

6:00pm-8:40pm
1500 de Maisonneuve Ouest, Suite 404

Facilitator: Roddy Doucet
Minutes: Alisha Mascarenhas

(1) Introduction Warmed up by the sweet harmonies of the Reproductive Justice League Choir and followed by a formal introduction by Roddy Doucet at 18:30 once quorum was reached

(2) Approval of Agenda

1. Introduction
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Approval of minutes of 2012 AGM
4. Board report
5. Staff reports
6. Financial report
7. Board Election
8. Constitutional amendments

moved by Julie Michaud
2nd by Gabrielle Bouchard
Unanimous Approval

(3) Approval of 2012 Minutes

moved by Dan Parker
2nd by Maya Rolbin-Ghanie
Approved with 1 Abstention

(4) Board Report

Presented by Jayna Patel

It's been another exciting year for the 2110 Centre for Gender Advocacy! We continued to build on successes of previous years and keep important issues such as sexual assault, reproductive autonomy, Indigenous struggles, and LGBTQ rights in the spotlight.

There's been so much activity and positive energy coming out of the Centre this year, and we could not have done it without the efforts of our incredible volunteers!

Directors

Last April, Jayna Patel, Wendy Heitmann, Portia Larlee, Caitlin O'Neill, Lena Carla Palacios, Emma Pietrangelo, Hania Souleiman, Keren Tang, Morgan Pudwell, Mike Lumsden were elected to the Board of Directors.

During the year Hania Souleiman, Keren Tang, Mike Lumsden and Lena Carla Palacios resigned. In June, Dan Parker was appointed to the Board.

Training and Committees

Board members underwent trainings, including finance, meeting process and roles and responsibilities to prepare for their term. Several committees met this year, including Finance, Volunteer and Fundraising.

Activity

The Centre organized a number of events and activities including:

1. Another Word for Gender: an intro to feminist action and organizing – an event series that was held at the beginning of the academic year.
2. A lecture and training series that was part of the PSA programming, which took place during the month of October.
3. The Dragonroot Project workshop series – a radio project that was organized with CKUT to raise awareness on gendered violence, which included 10 workshops that took place from October to April.
4. Dragonroot Radio – a permanent and regular radio show broadcast on CKUT focusing on gender
5. Summer Night Screenings - An annual film screening and discussion series

Sexual Assault Centre Campaign

The Sexual Assault Centre Campaign continued to build momentum this year. Our staff and volunteers had regular meetings with the university administration to advocate for the creation of a centre to serve the needs of survivors. They also organized a number of high profile events and several consent workshops for frosh leaders, students living in residence, as well as the general public.

The campaign received funding from the Sustainability Action Fund, the Concordia Council on Student Life, the Concordia Student Union, and the Simone de Beauvoir Institute.

Missing Justice Campaign

Missing Justice has had a very active year. In October, the campaign hosted a panel on Plan Nord featuring Elyse Volant, Denise Jourdain, and Ellen Gabrielle. The event received funding from the Sustainability Action Fund. The October 4th Sisters in Spirit March saw 500 in attendance, and 700 people attended the annual February 14th Memorial March for Missing and Murdered Women. Additionally, the campaign has had a number of teach-ins throughout the year and has strengthened its focus on education, with plans to effect curriculum change in high schools in the coming year.

Peer Support & Advocacy and Trans* Advocacy

Yet another wonderful group of volunteers completed the Peer Support & Advocacy training last fall. They not only took peer support appointments, but also created a series of posters to help publicize the service.

A new Trans* Group was created this year to offer Trans* people a place to make friends, and collaborate on the creation of resources and activism.

Additionally, the Dam It! project has continued to expand and increase awareness and availability of dental dams as an important safer sex product.

Resource Library

Our library volunteer, Katharine Hall, has continued to refine the organization of our library. Our zine collection is being catalogued and publications are now more accessible than ever!

HIV-AIDS Interns

The Centre had 3 fantastic interns from Concordia's HIV-AIDS program: Janelle Bossé who organized a wonderful art event at the end of February, Paloma Amato who worked with us

on the sexual assault centre campaign, and Alex Suthern who worked with Gabrielle on the Dam It! project.

Policy

During the year the Board revised the Conflict Resolution & Complaints Policy to clarify and simplify the process. We also revised the Space Use Policy and created a new Safer Space Policy

Facilitation of Community Action

The 2110 is fortunate to have two locations, both of which are well utilized. This year, we have been able to offer our spaces, particularly the 1500 de Maisonneuve board room and lounge to a plethora of social justice initiatives and collectives for meetings and events. We have also facilitated community organizing with the loan of equipment such as our projector and megaphone.

