

SAF Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Wednesday August 24th, 2022

[ONLINE]

Meeting Time: 15:30- 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)

Brett Cox (Sustainable Concordia)

Jessica Di Bartolomeo (Student-at-Large)

Roy Singer-Shay (Student-at-Large)

Christopher Vaccarella (CSU Council)

Sean Levis (CSU Sustainability Coordinator)

Kelley Boileau (ENG)

Cassandra Lamontagne (Concordia Staff)

Members absent:

Erik Huang (Community)

Julia Maksymetz (GSA)

Willem Burnaby (Fine Arts)

Sai Praveen Gudichuttu (CASA/JMSB)

Georgette Pascual (Arts & Science)

Mitchell McLarnon (Concordia Faculty)

***Cassandra arrives at the meeting at 16:00, quorum is reached after this. No votes were made before quorum*

1. Call to Order & Land Acknowledgement

a. Sign up for next meeting

2. Review and Approval of Minutes

a. [August 4th, 2022] BoD Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the [August 4th, 2022] meeting minutes with the edits that have been seen and yet to be added to the minutes:

- **Moved by: Roy**

- **Seconded by: Sean**
 - In favour: all
 - Against: none
 - Abstain: none
- *Motion passes unanimously*

3. Review and Adoption of Agenda

Motion to adopt the [August 24th, 2022] agenda:

- **Moved by: Sean**
- **Seconded by: Chris**
 - In favour: all
 - Against: none
 - Abstain: none
- *Motion passes unanimously*

4. SAF General Updates

- a. **AGM date: October 25th 6-8PM**
- ii. Board meeting mandate renewal

5. Committee Updates

a. HR/Governance

i. Discussion of extended sick leave adjustments

- Will be setting up meeting for early september

b. SPC

- i. Regular project funding budget: \$44,231.49
- ii. Living Labs budget: \$89,584

c. Finncomm

- i. Meeting September 6th

ii. Currently in midst of annual audit

d. Marketing/Outreach

i. Tabling Kit includes Pamphlet, Infographic and [winter workshop summary posters](#)

6. Project Funding Allocation (8 projects to review)

a. Regular Project Funding Budget: \$[44,231.49]

b. Living Labs Project Funding Budget: \$[89,584]

Project 1: [School Schmool 2022]

- Request for \$3,000
- SPC recommends (informal) full funding
- Presented by [Roy]
 - Notes
 - QPIRG McGill and concordia, creating annual planner and research guide
 - Connecting students with activist issues in school and montreal
 - Highlighting local artists
 - Resource guide in agenda
 - Same budget ask as last year
 - Want to print 16,000. Printing cost is \$9,500, SAF would be covering \$3000 of the printing cost. Printing copy is eco friendly and uses vegetable ink. Printing 400 more agendas than last year
 - Distribution for the last two years was difficult because of lack of students on campus, but its not foreseen as a problem this year
 - Sean: feels like a great initiative, printing on sustainable materials is great, if SAF has funded them in the past doesn't see the issue with funding them again
 - Duha: they also have an online archive and digital version of the project
 - Jessica, Kelley and Brett: supports the project

Motion to approve the full funding of [\$3,000] to the [School Schmool 2022] project.

- **Moved by: Sean**
- **Seconded by: Brett**
 - In favour: all
 - Against: None
 - Abstain: None
- *Motion passed*; approved unanimously

Project 2: [Funky Fungi]

