



Advisory Council Meeting

Friday, April 7th, 2023

ZOOM meeting, Concordia University, Montreal, Canada

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1. ATTENDANCE

Name	Role	Present
Mohammed Saaim	Chairperson of the Board	x
Ahmad Obeid	Secretary to the Board	x
Sierra Campbell	President	
Tharushi Rathnayaka	Vice-President of Academic Affairs	x
Esinti Baskak	Vice-President of Sports and Competitions	x
Zoe Mitchell	Vice-President of External Affairs	
Mohamed Bedair	Vice-President of Financial Affairs	x
Elsa Younes	Vice-President of Internal Affairs	x
Sabrina Dubreuil	Vice-President of Marketing & Communications	x
Chloe Law	Vice-President of Social Affairs	
Maria Amezquita	Building, Civil and Environmental Engineering (BCEE) Representative	
Doan Gia Huy Vu	Computer Science & Software Engineering (CSSE) Representative	
Seif Bedair	Electrical & Computer Engineering (ECE) Representative	
Mert Kaan Kaseler	Mechanical & Industrial Engineering (MIE) Representative	
Fadi Hussain	Independent Representative	
Marina Ghali	Independent Representative	
Remi Jonathan Choquette	Sage	
Erman Akman	Sage	
Matteo Mazzone	SpaceConcordia President	
Catherine	CSME	



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Isabelle Bacon	CSCE president	x
Emily Winiker	Co-President of cubes	x
Ariane Drouin	President of Eng-games	
Tiya	Representative of GCES	
Vatsa	Representative of HackConcordia	x
Lina Ismail	President of IEEE	x
Anthony Montanaro	IISE President	x
Ziad Kabbani	SAE President	x
Tommy	SCS	
Anastasia	UAV Concordia	
Marissa Profetto	President of WIE	x
Toby	ASHRAE Concordia	x



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2. SUMMARY OF MOTIONS

Motion	Motion	Result
20230407-1	Ziad, seconded by Isabelle, motions to approve Saaam as chair for this meeting of the Board of Directors.	Passed in unanimity
20230407-2	Anthony, seconded by Ziad, motions to approve Ahmad as secretary for this meeting of the Board of Directors.	Passed in unanimity
20230407-3	Isabelle, seconded by Anthony, motions to approve the agenda.	Passed in unanimity
20230407-4	Anthony, seconded by Ziad, motions to approve the Previous AC's Minutes.	Passed in unanimity
20230407-5	Emily, seconded by Ziad, motion to move Troitsky as a society to the BOD with a year 0.	Passed in unanimity
20230407-6	Anthony, seconded by Eimly, motion amend previous motion to allow Troitsky's proposal to reach the BOD.	Passed in unanimity
20230407-7	Marissa, seconded by Anthony, motion for existing sub-societies may be eligible for skipping year zero subject to advisory council approval at their initial presentation.	Passed in unanimity
20230407-8	Ziad motions to have ASHRAE passed on to the BOD.	Passed by voting



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3. PROCEDURES

3.1. Opening of the meeting

Meeting opened at 4:15PM

3.2. Approval of the Chair

Ziad, seconded by Isabelle, motions to approve Saaim as chair for this meeting of the Board of Directors.

20230407-1 Passed in unanimity

3.3. Approval of the Secretary

Anthony, seconded by Ziad, motions to approve Ahmad as secretary for this meeting of the Board of Directors.

20230407-2 Passed in unanimity

3.4. Approval of the Agenda

Isabelle, seconded by Anthony, motions to approve the agenda.

20230407-3 Passed in unanimity

3.4. Approval of the Previous AC's Minutes

Anthony, seconded by Ziad, motions to approve the Previous AC's Minutes.

20230407-4 Passed in unanimity



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4. EXTERNAL PRESENTATIONS

4.1 ASHRAE

Toby: I will show you what we accomplished in the previous year. I am the president, Toby. ASHRAE is a professional association with over 60k members in 132 countries. Our mission is to provide learning opportunities and connections with HVAC. By having events in our society we help them expand their knowledge and connections for a better job and experience. We also note sustainability and collaboration between our members and projects. The main activities include guest lectures, mechanical room tours, career fair, networking events, workshops, and case competitions.

The most occurring one is the guest lecture that we hosted online because of covid, and lack of budget. We have lots of people to join, around 30 people, for 2 hours where we bring knowledgeable people with actual experience that explain more of our building courses and their experience.

We also do wine and cheese with around 90 people.

We hosted 2 mechanical tours this year, and for both the capacity was filled to the max.

In the group master event, we connect with our professors and work and understand what to expect in the field. 25 people attend this event which is the maximum number of people they can take care of.