Action Groups

The Reproductive Justice League became an action group of the centre this year. It hosted a number of events and teach-ins, and the Reproductive Justice League Choir re-wrote and performed many songs on a wide range of topics relating to sexual and reproductive autonomy and indigenous struggles.

Life After Life has continued its incredible work with girls, women, queers and transgender people to build a viable community for people coming out of punitive state institutions who need a space to heal and support each other, and nurture their leadership.

Other

- We are proud to have shown support for the efforts of the Quebec student movement, highlighting the impact of gender on accessible education and movement building.
- We have called for progressive curriculum at Concordia, writing an open letter from the board to Brian Lewis, Dean of Faculty Arts & Science regarding cancelled classes that dealt with sexism, oppression and marginalized communities

- We endorsed several community initiatives this year including Justice for Majoub, a campaign calling for the release of Mohammad Majoub, who has been detained without charge under security certificate legislation since 2000
- The year's achievements are reflected in the significant media coverage in both the alternative and mainstream press

Overall, the Centre has had a successful and vibrant year which could not have been possible without the hard work of both the staff and our volunteers.

(5) Staff Reports

Julie Michaud, Administrative Coordinator

As Administrative Coordinator, I take care of general tasks such as ensuring that the Centre and its Board members are registered with the university and the province, and taking care of anything else that arises with regards to the smooth functioning of the Centre, whether this means purchasing supplies and equipment or updating the website.

I ensure that Board members have the documents they need for meetings. I communicate with staff about their budgets, and do what I can to support their work by providing them with any documents or records they need for grant applications, reports or planning. I take care of day-to-day banking, and work with our accountant to prepare monthly financial reports. With the help of the finance committee, I prepared figures for the development of the budget in the fall. Last fall I also took an introductory accounting course at Vanier College in order to improve my understanding of the organization's finances.

Part of my time is also allocated to working on the sexual assault centre campaign. This has included coordinating campaign meetings, meeting with the university administration, writing grant reports, doing media interviews, developing campaign and volunteer recruitment materials; organizing consent workshops and training our volunteer workshop facilitators.

Gabrielle Bouchard, Peer Support & Advocacy and Trans* Advocacy Coordinator

This year's training brought 17 people together to learn about active listening and how to be a peer support person. This new group of people joined those who were already involved and helped us create the new drop-in hours. Thanks to those who were there week after week to keep the service available every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from

10 to noon. Check out also the new posters we have for the peer support program; all handmade by good and caring people.

The Damit! project is taking on a life of its own! At first, I thought this project would take about year or so but now after two years, more than 400 packages distributed and some amazing tabling coordinated by our HIV/AIDS intern and supported by the PSA volunteers, seems like we're going to be at this for a little while still. This project is important enough to me that I've used two of my classes subversively to write part of the document that will be presented to the ministry of health...one day. In the meantime, we are raising awareness around the necessity to use dams as part of safer sex practices for people with vaginas.

On the trans* front, the year has been incredibly busy. We are now officially a voting member of the CPATH (Canadian Professional Association for Transgender Health), are part of the community advisory board for two trans* health research and have started a project to highlight the problems with the General Hospital's gender clinic. We have also started a community based document that will present the "Trans* state of affairs" in Quebec. A year into Concordia's new policy on name of common usage, we are getting ready to spread the info to other universities. We also started a new Trans* Group to offer a space for Trans* people to make friends, find support and collaborate on projects. This has all been possible because of the involvement of the PSA volunteers who supported me throughout the whole year. We also started a few months ago a trans group at the Centre thanks to Julie's effort and open ear when people expressed the need to have such a group. The group is still exploring its possibilities and what it can grow into and we're very excited to see it flourish.

Bianca Mugenyi, Programming & Campaigns Coordinator

As Programming Coordinator, I'm responsible for organizing year-round educational events and forums. This involves conceiving of programming and seeing through the logistics of bringing these ideas into being. As Campaigns Coordinator I'm responsible for strategic planning and action around campaign activity. Much of my time is spent with volunteers raising awareness and calling for action around Missing and Murdered Native Women, demands for a Sexual Assault Centre on campus as well as Reproductive Health advocacy. I'm also responsible for facilitating the needs of our dynamic Action Groups, the Reproductive Justice League and Prison Justice advocates Life After Life.

