

AGENDA

Budget Committee

November 2006 National General Meeting



DAY ONE

1. PREPARATION FOR COMMITTEE DELIBERATIONS

a. Ratification of the Committee Chair(s)

Standing Resolution 1, Section 4, Committee Chairperson states that:

As its first order of business each standing general meeting committee shall either:

- a. ratify as the committee chairperson(s) the National Executive member(s) appointed to the committee; or
- b. elect a committee chairperson from within its membership.

The National Executive is recommending that National Treasurer David Hare and Ontario Representative Ken Marciniec be ratified as co-chairs for the Committee.

b. Roundtable Introductions

c. Review of the Committee Agenda

d. Review of the Committee's Terms of Reference

Committee members should be familiar with the responsibilities of the Budget Committee as established in the Federation's Standing Resolutions. At the November general meeting the Committee shall:

- review and recommend budget adjustments for the remainder of the fiscal year to the closing plenary;
- assess the availability of funds for proposed projects and/or purchases, including donations; and
- discuss the Federation's long-term financial planning.

2. REVIEW OF FINANCIAL DOCUMENTS AND ISSUES

a. Orientation to the Finances of the Federation

- i. Revenue Sources
- ii. Areas of Spending
- iii. Funds and Fund Balances

b. Overview of Current Financial Realities/Pressures (In-camera)

c. Review of 2006-2007 Budget and Year-to-date Statements

The Committee will review the 2006-2007 budget and the comparative year-to-date statement of revenue and expenditures.

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DAY TWO

3. REVISION OF THE 2006-2007 BUDGET

The Committee will discuss the draft Revised 2006-2007 Budget and propose to the closing plenary any amendments it deems necessary.

4. OTHER BUSINESS

5. ADJOURNMENT

AGENDA

Campaigns and Government Relations Forum
November 2006 National General Meeting



DAY ONE

1. PREPARATION FOR FORUM DELIBERATIONS

- a. Roundtable Introductions
- b. Review of the Forum Agenda

2. PREPARATION FOR THE DAY OF ACTION

At the May national general meeting, members resolved to hold a national Day of Action on February 7, 2007. The Committee will review campaign organising up to date.

3. ORIENTATION TO CAMPAIGN WEBSITE

The Federation has developed ReduceTuitionFees.ca to assist member locals with organising for the Day of Action. An overview of the site and its features will be provided.

DAY TWO

4. PREPARATION FOR NEXT FEDERAL ELECTION

In a minority parliament, elections can be triggered with very little notice. The Committee will discuss preparations for a potential federal election in spring 2007.

5. MOTIONS REFERRED FROM OPENING PLENARY

The following motions will likely be referred to the Campaigns and Government Relations Forum by the opening plenary.

a. Proposal for Campaign about Administrator Salaries

2006/11:N01 MOTION

Local 103/Local 96

Campaign

Whereas the Federation supports the right to an affordable and accessible post-secondary education; and

Whereas the Federation supports the elimination of tuition and other incidental user fees; and

Whereas the Federation supports the democratization of governing boards of post-secondary institutions, with the intent of being representative of and accountable to the communities served by these institutions; and

Whereas unionized faculty and staff at post-secondary institutions commonly receive increases in wages approximately equivalent to the rate of inflation; and

Whereas university administrators, deans of faculties, and directors of schools and libraries are management, and have their salary increases determined by their peers with varying degrees of accountability to University boards; and

Whereas many universities have seen significant increases in the salaries of senior university administrators in the face of declining per-capita government funding, rising tuition fees and comparatively lower faculty and support-staff wage increases; therefore

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Be it resolved that research be undertaken on the history of salary increases for university administrators, deans of faculties, and directors of schools and libraries across the country; and
Be it further resolved that member locals be encouraged to campaign against administrative salary increases as long as tuition fees in Canada are rising.

b. Proposal for Campaign for International Students' Health & Dental Insurance

2006/11:N04 MOTION

Local 8/

Whereas international students currently are not covered under most provincial health insurance plans; and

Whereas international students are required to take out such health coverage as a condition of their study permit; and

Whereas the purchase of such coverage is extremely costly and does not provide adequate coverage often providing assistance only in emergency situations; therefore

Be it resolved that provincial governments be lobbied to include international students in provincial health insurance plans at no cost to international students; and

Be it further resolved that member locals be encouraged to lobby their university administrations to support the right of international students to be included in these plans; and

Be it further resolved that member locals be encouraged to write to their respective provincial governments supporting the right of international students to be included in these plans.

c. Proposal for Campaign for International Students' to Seek Local Elections

2006/11:N05 MOTION

Local 8/

Whereas international students are required to study full-time in order to maintain their study permit; and

Whereas the democratically elected executive positions of many students' unions are full-time positions requiring that the elected leadership of students' unions take a lighter course load; and

Whereas this makes it difficult for international students to run for executive positions in their local students' union; therefore

Be it resolved that the Federal government be lobbied to have the position of elected leadership of a local students' union be recognized for course equivalency for the purposes of meeting the requirements of a study permit; and

Be it further resolved that member locals be encouraged to write letters supporting the right of international students to participate in their students' union.

d. Proposal for Emergency Response Plans

2006/11:N07 MOTION

Local 91/

Whereas the fundamental goal of a students' union is to serve the best interests of its membership; and

Whereas proper planning and preparedness helps to increase the safety of the student population in the event of emergency; and

Whereas too few post-secondary institutions have prepared sufficient emergency plans for any event other than fire; therefore

Be it resolved that member locals be encouraged to meet with their institutional administrators to collectively discuss and develop emergency response plans; and

Be it further resolved that member locals ensure that students, faculty, and staff are made aware of all emergency procedures.

e. Proposal for Campaign to Eliminate Tuition Fees

2006/11:N08 MOTION

Local 35/

Whereas the Newfoundland and Labrador government has frozen and reduced tuition fees for each of the last eight years; and

Whereas tuition fees in Newfoundland and Labrador are now the second lowest in Canada; and

Whereas the fee freezes and reductions in Newfoundland and Labrador have been matched with increased operating grants of 100% since 1999; and

Whereas the fee freezes and reductions have resulted in enrolment increases every year, after a massive enrolment decline when fees were rising in the 1990s; and

Whereas Premier Danny Williams responded to the Federation's call to eliminate tuition fees by saying that he was unable to do so because of pressure on the province to allow fees to rise; and

Whereas the elimination of tuition fees in Newfoundland and Labrador will put downward pressure on tuition fees in other provinces; therefore

Be it resolved that member locals be encouraged to send letters to the Premier of Newfoundland and Labrador, and the Newfoundland and Labrador component of the Federation, supporting the elimination of tuition fees.

f. Proposal for Campaign to Support Students' Space

2006/11:N11 MOTION

Local 97/

Whereas the University of Toronto administration has threatened to evict Local 97, the Association of Part-Time Undergraduate Students, from its current office space at Woodsworth College; and

Whereas in response to the actions of Local 97, the University has accepted a proposal for an alternative office site located, adjacent to Woodsworth College, which meets many of the needs and concerns of Local 97 and its diverse membership; and

Whereas the University of Toronto administration is now insisting that Local 97 accept this space under unfair conditions which would serve to stifle the Local's political expression and the accessibility to its members, specifically, by not providing a binding lease, or any assurance that accessibility upgrades and other renovations will be undertaken; therefore

