

## **Special General Assembly**

September 27th, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in the VA building, Sir George Williams Campus

*SoPhiA would like to acknowledge that Concordia University is located on the traditional territory of the Kanien'keha:ka (Ga-niyen-gé-haa-ga), a place which has long served as a site of meeting and exchange amongst nations. SoPhiA recognizes, and respects the Kanien'keha:ka (Ga-niyengé-haa-ga) as the traditional custodians of the unceded lands and waters on which we meet today.*

### **Agenda:**

- Introduce exec
- Appointments
- Inclusivity
- SoPhiA Review
- Some important dates: (Sarc workshop, how-to-philosophy workshop, Philopolis)

Roll Call:

Call to Order at 18:30

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Chair (carries unanimously)
3. Approval of the Agenda (carries unanimously)

**Adrian:** Introduces himself as the executive chair, explains his mandate and opens the floor for the rest of the executive to introduce themselves. Zoe, Matilda, Clarisa, David, Emmanuel, Leigh and Matthew introduce themselves and explain their mandates.

### **Appointments:**

**Adrian: Motions to discuss appointments, Matilda seconds.** The open positions are ASFA Councillor and Social Events Coordinator. Leigh has been doing ASFA and David has been doing events. We're all glad about these things and do not want these positions taken over. However, if anyone would like to be appointed to one of these positions, they should say so now. (Nobody wants to be appointed.)

### **Inclusivity Project:**

**Matilda: Motions to discuss inclusivity, Zoe seconds.** The Inclusivity Project was started a few years ago by students who are no longer here. The goal is to make the department more inclusive to anyone, especially visible minorities, and to start discussions on issues of equity, inclusivity, accessibility, etc. More concretely, we will give out the Sheila Mason Bursary, to financially support people coming from minority backgrounds who can critically engage with real life issues. The submissions requirements for the bursary are on our website. Each bursary is 400\$. We also want to start a reading group in relation to inclusivity, eg indigenous people, other visible minorities, thinking about how to achieve our goals. At the end of this there will be a workshop planned, will be facilitated by Katie Broad,

and we will also get some speakers, maybe through Filleosophie. Also, a public speaking workshop led by some acting professor who has been active in helping students to speak in public, give tips on how to overcome. This is because of the controversy related to the participation grades. Faculty refuses to get rid of the participation grade, which leads us to have to find other solutions. There is also an anonymous suggestion box on the website and the facebook group. People who wanna participate in inclusivity project can message Matilda.

#### **Discussion:**

- Where does the Sheila Mason bursary money come from?
- **Matilda:** ASFA funding and some from the department.

#### **SoPhiA Review:**

**Leigh: Motions to discuss the journal, Cali seconds.** The SoPhiA Review is an academic undergraduate journal that began randomly last year, we'd like to make this a regular thing. It's an undertaking, and it was not very well planned last year. We want to see some people who would be interested in editing and whatnot. I have been talking to the CASE literary magazine people for tips, and I want to plan everything out early and then put a call-out for submissions in early January. If anyone wants to be a part of it, let me know.

#### **Discussion:**

- Alex, Uriah, David wanna be a part of it.
- **Uriah:** Could we plan a meeting now?
- **Leigh:** No, I haven't sat down to deal with this stuff properly yet. I assure the interested parties the meeting will happen within the next 2 weeks.

#### **Dates:**

- **Adrien: Motions to discuss important dates, Zoe seconds.**
- **Matilda:** Sarc workshop, will happen on October 3rd, from 12pm-2pm, there will be free falafels. It's a workshop intended to explain how to act as a bystander to sexual assault/harassment/violence. The SARC person will be able to answer questions about the situation in our department.
- **Cali:** How to philosophy workshop is something Leigh and I have talked about doing in order to help incoming students with the challenges of academic philosophy. We'll direct people to resources and hopefully have some students talk about their experiences, give tips and tricks on how to manage time. This will hopefully happen at the end of October-beginning of November.
- **Zoe:** Philopolis is a conference in philosophy with all the Montreal universities, undergrads and grads can present their essays/ideas in front of an audience, and there are also keynote speakers. Great event, last year we hosted it and this year we aren't but we're going to contribute and find some people who might wanna help. I have been in touch with the people in charge, who want 3 reps from Concordia: one person to attend meetings (biweekly or once every 3 weeks, likely on Sundays), and

two other people who could help that one person with whatever we have to contribute, like funding, meetings, task lists. Is anyone here interested in philopolis?

