

CANADIAN FEDERATION OF STUDENTS FÉDÉRATION CANADIENNE DES ÉTUDIANTES ET ÉTUDIANTS

41st Semi-Annual General Meeting • 41e Assemblée générale semestrielle



AGENDA

Opening Plenary

May 2002 National General Meeting

1. ATTENDANCE ROLL CALL

The Federation's Bylaws require that not less than one-half of the members of the Federation having voting rights be present in person or by proxy at the general meeting for business to be conducted.

A roll call of the membership will be taken to determine attendance and to confirm that quorum is present.

2. WELCOMING REMARKS AND INTRODUCTIONS

At this time, National Chairperson Ian Boyko will:

- Provide welcoming remarks to delegates;
- Introduce any guests that are present; and
- Give an overview of and general orientation to the meeting.

3. KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Jim Turk, Executive Director of the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT), will provide the keynote address. The Federation works closely with CAUT on a number of issues related to improving access to quality post-secondary education and will be considering undertaking a joint tuition fees campaign with CAUT in the coming year at this meeting.

4. RATIFICATION OF PLENARY SPEAKER

The plenary is the formal decision-making assembly at the general meeting. A Plenary Speaker, the parliamentarian who will preside over the meeting, chairs general meeting plenaries. At this time, the plenary will ratify a Plenary Speaker.

The National Executive is recommending that Rick Smith be ratified as the Plenary Speaker. Rick has a long history of involvement with the Federation. He was active in the Federation for a number of years and has chaired Federation national general meetings on four previous occasions.

The Plenary Speaker will provide a brief overview of Robert's Rules of Order, a system of meeting rules and procedures that the Federation employs for plenary sessions, plenary sub-committee meetings and caucus meetings.

5. ANNOUNCEMENT OF PROXIES

The Federation's Bylaws enable voting members unable to attend all or portions of a general meeting to appoint another member to act as its proxy for some or all of the meeting. The Plenary Speaker will announce all proxies that conform to Bylaw II, Section 7 b., *Proxy Votes*.

6. ADOPTION OF PLENARY AGENDA

The plenary will consider the plenary agenda prepared by the National Executive. Any changes or additions to the agenda may be proposed at this time.

7. ADOPTION OF NATIONAL GENERAL MEETING AGENDA

The plenary will consider the schedule for all four days of the general meeting, prepared by the National Executive. Any changes or additions to the agenda may be proposed at this time.

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8. ADOPTION OF NATIONAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

The plenary will consider the minutes of the previous national general meeting.

9. PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT OF THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE

As per Bylaw V, Section 2 f., the National Executive will present a report to the plenary detailing the work of the Federation undertaken since the previous national general meeting.

Following the presentation, delegates will have the opportunity to ask the National Executive questions on the contents of its report and other activities undertaken since the previous national general meeting.

10. CONSIDERATION OF MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS

a. Applications for Full Membership

In accordance with Bylaw I, Section 4 c., the plenary will consider at this time an application for full membership from:

- Alberta College of Art and Design Students' Association.

b. Applications for Prospective Membership

In accordance with Bylaw I, Section 4 c., the plenary will consider at this time an application for prospective membership from:

- University of Toronto Students' Administrative Council;
- Association of Part-Time Students at the University of Toronto;
- University of Toronto Scarborough Campus Students' Union;
- University of Windsor Students' Alliance; and
- Association générale des étudiant-e-s de l'Université Sainte-Anne.

11. PREPARATION FOR ELECTIONS

a. Introduction of Electoral Officers

In accordance with Bylaw 6, Section 7 the National Executive has appointed Christine Bourque, Ontario Fieldworker, and Ashkon Hashemi, Ontario Internal Coordinator as Electoral Officers for the elections to be conducted at this meeting.

b. Overview of Election Schedule and Procedures

The Electoral Officers will provide an overview of the election schedule and procedures at this time.

12. ADOPTION OF STANDING PLENARY SUB-COMMITTEE AGENDAS

As per Standing Resolution 1, Section 1, the following sub-committees of the plenary are automatically struck:

- Budget Committee;
- Campaigns and Government Relations Committee;
- National Education and Student Rights Committee; and
- Organisational Development Committee.

The plenary will consider the plenary sub-committee agendas prepared by the National Executive. Any changes or additions to the agendas may be proposed at this time.

13. CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS SERVED WITH DUE NOTICE

The Federation Bylaws require that all motions that seek to amend the Federation's Bylaws and Policy Manual must be submitted to the National Executive not less than six weeks prior to the general meeting at which they are to be considered. The plenary will consider motions served with due notice.

a. Motions Served Notice at the Previous National General Meeting

The following motion was served notice at the previous national general meeting for consideration at this meeting.

2002/05:N01 MOTION TO AMEND STANDING RESOLUTIONS

Local 09/Local 38

Be it resolved that Standing Resolution 10, Section 5 be amended to include:

Francophile members present at a general meeting of the Federation who are not members of the Francophone Constituency Group shall be permitted to attend all meetings of the Constituency Group with full participation rights but not voting rights.

b. Motions Submitted by Member Local Associations

The following motions were submitted by member local associations with due notice for consideration at this meeting. Some will require a seconder in the opening plenary.

i. Proposal to Adopt Alberta Component Standing Resolutions

2002/05:N02 MOTION *Ref to OD*

Local 61/

Be it resolved that the following be adopted as Standing Resolution #32, Alberta Component:

Alberta Component

The name shall be known as the Alberta Component, hereinafter referred to as the Component.

1. Membership

The members of the component shall be all Federation member local associations in the province of Alberta. Each member association shall be entitled to one (1) vote within the Component.

2. Steering Committee

The affairs of the Component shall be managed by a Steering Committee.

a) Composition

The Steering Committee shall be composed of the Alberta Component Representative on the National Executive and one representative from each member local association in Alberta.

b) Term of Office

The term of office for a local representative shall be one (1) year commencing upon ratification to the Steering Committee, and expiring at the Steering Committee scheduled the closest to one (1) year after the Steering Committee meeting at which the member was ratified.

3. Duties of the Steering Committee

a) Collective Duties of the Steering Committee

The Steering Committee shall manage the affairs of the Component, implement campaigns and programs of the Federation in Alberta, and be responsible for the administration of Federation provincial resources in Alberta.

b) Duties of the National Executive Representative

The National Executive Representative shall oversee the keeping of accounts of all receipts and disbursements of the Federation, and shall deposit all monies or other valuable effects in the name and to the credit of the Federation.

c) Duties of Local Representatives

Local Representatives shall be responsible for coordinating the implementation of Federation campaigns and programs at the local level.

ii. Proposal to Change Prospective Membership to Trial Membership

2002/05:N03 MOTION

Local 61/Local 44 *od*

Whereas to describe prospective membership, everyone calls it "trial membership"; and

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Whereas prospective membership is sometimes mistakenly called "perspective membership"; therefore

Be it resolved that "prospective membership" be replaced with "trial membership" in applicable Bylaws, Standing Resolutions, and Policies.

iii. Proposal to Amend User/Tuition Fees Policy

2002/05:N04 MOTION

Local 78/

NA

Be it resolved that the *User/Tuition Fees* policy be replaced with the following policy under the heading *Tuition Fees*:

Preamble

Education is a fundamental right of every human being without distinction of race, gender, age, religion, sexual orientation, political belief, economic, and social condition. User fees, in the form of tuition fees and ancillary fees constitute a barrier to accessing post-secondary education.

In 1948, the Government of Canada signed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights that states, "Everyone has the right to education". In 1976, Canada signed the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights that states, "Higher education shall be made equally accessible to all, on the basis of capacity, by every appropriate means, and in particular by the progressive introduction of free education".

The cost of post-secondary education and increasing debt levels are significant factors in the decision students make about whether or not to continue their studies beyond high school. Students from lower income households are much more likely to be affected by financial issues when deciding to pursue or not pursue their education beyond high school.

Students participating in post-secondary education may face considerable financial barriers, including housing, transportation, and user fees. In addition, many students may forgo job earnings to attend a post-secondary institution. Of these, user fees account for the greatest up-front, universal barrier to obtaining a post-secondary education in Canada.

It is the responsibility of governments to fully fund post-secondary education. In the absence of adequate funding, post-secondary institutions often rely on private sources, such as user fees.

Policy

The Federation believes that a universally accessible post-secondary education system will only be achieved once financial barriers to obtaining that system are eliminated. In particular, this requires that post-secondary education be entirely publicly funded, user fees are non-existent, and students have access to student financial assistance for living expenses in the form of non-repayable grants.