Be it resolved that the University of Toronto Administration's refusal to offer Local 97 a binding lease for the proposed office relocation site, or any assurance that accessibility upgrades and other renovations will be undertaken, be condemned; and

Be it further resolved that the following demands presented by Local 97 be supported:

- The University grant Local 97 a lease arrangement for office space in the Margaret Fletcher Building and guarantee accessibility upgrades and other necessary renovations.
- The lease grant the space for an amount of time that will give Local 97 permanent access to the space (i.e. 50 years); and

Be it further resolved that member locals be encouraged to write letters of support for the demands of Local 97.

g. Proposal for Sustainable Students' Unions Campaign

2006/11:N12 MOTION

Local 17/

Whereas students unions and post-secondary institutions have large ecological footprints and significant purchasing power; and

Whereas students unions and post-secondary institutions across the country have stepped up to lead the sustainability movement on their campuses by implementing initiatives focused on improving ecological integrity, social equity, and economic security; and

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Whereas on-campus sustainability initiatives can actively engage the knowledge of the university community to address the social and ecological challenges faced both now and in the future; and

Whereas student unions and post-secondary institutions have the potential to influence communities, governments, business, and industry in the adoption of sustainable practices; therefore

Be it resolved that member locals be encouraged to take up the "Student Unions for Sustainability" campaign by committing to strategically implement people, policy, planning and projects that will institutionalize sustainability comprehensively into the organization to effectively use limited financial resources; and

Be it further resolved that member locals be encouraged to utilize the Sustainable Campuses "Student Unions for Sustainability" campaign database of Sierra Youth Coalition documents and become Sustainable Campuses Coalition Partners; and

Be it further resolved that member locals be encouraged to develop as models of sustainable practices to advocate for sustainability on their campuses, as well as in communities, governments, business, and industry.

h. Proposal for Campaign for International Students' Tuition Fees Reduction

2006/11:N13 MOTION

Local 75/

Whereas international students are now able to work off campus; and

Whereas there have been reports that some administrators are using right to work off campus to justify further tuition fee increases; and

Whereas the Federation worked for the right to work off to improve international students quality of life; therefore

Be it resolved that a campaign be commenced to lobby educational institutions and Canadian governments to ensure that International Students receive the full benefit of income earned from off-campus employment; and

Be it further resolved that the campaign to reduce tuition fees also include a reduction for international students.

i. Proposal for Campaign to Restore Funding for Summer Career Placement Program

2006/11:N17 MOTION

Local 24/

Whereas the federal Conservative government unilaterally cut funding for the Summer Career Placement Program by \$55 million in September of this year; and

Whereas this represents a 50 percent reduction in funding for the programme and will result in the elimination of up to 25,000 summer jobs for students; and

Whereas this decision was taken without any public or stakeholder consultation and without consideration of proposals for improving the programme; and

Whereas the Summer Career Placement Program plays an important role for small businesses and community organisations throughout Canada; and

Whereas the Summer Career Placement Program often provides opportunities for students to earn meaningful wages during the summer months and to gain valuable work experience in fields related to their studies; therefore

Be it resolved that the recent cuts to the Summer Career Placement Program be denounced; and

Be it further resolved that the Federal government be called upon to immediately restore funding to the Summer Career Placement Program; and

Be it further resolved that a campaign kit, including a fact sheet on the programme and a sample letter to Members of Parliament, be created and distributed to member locals.

j. Proposal for Campaign to Promote Sustainability

2006/11:N18 MOTION

Local 24/

Whereas students' unions should strive to promote sustainability on their campuses; and

Whereas many students' unions have ethical purchasing policies already in place; and

Whereas these policies often extend to creating sustainable, environmentally sound campuses; and

Whereas very few recycling companies will recycle Styrofoam; and

Whereas Styrofoam is created from benzene, a known carcinogen that can cause bone marrow damage, a decrease in red blood cells, excessive bleeding and immune system depression, increasing the chance of infection; and

Whereas some universities in Canada, like Ryerson University, have opted to exchange Styrofoam for corn and sugar based products in their food service locations; and

Whereas these products are biodegradable; therefore

Be it resolved that member locals be encouraged to lobby their institutions to replace Styrofoam containers with biodegradable alternatives; and

Be it further resolved that, wherever possible, member locals strive to replace Styrofoam containers with biodegradable alternatives in their own operations.

k. Proposal for Campaign to Restore Status of Women Funding

2006/11:N19 MOTION

Local 24/

Whereas the federal Conservative government unilaterally cut \$5 million in funding from the \$13 million annual budget of the Status of Women Canada, a governmental agency which funds organisations that monitor and work to uphold Canada's accountability to the principles of equality enshrined in the Charter and in the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; and

Whereas the federal Conservative government also changed the mandate and operation of Status of Women Canada by dropping the word "equality" from the agency's goals and declaring that it would no longer fund women's groups that undertake advocacy, lobbying, or general research; and

Whereas this cut runs counter to Stephen Harper's campaign promise during the last federal election, in which he pledged to "take concrete and immediate measures...to ensure that Canada fully upholds its commitments to women"; and

Whereas the Status of Women Canada is an important agency that works to "advance equality for women by addressing women's economic, social, political and legal situation" and increase women's involvement in the decision-making or public policy process; therefore

Be it resolved that the recent cuts to the Status of Women Canada be denounced; and

Be it further resolved that the federal government be called upon to immediately restore all funding to the Status of Women and to reverse changes made to its mandate; and

Be it further resolved that a campaign kit, including a fact sheet on the Status of Women Canada and a sample letter to Members of Parliament be created and distributed to member locals; and

Be it resolved that the Statusreport.ca campaign, a non-partisan, unaffiliated campaign dedicated to raising awareness about the importance of the Status of Women Canada, be endorsed and supported.

6. ADJOURNMENT



Grants, Not Loans

Background

In Canada, more than half of all post-secondary students require some financial assistance. Three-quarters of those receiving student loans believe they would be unable to participate in higher education without this assistance. A national system of needs-based grants would reduce daunting levels of student debt and improve access to universities and colleges.

In 1998, the federal government belatedly acknowledged the student debt crisis by creating the Millennium Scholarship Foundation (MSF). The Foundation was endowed with \$2.5 billion to disburse by 2008.

Regrettably, the Foundation has proven to be a public relations stunt and, under the guise of "research", an advocate for higher tuition fees and higher student debt.

As a result of the Foundation's politicised research project and failure to provide student financial assistance, the Foundation must be wound down and its endowment used to fund a national system of needs-based grants.

Implementation

Research: The Federation will continue to undertake research on the detrimental effects of student debt on access to public post-secondary education, as well as on the economic and social consequences of indebting post-secondary graduates. The Federation will release a comprehensive paper that articulates a vision for administering and financing a national system of needs-based grants.

Government Relations: The Federation will lobby federal decision-makers

to implement a national system of needs-based grants. The Federation will also lobby for the immediate wind down of the Millennium Scholarship Foundation and for the expansion of the federal low-income grant.

National Awareness and Media: The Federation will develop a centrally coordinated communications strategy that calls public attention to the impact of high tuition fees on access to post-secondary education. The Federation will continue to publicise the biased nature of the Millennium Scholarship Foundation's research and communications efforts. Member locals will be provided with the template news releases, and sample opinion articles for submission to campus and local newspapers.