This is the budget proposal:

	Participants	Location	Total Cost	ECA Contribution
Lunch & Learn	30-40	Concordia Classroom	\$1270	\$400
Whine & Cheese	50-70	JMSB or EV Building	\$1730	\$600
Speed Networking	30-40	JMSB or EV Building	\$520	\$250
Mechanical Room Tour	20-30	Concordia or other in Mtl	\$475	\$250



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I would say that having us as a society will expose students to learning opportunities and we will have more events. It is easier to have a booking in the concordia facility as well, ASHRAE is a worldwide organization and the exposure to the ECA will help our growth.

Marissa: How many executives are you right now?

Toby: Including me there are 7, not including directors. 12 with directors. We have a director in marketing from industrial, some directors from mechanical, and also external affairs director is in mechanical, there are others more from outside industrial and mechanical such as building, electrical.

Marissa: Alright, I was wondering if you had a mix because I wouldnt understand it from my point of view.

Toby: We aren't only looking for mechanical, some are electrical or computer.

Marissa: I don't see the difference between ASHRAE and CUBES for example.

Toby: We focus on things like air conditioning, airflow, and things like that.

Marissa: Alright, because I didn't see that there was something huge in the budget, for me it didn't make sense that you target a small percentage of students.

Toby: Well no, we are not only mechanical based.

Marissa: you guys only hosted 5 events this year, do you have more plans to host more?

Toby: We do have plans, it's because of our budget we are limited but we also want to have lizard lounges. We can use the budget for connection events with professionals.

Ziad: I think there was a report for ASHRAE, should it be submitted to us too or only the BOD?



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Elsa: I will present that later.

Ziad: Then we can motion about this after your presentation.

Emily: Can you talk more about the sponsorship opportunities for the past and next year?

Toby: Well wine and cheese barely needs any money, for the group master they are providing all the expense and the meal so it's like they are sponsoring us.

4.2 Troitsky Society Proposal

Esinti: I was VP comps this year. I want to present a new proposal for Troitsky. Troitsky is a competition that started as a class project back in 1984 for civil engineering, now it's the 2nd most popular in North America where they build bridges out of toothpicks. Troitsky hosted its 39th year this year, the 40th being next year. It is a 4 day competition.

Troitsky used to be part of a committee in Concordia where the university itself hosts it. Some things happened and it became under the ECA VP comps, but due to the stress and heavy load I want it to be a separate society. VP comps is supposed to host 10 comps and the same things with Eng-lympics where you host 10 comps. There are also all the BODs and meetings and other jobs for VP comp. I was supposed to host a national comp hosting 300 people which is really high. Unlike this year, I was able to get ECA funding. It will be funded by the ECA but still, I had a group of people to work with to host a 300 people event. It was very hard to manage.

Anyone who becomes VP comps, there is a transition period of 1 year only. Some applied when they had no idea or interest in Troitsky, which is obviously not a good thing, so we need a better way to transfer that knowledge. If we become a society we can spend more time improving the quality of the competition and host lizard lounges and so on.

Sabrina: I will be the VP spirit for Troitsky. I will explain the roles and responsibilities. We will organize the competition next year, lizard lounges, and networking events with our sponsors and other companies.



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Esinti: this budget you are seeing is around the same for this year, it is only for this competition. As you can see, we spent around 151k. Looking at the revenue, I am depending mostly on like previous year numbers for like funding from the ECA and competition fund. This year we got external funding of around 25k when we only had 1 director that collects sponsorships. The revenue should be also around 151k so we break even.

Sabrina: We are proposing to skip year 0, because we are not starting from scratch and everyone knows what they are doing already, also since the budget is so big it will be difficult to factor everything without ECA budget.

Esinti: If you have any questions, I will answer them.

Emily: I get for Troitsky to have a large organizing committee, but I'm worried about skipping year 0, for example Tbog didn't skip so it wouldn't be fair.

Esinti: everything is already set, they have a team, operations for a new society. Usually a new team is starting from scratch. We have been working on this for a long time, and we are a 6 person team. We already know how many people will attend, how much it costs, the rules, and everything, we will just add a few extra materials.

Sabrina: Who said Tbog cant? We don't need that probation period, we will just need to work much harder to compensate for that funding...

ESinti: I would argue the same thing you are saying, but that is a whole new argument that Tbog should bring, it's separate from Troitsky.

Marissa: Tbog has been asking to skip year 0 as well.

Esinti: Troitsky shouldn't be treated this way since it's unfair, we need to revise the same support as other societies. I can't pay 30k from my pocket, ECA has to.



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Marissa: I think it could be frustrating for a lot of people if Troitsky to skip when others didn't, especially for Tbog they will definitely do something too.

