

NOTICE OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO QPIRG CONSTITUTION

September 13, 2011

Posted by e-mail and on QPIRG's website.

The following constitutes notice of proposed amendments to the QPIRG Concordia Constitution, to be considered and voted at the upcoming QPIRG Concordia Annual General Meeting, to take place on October 13, 2011.

The current constitution (updated October 7, 2010) is linked here:
<http://www.qpirgconcordia.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/10/QPIRG-Concordia-Constitution-2010.pdf>

The QPIRG Concordia Board of Directors is proposing five amendments to the Constitution. The constitutional amendments are listed below.

If there are any questions concerning these proposed amendments, please contact QPIRG Concordia at info@qpirgconcordia.org

-- The QPIRG Concordia Board of Directors

AMENDMENT # 1: Community Members

We propose to change the name of "associate member" to "community member" throughout the constitution.

Specifically, we propose the following changes:

Article 4, A, 2: change "associate" to "community".

Article 4, B, 2: change "associate" to "community" in two places.

Article 4, D, 2: change "associate" to "community".

MOTIVATION: The name "community member" more accurately reflects non-student membership at QPIRG Concordia. We are described as a "campus-community link for social change" and this amendment will ensure that community membership (as opposed to the more ambiguous "associate member") will be clearly reflected in our constitution.

AMENDMENT # 2: Referendum Procedures

Article 5, subsection C of the QPIRG Concordia Constitution currently reads:

"C. Referendum procedures

1. Referenda for Concordia Undergraduate fee levies, or other matters pertaining to Concordia Undergraduates, will be run according to policies and procedures of the Concordia Student Union by an external third party.
2. The membership has the right to form committees for the purpose of advocating a position on a referendum question.”

We propose that the entirety of Article 5 subsection C be replaced in its with the following:

“C. Referendum procedures

1. All referendum questions must be approved by the QPIRG Concordia Board of Directors.
- 2 a) QPIRG Concordia reserves the right to run its own referenda, in accordance with QPIRG Concordia policies and constitution.
2 b) All Student and Community Members shall have voting rights in referenda conducted by QPIRG in accordance with QPIRG Concordia policies and constitution.
3. QPIRG Concordia’s autonomy does not preclude cooperative electoral action with the Concordia Student Union and/or the Concordia Graduate Student Association where beneficial and agreeable to all groups participating in such an action.
4. Only referenda for Concordia undergraduate student fee levy increases will be run according to the policies and procedures of the Concordia Student Union by an external third party.
5. Only referenda for Concordia graduate student fee levy increases will be run according to the policies and procedures of the Concordia Graduate Student Union by an external third party.
6. Any other referendum questions involving QPIRG Concordia’s relationship to its undergraduate student membership or graduate student membership are subject to the following compulsory conditions:
 - a) a petition clearly outlining the proposed referendum question must be submitted at least 3 (three) months in advance of the proposed referendum;
 - b) the petition must only contain the proposed question, as well as the first and last name, faculty, valid student ID number and signature of at least 1500 (one thousand five hundred) Concordia undergraduate students for the purposes of a referendum concerning the undergraduate student fee levy;
 - c) the petition must only contain the proposed question, as well as the first and last name, faculty, valid student ID number, and signature of at least 300 (three hundred) Concordia graduate students for the purposes of a referendum concerning the graduate student fee levy;
 - d) any petition for referendum must be independently verified and approved to ensure all signatories are registered Concordia students who have not opted out of the fee levy;

- e) the question must be approved and advertised at least 3 (three) months before it is to be considered by the membership;
- f) for the purposes of this section, advertisement of the approved referendum question must minimally include a notice on the main QPIRG Concordia e-mail list, a posting on the main page of the QPIRG Concordia website, as well as posters placed visibly in the QPIRG Concordia space and other campus locations;
- g) the referendum question must be approved by at least 50% of the voting membership, with a minimum voter participation of at least 10% of the applicable student membership.

8. The membership has the right to form committees for the purpose of advocating a position on a referendum question.”

MOTIVATION: The previous clause was out-of-date, vague and incomplete, and did not reflect the current situation at Concordia University vis-à-vis QPIRG Concordia and fee levy groups, particularly discussions by fee-levy groups concerning their autonomy from both student unions and the administration. The new clauses on referenda outline clear procedures for both fee levy increases and other referenda, in a manner that protects QPIRG’s autonomy while maintaining transparency. It also reflects the current role of both the CSU and GSA.

AMENDMENT 3: Student unions

Article 3 currently includes the sentence:

“QPIRG is a volunteer-driven, student-funded, non-profit organization that is independent from the Concordia administration and student union.”

It is proposed that the sentence be replaced as follows:

“QPIRG is a volunteer-driven, student-funded, non-profit organization that is independent from the Concordia administration and student unions.”

MOTIVATION: Concordia has more than one student union (CSU, GSA) so this change reflects that reality.

AMENDMENT 4: Timing of fee refunds

Article 4, subsection D, subsection 4, currently reads:

”Student member fees will only be refunded after the fees have been received by QPIRG Concordia from Concordia University. In order to receive their refund, students shall come in person to the QPIRG Concordia office with student ID and student account record, within the refund period established by QPIRG Concordia. The refund period shall run for at least five (5) class days.”

It is proposed that the section now read:

“Student member fees will only be refunded after the final drop date with full refund or financial credit of each semester. In order to receive their refund, students shall come in person to the QPIRG Concordia. office with student ID and student account record, within the refund period established by QPIRG Concordia.. The refund period shall run for at least five (5) class days.”

MOTIVATION: This wording change more accurately reflects when exactly we offer refunds.

AMENDMENT 5: Date of AGM

Article 7, subsection 1, currently reads:

”QPIRG Concordia shall hold an Annual General Meeting each year in the fall term at a time and place determined by the Board in accordance with this Constitution.”

It is proposed that the section now read:

“QPIRG Concordia shall hold an Annual General Meeting each year in the months of September, October or November at a time and place determined by the Board in accordance with this Constitution.”

MOTIVATION: We are providing more accurate information about when our annual general meeting must be held.