Membership Mobilisation: Member locals will be encouraged to participate in a nationally coordinated and provincially focused Day of Action to be held in February 2007, calling for increased government funding, reduced tuition fees, and a national system of needs-based grants.

In preparation for the Day of Action, the Federation will prepare and assist member locals with the implementation of a comprehensive membership awareness strategy. The strategy will include the development of materials for distribution on campuses. Member locals will be encouraged to distribute materials at various events including welcome weeks and public forums.

Coalition Work: The Federation will continue to build widespread awareness and support among like-minded organisations about the need for a comprehensive national system of needs-based grants.

Campaign Goal

The Federation seeks the termination of the Millennium Scholarship Foundation and the establishment of a national system of grants.

Income Contingent Repayment

Campaign Goal

The Federation seeks to halt any government initiatives to implement Income Contingent Student Loan Repayment schemes.

Background

In 1955, the U.S. economist Milton Friedman devised Income Contingent Student Loan Repayment Schemes (ICR) as a way of reducing the role of the state in financing education. Instead of public funding, Friedman proposed that tuition fees be full cost-recovery. In order for students to pay for these vastly higher tuition fees, he proposed that they have access to larger loans and that repayment be based on an individual's level of income after graduation (i.e. income contingent).

More recently, former Ontario Premier and Liberal Party of Canada leadership candidate Bob Rae has called for the national implementation of ICR. Rae's vision of ICR flows directly from Friedman's founding premise that the individual should be responsible for all or most of the cost of post-secondary education.

The Conservative Party of Canada has long supported Income Contingent Repayment Schemes for the Canada Student Loan Program (CSLP). However, during the 2006 federal election campaign, the Conservatives reversed their position in support of ICR at the urging of the Federation. In a letter to the Federation, a party representative confirmed that, if elected "the Conservative Party of Canada will not introduce a system of Income Contingent Repayment Loans".

Under an ICR scheme, graduates with lower earnings repay their loans

over a longer period of time, while high-income graduates can pay off their loans more quickly, avoiding most compound interest payments. This means that the more one earns after graduate, the less one pays for one's education. Where ICR models have been implemented in other countries, tuition fees have risen dramatically. In fact, ICR schemes facilitate fee hikes and hasten government under-funding of education. Most models also replace loan plans that are interest-free during the period of study *(such as the CSLP) with loans that collect interest from the moment they are provided.

Implementation

Research: The Federation will continue to monitor the effects of ICR schemes in those jurisdictions outside of Canada where they have been implemented.

Government Relations: The Federation will continue to lobby the federal government to expressly exclude ICR schemes from the CSLP. The Federation will also campaign to ensure that ICR schemes are not introduced in provincial budgets or in harmonisation agreements.

National Awareness and Media: The Federation will continue to raise awareness among the membership and the public about the dangers of ICR schemes through the distribution of its ICR fact sheet and other research documents to member locals, coalition partners, the media and government officials.

Federal Funding

Background

For more than two decades, the Federation has called for the establishment of national standards for post-secondary education and research. The Federation proposes that a Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Research be established and that a Post-Secondary Education Act, modeled on the principles of the Canada Health Act, be implemented. A Ministry, a dedicated transfer payment, and corresponding legislation will provide the federal government with a coherent and enforceable national vision for post-secondary education and research.

Since the introduction of the Canada Health and Social Transfer in 1996, accountability and transparency for federal post-secondary education transfers have diminished. The situation did not improve with the creation of the Canada Social transfer in 2004. In fact, there are currently no federal standards to guide provincial post-secondary education spending.

During the 2006 federal election campaign, Stephen Harper's Conservatives promised to create a dedicated transfer payment for post-secondary education. In February 2006, a summit on post-secondary education and research organised by Canada's premiers called for the reinvestment of the \$4.9 billion that has been cut from annual federal transfers to the provinces since 1993.

Implementation

Research: The Federation will track the continued under-investment in

federal transfers measured against inflation, population growth, and economic growth.

Government Relations: The Federation will work with the Canadian Association of University Teachers to lobby for federal-provincial negotiations on a Post-Secondary Education Act. The goal of these negotiations will be the establishment of a dedicated post-secondary education transfer payment and corresponding legislation outlining national principles. Special emphasis will be placed on seeking support from provincial governments for national standards in exchange for increased federal funding, beginning with targeted lobbying leading up to the Annual Council of the Federation meeting to be held in St. John's, NL, in July, 2006.

National Awareness and Media: The Federation will implement a communications strategy drawing public attention to the impact of federal under-funding on the accessibility and quality of Canada's universities and colleges. The strategy will focus attention on Prime Minister Stephen Harper's promise to create a dedicated transfer payment for post-secondary education.

Membership Mobilisation: A template letter to Members of Parliament calling for the creation of a dedicated transfer and corresponding legislation, outlining national standards for tuition fee reductions will be provided to member locals. Member locals will also be encouraged to participate in a nationally coordinated and provincially focused Day of Action to be held in February 2007.

Campaign Goal

The Federation will continue to seek the establishment of:

- the restoration of federal funding for post-secondary education to 1993 levels (adjusted for population growth and inflation);
- a dedicated federal cash transfer payment for post-secondary education;
- a federal Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Research; and
- a Post-Secondary Education Act that establishes guidelines for quality and accessibility in post-secondary education and research that includes recognition of the needs of Québécois and First Nations students.

Reduce Tuition Fees

Campaign Goal

The Federation seeks:

- the progressive reduction of tuition and ancillary fees at public post-secondary institutions across the country with the ultimate goal of eliminating user fees;
- to address the exclusion of marginalised groups from post-secondary education caused by rising tuition fees; and
- the elimination of differential fees for international students.

Background

The Federation has widespread public support of freezing and reducing tuition fees. Polling consistently shows that a strong majority of Canadians oppose tuition fee increases.

The Federation's efforts have resulted in ongoing tuition fee freezes in Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Québec and Newfoundland and Labrador. The challenge for the Federation is to maintain the momentum towards lower tuition fees in provinces where freezes and reductions have already occurred and to create pressure in other provinces to reverse recent increases.

Implementation

Research: The Federation will assemble a research document describing the negative impacts of financial barriers. Information will be collected describing different systems of post-secondary education in countries where no tuition fees exist. In particular, the Federation will rebut the research disseminated by proponents of higher tuition fees such as former Ontario Premier Bob Rae, the Millennium Scholarship Foundation, the Educational Policy Institute, and others.

Government Relations: The Federation will continue to lobby for the

restoration of federal transfer payments for post-secondary education in meetings with federal officials. The positive benefits of coupling federal reinvestment with legislation that calls for the reduction of tuition fees will be articulated to federal and provincial governments. Finally, the Federation will advocate for the elimination of differential fees for international students.

National Awareness and Media:

The Federation will develop and implement a communications plan that illustrates the need for a national strategy for tuition fee reductions. The Federation will also continue to expose the regional and provincial disparities in accessibility across the country.

Membership Mobilisation:

The Federation will encourage member locals to continue to campaign for tuition fee reductions for both Canadian and international students. Member locals will be encouraged to build towards participation in a provincially focussed National Day of Action.

Coalition Work: Member locals will be encouraged to solicit support for the Day of Action and tuition fee reductions through the continued development of local coalitions.

