

**QPIRG Concordia  
Annual General Meeting  
7 October 2010**

*[These minutes were approved at the QPIRG Concordia Annual General Meeting on October 13, 2011.]*

A total of 85 members of QPIRG Concordia, as well as 11 guests signed at the AGM. Of the 85 members, 44 were Concordia student members of QPIRG Concordia, and 41 were volunteer or paid members of QPIRG Concordia.

**Minutes**

1. Welcome. Introduction of facilitator and note-taker.

2. Adoption of agenda.

Tatiana Gomez, facilitator, presents the agenda to the AGM.

There are no questions or clarifications requested.

Meg Leitold proposes that the AGM adopt the agenda as is. Claude Picard seconds the motion.

Votes against: 0

Absentions: 0

Agenda adopted unanimously.

3. Introduction to QPIRG and QPIRG Projects

a. Annual Report

i. Staff and core projects reports

*Ashley Fortier – board admin, policy, library*

Board admin. During the past year there was a full 12-member board. Support for the board included a training weekend.

Internal policy. Main focus of internal policy development was updating the employment evaluation process. This is now in its final stages. In addition, there is hope to do work on the finance policy, and a new hiring policy is in the process of being established.

Library. Ashley coordinated library volunteers. New resources were obtained for the library and a website for the library set up.

*Jaggi Singh – working groups, programming and alternative orientation*

Jaggi prefaced his report by thanking staff and board for being such a great team, and in particular for the support they showed during the fall out of the G20 protests.

Working groups. QPIRG Concordia has twenty-seven working groups and solidarity groups. The various groups and their highlights are summarized in the Annual Report, but it is worth noting that they address a very wide variety of issues. QPIRG provided support for the working groups in lots of different ways.

Programming. Programming aims to provide accessible events and workshops for people who are new to social justice work. On this level, QPIRG organized the film series, *Keeping it Reel*, which screened eight films last year, and the 101 series of introductory workshops. At the same time, it aims to deepen analysis and skills through skillshares. QPIRG also inaugurated the New year's Revolution event, an open house, last year, after the completion of our space improvements.

QPIRG organized a campus-community bike tour and a campus walking tour several times throughout the year.

A more complete summary of all of these activities can be found in the annual report. Important to note that QPIRG also provides a space for working groups and others to carry out important social justice work.

*Tasha Zamudio – finances, Study in Action*

Tasha has had three years as financial coordinator. It has been a great pleasure to work with staff and board this past year and to see how the AGM and core projects have grown over the years.

Finances. QPIRG uses up-to-date, transparent financial practices. The board has been trained to be able to follow financial issues; monthly reports are provided; and there is a regular review of the annual budget. There is a third party review of finances and the board has a finance committee which works with staff. A third-party chartered accountant has audited last year's accounts again this year. This year, QPIRG changed its fiscal year to better match QPIRG's cycle – the year now ends on October 31<sup>st</sup> instead of August 31<sup>st</sup>. For this reason, there are two audited statements in the Annual Report for this past year. Questions can be asked to Tasha or the finance committee. Audited statements for November 1 2009 – October 31 2010 will be audited and those statements will be included in next year's AGM.

Study in Action. Study in Action is an annual project which connects students with community activists. Last year was its fourth year; the biggest yet, with 350 participants, panels, workshops, keynote panel, and a closing plenary. The focus was on environmental justice and for the second time, it included art displays. There is more

information on the website and everyone is welcome to join this year's organizing committee.

*Siji Kompanal - CURE project*

Siji is the outreach coordinator for CURE at Concordia. There is another coordinator based at McGill and they work together. This was the most successful year yet. The goal of CURE is to connect students with grassroots groups; providing a real-world application for academic work and involving students in community activism. There are currently 60 project applications. To promote projects, the coordinators have done classroom presentations, presentations to faculty, 5 à 7s, and made use of campus publicity (campus newspapers, etc). Learning from the experience of the first years, the coordinators are trying to provide more structure to the projects to help them along, and encourage completion. The forms are now directly available on the website. In addition, there is a more structured agreement, which includes a mid-way check-in date, a check in at various stages and requires that professors sign on (providing financial support and backing). Well over twenty students are part of the CURE project.

*Julia de Montigny - School schmool and poster archive.*

School schmool. Julia de Montigny and Kim Roos coordinated School Schmool, which is an "ad-free, cost-free alternative resource guide and agenda". The project started in 1994 at QPIRG McGill, it died out and was resurrected in 2006 and is now, for the first year, a joint McGill-Concordia project. The content ranges from the G20 to mental health, to a queer fiction resource list, includes historical dates archiving a people's history of Montreal, etc. This year 2000 copies were printed and they have almost all been distributed. Email [theorganizer@riseup.net](mailto:theorganizer@riseup.net) with suggestions for next year.