- Request for \$12,589.10
- More discussion
- Presented by [Brett]
- Notes:
 - Project from CultivAction
 - 4th project applying for SAF funding in the last 6 months
 - Already have mushroom growing operations in their space, and want funding to expand that process. Also offer workshops for students
 - Reiterate the network of support they have with other initiatives at concordia
 - Plan on donating funds from mushroom sales to sustain themselves in the long term, and also fundraise for community orgs.
 - Total budget is \$14,000
 - Budget going towards, marketing, equipment
 - SPC: project seems really cool, but the SPC mentions the stipulation that asks over 10,000, %50 percent must come from other funding sources. Funding fully would mean a large portion of available funding for future projects would be gone. Didn't feel comfortable funding due to consistent projects by cultivAction funded by SAF, and also discussed a smaller request and the SPC was still on the fence
 - Sean: encouraging them to apply for a smaller amount and to diversify their funding. Great project, we would regularly support this at SAF, but they should reach out to other funding. They could apply through sustainability funding from CSU, they can give \$1,000. Not much but step in the right direction
 - Seb: had spoken to project organizers. Felt they had asked for lots of money in the past and organizers said they didn't want to ask for much in the last application, but Seb finds it a bit disappointing they are asking so much for the 4th
 - Roy: problems with application: why are there no collaborations with labs and groups at concordia. Machines they're asking for are available on loyola campuses in Mycology labs. Questions some of the equipment like laminar flow units, Roy says they could use other means for the function of this equipment. There are cost effective ways to grow mushrooms. Would like to see them try this on a smaller scale, show SAF demand for the project, and scale up the project in the future. We are unsure of the success at this point. Not comfortable funding this project. Advice: scale back production and cost, look for other funding. Seems excessive. Doesn't think they can make back on their returns. Their goals seem unrealistic
 - Sean: Important that SAF provides specific alternative funding resources. Encouraging them to use those avenues
 - Chris: they're asking for a lot and money is dwindling fast, project needs to be revised
 - Kelley, doesn't think we should completely deny funding, maybe a smaller amount can encourage them to find other refunding sources
 - Courtney: Is there a limit on funding for SPCs?
 - Duha: only once a year per project lead

- Courtney: seems like they are skirting around the rule.
- Courtney: clarification on funding needing to be revised mentioned by Chris
 - Way too much money to be asking in relation to the project
- Roy: There are dedicated science buildings on Loyola that can help them, it seems like they are only working in their circle. Could be a great fit for living labs if they make more connections in the university -. Big concerns for me
- Brett: good points Roy
- CFC support letter
 - Roy, Sean, Seb: would love more support letters from different sources
- Sean: wants to approve partial funding for project to encourage them to search for alternative funding
- Brett: not comfortable with partial funding, doesn't make sense, how much and what would it go to? Encourage them to reapply into the future and give them advice
- Roy: wants to deny funding, doesn't feel comfortable with application. Should be a conversation with CultivAction people about reapplying with same group. Let's consider policy wise on what to do if a similar situation comes up for future projects. They should still hear our critiques and be free to reapply
- Cassandra: Doesn't want to encourage them to reapply. More inclined to support other projects. Should include all aspects into one project application instead of multiple small ones. Everyone said great points on the project, but there's too many applications for the same org. Cassandra wouldn't prioritize them knowing there's other projects that never applied and need funding
 - Roy: agrees with Cassandra, maybe there needs to be more restrictions to discourages this in the future
 - Seb: 2 of the 3 projects by CultivAction haven't submitted final reports yet. It's important that the board recognized that they skirted along the rule
- Roy: not an urgent subject to fund, I'm sure more important issues than mushrooms will come up that need funding to push the sustainability community forward at concordia
- Cassandra: maybe they thought they were not breaking the rule since they applied for living labs funding and SPC funding separately?
 - Seb: thinks they were aware since project leads are very familiar with SAF
- Chris: We should leave room for other applications, but should not get in the way of true initiatives, Playing devil's advocate: i'm not saying this project is one of them, but I think it's something to keep in mind moving forward as long as it isn't done sneakily

Motion to deny funding of [\$12,589.10] to the [Funky Fungi] project.

- **Moved by: Roy**
- **Seconded by: Chris**
 - In favour: majority
 - Against: None
 - Abstain: None
- *Motion passed unanimously*; approved

7. Community Announcements and Ancillary Items

- a. Tabling opportunity on September 7th (Loyola) and September 8th (SGW)**

8. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting.

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

Meeting adjourned at 16:33.