Stop the GATS

Background

Federal funding cuts over the past twenty years have starved post-secondary institutions, paving the way to increased commercialisation. Private involvement in public education manifests itself in corporate funding for university capital projects, corporate interference in course curricula and research projects and, increasingly, business-model governance of universities and colleges. For example, many campus services are being out-sourced to private corporations with a greater interest in turning a profit than supporting the campus community and workers' rights.

The federal government has implemented an aggressive commercialisation agenda for university research. In order to qualify for most new federal university research funding, matching private sponsorship or demonstrated commercial potential are required. Such requirements severely inhibit universities' abilities to perform research in the public interest.

Public post-secondary education is also under pressure from the creeping privatisation inherent in trade liberalisation. International free trade agreements like the General Agreement on Trade in Services have one purpose: to expose public services to market forces. As a public service, post-secondary education is vulnerable to privatisation under certain trade clauses.

Implementation

Government Relations: The Federation will continue to lobby the federal government for increased public funding for the national granting councils that is free of requirements for matched funding from the private sector.

The Federation will also lobby the federal government to refrain from negotiating education and other public services into the GATS.

National Awareness and Media: The Federation will publicise the dangers of privatisation and commercialisation in public post-secondary education. When cases of corporate interference or academic misconduct arise, the Federation will support, where feasible, cases with national significance.

Membership Mobilisation: Member locals are encouraged to continue to gather information about examples of privatisation and commercialisation on campus.

Member locals are also encouraged to promote an environment where researchers who feel their academic work is compromised by private interests can speak out without fear of retribution.

Coalition Work: The Federation will continue to build widespread awareness and support among like-minded organisations about how the GATS threatened public education.

Campaign Goal

The Federation seeks to stop the encroachment of privatisation in post-secondary education and to stop trade negotiations on post-secondary education and other public services.

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Website Service

The goal of the Students' Union Website Service, similar to that of the handbook service, is to produce a better quality service that meets the needs of students at an affordable price so that all member locals, regardless of their size, can improve communications with their members. The Committee will discuss the service.

Communications Kit

Each year the Federation produces a Communications Kit that provides potential content for member locals to include in their handbooks, newsletters and other materials, and on their websites. The kit contains information about Federation campaigns, research and services, as well as image-ready graphics.

The Committee will review the 2006-2007 Communications Kit and discuss possible improvements for the 2007-2008 year.

b. Discount Programme

ISIC/Studentsaver

The Federation has run a national student discount program since its founding in 1981. The service utilises two discount cards: the International Student Identity Card (ISIC), which only full-time students are eligible to receive; and the Studentsaver card, which is available to all full- and part-time students belonging to the Federation.

Following a brief orientation to the discount programme, the Committee will review the 2006-2007 discount programme and discuss preparations for the 2007-2008 programme.

Studentphones

The Federation has partnered with Studentphonestore to secure discounts on cellular telephone service. A presentation on the progress of the service will be provided.

On-Line Tax Filing Arrangement

Earlier this year (February 15-April 30), the Federation again offered through its website free income tax filing with Ufile, an on-line tax filing service. The Committee will discuss the service.

c. National Student Health Network

The National Student Health Network is a buying consortium for student health and dental insurance plans that the Federation established more than fifteen years ago. Following a brief orientation to the service, the Committee will discuss strategies for improving and promoting the service.

d. Student Work Abroad Programme (SWAP)

The Federation has been running the Student Work Abroad Programme for more than 20 years. Following a brief orientation to the service, the Committee will discuss developments with and ideas for the service.

e. Online Student Housing Service

Homes4students.ca is the national online student housing database service that the Federation has operated for the past three years. Following a brief orientation to the service, the Committee will discuss strategies for improving and promoting the service.

g. Other

Time permitting, the Committee will discuss possible ideas for other services and programmes to be offered through the Federation.

DAY TWO

3. MOTIONS REFERRED FROM OPENING PLENARY

The following motions will likely be referred to the Organisational and Services Development Committee by the opening plenary.

2006/11:N06 MOTION

Local 91/

Whereas the Federation's press review is printed twice a year and is included in every general meeting delegate binder; and

Whereas, in recent years, the press review has been approximately 100 pages in length; and

Whereas the Federation strives to be as environmentally conscious as possible; therefore

Be it resolved that the press review be provided to general meeting delegates in digital format, such as on a compact disc, instead of hard copy.

2006/11:N20 MOTION TO AMEND POLICY

Be it resolved that the Operations Policy, Programmes be amended to include:

Access to Federation Services

The Federation shall make every attempt to ensure that all programmes shall be open to all individual members or member local associations regardless of age, sex, country of origin, race, national ethnic religion, disabilities, marital status, sexual orientation, political belief or socio-economic background.

2006/11:N21 MOTION TO AMEND POLICY

Be it resolved that the Operations Policy, Programmes be amended to include:

Participation in Student Work Abroad Programme

Any new country wishing to participate in the Student work Abroad Programme shall satisfy the conditions outlined in the policy Access to Federation Services.

4. DISCUSSION OF MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

5. OTHER BUSINESS

6. ADJOURNMENT



AGENDA

Policy Review and Development Committee

November 2006 National General Meeting



1. PREPARATION FOR COMMITTEE DELIBERATIONS

a. Ratification of the Committee Chair(s)

Standing Resolution 1, Section 4, *Committee Chairperson*, states that:

As its first order of business each standing general meeting committee shall either:

- ratify as the committee chairperson(s) the National Executive member(s) appointed to the committee; or
- elect a committee chairperson from within its membership.

The National Executive is recommending that National Deputy Chairperson Angela Regnier and Alberta Representative Kathleen Rhodes be ratified as co-chairs for the Committee.

b. Roundtable Introductions

c. Review of the Committee Agenda

d. Review of the Committee's Terms of Reference

Committee members should be familiar with the responsibilities of the Policy Review and Development Committee as established in the Federation's Standing Resolutions. Standing Resolution 1, Section 3 c) *Policy Review and Development Committee* states that:

"The Policy Review and Development Committee shall review and make recommendations to closing plenary on proposed amendments to the issues policy of the Federation, as proposed by Committee members and member locals on plenary floor."

2. CURRENT POLICY ISSUES DISCUSSION

The Committee will discuss policy issues related to post-secondary education in Canada.

3. MOTIONS REFERRED FROM OPENING PLENARY

The following motions will likely be referred to the Policy Review and Development Committee by the opening plenary:

2006/11:N02 MOTION TO AMEND POLICY

Local 96/

Motion to repeal the "Performance Indicators" policy, and replace with the following:

Preamble

A quality learning experience for students is rooted in the maintenance of an accessible and publicly funded post-secondary education system within which individual institutions are governed autonomously, through local and transparent democratic structures. By establishing and maintaining the availability of the resources necessary to procure both the academic and physical infrastructure vital to the achievement of quality education, and by ensuring that such resources are allocated on the basis of peer review and democratic decision-making, students, faculty, and academic staff can best collaborate to meet the academic, educational, and research mission of our public post-secondary institutions. The foundation of our public institutions is their universality, meaning that all qualified individuals are entitled to participate in post-secondary education. It is, therefore, not possible to obtain quality in post-secondary education at the expense of affordability, as both factors affect the learning experience. Universality also cannot be guaranteed in a system within which publicly funded research is encouraged

universality -> accessibility

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to be commercially oriented and privately subsidised and owned. The quality of education must, therefore, be judged in light of:

- Accessibility and affordability;
- The degree to which decision-making, with respect to all aspects of a university's operation, are conducted in transparent, accountable, representative, and democratic bodies; and
- The extent to which research performed through a public institution is conducted free from private, corporate and commercial interest and ownership.