Poster archive. Drawing on QPIRG's already extensive collection of posters, they are starting a poster archive; the aim is to create an online database. Working groups and other community organizers are contributing. New posters are very welcome. Many of them are also now on display in the QPIRG space.

*Derek Lappano- Summer stipend.*

The project was to produce an undergraduate research journal. It started as a companion piece to Study in Action but expanded to include CURE projects at McGill and Concordia. The aim was to affirm the work that undergraduates are doing. It includes diverse content - different elements of research, diverse forms, community-oriented. It was launched in September at the CURE 5 à 7. Plan is to get it out through the QPIRGs, and by tabling. It is provided on a donation basis, pay what you can. Also, it is a continuing project, coordinated through CURE – everyone invited to participate, and can get in touch via CURE, QPIRG or Derek.

*Judy Grant - Summer stipend project.*

Queer archiving project for QTEAM. Emma Russell and Kat Butler and other members of the solidarity group – covers 2005 to 2010 zine. Images and texts. Bilingual. Launched at Perverscité, including a poster exhibit at cagibi.

#### *Various staff - varia*

After a lot of work over the summer, there is now a very nice new website, with moving parts.

This year there is a new library coordinator, Rebecca Carson, and there will be a library committee and possibly events around the library. People should get in touch if they're interested and Rebecca's office hours are posted on the library door.

Following the very successful campaign and referendum last year, graduate students at Concordia are now officially members of QPIRG.

#### ii. Board report

Ricky Kelly-Shepard has been on the board for two years. From the training to the visioning and G20 fall-out, the board stuck together well last year. Thanks to working groups and staff.

(Meg adds thanks to outgoing board members.) See board report in annual report for more details.

#### b. Questions and Clarifications

Q. Could we have more details about the board's work?

A (summary of various responses from Ricky, Tessa Vikander, Ashley). The board had several committees, including Finance, Policy, Study in Action, IAW, Staff committee. The G20 fall out was the most difficult period. Everyone pulling together is what made it possible to get through the more difficult periods (G20). The full board meant that there could be a functional committee structure. Challenge was timing, regular meetings, keeping going long-term through emergencies and heavier periods.

Q. Not to be alarmist but does QPIRG have questions or concerns about attacks on PIRGs that are happening on different campuses. For example, fee levy groups elsewhere are being attacked through their funding base.

A (Jaggi): This year, the various autonomous fee levy groups communicated together to form FLAC, to maintain solidarity and share resources among those groups. Although there is as yet no reason to be alarmed about it at Concordia, the groups didn't want to be complacent. QPIRG Concordia's strength lies in the fact that it is transparent and accountable; the majority of students at Concordia seem to support QPIRG.

Q. Clarification about applying to be working group: if we weren't accepted, can we try again?

A- Can apply at any time during the year to be working group or a solidarity group, but there would be no budget.

Q – Clarification about community – what about community that is not in Montreal?

A – Although QPIRG is in solidarity with all communities, its focus is greater Montreal area, including Kaneshkake and Kahnawake.

#### 4. Constitution

##### *Overview of Procedure.*

Facilitator provided an overview of the procedure for making changes to the constitution that is outlined in the constitution. Proposed changes must be proposed and published 30 days in advance. To pass, a proposed change needs 75% of vote.

##### *Presentation of change and quick explanation.*

Ashley explained that the proposed change was advertised on the QPIRG website and sent to QPIRG's email list.

The proposal comes from the outgoing board. As included in the booklet that was passed out to AGM participants, the outgoing board proposes that the wording of Article 4, Section B, Subsection 2 be changed to read, "Anyone who is not a student member is eligible for associate membership. Associate membership is available through either the completion of ten (10) or more volunteer hours for QPIRG Concordia with twelve (12) months or payment of an annual membership fee of ten (10) dollars. Membership fees or volunteer hours must be completed prior to the Annual General Meeting." Section D, Subsection 2 to be modified accordingly.

Currently, community members have to do ten hours of volunteer work or pay the equivalent of the fee levy of three credits – that is, 93 cents (31 cents per credit). The change is to make the annual membership fee of associate members \$10 instead of \$0.93. This is not a question of accessibility but to make the membership rates more on a par with what full-time students currently pay.

##### *Questions and clarifications*

Q. Clarification of fee levy rate

A. It is currently 93 cents for three credits.

Q. Clarification on duration of membership

A. Membership lasts for one calendar year for associate members; it is paid semester by semester for students.

Q. Will this be a deterrent to community membership.

A. They don't see it as a deterrent. People can still come and access stuff QPIRG and there is still the possibility of doing 10 hours volunteer work.

Q. Why 10\$.

A. This reflects what full-time students pay (assessed on five course for two semesters)

Q. Are non full-time students not members?

A. Yes, they are. We just assessed based on full-time students. It seems right that people who are able to vote at the AGM have some investment in the organization.

