

To the Concordia Undergraduate Student Body from CSAS,

As you may all be aware, there is a great deal of confusion and anger regarding the current strike situation for a number student groups at Concordia University. We believe that we should get one important point out of the way at the beginning of this address; we are a student body that is neither for, nor against the strike. We are merely pro-information and pro-rights. What this means is that CSAS (Concordia Students Against A Strike) is attempting to reach out to the entire student body to demand more accountability from the Concordia Student Union.

We believe that the anti-strike portion of the student population has been underrepresented during these proceedings, in part due to the stance of the CSU as a pro-strike organization. While the CSU is within their legislated rights to 'pick a side' in this debate, they have done so at the expense of the remaining student population; as a result of their unwillingness to publicly denounce hard picket tactics, and back the Concordia administration supportively to dole out punishment as they see fit for anyone breaking these rules.

Many strikers will suggest that there are no methods as effective as those which contravene the rules; we believe we have devised a number of favourable options for the striking community, and we plan to open negotiations with the CSU shortly on these matters. There has been little widespread mention that blocking doors, corridors or access to any place is actually illegal, not just within the code of conduct at Concordia, but it is also against the law.

We as an organization (not officially recognized by Concordia University) will strive to have the appropriate student representation at all future General Assembly meetings as it pertains to the strike mandate; these student representatives will be available to provide anti-strike information to those seeking it, and will strive to ensure that the due process is followed through on agreeable terms that are fair and equitable for all involved.

The administration of Concordia has done an admirable job to preserve everyone's rights throughout this process, though the rights of many anti-strike individuals have been infringed upon by a faction of individuals still choosing to employ hard picket tactics. The focus of this strike should be directed at the proper parties, hindering students, faculty and administration should not be a desired target when tuition rates are government mandated as they are here in Quebec.

We understand the passion of the pro-strike side in wanting the entire student body to assist them with their goals, as the current situation stands, many of us on the opposing side feel alienated. While we would all like to support those striking students for exercising their democratic rights; our immediate presence at pickets, rallies and other events will not be felt, and that is our democratic right.

In the coming days with the support of our existing members, and hopefully with the remaining support of the student body at large; we will negotiate matters with the CSU, and as university students should, come up with what we hope will be an agreeable solution for all involved.

We strongly urge any members of the student body who feel underrepresented or misrepresented to contact us, you can rest assured that any specific details regarding complaints or requests (names etc.) about the initial round of voting will be kept in the strictest confidence, but the basis of these requests will serve useful in negotiating agreeable vote terms in the upcoming week for all involved.

For your reference, we hope to address the following issues with the CSU:

- **Knowledgeable, unbiased, Concordia student chairperson(s)** – We hope to have at least one per meeting, two for larger groups – oath to be sworn accepting the student body may remove said chairperson in the event of bias.
- An introductory message from your Student Association President (or representative), which **highlights in a clear manner, the rules and regulations of the voting process in full, prior to the commencement of the meeting.** Also required is an accounting of what CAN and CANNOT be voted on as well as a clear statement of legally acceptable strike tactics.
- Under **no circumstances can illegal strike tactics be voted on**, the association president should make clear that illegal tactics will be dealt with in a severe and timely manner.
- **A request (by the Student Association President or chairperson) for all faculty and non-undergraduate students to remove themselves from the proceedings** (this is NON negotiable, not to be put to a vote)
- **Pre-determined presenters from either side of the argument**, one per side per meeting, if an opposing side cannot be met, no presentations that indicate strike preference or opposition will be made.
- An **unbiased, accurate account of the demands and merits of the proposed tuition hike**, to be made by the unbiased chairperson(s).
- The option **to request the vote goes to secret ballot** – this option is to be voted on by the student body during the meeting, prior to the vote.
- **Equal representation** in the number of speakers for either side.
- **Requested press releases from the CSU publicly denouncing and opposing illegal strike tactics** and support for the Concordia administration in punishing those engaging in these activities will be required.

For questions, concerns or recommendations to add to the negotiations, please feel free to contact us at

**ConU.Not4Strike@gmail.com,**  
**CSAS – Concordia Students Against a Strike**