Sabrina: We know very well that Troitsky doesn't work well with ECA, the budgets are too tight.

Esinti: I don't know the details for your budgets but it is definitely less than 150k. In my experience a VP competition never repeats 1 more year, I just wanted to make sure that Troitsky is in good hands because it's not working. If you hear from people who make Troitsky it is always very unsuccessful. For example, FROSH has many ECA member volunteers, whereas if you look at Iron Ring or Troitsky, you barely see ECA members which is fair because it's a separate thing. I need to host 24 competitions in 1 year, one being a national competition with a team of 5 people. If this society agrees not to let their own society then VP comps will be run again and probably next year will be hard on them too since I can't keep taking this. I need to stop being inconsistent. I am not a very strict person, exceptions need to be made sometimes.

Isabelle: I did help organize Troitsky a few years ago, it is really hard and I see the need to change this for sure but I'm not sure about skipping year 0 but it makes sense.

Emily: Esinti, did you say you will quit VP comps if Troitsky isn't a separate society?

Esinti: if you look at previous mandates, everyone that finished their year quits because it's too stressful, but still at the end of the day I can feel I'm so tired of everything. I will need to make a decision if Troitsky doesn't become a society. I was the VP logistics, finance, social, I was basically taking care of everything other than marketing and barely had a social life for myself.

Marissa: in the past, Troitsky used to be with ECA and CSCE?



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Esinti: CSCE has their own VP Troitsky so it should be a conflict of interest so they shouldn't have anything to do with Troitsky and it has to be someone else other than CSCE that helps. They are very competitive, so modifying this but can have issues.

Emily, seconded by Ziad, motion to move Troitsky as a society to the BOD with a year 0.

20230407-5 Passed in unanimity

Marissa: I think it is unfair for them to skip year 0, but I think it's on the ECA. they probably have something in the by-laws that could allow them to skip year 0 without being unfair.

Esinti: If it's not me or someone else, again the VP comps is allowed to spend 40k of the ECA budget.

Marissa: My suggestion would be to let the ECA create a by-law for exceptions like these, because I don't think it's fair. They can do it but I don't think they should. If they become a society they wont get money from the ECA anyways. That has always been something that scared societies, not getting more money to manage instead of being stable.

Emily: I totally agree with Marissa. My concern is to allow this to pass, but then a by-law isn't created. They have a BOD meeting tomorrow.

Marissa: I guess we can motion for them to make a by-law for this case.



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Anthony: I think passing 1 motion will get confusing, we should pass 2 motions. 1 for Troitsky, and 1 for whatever the by-law is. So then Troitsky gets it only if the special permission condition is met.

Anthony, seconded by Eimly, motion amend previous motion to allow Troitsky's proposal to reach the BOD.

20220821-6 Passed in unanimity

Elsa: So I just want to make sure that you know the by-laws cant change until October. So they will start with a year 0. The thing with a new society policy is happening right now, maybe if you guys want to decide on what you want to have in the by-law. From what Anthony said it can be anything.

Ziad: So anything that happens after will have an exception.

Marissa: I have been told that it's not a by-law change but a policy change so we can do it now.

Anthony: How does year 0 work exactly?

Elsa: like ASHRAE where they are being tested, they function as a society but not receiving ECA funding, then later he will present again.

Marissa, seconded by Anthony, motion for existing sub-societies may be eligible for skipping year zero subject to advisory council approval at their initial presentation.

20220821-7 Passed in unanimity



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5. RETURNING BUSINESS

N/A

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1 ASHRAE Year Zero Completion

Elsa: This is the final report about ASHRAE, the conclusion is that they participated in the climate strike, they had wine and cheese, they had the lab room tour, mechanical room tours twice, we noticed they had a nice social media precedence. If they are approved then we want them to increase their events, also host lizard lounge since in the BOD we had them mandatory too. We want them to collaborate more with other societies, they could also get more sponsorships, and especially that they need to attend ASHRAE conferences, they used to send students to Chicago back in the day for these. This is what they accomplished and what we recommend.

Marissa: I couldn't make it clear when I was asking questions but it doesn't make sense for them to be there. For me it's like they are a subdivision of CUBES. Maybe I just don't understand but I don't see it benefiting many students, most of the people in their events are their executives.

Ziad: just to clarify what ASHRAE works on. They represent an industry of mechanical, building, industry and some electrical engineers. Many students end up in HVAC companies and it is one of the biggest industries in Canada.

Anthony: I can see how industrial and building can fit in there, but the thing is he said that they associate their professors with this too so I think I know why they are mostly building. I guess some people just didn't know ASHRAE existed since their marketing does not reach everyone.