This year, we held over 50 political events, from fundraisers and book launches to press conferences and lectures. Our three annual programming series included a ten part Dragonroot workshop series on Gendered Violence (in collaboration with CKUT radio workshops), a four part Summer Night films screening series and a back to school intro to

Feminist Organizing entitled Another Word for Gender -- featuring two weeks of workshops, panel discussions and guest speakers including Loretta Ross who spoke on Race Rape culture and Reproductive Justice. Later in the year, we partnered with groups like Cinema Politica and Pervers/Cite and connected with Howl! artists collective to bring dub poet D'bi Young and Detroit based MC, Invincible, to Montreal.

The Sexual Assault Centre campaign has made significant progress in its calls for space and funding for a sexual assault services, with a strong campus media presence and headway in meetings with the University administrators. Highlights include proliferation of educational materials, and trainings around consent on campus, a groundbreaking Forum on Abuse and Sexual Assault, and November's "Take Back the Night March."

This has been a strong year for the Missing Justice (Justice for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women) campaign. We took the time for deep visioning as well as prioritizing connection with community members. Achievements include a panel on Plan Nord and systemic violence against native women as well as excellent turnouts to the October 4th and February 14th Marches. Campaign activity also extends to International solidarity, including events highlighting Canada's role in post-earthquake Haiti and occupied Palestine as part of Israeli Apartheid Week.

Programming & Campaigns are a group effort and I'm grateful for the support, participation and excitement of staff, board and our dedicated, growing volunteer-base.

Maya Rolbin-Ghanie, Promotions Coordinator

As Promotions Coordinator, I both promote and coordinate volunteers to promote most every event and/or event series that we as an organization hold, which includes a wide range of different types of events, from small workshops, to large-scale speaking events, to massive marches. Promotional outreach is done as thoroughly as possible for each different kind of event, in varying degrees, and with varying strategies, depending on the type and scope of the event, and a wide range of incredible, dedicated volunteers made accomplishing this a pleasure.

From the actual design of promo materials, to postering, flyering, making announcements, outreaching to other relevant groups, speaking about the issues on our weekly radio show, the snail-mail sending of invitations, or other ways of taking up space specifically on campus like tabling, or even promoting events by singing publicly as a members of the Reproductive Justice League Choir in line at the People's Potato, to the usual online forums, promo this year was colorful, varied, and very effective. The writing of press releases, as

well as many interviews with media, both on and off-campus contributed to raising the profile of individual events and issues as well as the profile of the Centre itself and the continual importance of the work itself. The level of attention we received in campus media in particular this year was unprecedented. But most of all, the energy that was put into the events itself, carrying us through the year on a wave of excellent popular education, politicization, and mobilization initiatives, was the best promo of all--a continual raising of awareness of future events and the importance of future events by drawing attention to current ones.

I can't in any way cover even close to all of the promo highlights this year, but a few of note include Missing Justice's Annual Memorial March for Missing and Murdered Women on February 14th, which saw about 700 people in attendance (the most yet!), the Sexual Assault Centre campaign's first ever Campus Forum on Sexual Assault and Abuse, which exceeded all of our expectations attendance-wise as well as participation-wise..it was a spectacularly inspiring and empowering event. Another very notable promo success includes this year's Dragonroot Project workshop series--well-attended, with great discussions. All in all, it's been an exceptional year, with the evolution of a more and more organic volunteer community being built. Thanks to all!!

Questions:

Q: For Julie: What happened with the creation of two Sexual Assault Centre committees for policy and popular education?

A: The two committees have formed into one committee, development in policy has involved meetings about focusing on accessibility to code of rights and responsibilities

Q: Regarding Conflict Resolution and Complaints Committee: Why has an alternative policy been created?

A: Julie: The former policy was convoluted and inaccessible. In the past, a Conflict Resolution and Complaints Committee was elected at the AGM and people were trained but were never actually called upon. Now, the conflict resolution policy is simpler and conflicts pass through the Board.

Additional comments:

1-Steven, who was a member of committee previously, mentioned that it was problematic not having enough members in order to be a truly functioning body

2-It was challenging to recruit volunteers whose sole purpose was to listen to complaints

Q: Oliver: Regarding the name of common usage campaign: When people graduate, what name will show up on their degree?

A: Gabrielle: As of now, the name that will appear will be their legal name, and the reason for that is because the certificate goes to the Ministry of Education and would otherwise be legally complicated. That is to say that the problem needs to be solved at Ministry of Education level, not at the level of the university.