Q. When would it take effect?

A. Immediately.

#### *Vote for adopting the new constitution*

Kyle McLouglin proposes that the amendment, as noted above, be made. Evan Montpellier seconds the motion.

Votes in favour: 63

Votes against: 0

Abstentions: 0

Approved unanimously.

### 5. Elections

#### a. Overview of process.

The election was coordinated by Chief Returning Officer Roddy Doucet. Roddy explained how elections would work: nominations, introductions, questions, secret ballott distributed, everyone makes choice and puts in ballot box, counting of ballot box, return and ratification of results.

Daniel Grenaux and Andrew MacFarlane volunteered to be witnesses and help count the secret ballots.

#### b. Conflict Resolution and Complaints Committee Elections

##### *Call for nominations*

Ashley nominates Nora Butler Burke. Meg seconds.

Shannon Franssen nominates herself. Tessa seconded.

Abbey Mahon nominates herself. Ashley seconds.

Kamala Jegantheeswaran nominates herself. Mubeenah Mughal seconds.

Sarah Kizuk nominates herself. Abbey Mahon seconds.

### *Presentations and questions*

Ashley presents Nora in absentia. Nora has been involved in QPIRG for years, and has had two years with the Complaints Committee. More at Page 6 of the booklet handed out to AGM participants.

Ashley not taking questions on Nora's behalf.

Shannon was a member of the board for two years, joined in June 2008. She is not running for board this year, but would like to be on the committee. As a member of the board, she participated in the policy committee, staff liaison committee, CURE, Study in Action and Finance committee. She also has four years of experience in conflict mediation with street kids and has worked in frontline crisis intervention social work. She is familiar with the conflict resolution policy, and was part of board when the policy was adopted.

No questions.

Sarah was also on the board for one year and a working group for three, but wasn't on the policy committee while on the board.

Q. What working group are you a member of?

A. Open Door Books.

Q. How long have you been involved in social justice community in montreal?

A. Actively involved for four years.

Q. Are you a student?

A. Yes, in philosophy. Currently the VP academic for the philosophy department.

Abbey is an outgoing board member. She has been on the board for two years and will not be running this year but would like to continue to be part of QPIRG. She has been on the board policy committee for the last two years. She is a Concordia student in History and Biology.

Q. Why do you not want to continue on the board?

A. It is hard to be consistently available. The board is an ongoing commitment through the entire year.

Kamala has been involved in the past few years. She is a student at the SCPA. She took a conflict resolution course in 2008/2009 and is good at solving problems, so thought she should contribute.

Q. What are you studying?

A. Community economic development.

**Clarification.** The Conflict Resolution and Complaints Committee has three active members and one alternate member, whose role is to step up if active members is in conflict of interest. So are people running as active or alternate members? All are running as active members (so would therefore decide amongst themselves afterwards who takes on the alternate role).

### *Voting instructions*

Chose maximum four names. The ballot is printed based on the names of people who got in touch in advance to indicate they were running. So if you want to vote for someone who is not on the ballot but has since been nominated, just write in their name.

To be on the CRCC, people must receive simple majority (50 % + 1) of votes. They are then ranked by the number of votes they received.

### *Approving election results*

Motion: If quorum is broken before the election results are communicated to the assembly, it is still valid.

Kyle proposes the motion. Evangeline Caldwell seconds the motion.

Votes in support: 57

Votes against: 0

Abstentions: 0

Motion carried unanimously.

### c. Board of Directors

#### *Overview and questions*

The constitution requires that there be 3 to 12 board members, half student and half community.

Q. What kind of workload?

A (various people). Regular meeting is every two weeks for three hours. After that, it is up to you how much time you can give. There are many things to get involved in depending on interests and schedule. It is a very serious commitment to be part of a governing body, with several staff and shouldn't be taken lightly.

Q. How much time per week?

A (various people). From 3 to 4 hours a week to an hour a week. Average 3 to 5 hours per week. Some weeks as much as ten hours. Some time periods it is busy, other than that, maybe 3 to 5 hours.

Q. Any specific knowledge required?

A. (various people) The only criteria is membership. Both more experienced and less experience people are very welcome – it is important that less experienced people have an opportunity to get involved.

### *Call for nominations*

Student nominations (required that they be enrolled at Concordia, at least one course).

Evangeline nominates Ting Shen. Seconded by Leelee Davis.

Julia nominates Leelee Davis. Jackson Hagner seconds.

Kyle McLoughlin nominates himself. Abbey seconds.

Keetha Mercer nominates herself. Meg seconds.

Tanya Magni nominates herself. Kyle seconds.

Ali Ahmed nominates himself. Fred Burrill seconds.

Elliott Parson nominates himself. Ashley seconds.