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Emily: I agree, it probably is a marketing problem, but I know there is a mechanical specialty they can take. The wine and cheese we hosted with them were mostly mechanical engineers, I kind of get where they are coming from but I don't think they need to be part of CUBES just because they are different chapters

Anthony: if they are a sub-chapter, we have certain responsibility on them but they would still work separately. Sometimes these responsibilities are annoying but I don't think they need to be under another umbrella.

Esinti: I was going to agree with Ziad and Emily, but I think the way ASHRAE worked this year could be different. I worked with them for a competition and they were good but I think it can be managed way better and if they market their situation they will improve. I feel like if it were to be one of them, CUBES or ASHRAE then ASHRAE should stay since they are more known worldwide than CUBES.

Emily: In terms of sponsors for CUBES, we got way more. We have more interest so I wouldn't throw CUBES under the bus.

Esinti: no that's not what I meant, CUBES obviously has more experience and they know what they are doing. I was just thinking about it from an external perspective.

Marissa: A few people said it was a marketing issue, I agree to an extent. If their biggest issue is marketing then it's not really a real issue, they just have mechanical and building, I don't think they can improve. There is a lot of stuff he suggested all the while he struggled in year 0. If the ECA's suggestions aren't used then can we take their membership away? Since they aren't forced to do them...

Ziad: I'm pretty sure BODs can shut down societies in the worst case scenario... Yea Elsa said they can do something about it. Now, about what he said, you have to keep in mind they are in year 0, I think there is a lot of potential as a separate society. In my case, when I was doing interviews they asked me if I can use some software, but none of them were taught in Concordia, but then I saw once that ASHRAE was hosting a lecture for one of them so that is something that they can do.

Elsa: I just wanted to point out that personally, they need a strong leader to continue throughout the year. They would need someone that is able to fulfill the recommendations for the society, also I think they need to wait a whole year, if it keeps



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getting shut down then it will be harder to come back so it's better to have a momentum from now.

Ziad: I guess that is one of the problems in a student society, most students don't have leadership skills. Expecting them to have a leader right off the bat is honestly unrealistic. I agree they need leadership skills but we won't know that the person assigned is good until they start.

Marissa: does anyone know why they left ECA before?

Elsa: I'm not sure but I heard that there was some tension. I also talked with the past ASHRAE president and you can see that they were doing well. They left and came back twice during her time and now, I don't know what is going on.

Ziad motions to have ASHRAE passed on to the BOD.

Marissa motions to vote on having ASHRAE passed on to the BOD.

5 yes, 1 no

20230407-8 Passed by voting

6.2 Policy Committee

Elsa: I want you guys to think about whether it's a good idea to have a councilor on the committee that hosts bi-weekly meetings. If you guys are interested, you would need to do some research on policies, what do you guys think about that?

Esinti: to give you an idea about the policy committee, it's not a high commitment, the meetings might be 1-2h long. All these committees as well as creating societies can be proposed to be changed by the policy committee to the BOD.



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Anthony: So we would be part of this committee or we create it?

Elsa: So this committee already exists and Esinti is part of it. We also have a policy that explains how the policy committee works, it's unclear and the formatting is bad, so you would review it. We don't have a councilor sitting in the committee so we thought it would be a good idea to have one.

Anthony: my main concern is that a lot of our mandates are ending so we can't even volunteer...

Elsa: yea just see if this is a good idea and the next advisory council we will see if we could appoint someone.

Emily: I think it is a good idea to have at least 1 or 2 presidents on this committee.

Esinti: In a hypothetical situation, if it was this year, would you be interested in joining this committee? Because it's a commitment not just joining a meeting.

Anthony: to be honest if it were me I wouldn't join

Marissa: me neither, too much commitment in comparison to other committees

Isabelle: i think people would be interested but make it optional and not mandatory

Elsa: I think it's a good idea to have it optional so that everyone has their input, but it's because of the bi-weekly meetings little people had interest. I guess you could tell me what you want to change and I will tell the committee or you could come to the meeting since it's not mandatory.



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7. ANNOUNCEMENTS & VERBAL REPORTS

Mohammed Saaim: no announcements.

Ahmad Obeid: no announcements.

Mohamed Bedair: do not mind the budgets until after tomorrow's BOD meeting. We usually increase some budget lines. When it's approved a lot will see increased budget lines, and we added some new lines because depending on your proposals, this isn't an annual thing.

Esinti Baskak: thank you to those who participated in Engweek, it was a great experience to host it with societies, and lastly if you didn't get your swag bag yet it's in the office. Good luck for next year.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Isabelle, seconded by Anthony, motion to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 6:16:pm