(6) Financial Report

Presented by Julie Michaud

Questions:

Q: Clarifying that programming and Salaries are in separate sections

A: Yes

Q: Can we vote on making an edit to the Financial Report pg. 5: restricted to unrestricted

A: Yes

Q: Suggestion to make it clearer where we are in the year in the YTD Expenses section by showing percentage of each budget line used

Emma Pietrangelo moves acceptance of Financial Report noting in the Statement of Changes in Net Assets, the column titled "restricted" should be "unrestricted"

2nd by Wendy Heitmann

short break

(7) Board Election

Facilitated by Skylar Nagao

Each candidate needs three nominations

Candidates:

Paloma Amato

Nominated by:

Melissa Wheeler

Gabrielle Bouchard

Emma Pietrangelo

Katharine Hall Skylar Nagao read her presentation of candidature as she arrived late

Nominated by:

Julie Michaud

Rose-Marie Whalley

Emily Ekelund

Olivia Kamgain

Nominated by:

Abby Lippman
Maya Rolbin-Ghanie
Louisa Ramirez

Emelia Koberg

Nominated by:
Dan Parker
Abby Lippman
Bader Takriti

Abby Lippman

Nominated by:
Gabrielle Bouchard
Paloma Amato
Sophia Starosta

Zina Mustafa not present, withdrew candidature

Dan Parker

Nominated by:
Emma Pietrangelo
Julie Michaud
Paloma Amato

Jayna Patel

Nominated by:
Oliver Leon
Julie Michaud
Hania Souleiman

Marie-Lisa Porten present but withdrew candidature

Rose-Marie Whalley

Nominated by:
Abby Lippman
Julie Michaud
Emelia Koberg

All 8 candidates were elected!

(8) Constitutional Amendments

Julie Michaud presents the proposed constitutional amendments.

Proposal to change:

Article 1: Name

This organization is officially known as 'the 2110 Centre for Gender Advocacy' in English, and 'Le Centre 2110 de lutte contre l'oppression des genres' in French. For the purposes of this document it will be referred to as 'the 2110'.

to:

This organization is officially known as 'the Centre for Gender Advocacy' in English, and 'Le Centre de lutte contre l'oppression des genres' in French. For the purposes of this document it will be referred to as 'the CGA.'

*all other references to the "2110" in the Constitution will be changed to "CGA"

explanation: We now have two locations, one of which is at 1500 de Maisonneuve not 2110 Mackay that the name refers to. The name is also confusing because it sounds too much like a year. We would like to make our name more accessible by dropping the number.

Proposal to change:

Special General Meetings

3.8 An SGM can be called:

1. By consensus of the board
2. By petition of 1000 members

to:

Special General Meetings

3.8 An SGM can be called:

1. By majority vote of the board
2. By petition of 500 members

explanation: the current regulation makes it almost impossible for members to call a Special General Meeting.

Proposal to change:

4.4 Resignation/Dismissal of Directors:

1. A director may resign by presenting resignation, in writing, which shall be effective upon acceptance of the board

to:

4.4 Resignation/Dismissal of Directors:

1. A director may resign by presenting resignation by submitting a written letter of resignation to the board.

Abby Lippman notes that the wording doesn't work. Proposes changing to "A director may resign by submitting a written letter of resignation to the board."

Proposal to change:

4.5 Board of Director meetings

2. The staff seat will be representative of all full-time staff

to:

4.5 Board of Director meetings

2. The staff seat will be representative of all full-time staff and shall count toward quorum.

also under 4.5 Board of Director meetings

Proposal to change:

6. Quorum for board meetings is simple majority of regular board members, excepting any members on leave.

to:

6. Quorum for board meetings is simple majority of board members, excepting any members on leave.

proposed addition under **4.5 Board of Director meetings:**

8. In cases of time-sensitive proposals requiring board approval, a vote may be taken online. Board members must be given a minimum of 48 hours to cast their vote. In the event that board members participating in the online vote are not unanimous, the vote shall be taken at the next in-person meeting. Participation must meet quorum requirement for regular board meetings. If the online vote is unanimous, board members shall sign to confirm their vote at the next in-person meeting.

Q: How is online voting done?

A: Julie: Doodle

Q: What happens if someone changes their mind in the interim (before decision is taken)

A:-email could be used

-Doodle could be closed after 48h

Proposal to strike necessity to sign as the email is effectively a signature

Proposed by Roddy Doucet, 2nd by Dan Parker

re-worded proposed change:

8. In cases of time-sensitive proposals requiring board approval, a vote may be taken via email. Board members must be given a minimum of 48 hours to cast their vote. In the event that board members participating in the email vote are not unanimous, the vote shall be taken at the next in-person meeting.

Jayna Patel moves that all proposed changes as amended be approved

2nd by Julie Michaud

Unanimously adopted

Jayna Patel calls for adjournment

2nd by Julie Michaud

Maya announces that there will be a social gathering for both incoming Board Members