

*Report of the
National Deputy Chairperson
Jaimie McEvoy*

*General Meeting
November 1992*

INTRODUCTION

The job of the Deputy-Chairperson involves a wide variety of activities. Serving my term of "capital" punishment has required long hours to fulfil a variety of official functions, outstanding directives, and membership demands. The Deputy-Chairperson's responsibilities include chairing the TravelCUTS board, serving as staff relations officer, acting in most cases as at-large officer responsible for the Toronto office, chairing the National Executive's review of Services operations, overseeing the Federation's activity in international affairs, meeting demands and fulfilling requests from members in the field, not to mention the time-consuming tasks of general duties in the Ottawa office. As recently as this September, tasks such as assisting in re-negotiating the Ontario Working Agreement and chairing a sub-committee to lead efforts to build a working relationship with the student movement in Quebec were added to the list.

This combination of responsibilities and the work and hours required prompted a former Deputy-Chairperson to recommend that these tasks be split into three new positions.

Nevertheless, a solid effort has been put into a variety of major tasks. A dormant review of Services by a National Executive sub-committee has been revived and rejuvenated. The Federation continues to be a respected player on the international stage. The Federation is working towards collaboration with the student movement in Quebec. Progress is taking place on enhancing the Federation's level of bilingualism in Services. And the concerns and needs of individual member locals are addressed as they arise.

See the National Executive and TravelCUTS Board reports for more information on the work of the Deputy-Chairperson.

"THE COMMITTEE THAT WAS STRUCK"

In September of 1991, the National Executive struck a committee, variously referred to as, "The Committee That Was Struck," "the Toronto committee," "the Services sub-committee," and, "the NE sub-committee." The committee's purpose was to review Services operations and fulfil certain specific directives of the National Executive in accord with the following "mandate:"

- a) to review the historical evolution and current effectiveness of the decision making process of CFS-Services at the executive and membership level;
- b) to assess the current management, operations, functions and structures of the CFS-Services;
- c) to evaluate current existing job descriptions and propose formal and up-to-date job descriptions for Canadian Federation of Students-Services staff in the Toronto office;

- d) to examine the role of the Executive Director as it relates to the National Executive and staff positions in the Canadian Federation of Students-Services in the Toronto office;
- e) to examine ways to improve the flow of membership direction to the Canadian Federation of Students-Services staff in the Toronto office, and the flow of program and operations information to the membership;
- f) to examine the potential role of permanent full-time elected positions in the Toronto office;
- g) to examine the relationship of the Ottawa and Toronto offices, and make recommendations for regarding the efficient use of resources;
- h) to invite all members of Canadian Federation of Students-Services staff to consult and participate in all meetings of the committee;
- i) to propose action and methods of implementation to the National Executive for any changes deemed to be appropriate as a result of the above consultation process.

A committee composition was established. There have been changes in individual representatives (there has been a new NE since the committee was first constituted). The current composition is as follows:

Deputy-Chairperson	Jaimie McEvoy (Chair of the committee)
Treasurer	Sandra Rein
a co-chair of OD committee	Nicole Seguin
NE	Jo-Anna Murphy
NE	Blair O'Conner
two rep.s of CFS-S staff	David Doze (CPS Director)
from the Toronto office	Robert Keddy (Travel CUTS staff)
a rep. from CUPE 1281 (Ottawa)	Jocelyn Charron (Communications)

The committee met in May of 1992 in the Toronto office. This first meeting was largely a general philosophical exploration of options available to the committee to pursue its work. The committee used much of its first meeting to address problems of communication and the flow of information within the Federation. Although it was agreed that the discussion needed to continue on this topic, several suggestions in this area arising out of committee discussions have since been implemented.

In September, a working group was formed by Toronto staff to facilitate staff input into the process (several staff attended both meetings of the committee).

This group initially focused much of its work on the organizational and decision making process and on mission statements, and brought

forward items for discussion.

The committee met again in October. A wide variety of topics related to the committee's mandate were discussed, including general discussions on Federation operations, decision-making process, and finances. The committee discussed possible options for mission statements/terms of reference, reviewed the NE's direction point-by-point to establish means to pursue the completion of each task, and assigned tasks. The committee is hoping to meet a few times during the term of the current NE, hopefully beginning in January, and is hoping to have recommendations to the NE sometime in the new year.

INTERNATIONAL WORK

The Federation has received several requests from other national student organizations for assistance. Where these requests have not already been met, they will go to the International Affairs Committee for discussion. See the IA agenda for more information.

A small collection of international documents related to human rights is being prepared for both offices to assist the Federation in dealing with human rights issues by maintaining this resource for information purposes as issues arise.

The Federation has received a few international visitors in Ottawa since May, including students from India, the Philippines, and the South Africa Students' Press Union.

In August, a Federation delegation attended the United States Student Association Congress. The Federation sought to encourage the organization to work together in areas of mutual interest and benefit. The possible impact of NAFTA on education was discussed, as was income contingency schemes. Other areas discussed include possible collaboration and information-sharing regarding services, and student exchanges. Aboriginal NE rep. Rock Matte was one of a dozen panellists in a meeting of the People of Colour caucus.

