

Student Leaders Meeting #3 - 2006

17 March 2006

**Held in Boardroom 1
410-330 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg**

**1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
(Agenda Attached)**

Student Leaders in Attendance:

CUSB: Chantal Th eroux
CFS: Liz Carlyle
BU: Regrets
UM: Amanda Aziz, Gary Sran, Rachel Gotthilf, Rob Marriott
UMGSA: Megan Gallant
UW: Regrets
RRC: Rex Masesar
ACC: Regrets
UCN: Regrets

Staff in Attendance:

Curtis Nordman, A/Executive Director
Vernon DePape, Treasury Board Analyst
Dan Smith, Senior Policy Analyst

Introduction

The meeting came to order at 1:00 pm. Participants were welcomed and introductions were made.

It was noted that a 10 March 2006 letter from the Canadian Federation of Students to Ms. Tannis Mindell asking for a meeting with Treasury Board was forwarded to COPSE.

As a committee of Cabinet, Treasury Board is not a public forum and does not meet with external organizations. Nevertheless, the request by students was considered important, and Mr. Vernon DePape of the Treasury Board Secretariat was asked to attend today's meeting.

Review of Notes from Last Meeting

This item was tabled for a subsequent meeting.

New Executive Director

Dr. Curtis Nordman, Acting Executive Director of COPSE, introduced himself. In addition to his duties at COPSE, Dr. Nordman is also responsible for Manitoba Student Aid.

Dr. Nordman noted that he will be retiring in June 2006. A search for a replacement will begin in the coming weeks.

The 2006 Provincial Budget

Post-secondary elements of the 2006 Provincial Budget were briefly reviewed, including funding increases, continuation of the tuition fee freeze, general direction regarding other fees, increases in bursary funding, the Graduate Scholarship, additional funding for UCN and other initiatives.

Students noted that their primary concern arising from post-secondary announcements in the 2006 Budget relates to the potential for increases in other fees.

Staff indicated that the government had provided guidance to institutions that other fees could increase within reason. Institutions would have to be able to demonstrate to students, the public and government that the increases were fair and justifiable, and were reflective of legitimate cost increases.

Students wanted assurances that these fees would not increase and noted that there was no agreed-to barometer for what constituted a "reasonable" increase. Student leaders noted that it was unclear how institutions would be held accountable for increases to other fees. Staff indicated that the government would have to see what those increases were before committing to a course of action. If those fees were deemed to be unreasonable, then government would have to reconsider its actions.

Students reiterated a desire to have specific legislation enacted to support the tuition fee policy, and that other fees should be included within that legislation. Students also acknowledged that government has not expressed interest in legislation to this point.

With respect to the role of Treasury Board, Mr. DePape noted that Treasury Board does not work directly with external organizations, but instead prefers to remain at arm's length. He noted that COPSE has been a particularly effective advocate for the post-secondary system, and has been successful within an environment of limited resources and many competing priorities for budget dollars.

Discussion of Assessment of 2005/06 Process

Student leaders were asked to consider the 2005/06 consultation process and the matter will be discussed at the next meeting.

Discussion of Goals/Topics for Future Years

This item was tabled for a subsequent meeting.

Pre-scheduling Meeting Dates for 2006/07

It was agreed that it would be useful to schedule meetings for the 2006/07 year on a quarterly basis, with dates selected based on time periods that are both strategic in terms of activities (e.g. prior to Estimates, after the Provincial Budget), and in terms of the cycles of the student associations (such as prior to elections).

Participants were asked to consider dates that would be appropriate throughout the next 12 months. Dan Smith will forward information regarding business cycles in the post-secondary system that can be considered in the selection of dates.

Dan Smith will arrange a meeting for the coming months. Agenda items will include those things tabled from today, as well as a discussion of the institutional budgets. Should participants want to attend this meeting by teleconference, please advise Dan Smith (945-4720, dsmith@copse.mb.ca) well in advance so that the appropriate arrangements can be made.

Other

Council of the Federation Summit: There was a brief discussion of the Summit of the Council of the Federation. Dr. Nordman, who attended along with student leaders and others, noted that there was optimism that the Federal government heard the message and that additional funding may become available.

EPI Research Contract: A question was raised regarding a Manitoba Student Aid contract with the Education Policy Institute (EPI) for a research project. Students noted that EPI's research methodology seems to be geared towards outcomes that suggest that financial barriers are not significant barriers to PSE. Students were concerned that ideological priorities might be driving research conclusions.

Dr. Nordman indicated that he would speak to the Executive Director of Manitoba Student Aid to ensure that this item is on the agenda for the next meeting with Manitoba Student Aid and students.

COPSE Organization: Dr. Nordman spoke about the proposed internal reorganization of the Council Secretariat, and noted that part of the proposal included amalgamating the Colleges Expansion Initiative into COPSE. He also noted that COPSE's focus was to grow into one that is more proactive in addition to being reactive.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:50 pm.

COPSE/Student Leaders Meeting # 3 – 2005/06

AGENDA

Time

Friday 17 March 2006

1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Location

Council on Post-Secondary Education

Boardroom 1

410-330 Portage Avenue

Winnipeg MB R3C 0C4

Participants

College and University Students' Association Leaders

COPSE Staff

Agenda

1. Introduction
2. Review of Notes from Last Meeting
3. Meet the new Executive Director
4. The 2006 Provincial Budget
5. Discussion of Assessment of 2005/06 Process
6. Discussion of Goals/Topics for Future Years
7. Pre-scheduling Meeting Dates for 2006/07
8. Other
9. Adjournment

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