Therefore, the achievement of educational quality is dependent upon the availability of adequate public resources.

Post-secondary education funds need to be directed at ensuring quality and accessibility throughout the entire system. Geographic location should not play a role in determining quality or access.

Many attempts to measure quality in post-secondary education have been initiated by governments as part of an effort to introduce accountability and transparency in relation to public subsidies of colleges and universities. Such attempts often focus on evaluating the government's "return" on its investment and rely on very simple output indicators, including graduation and employment rates, and post-graduation earnings. In some instances, as is the case with Key Performance Indicators introduced in provinces such as Ontario, governments have punitively tied public institutional funding to such output measurements.

Just as quality cannot be determined simply by quantifying outputs so too can it not be determined by considering financial indicators, including tuition fees, endowment income, and research commercialisation, as positive indicators of institutional educational quality and "reputation." Such measures, which are often used in education "consumer guides", like the annual Maclean's rankings, ignore the fact that high tuition fees, corporate activity, and reliance on endowment revenue, like poor quality, are symptoms of insufficient government funding. In such a privatised environment, accessibility, diversity, and academic integrity inevitably suffer. Quality assessments that evaluate endowment levels and institutional "reputations" tend to exacerbate institutional inequalities by privileging older institutions, and those situated in major urban and financial centres.

The assessment of quality based on the evaluation of output measures, like those identified above, leads policy makers to disregard the importance of input factors, such as professor/student ratios, academic contact time, faculty workload, lab and technology resources, and the actual process of learning that takes place in colleges and universities.

Policy

The Federation believes that any quality assessment council or body established at the federal or provincial level with the purpose of assessing or monitoring quality needs to be based on:

- Accountability and transparency of the councils or bodies themselves;
- Stakeholder involvement that includes vital members of the university community; students and faculty; and
- The use of systematic definitions of quality designed through a process involving major stakeholders that go beyond methodologically simplistic "indicators".

The Federation supports a definition of educational quality, assessment tools, and funding initiatives that:

- ~~emphasise universal~~ accessibility and affordability;
- emphasise the importance of public funding;
- are determined by the needs of the specific learning environment;
- consider academic resource indicators that include, but are not limited to: class size; faculty-to-student ratios; number of full-time to part-time lecturers; faculty job security (e.g. tenure); level of faculty education; faculty workload; frequency of student contact with faculty and/or other advisors; the diversity of faculty; faculty publication rates and/or professional experience;
- consider institutional resource indicators that include, but are not limited to: the number of library holdings; the availability and breadth of student support services; information technology services; research infrastructure; institutional facilities; and physical plant;

*against indicators in general?
in favour of quality assessment that respect their performance*

*⊕ reflect diversity of institutions etc.
(no hierarchy)*

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- consider educational outcomes that emphasise accessibility and student success, including, but not limited to: diversity of enrolment; persistence, retention and graduation rates; educational satisfaction; and continued education;
- consider educational outcomes that emphasise graduate skill sets, including, but not limited to: critical thinking; problem solving; analytic reasoning; interpersonal understanding; written communication; technical knowledge; creativity, innovation and creative thinking; and applied skills;
- consider educational outcomes that emphasise social value, including, but not limited to: civic engagement; literacy; and workforce competitiveness;
- are based on consideration of specific institutional structures and levels of democratic involvement, facilities of peer review, and levels of student consultation; and,
- consider, only as a final measure, educational outcomes that emphasise individual value, including, but not limited to: graduation rates; employment rates; post-graduation earnings; and job-satisfaction.

The Federation supports government policy that:

- ensures adequate public funding for the promotion of high levels of quality throughout and within the system of public post-secondary education;
- allows public post-secondary education institutions to be autonomous and realise their potential for excellence without compromising access; and
- establishes public standards in educational quality, while remaining sensitive to differences between and among institutions.

~~The Federation opposes definitions of educational quality, assessment tools, and funding initiatives that:~~

~~The Federation opposes government policy that:~~

- ties public funding for public post-secondary education institutions, in any way, to output measurements;
- emphasises "competitiveness" amongst public institutions;
- undermines the consistency of quality between and among public institutions; and
- attempts to regulate the content of courses and/or teaching and/or research programs at institutional levels.

quality?

2006/11:N03 MOTION TO AMEND POLICY

Local 96/

Be it resolved that the two "Commercialisation" policies be repealed and replaced with the following:

Preamble

Public universities and colleges are meant to provide teaching and research in the public interest. The commercialisation of research broadly refers to the influence of corporate and private interests on research and knowledge, and the public policies which seek to define research and knowledge in market terms. Corporate and private participation in research often takes the form of a public-private partnership, where public and private funding are combined to support research and development.

Federal and provincial government initiatives have pressured post-secondary institutions through policies and funding mechanisms to increase the amount of market-driven research. These efforts have been coupled with claw backs to core federal funding for post-secondary education that have strained university operating budgets. In lieu of core public funding, funding for research is being increasingly tied with requirements for researchers to demonstrate matched funds secured from private sponsors.

When research is funded and assessed on the basis of profitability, support for various projects is skewed in favour of applied research, mainly in science, technology, health services, and business. Research in the arts, social sciences, and humanities is deemed less valuable by such a framework for supporting research.

The commercialisation of research also imposes administrative and legal costs for post-secondary institutions who are increasingly required to take on the task of marketing research products and innovations. Students are facing a complex legal terrain, with little protection, in which they must protect their intellectual property rights. Faculty focused on commercialising their research takes away valuable time and resources from teaching undergraduate and graduate students and sharing their research and

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knowledge with their peers. Students' quality of education is compromised by less emphasis on basic research and enquiry skills and increased pressure to develop entrepreneurial skills.

Because this model of research is driven by for-profit research interests, students are exposed to an increasingly closed research environment cloaked in secrecy and competition. This secrecy can stifle the learning environment for students as instructors are frequently prohibited from sharing developments in their research at the risk of jeopardising a sponsor's competitive advantage.

The commercialisation of research also threatens academic freedom and research integrity. Motivated by the promise of profits, researchers are susceptible to pressures to manipulate methodologies and research results, and to delay publications to protect the competitive advantage of the research sponsor. Universities, who are increasingly reliant on private sponsors, are placed in conflicts when faced with pressures from corporate sponsors to discipline university researchers who have spoken up to defend the public interest.

Policy

The Federation supports:

- Public research initiatives which are accountable to the ~~general~~ public and which support the right of the researcher to free speech and academic freedom, including the right to publish;
- Increased funding for public research through the granting councils;
- Federal funding for research that supports curiosity-driven research projects and equitable support for all disciplines; and
- Regulations that prevent corporate research sponsors from interfering in public research.