In response to a request from the AEU in Guatemala, the Federation has sent a letter to the Minister for External Affairs urging the government to support efforts in the United Nations Human Rights Commission to declare Guatemala an "Item 12" nation. The student movement has met with severe oppression in Guatemala, including bombings, assassinations, disappearances, and torture.

INTERNATIONAL UNION OF STUDENTS

Rainer Ghenan, the IUS Executive Secretariat member responsible for the Consultative Platform on European, North American and Other Industrialized Countries (CENAC, the Federation's region within the IUS), will be at the GM as a guest of the Federation. Allison Lewis, who heads the Womens' Secretariat after successful election

as Canada's nominee, will be unable to attend.

The Federation is a well-respected member of our international body, although financial constraints jeopardize our strength in the area of international affairs generally and our ability to be involved in affecting decisions by international bodies which affect our education system in particular. In a world where international political and trade agreements can have an affect on education rivalling the effect of domestic policy, it is important to address issues at this level.

Several initiatives have been pursued with the IUS.

The Federation has taken steps to improve the speed, frequency, and quality of communication between our two organizations.

Researcher Caryn Duncan represented the Federation at a meeting of the CENAC at the end of September. The Federation pursued support for issues such as the impact of international trade and political agreements on education, the impact of AIDS on the student population (in North America, between .5% and 1% of the student population is HIV-positive), changes in funding and student assistance structures, and access problems, particularly as they affect women.

The Federation is currently involved in discussions with the IUS regarding the recognition of Quebec. Currently, the IUS recognizes Quebec as a territory and one of the Quebec student organizations, MEEQ, as the representative from Quebec. This is largely due to the fact that the Federation delegation at that time (January, 1992), indicated support for this move. Since that time, the Federation National Executive has taken a position in opposition to the approval of this membership. A traditional ally of the Federation in Quebec, ANEEQ, has expressed concern about the recognition of MEEQ. Added to that are allegations by aboriginal National Executive member Rock Matte in direct communication with the IUS that MEEQ has pursued racist positions against aboriginal people, a violation of IUS terms for membership. MEEQ has since attempted to use its new international status to attempt to lobby licensing bodies in order to be able to compete with the Federation in the corporate revenue sector.

If the Federation wishes to pursue the matter, the process is that at some point prior to the next Congress (three years from now) the Federation will have to appear before a meeting of the IUS Constitutional Committee to present our arguments along with hard evidence to support any specific concerns or allegations. The first available opportunity could be as early as this Spring.

MEEQ is aware of the allegations made by members of the aboriginal constituency, and has been informed that the Federation is waiting for documentation from the constituency prior to taking any formal action at the level of the IUS. I have agreed to contact MEEQ for a response should a formal charge be supported by the Federation.

However, it was also made clear that the Federation's responsibility is to its members and their concerns.

The National Executive struck a committee to deal with these and other matters related to Quebec. This committee is still at a very early stage in its work, compiling information for a resource document on all things in the Quebec student movement.

SERVICES - NEW OPTIONS

Programmes Committee at this meeting will be holding a number of discussions about innovative developments in Services. This will include proposals for CFSNet reform and options for the delivery of Studentsaver.

SHARED INFORMATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Discussions have taken place with the National Union of Students-Untied Kingdom(NUS-UK) and the United States Student Association(USSA) on setting up an information exchange on services administration and development, with the goal of enhancing the quality and effectiveness of the separate programmes in each country. Initial discussions have taken place with USSA on assisting that country as it works to develop possible services in the field of health insurance. A small delegation from the USSA is planning to visit our Toronto office in the near future.

FEDERATION PROFILE

Federation profile has been enhanced in several publications out of the Toronto office. Staff have been pro-active in this area, and enhanced Federation profile is visible in this year's publications

movement has included a submission to the House of Commons Legislative Committee Regarding Medicare, Post-Secondary Education and Unemployment Insurance Premiums. Other initiatives include a pilot project on developing literacy through workplace training, support for the Federation's criticisms of the Prosperity Initiative, free use of audio-visual services in preparation of our election television commercials, and cash donations for specific work. Provincial Federations of labour have actively supported the Federation's zero tuition policy and our opposition to income contingent repayment plans.

MEMBERSHIP CONCERNS AND OFFICE WORK

The process of answering telephone calls and reading and responding to mail in general, and responding to member requests and concerns in particular, easily occupy half of the time of the Deputy-Chairperson. These range from requests for documents, to addressing issues and immediate problems ranging from cases of harassment, to bilingualism concerns, to advice on the delivery of services, to....

LAST, BUT NOT LEAST...

Several meetings with the membership have taken place outside of Ottawa. Meetings attended in the first half of my term include CFS Atlantic in July, which included an impromptu debate with Jean Chretien about the role of the federal government in education. In August, it was off to the GM of CFS-BC to lead a workshop on federal economic policies as they affect education. Then in October it was off to the gathering Students' Union of Nova Scotia, which included discussions on a wide-range of topics including federal election strategy, income-contingency, and the role of constituency groups in the Federation, followed by visits to Kings and Acadia.

For the next half of this term, outside of TravelCUTS work, several items of work are already anticipated(not necessarily in order of priority):

- referenda
- continued follow-up to international work
- work to build a working and collaborative working relationship with the student movement in Quebec
- the national executive sub-committee on Services review
- Programmes Committee follow-up from GM
- general GM follow-up