

Guide to the proposed constitutional changes

All articles numbers and reference points refer to the current constitution. The proposed constitution has been reformatted to reflect the proposed changes and therefore has different article numbers and lettering. Each point will refer you to the newly Article numbers in the proposed constitution.

Article 1: Name

- The French name has been changed to “GRIP Concordia” from “GRIP-Q Concordia” because the latter has an inappropriate double meaning in French. (see Article 1 in the proposed constitution)

Article 2: Language of QPIRG Concordia

- B. Added that we will accommodate additional languages “if possible”, recognizing that translating our printed materials in languages other than the two we’re already committed to might be outside our resources to accommodate. (see Article 2. B. in the proposed constitution)

Article 3: Objectives

- Changed the word “fun” to “engaging”, which reflects a change that has existed in most of our outreach material for several years. (see Article 3 in the proposed constitution)

Article 4: Nature of QPIRG Concordia

- The entire article was removed because it is not a constitutional requirement with respect to the Quebec Act, under which we are incorporated, and one of our goals in this process was to take out unnecessary portions in order to simplify and clarify the document.

Article 5: Membership

- A, B, & C have remained essentially the same, although there has been slight wording changes for the purposes of clarity only.
- D. Fees. 2. The associate members fee has changed to reflect the lowest amount that a Concordia student member would pay if they were taking 1 class. At the current fee levy, this would be \$0.93, so it is actually a decrease in associate membership fees.
- D. Fees. 4. Here we added that “students can only be refunded after the fees have been received by QPIRG Concordia from Concordia University”. The intention of this is to make it constitutionally more difficult for the administration to enforce online opt-outs on us.

(see Article 4 in the proposed constitution for above changes)

Article 6: Election and Referendum Procedures

- A. Election Procedures. 5. b, e, g, h. The changes here reflect new aspects of our election procedures to respond to the fact that we are also proposing changes to

the board make-up – for more details on this see Article 6. Board A. #1 of the proposed constitution.

- A. Election Procedures. 5. f. This was changed to “To be elected, candidates must receive a simple majority of ballots cast”. It was changed to promote clarity and remains the same in spirit. It also disallows the possibility that existed in the old wording that someone with less than a simple majority of votes could be elected onto the board.
- B. Referendum Procedures 1. The wording was changed for the purposes of clarity only.

(see Article 5 in the proposed constitution for above changes)

Article 7: Board

- A. 1. The composition of the board has been changed to better prioritize our primary funding body, while still making space on the board for community participation. We feel this reflects QPIRG’s mandate.
- A. Between points 2 & 3. A point was added here to clarify that board members can run to be on the board for more than one term.
- A. 4. The staff was changed to ‘non-voting’ ex-officio board members to better reflect the current practice and understanding of the staff’s role with regard to the board. The staff has agreed to this change.
- A. 8. b. This point was moved the next section for the purposes of clarity. The wording was changed to be more definitive and clear.
- A. 9. The wording was changed from “Recall of board members” to Dismissal of Board members” for the purposes of clarity.
- A.9.b. The means by which a board member can be dismissed was changed to remove the need of full board consensus (including the board member in question), because it was felt that an ability to reach consensus - in the conditions likely to be present when dismissing a board member - was likely to be near impossible. (see Article 6. A. 10. b. for new proposal)
- B.1.a. Added the Quebec Companies Act, which is the legal act under which we are incorporated. The intention being to strengthen the legality of the proposed constitution.
- B.1.d. Removed the word “student” so that the board will be considered to be directed by *all* QPIRG members.
- C.3. Word ‘choose’ replaced by ‘request’ to better reflect the intention of the point.
- C.3.a. changed wording to remove reference to consensus (more will be said about this at C.8) and to add that board members on leave must refrain from all decision-making processes.
- C.4 Wording changed for clarity and to strengthen the intention.
- C.5. Wording added for clarity
- C.7.a. Removed – seemed extraneous.
- C.8&9 Removed. It is not required by the Quebec Companies Act to define the board’s method of decision-making, but it *is* required that where references to consensus are made, it must be defined and there must be provisions made for when consensus cannot be reached. We propose that consensus be removed from

the constitution and be made into policy instead. The reasons for this are two-fold. QPIRG has already developed a decision-making policy that defines the board's process and what to do when consensus can't be reached for a sustained period of time. Copies of this policy can be requested from the staff. This will not affect QPIRG's commitment to consensus.

- C.10 – Changes to wording and formatting for the purposes of clarity.

(see Article 6 in the proposed constitution to review the above proposed changes)

Article 8: Grievance and Arbitration Procedure

- We are proposing to remove this article in its entirety. Having used the grievance and arbitration procedure outlined in the policy a couple of times since its inclusion in the constitution, we feel that it requires updating and fine-tuning. Additionally, it is not legally required to be in the constitution and, for the purposes of keeping the document simple and clear, we propose to make grievance and arbitration procedure policy, rather than a part of the constitution. We have committed to bringing a revised grievance policy to the AGM for people to see and also will post it to the website if there is time to do so.

Article 9: Meetings

- A.2. The requirements for quorum have been changed a. to be less weird and b. to prioritize our commitment to the members that are the primary source of our funding.
- A. Between points 2 & 3. A point was added to define how much notice will be given for an AGM and the manner in which it must be advertised to the membership.
- A. 3. The agenda points required at the AGM were extended to include: staff reports, and a financial report.
- A. A point was added to define the decision-making process at the AGM; simple majority vote.
- B.1. Wording changed for the purposes of clarity
- B.1.a & b. Proposal that an SGM can now be called by board decision, by request of 3 board members, or through collecting 1000 member signatures. In the current constitution an SGM can only be called through board consensus. It is important that there be a means by which the membership can call an SGM.
- B.2. Quorum requirements (and voting procedures) adjusted to match those for the AGM
- B. Two points have been added to address the time-frame in which the SGM must be organized and the requirements for posting and advertising it.

(see Article 7 in the proposed constitution to see above changes).

Article 10: Amendments to this constitution

- Except for a number change, no changes have been made to this article.

(see article 8 of the proposed constitution)

Article 11: Ancillary Powers of the Group

- The only change to this article is that “the Group” has been changed to “QPIRG Concordia” throughout.

(see Article 9 of the proposed constitution)

Article 12: Separability of Articles

- Except for a number change, no changes have been made to this article.

(see Article 10 of the proposed constitution)

Feel free to contact the staff to ask questions about the proposed changes or to get copies printed of either the current or the proposed constitution.