#### Discussion:

- What's the workload required if we're not hosting?
- **Emmanuel:** it's really really serious.
- **Zoe:** The organisers said that 3 hours a week would be sufficient, and more than enough. It's also in february so it would only be high-commitment until then.
- **Matthew:** I wanted to join and spoke to someone who was on last year's organiser team, who said there's a lot of flexibility with the amount of workload you can take on. Like, they wanna design new t-shirts and stuff like that, so maybe someone could help with that kind of task.
- **Matilda:** last year the whole team was new, so nobody knew what was happening. Now that we're a little more experienced it might be better. It's a lot of work but it's a great project. Any amount of help is a good amount of help. Please do it.
- **David:** do we know if that can be on the co-curricular record?
- **Cali:** yes!
- **Emmanuel:** do they have a theme?
- **Zoe:** I haven't heard anything about a theme. If anyone wants to do it, contact me, also if you know anyone who might be interested.
- **Matilda:** Just to clarify, the co-curricular record is an official document that goes with your transcript, where volunteering activities related to Concordia appear. Having Philosopolis on there looks great on your CV, specially for prospective grad students.

**Adrien:** I'd like to talk about my feelings. There used to be, in the event for this GA, a line to change the bylaws so we can take out the line about tutoring. Tutoring is not sustainable, it is not a service we can effectively give, we can replace the tutoring with other things such as study groups instead of offering tutoring and doing a how-to-philosophy workshop.

#### Discussion:

- Will the how-to workshop be a series or just one single workshop?
- **Cali:** We were planning it out to just be one workshop, but if there's a lot of interest and it works for people, we might think about doing another one in the winter semester.
- Will tutoring is absolutely not be offered, then?
- **Leigh:** Offering tutoring has a lot of problems linked to it, like students trying to get tutoring the night before an exam, or a lack of tutors for most classes. It's not sustainable and impossible to make effective, and I've spoken to people from earlier executives and it seems like it's never been effective.
- **Emmanuel:** two things: 1, we have office hours still, you can still ask the execs questions about your classes or philosophy or whatever. But also, the definition of tutoring could include the stuff we're already doing, like study groups or the workshop. The bylaws aren't specific about what tutoring is.
- **Uriah:** I want a study group for presocratics and rationalism. **Motions to mandate the executive to offer study groups for the intro-level required classes. Cali seconds.**

- **Cali:** I'll do study groups for all the intro classes, specially the classes that are successive such as presocratics and rationalism, but maybe also ethics and logic.
- **Alex:** I could volunteer to help people in the study groups for presocratics.

**Leigh:** the last thing is open house, which will be on saturday october 20th. We're looking for volunteers to man the booth, attract cegep and HS students to the phil department, it'll be a fun time with snacks, lunch, and can appear on your co-curricular record. Also you can hang out with me. It's in the JMSB building, from 10-4.

**Discussion:**

- **Zoe:** Are we going to do shifts?
- **Leigh:** yes we will do shifts, you can do however long or not long that you wanna do. It's been a bit uneven at times, so let's do more like 3-4 hours each.
- Zoe, Saul and David can volunteer.

**Adrien: Motions to adjourn meeting. Emmanuel seconds. Motion carries.**

**MEETING ADJOURNS at 7:00pm.**

**GA Attendees:**

- Adrien Anhalt-Gutierrez
- Sarah Gurnham
- Uriah Marc Todoroff
- Alex Stooshinoff
- Stephen KEefe
- Saul Carrera
- Matthew Valiquette
- Marcus Kauler-Granada
- Leigh Kusaj
- Emmanuel Cuisinier
- David Bozovic
- Clarisa Rengel
- Matilda Cerone
- Zoe Keller
- Amardeep Singh
- Soline Van de Moortele
- Diana Pylypenko