The Federation opposes:

- the prioritisation of market-driven research over basic, curiosity-driven research in post-secondary institutions;
- federal research initiatives that push for the increase of research commercialisation in post-secondary institutions;
- Matched funding requirements for public research grants; and
- Private sector use of public institution research facilities for private gain

2006/11:N09 MOTION TO AMEND POLICY

Continuing Education Students' Association of Ryerson /

Be it resolved that the "Social Class" policy be repealed and replaced with the following "Socio-economic Barriers" policy:

Preamble

Post-secondary education is increasingly a necessity for participation in the labour market. The defining difference between those who have a post-secondary education and those who are forced into low-paying, low-skill work is financial resources. Upfront financial barriers, namely tuition fees, reinforce a profound participation disparity among Canadian families. Statistics Canada calculates that students from families with incomes in the lowest quartile are half as likely to participate in university as students from families with top quartile earnings, thereby creating an accessibility gap among individuals from different socio-economic backgrounds.

Policy

The Federation acknowledges the accessibility gap in Canada's universities and colleges as being driven by the high cost of a post-secondary education, particularly for low-income families.

The Federation supports an accessible system of post-secondary education where any interested individual, regardless of socio-economic status, is able to participate in the post-secondary education of their choice without incurring debt.

2006/11:N10 MOTION TO ADOPT POLICY

Local 27/

Whereas many post-secondary institutions have Codes of Conduct in place; and

Whereas some post-secondary institutions are attempting to expand their codes of conduct to apply to students when they are neither on campus, nor attending events affiliated with their post-secondary institution; and

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Whereas those same post-secondary institutions are not attempting to expand their codes of conduct with respect to other members of post-secondary communities; and

Whereas this expansion has more to do with concerns about the reputation of post-secondary institutions and their fundraising campaigns than with ensuring that post-secondary communities are safe and positive environments; and

Whereas students are concerned about the expectation that they will at all times act as representatives of their post-secondary institutions, and are opposed to efforts to expand the intrusion of their post-secondary institutions into the private lives of students; therefore

Be it resolved that the following policy be adopted:

Preamble

Codes of Conduct outline appropriate forms of behaviour. They are meant to ensure that post-secondary communities are safe and positive environments. They can be ambiguous in terms of the actions and behaviours that they are intended to cover.

Codes of Conduct have been applied to students taking part in events that occur off-campus and that are not sanctioned by the post-secondary institution. There have been incidences of authorities not prosecuting alleged criminal acts because they think that Codes of Conduct will deal with the perpetrators. The application of Codes of Conduct to off-campus behaviour risks creating a two-tier system of justice, one for students and another for community members. It also disadvantages low-income students through financial penalties.

Policy

The Federation opposes the expectation that students will be representatives of their institutions at all times while off-campus.

The Federation condemns the use of Codes of Conduct as they are applied to non-academic activities that take place off-campus at events that are not sanctioned by or affiliated with the post-secondary institution.

2006/11:N14 MOTION TO AMEND POLICY

Local 1/

Be it resolved that the "Student Financial Assistance" policy be amended to include the following:

7. Post-Secondary Education Tax Credits

Preamble

Since the mid-1990s, the federal government has increasingly resorted to tax expenditures as a substitute for direct funding for student financial assistance. Despite their large price tag, federal tax expenditures are a very poor instrument to either improve access to post-secondary education or relieve student debt.

Tax credits fail in addressing the up-front financial barriers that prevent many students from low-income backgrounds from enrolling in the first place. Moreover, since everyone who participates in post-secondary education qualifies for tax credits regardless of financial need, the federal government is directing public funding where it does not most effectively improve access for those students who are excluded from participating in post-secondary education because the financial burden is so high. As a result, tax credits are most likely to benefit those who already have enough money to afford post-secondary education.

In total, federal tax expenditures increased by more than 200% between 1996 and 2006 on programs such as the Education Tax Credit, the Tuition Fee Tax Credit, and through income tax exemptions. The net benefit of these programs is negligible, and most students do not earn enough to pay income tax, thereby deriving no benefit whatsoever from non-refundable tax credits.

Tax exemptions from scholarships, bursaries, and grants provide some benefit to students. However, most exemptions do not affect the majority of students as scholarship and grant monies are limited, and the level of most awards are still under the maximum level to receive benefits from the exemption.

Policy

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The Federation is opposed to tax credits as a form of student financial assistance.

The Federation supports federal and provincial tax exemptions on scholarships, bursaries, and grants, however, does not support these measures as solutions to the need for increased grant monies and core post-secondary education funding.

The Federation believes that interest payable on a Canada Student Loan should be tax-deductible for federal income tax purposes.

The Federation supports the phasing out of education and tuition fee credits in favour of up-front grants through a national system of needs-based grants.

2006/11:N15 MOTION TO AMEND POLICY

Local 1/

Be it resolved that the "Taxation" policy be amended as follows:

Preamble

A progressive tax system, where people with more disposable income pay a higher percentage of their income in tax than do those with less income, combined with universally accessible social programs, such as health care and education, ensures equity in society regardless of income. Such a progressive system is necessary for the equitable well being of all members of society.

The Federation has long advocated that post-secondary education should be paid for through a progressive system of taxation rather than through up-front costs. Graduates of post-secondary education earn more throughout their lifetime, thereby contributing more in taxes to pay for the cost of their education. Such a system is required in order to fund the various social programs necessary for the advancement of a nation's goals, and also to reduce the up-front barriers of post-secondary education, and most specifically user fees.

Policy

The Federation supports a progressive system of taxation in Canada that recognises the financial stress on students in lower tax brackets.

The Federation also believes that a truly progressive tax system is the ideal way to pay for post-secondary education.

Further, the Federation supports enhanced funding for post-secondary institutions as a result of the revenue raised by increasing the number of higher tax brackets.

2006/11:N16 MOTION TO AMEND POLICY

Local 1/

Be it resolved that the "Pan-Canadian Principles" and "Post-Secondary Education Agreement" policies be repealed and replaced with the following "Post-Secondary Education Agreement and Principles" policy:

Preamble

After years of federal funding cuts throughout the 1990s, the quality and accessibility of universities and colleges are at risk. Skyrocketing tuition fees, fewer instructors, larger classes, fewer course offerings, reduced library holdings, and the commercialisation of research are all symptomatic of the continuing and chronic public under-funding of post-secondary education.

There is an urgent need for a national strategy on both the level of funding and the mechanism and rules by which the federal government provides support for post-secondary institutions and students.

Legislation is needed to establish a long-term and predictable funding commitment from the federal government, and to create common standards and principles governing the delivery of post-secondary education across the country.

Policy

The Federation supports the creation of a Post-Secondary Education Agreement between the provincial and territorial governments and the federal government that would:

- delineate the respective mandates of the federal and provincial/territorial governments;
- establish the standards based on pan-Canadian principles;

*Q: national?
Federation?*

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guarantees the

- establish mechanisms to enforce the principles; and
- outline funding and access formulas. *⊕ special statement for QC?*

The Federation supports provincial/territorial governments also establishing their own legislation with respect to the principles.