In the case where tuition fees do exist, the Federation supports their elimination beginning with tuition fee freezes, followed by progressive reductions. The Federation opposes the differentiation of fees on the basis of program, country or province of origin or student status, or for any other reason. The Federation supports reduced or rebated tuition fees for post-resident graduate students.

The Federation opposes the justification that increased student financial assistance can offset the effects of higher tuition fees. In particular, the Federation opposes any form of income contingent student loan repayment schemes, as they are designed to facilitate a system of individual fees in which students pay the full cost of post-secondary education, and invariably result in massive tuition fee increases.

iv. Proposal to Amend Funding Education Policy

2002/05:N05 MOTION

Local 78/

NA

Whereas much of the Federation's Issues Policy regarding funding and responsibility for post-secondary education can be consolidated into fewer policies; therefore

Be it resolved that the Issues Policy entitled "Canada Health and Social Transfer" be struck; and

Be it further resolved that the following be added to the Issues Policy entitled "Funding Education" as a subsection entitled "Transfer Payments":

Preamble

On April 1, 1996 the federal government implemented the Canada Health and Social Transfer (CHST), which combined the federal transfer payments for post-secondary education and health (Established Program Financing, EPF) with transfers for social assistance and social services (Canada Assistance Plan, CAP). Not only was the change accompanied by deep funding cuts, but also the very nature of federal responsibility for higher education shifted.

Without minimum funding amounts designated for post-secondary education, provincial governments have used disproportionate sums of the CHST to increase health care spending at the expense of education spending. Virtually none of the recent increases in transfer payments have been spent on post-secondary education, and the federal government has no recourse with provincial governments. Without accountability for federal spending, there can be no guarantee of national standards for accessibility, quality, comprehensiveness, transferability, and mobility.

Policy

The Federation supports transfer payments that contain a specific and adequate portion for post-secondary education.

The Federation opposes block transfer payments that contain no minimum allotment for post-secondary education, such as the Canada Health and Social Transfer.

The Federation supports transfer payments for post-secondary education that are calculated on a per student basis, rather than by a province's general population.

The Federation supports the establishment of a federal Post-secondary Education Act to regulate minimum transfers to the provinces for post-secondary education.

v. Proposal to Delete Portability Policy

2002/05:N06 MOTION

NA

Local 78/

Whereas the Federation's Issues Policy already includes a description of academic portability within the issues policy entitled "Pan-Canadian Principles"; and

Whereas the clauses within the Issues Policy entitled "Portability" are redundant; therefore

Be it resolved that the Issues Policy entitled "Portability" be struck.

vi. Proposal to Adopt Policy

2002/05:N07 MOTION

NA

Local 11/

Whereas a full policy of non-discrimination of students must be enforced at all educational institutions within Canadian society; and

Whereas under the current structure of transfer payments, students in provinces that are net importers of students are unjustly discriminated against with respect to per student funding within Canadian society; therefore

Be it resolved that the following policy be adopted under the heading Canada Health and Social Transfer:

The Canada Health and Social Transfer should be re-calculated to ensure that provinces that are net importers of students receive a net increase in the post-secondary education section of the funding, reflecting those provinces' roles in educating out-of-province students.

vii. Proposal to Support Online Canadian Media

2002/05:N08 MOTION

Camp

Local 47/

Be it resolved that 'rabble.ca' be sponsored at a rate of \$20 per month commencing June, 2002.

Be it further resolved that \$100 be contributed to 'straightgoods.com' for a six-month sponsorship period commencing September, 2002.

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14. INTRODUCTION OF ANTI-HARASSMENT ADVISOR FOR THE GENERAL MEETING

228 The Federation strives to create an environment at its national general meetings that is free of harassment. At each national general meeting the Federation employs an anti-harassment advisor who is available on a 24-hour basis to assist delegates.

At this time, Tara Connolly, the Anti-Harassment Advisor will provide a brief orientation to the Federation's harassment policy as described in the policy manual.

15. PRESENTATION BY THE FEDERATION'S STAFF RELATIONS OFFICER

1201
CUPE
CFS
staff
National Treasurer Jess Turk-Browne, who serves as the Federation Staff Relations Officer, will make a brief presentation on the collective agreement between the Federation and its employees as it pertains to the rights and responsibilities of the employees at national general meetings.

16. OTHER BUSINESS

17. RECESS

Lobby
10:00pm
Back
1:30

Greg Teller C.F.T.
for Day Event