

Pidgaetska A.V.

Students` associations in Canadian Concordia University

UDPU (Uman, Ukraine)

For many years Canada has been among countries with the highest standard of living and low crime rate. It is well-known that Canada belongs to five of the most highly-developed countries in the world. It is the home of some of the world's top research facilities and academic institutions, giving their students international diplomas. Students` life in Canada is also one of the factors that attract students from different countries all over the world. Canadian students' self-government is more developed than in Ukraine. It is possible to notice the difference even at comparison with Concordia University which is a prominent and unique institution in Montreal. Some of the functions of Concordia Students' Union are the following: it represents Concordia's 30,000 undergraduate students; defends student rights and serves students on University bodies; provides academic services like the Advocacy and Tutoring Centres; promotes student life, hosting Canada's largest Orientation, the best parties in Montreal and creating a diverse and interesting speaker series; supports Concordia by fighting for and upholding sustainable initiatives and accessible education.

Among their student associations are:

CISA is the Concordia International Student Association, and that primarily deals with the international and exchange student community. It organizes trips, as well as parties and little get-togethers so that students can meet others and get to see a side of Montreal that they would not be exposed to otherwise;

R4 Concordia (Rethink, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) is a working group of Sustainable Concordia (SC). In the realm of sustainability, this promotes social equity, ecological integrity and economic prosperity. R4 concentrates its efforts on environmental initiatives while integrating social and economic components into its decision making process;

CVAP - The Concordia Volunteer Abroad Program is a non-profit student run organization started in 2005, which seeks to provide Concordia students with the opportunity to volunteer in various developing countries around the world. Through

partnerships with internationally recognized humanitarian organizations, over one hundred Concordia students per year will have the chance to partake in a two-month volunteer session beginning with the East African country of Uganda.

The 2110 Concordia Centre for Gender Advocacy is an independent, student-funded, organization at Concordia University that aims to fight gender oppression, especially as it relates to, (though not exclusively) Aboriginal and First Peoples, people of colour, immigrants and non-status people, people with disabilities, deaf people, transgender and gender non-conforming people, people who experience mental health stigmatization, women, low income people.

QPIRG Concordia is a social and environmental justice campus organization that strives to raise awareness and motivate grassroots activism around diverse issues. It seeks to make campus-community links and inspire social change through engaging, inclusive and non-hierarchical approaches. Their services include supporting working groups, presenting relevant and engaging events and speakers, hosting an Alternative Orientation, providing skill-building workshops, maintaining an alternative resource centre (alternativelibraries.org), responding to the organizational needs of student and community organizing and coordinating an undergraduate conference called Study In Action.

Concordia University Student Parents Centre (CUSP) is dedicated to offering support and services to assist student parents achieve their goals. It offers a safe and accessible space to congregate, study, voice concerns, share interests, and develop a support network. CUSP includes a lounge with couches and a microwave, computers with internet access, and a play area for children. It provides resources for such things as childcare, financial aid, and housing.

In the conclusion it can be added that there are striking differences between the variety and factuality of students associations in Canada and Ukraine. We should improve our students` self-government in order to make our students more social involved people who want to make prospective for their country.