The Federation supports the creation of Pan-Canadian Principles, which would ensure a high quality, publicly funded and publicly administered, fully accessible, comprehensive and accountable system of post-secondary education in Canada. The Federation defines the above terms as follows:

- Public Administration: Post-secondary education programs must be administered and operated on a non-profit basis by a public authority appointed or designated by the government of the province, which is responsible to the provincial government. The public authority must be open and transparent and be subject to audit of its accounts and financial transactions;
- Comprehensiveness: Post-secondary education institutions of a province must provide a reasonable range of programs and curricula in order to ensure that students have access to a variety of education options, including community colleges, professional and vocational training, distance education and continuing and adult education;
- Accessibility: Post-Secondary education programs must be open to all qualified persons with the desire and capacity to be educated, on uniform terms and conditions, irrespective of their background. Institutions must develop policies and programs that remove barriers to post-secondary education due to socio-economic status or membership in groups or classes of persons that are not fully served by existing post-secondary programs, including the elimination of all user fees. A national system of grants must be available to students in need, and students must be able to transfer credits between institutions without barriers;
- Collegial Governance: Post-secondary education institutions must be governed in a collegial manner that includes meaningful and effective representation on governing bodies from faculty and students; and
- Academic Freedom: Post-secondary education institutions must assure protection of the principle of free and independent academic inquiry and the government of the province must assure the academic and intellectual autonomy of post-secondary institutions.

The Federation believes that funding of post-secondary education for the province of Quebec must be subject to negotiations between Quebec and the federal government. Until there is a resolution of the Quebec-Canada relationship, the Federation recognises the need for special arrangements with Quebec, as well as consideration for the uniqueness of Aboriginal Peoples.

4. OTHER BUSINESS

5. ADJOURNMENT

*N20?
N21?*

— non exhaustive list —

*"one list" of discrimination diversity -
etc.?
→ Declaration on student rights -*



AGENDA

Provincial Component Meetings

November 2006 National General Meeting



1. PREPARATION FOR COMPONENT DELIBERATIONS

- a. Roundtable Introductions**
- b. Review of the Component Agenda**

2. PREPARATION FOR SUBCOMMITTEES

- a. Overview of Subcommittees**
- b. Overview of Selection Process**
- c. Subcommittees Section Process**

Standing Resolution 1, Section 2, Committee Composition states that:

“Each caucus, constituency group and provincial component shall have the right to select one voting member to sit on each standing general meeting committee.”

The Component will select representatives for each of the following plenary sub-committees:

- Budget Committee;
- Organisational and Services Development Committee; and
- Policy Review and Development Committee.

3. REVIEW OF MOTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

The Component will review the motions that were submitted with notice for consideration at the November 2006 national general meeting. The Component will develop recommendations for the motions.

4. REVIEW OF MEETING LOGISTICS

Any questions or concerns about meeting logistics should be addressed at this time. Meeting coordinators will provide an overview of the transportation schedule from the meeting site to the airport.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

6. ADJOURNMENT

AGENDA

National Aboriginal Caucus

November 2006 National General Meeting



1. ATTENDANCE AND INTRODUCTIONS

An Elder from the community will provide welcoming remarks and delegates will have an opportunity to introduce themselves.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

3. REVIEW OF CAUCUS TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Caucus will review Standing Resolution 18.2.

4. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

Delegates will consider the minutes of the previous meeting of the Caucus.

5. REVIEW OF MOTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

The Caucus will review the motions that were served with notice for consideration at the November 2006 national general meeting.

6. SELECTION OF REPRESENTATIVES TO SERVE ON PLENARY SUB-COMMITTEES

Standing Resolution 1, Section 2, *Committee Composition* states that:

“Each caucus, constituency group and provincial component shall have the right to select one voting member to sit on each standing general meeting committee.”

The Caucus will select representatives for each of the following plenary sub-committees:

- Budget Committee;
- Organisational and Services Development Committee; and
- Policy Review and Development Committee.

7. ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

Delegates will provide an update of activities at their respective locals.

8. EXECUTIVE REPORT

The Executive will present a report on work undertaken since the previous Caucus meeting. Delegates will have an opportunity to ask questions about the work of the Executive.

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9. REVIEW OF CAUCUS CAMPAIGNS

The meeting will review the status of current campaigns including the “Where’s the Justice?” and Stolen Sisters campaigns.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

11. ADJOURNMENT

AGENDA

National Graduate Caucus

November 2006 National General Meeting



SESSION 1 – Thursday, November 23, 2006

1. ROLL CALL OF MEMBER LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS

- Local 3 University of British Columbia Students' Union-Okanagan
- Local 9 University of Regina Students' Union
- Local 19 University of Toronto Graduate Students' Union
- Local 21 University of Calgary Graduate Students' Association
- Local 23 Simon Fraser Student Society
- Local 24 Ryerson Students' Union
- Local 27 Queen's University Society of Graduate and Professional Students
- Local 32 Lakehead University Student Union
- Local 34 Mount Saint Vincent University Students' Union
- Local 39 McMaster University Graduate Students' Association
- Local 47 University of Western Ontario Society of Graduate Students
- Local 48 University of Windsor Graduate Student Society
- Local 56 Wilfrid Laurier University Graduate Students' Association
- Local 62 University of Guelph Graduate Students' Association
- Local 67 University of New Brunswick Graduate Students' Association
- Local 70 University of Prince Edward Island Graduate Student Association
- Local 78 Carleton University Graduate Students' Association
- Local 79 Post-Graduate Students' Society of McGill University
- Local 83 Concordia University Graduate Students' Association
- Local 84 York University Graduate Students' Association
- Local 85 Saint Paul University Students' Association
- Local 89 University of Victoria Graduate Students' Society
- Local 94 University of Ottawa Graduate Students' Association des étudiant-e-s diplômé-e-s
- Local 96 University of Manitoba Graduate Students' Association
- Local 100 Memorial University of Newfoundland Graduate Students' Union
- Local 101 University of Saskatchewan Graduate Students' Association
- Local 102 Brock University Graduate Students' Association
- Prospective Member - Trent Graduate Student Association
- Prospective Member - Dalhousie Association of Graduate Students

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Changes or additions to the agenda may be proposed at this time.

3. WELCOMING REMARKS AND INTRODUCTIONS

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The meeting will consider the minutes of the previous meeting of the Caucus.

5. SELECTION OF REPRESENTATIVES TO SERVE ON PLENARY SUB-COMMITTEES

Standing Resolution 1, Section 2, *Committee Composition* states that:

"Each caucus, constituency group and provincial component shall have the right to select one voting member to sit on each standing general meeting committee."

The Caucus will select representatives for each of the following plenary sub-committees:

- Budget Committee;
- Organisational and Services Development Committee; and

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- Policy Review and Development Committee.

6. REVIEW OF MOTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

The Caucus will review the motions that have been submitted with due notice for consideration at the national general meeting.

SESSION 2 – November 23, 2006

7. REPORT ON CAUCUS ACTIVITIES BY THE CAUCUS EXECUTIVE

An overview of the work undertaken by the Caucus during the reporting period will be provided.

8. CAMPAIGNS AND GOVERNMENT RELATIONS DISCUSSION

The meeting will discuss campaigns and government relations activities including:

- the commercialisation of research;
- the campaign to maintain/restore post-residency fees;
- the campaign for whistleblower protection legislation;
- copyright and intellectual property; and
- creative commons.

9. REVIEW OF CAUCUS FINANCES

10. UPDATE FROM PLENARY SUB-COMMITTEES

Caucus representatives on each plenary sub-committee will report on the deliberations of the sub-committees.

LUNCH – November 24, 2006

GUEST SPEAKER

Andy Kaplan-Myrth is the Manager of the Technology & Law program at the University of Ottawa, which specialises in legal information and policy on technology. He will discuss current activities related to Creative Commons licensing in Canada as an alternative to traditional commercially-oriented copyright practices in academia.