Community nominations (required that they be members of QPIRG, either student or associate)

Laura Copeland nominated by Sarah. Kim seconds.

Tessa Vikander nominated by Evan, Abbey seconds.

Meg Leitold nominated by Julia, Tessa seconds.

Kayle Towsley nominated by Tessa, Kyle seconds.

Anna Mathen nominated by Mubeenah, Kim seconds.

Angèle Mutshioko nominates herself, Sarah seconds.

Ashley nominates Abdul Pirana, Fred seconds.

### *Presentations and questions*

Word from Ashley (board admin staff): It is in the interest of the organization to have returning board members; she hopes that people will keep that in mind when voting.

### Students

Ali is a Masters student in Engineering. He would really like to get involved, from Middle East and hoping to learn. His background is in quality management, so could potentially help with standardizing processes, long-term functioning of the organizations.

No questions

Leelee is from Winnipeg and is a major in dance at Concordia. She was involved in founding a queer people of colour collective in Toronto, and this group was brought to Montreal by Qteam to speak in the past. She is interested in learning how organizing works from this perspective. Being on the board will be an opportunity to learn through action in this setting. She is prepared for the time commitment. Potentially interested in programming committee, study in action and possibly staff liaison committee.

No questions

Tanya is a sociology student. The alternative orientation was her first involvement in QPIRG. It would be positively challenging for her to be on the board.

No questions

Kyle is in Political science at Concordia. Was involved in activism 101 and disorientation, and loved the group. Currently involved in Free Education Montreal. Hasn't been in Montreal very long. Hopes to bring energy and new ideas to the board. Excited to learn about activism in Montreal.

No questions

Keetha is a returning board member, she is doing her masters in sociology. She has been a member of various QPIRG working groups. She's been active since she arrived in Montreal three years ago and has been involved in PIRGs as members and board members in other cities for years.

No questions

Elliott is a Political science student. Heard about Qpirg heard through the Link and was greeted with open arms and made to feel comfortable. He was at several intense rallies in the past year in Montreal. He has worked for seven years at the Concordia Finance so could bring finance budgeting and organizing skills.

No questions

Ting studies Human Relations at Concordia. Doing an internship with a girls' action foundation and involved in Ethnoculture for the last two years, a queer people of colour group, and has organized fundraisers, most recently for Pakistan. Qpirg will give Ting broad knowledge.

No questions

Community

Laura (not able to be here, Ashley presents). Refer to page 16 and 17 of booklet distributed to AGM participants. Wants to support Qpirg, is a returning member and is comfortable with the time commitment. Has a strong knowledge of student community and is interested in radical approaches to education.

Meg is a returning member who has been serving since the past summer. She has a long history with Qpirg and has been on various working groups and on the conflict resolution committee in its first year. She has experience as a board member. She is running as community member but is also student in dance at Concordia.

Anna really loves Qpirg, she thinks it is an important resource for students and community members. She is a returning board member. She has been involved in Ste-Emilie skillshare, No one is illegal and student groups at University of Victoria.

No questions

Angèle is from France. She was a board member last year, involved in CURE as well as Library, Staff, and Finance committees, but had to leave Canada. She is back and wants to get reinvolved, learn about community organizing, be part of a group of people who share same ideas about social and environmental justice. Past experiences include prison visits (at Laval), Big Sister, research for the Social Justice Committee, and wants to get involved in Recon and Ste Emilie skill share. Would like to get involved in finance and staff committees.

No questions

Kayle got involved in Qpirg through the Indigenous Solidarity Committee. She liked Qpirg and wants to learn more about it from side of the board. She works at Midnight Kitchen doing admin stuff and joined the childcare collective.

No questions

Tessa has been on board for a year. She has been involved in social justice community in Montreal for three years. She was on the staff liaison committee and enjoyed it. She has some ideas, including having a Kids play corner at QPIRG and getting the space audited for accessibility.

No questions

Abdul (Ashley presents). Abdul is a retired chemist, a commissioner for New Frontier school board and is the Chair of the Montreal Chapter of the Council of Canadians.

*Voting instructions*

Each candidate requires 50%+1 of vote to be elected. Vote for maximum six in each category.

#### 6. Voting results.

Quorum is still present.

CRCC: Nora, Shannon, Sarah, Abbey

Student board: Ali, Leelee, Tanya, Kyle, Keetha, Ting.

Community board: Laura, Meg, Anna, Angèle, Kayle, Tessa

Meg moves that the election results be approved. Evan seconds.

Votes for: 32

Votes against: 0

Abstentions: 0

Election results approved unanimously.

#### 7. Community announcements

Several community announcements are made.

#### 8. Adjournment

Meg makes a motion to adjourn and Kyle seconds it

Votes against: 0

Abstentions: 0

Motion to adjourn passes unanimously.