - Pietro was concerned about funding a lecturer's salary: called HR to ask about this process. There are formal processes in place outlined in collective agreement to be remunerated by faculty. It isn't an "above board" process the project is doing here. Living labs couldn't fund this without understanding first why the current processes aren't conducive to hiring Shannon Chief.
  - Report back is that we can't support the project right now due to these lingering questions, but the events could still be funded separately. However the book launch may not be as successful without being tied to the rest of the project and larger lecture event
  - Cannot vote on project today
  - Duha: A good next step is to set up a meeting with Jen, Cassandra, Shannon and Duha to discuss the process with the geography department and why they refused to pay for it. Relaying info to BoD and Pietro afterwards. Likely timeline is ok since it's a winter class. Response from HR seems bureaucratic, but it's worth exploring more
  - Seb: What is the timeline on when the university needs an answer?
  - Mitchell: usually filed by May/June. Not surprised to hear this, if the department was really supportive of this there might have been a letter of support from them. Very institutional and bureaucratic process. Also union considerations and collective bargaining agreements. Very stringent regulations for teaching courses, that go against Concordia's larger plans for decolonisation /sustainability in courses
  - Seb: moving forward the changes in the living labs project could help this process in the future

### **SAF General Updates**

#### **a. Maria Chitoroagaratified as BoD member at SAF via online vote**

#### **b. Strategic Retreat 7/22- next steps**

- i. Took place on July 22nd
- ii. Fruitful discussions around conflict resolution, and how we can incorporate different tools surrounding projects and alignment
- iii. Will be developed in the Board member application including more vetting and less open ended. Also applying changes to staff and organization in general
- iv. Goal for BoD application will be to understand BoD views more aligned with the SAF, and will continue of course to do training for the board. There will also be a probation period for BoD
- v. How do we want to gather information from applicants who are not selected, how can we support them better? How can we track decisions better?
- vi. Creating content that assists project applications
- vii. Cassandra: read the minutes, interesting discussion around what surrounds sustainability in events? Maybe the SCC could help with their sustainability certificate program and

event guide? Maybe we can encourage groups to get certifications to be eligible for SAF events? Maybe there's a way to streamline sustainable event funding, and what constitutes a sustainable event.

viii. Seb: next steps will also be coming with next steps

**c. Changes to SLLFP - September 1st**

- i. Need for three board members to join committee
- ii. Changes are being made to the criteria: as of September 1st, projects will be applying to sustainability plans rather than specifically the targets and goals. Process will change from being through Pietro and the Board to being approved through a different committee containing SAF members. Semesterly application process rather than monthly. Should be discussed that SAF staff will have a vote on LL projects on this new committee. Should the SAF Staff members have a vote? Would the board feel comfortable having SAF staff be able to vote?
- iii. Mitchell: thinks the staff should have a vote for democratization. The staff can provide insight in helpful ways
- iv. Georgette: agrees. Would support Mitchell's point. Important for SAF to have a vote since some board members are rotating, so SAF staff would have familiarities with the system, so it would be fair to give SAF staff a vote
- v. Erik: how will three BoD members be selected?
  1. Seb: ideally up to the board, would need people engaged and committed. 5-6 hours per term, approx 18 hours for the year
- vi. LL Projects will no longer be reviewed at SPC level
- vii. Vote can take place nexttime for BoD to have time to consider changes

**7. Community Announcements and Ancillary Items**

- a. [Fundraiser by Marcelle Messaouda Partouche & Duha Elmardi : Support for 5 Sudanese Human Rights Defenders \(gofundme.com\)](#)
- b. <https://fb.me/e/4yDT5ooKX> Buckskin Babes film event

**8. Adjournment**

**Motion** to adjourn the meeting

- **Moved by: Erik**
- **Seconded by: Maria**
  - In favour: 8
  - Against: 0
  - Abstain: 1
- *Motion passed;*