SESSION 3 – November 25, 2006

11. CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS SERVED TO THE CAUCUS

The following motion was submitted by a member local association with due notice for consideration at this meeting.

2006/11:NGC-01

MOTION

Local 100

Whereas Kassem Abouchehade, a graduate student at Memorial University of Newfoundland, has been conducting pharmaceutical research in the field of cardiovascular health; and

Whereas although Abouchehade collected months worth of data, completed a course, taught two others and supervised a student, all within 15 months, his supervisor claimed that he was not making adequate progress on his PhD, which resulted in his termination as a graduate student in December 2005; and

Whereas after six months of appeals, Abouchehade was finally reinstated as to his PhD program in summer 2006, and thus entitled to all the rights and privileges of graduate students at Memorial; and

Whereas even after Abouchehade's reinstatement, Memorial University failed to approve new supervisors, thereby preventing Abouchehade from restarting his research for an additional four months; and

Whereas Abouchehade's termination also suspended his funding, which has yet to be reinstated; and

Whereas now that Abouchehade has not been given access to standard graduate student privileges that would enable him to resume his program and his previous supervisor is preventing him from using the data collected during the first year of his PhD; and

Whereas Memorial University of Newfoundland has no policy to protect Intellectual Property rights of graduate students and has thus far refused to assist Abouchehade in restoring his ownership of the original data; and

Whereas if ownership rights are not restored, Abouchehade will have to begin his research from scratch; and

Whereas this case constitutes a gross violation of graduate students' rights and may have implications for other students at Memorial and at other institutions; and

Whereas the National Graduate Caucus supports the protection of Intellectual Property rights of graduate students; therefore

Be it resolved that Memorial University of Newfoundland's interference with Kassem Abouchehade's rights be denounced; and

Be it further resolved Kassem Abouchehade be supported in his fight to restore the rightful ownership of the data he collected during his PhD studies at Memorial University of Newfoundland, including through writing a letter to the University stating support for his case; and

Be it further resolved that member locals be encouraged to provide similar support, as requested.

2006/11:NGC-02

MOTION

Whereas the Conseil national des cycles supérieurs (CNCS) is the graduate and post-graduate student wing of the Fédération étudiante de universitaire du Québec (FEUQ); and

Whereas the Federation passed a motion to strengthen and expand the working relationship with the FEUQ in November 2003; and

Whereas the vast majority of graduate students in Québec belong to the CNCS; and

Whereas the National Graduate Caucus frequently works with the (CNCS), including joint research initiatives and ensuring graduate students are democratically represented to the Canadian Association for Graduate Studies; and

Whereas many of the policies and positions of the CNCS are consistent with those of the Caucus; and

Whereas interests of members of the Caucus and CNCS may be served by strengthening and expanding working relationships; therefore

Be it resolved that there be a standing invitation for CNCS to attend the stand-alone meeting of the Caucus; and

Be it further resolved that CNCS be consulted about campaign plans and research initiatives in order encourage joint activity; and

Be it further resolved that discussions be initiated to determine if CNCS would be interested in participating in any of the Caucus's current campaigns.

12. UPDATE FROM PLENARY SUB-COMMITTEES

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Caucus representatives on each plenary sub-committee will report on the deliberations of the sub-committees.

13. ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

Caucus members will provide a local-by-local update on the status of implementation of Federation campaigns and services.

14. ADJOURNMENT

YEAR-TO-DATE REVENUE AND EXPENSES

National Graduate Caucus of the Canadian Federation of Students

Fiscal year July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007

| | 2005-2006 Actuals (Un-audited) | 2006-2007 Budget | 2006-2007 Actuals (4 months) | 2006-2007 Revised Budget |
|-------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| REVENUE | | | | |
| Allocation from National Budget | 84,374.35 | 85,745.00 | 21,168.19 | 85,745.00 |
| Total Revenue | 84,374.35 | 85,745.00 | 21,168.19 | 85,745.00 |
| EXPENSES | | | | |
| Communications | | | | |
| Telephone and Fax | 740.65 | 1,000.00 | 117.10 | 1,000.00 |
| Listserve/ISP | 376.20 | 500.00 | 370.50 | 500.00 |
| Web Site Development | 868.78 | 2,500.00 | 427.50 | 1,500.00 |
| Sub-Total | 1,985.63 | 4,000.00 | 915.10 | 3,000.00 |
| National General Meetings | | | | |
| Registration and Travel Pool - November | 0.00 | 1,400.00 | 0.00 | 1,400.00 |
| Registration and Travel Pool - May | 0.00 | 1,400.00 | 0.00 | 1,400.00 |
| Sub-Total | 0.00 | 2,800.00 | 0.00 | 2,800.00 |
| Annual General Meeting | | | | |
| Delegates' Accommodation, Food and Travel | 20,386.43 | 18,000.00 | 0.00 | 19,500.00 |
| Delegate Fees | (15,709.73) | (10,000.00) | 0.00 | (10,000.00) |
| Executive Travel & Per Diem | 2,267.00 | 2,000.00 | 0.00 | 2,000.00 |
| Guest Speaker Costs | 0.00 | 1,000.00 | 0.00 | 1,000.00 |
| Materials | 946.20 | 1,000.00 | 0.00 | 1,000.00 |
| Subsidies | 1,052.39 | 2,000.00 | 0.00 | 2,000.00 |
| Sub-Total | 8,942.29 | 14,000.00 | 0.00 | 15,500.00 |
| Canadian Association of Graduate Studies | | | | |
| Annual Membership Dues | 230.00 | 230.00 | 230.00 | 230.00 |
| AGM (accommodation, registration and travel) | 1,190.65 | 3,500.00 | 0.00 | 3,500.00 |
| Sub-Total | 1,420.65 | 3,730.00 | 230.00 | 3,730.00 |
| Miscellaneous | | | | |
| Campaigns & Government Relations | 18,822.01 | 17,000.00 | 7,287.19 | 17,000.00 |
| Donations | 0.00 | 500.00 | 0.00 | 500.00 |
| Executive Honouraria | 12,600.00 | 12,600.00 | 4,200.00 | 12,600.00 |
| Executive Travel (other meetings/conferences) | 3,656.75 | 5,000.00 | 1,243.80 | 5,000.00 |
| Media | 344.95 | 2,000.00 | 0.00 | 2,000.00 |
| Office Supplies & Printing | 1,539.42 | 2,000.00 | 847.33 | 2,000.00 |
| Membership Development - materials etc... | 3,428.33 | 5,000.00 | 3,362.72 | 5,000.00 |
| Referenda | 9,805.90 | 5,000.00 | 0.00 | 5,000.00 |
| Research | 6,616.55 | 8,000.00 | 1,263.58 | 8,000.00 |
| Sub-Total | 56,813.91 | 57,100.00 | 18,204.62 | 57,100.00 |
| CONTINGENCY FUND | 0.00 | 3,000.00 | 0.00 | 3,000.00 |
| Total Expenses | 69,162.48 | 84,630.00 | 19,349.72 | 85,130.00 |
| Total Revenues | 84,374.35 | 85,745.00 | 21,168.19 | 85,745.00 |
| Less Total Expenditures | 69,162.48 | 84,630.00 | 19,349.72 | 85,130.00 |
| SURPLUS (DEFICIT) | 15,211.87 | 1,115.00 | 1,818.47 | 615.00 |