

Student Leaders Meeting #1 – 2006/07

19 May 2006

**Held at the University of Manitoba
Aboriginal Education Centre, Winnipeg**

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

Student Leaders in Attendance:

CUSB: Chantal Th  roux, Jen Winters
CFS: Liz Carlyle
BU: Stacy Senkbeil
UM: Garry Sran, Rob Marriott
UMGSA: Megan Gallant
UW: Kate Sjoberg, Mathew Gagne
RRC: Rex Masesar
ACC: Regrets
UCN: Regrets

COPSE Staff in Attendance:

Curtis Nordman, A/Secretary
Dan Smith, Senior Policy Analyst

Introduction

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

Review of Notes from Last Meeting

The notes from the previous meeting were reviewed. It was noted that there was an outstanding follow-up item relating to a research project that Manitoba Student Aid was participating in with EPI and others. Curtis Nordman indicated that he would follow-up with Student Aid.

Other Fees

Students expressed frustration with the actions of the universities and colleges in increasing other fees, and noted that it was not clear what government was going to do about the fee increases. Dr. Nordman responded that government would only entertain reasonable fee increases that can be justified in terms of real and identifiable costs, and noted that while not visible, there continues to be a dialogue between government, COPSE and the institutions on the issue of other fees.

Students were concerned because the parameters of what is reasonable are undefined. Dr. Nordman indicated that government purposefully did not define what a reasonable increase would be. However, through discussions with the institutions increases in the range of \$90 - \$100 emerged as manageable.

Students expressed concern over the governance process relating to budget development. One student group noted that the budget cycle is quite late for 2006/07 and that normally the budget has been approved by now. Students have perceived an increasing sense of secretiveness, noting that universities are hesitant to share data, have left students out of meeting processes, provide information to the boards only shortly before or at the meeting, and that budget information is provided in isolation from the bigger picture. Dr. Nordman indicated that these governance issues are concerning.

The 2006 Federal Budget

Students asked when the Province expected details as to the funding promised in the federal budget for infrastructure, and how that funding could be used.

Dr. Nordman noted that it appears capital infrastructure will be loosely defined to include, for example, the costs associated with labs, not just buildings.

Pre-scheduling Meeting Dates for 2006/07

This item was not discussed at the meeting.

Other Issues

Meetings with Students: Dr. Nordman indicated that these meetings are useful and important. He noted that the attitude and the tone of the meetings are positive, and that COPSE gets information that it does not get from other sources.

Working Groups: Students reiterated their desire to establish working groups in the areas that were discussed at a previous meeting, including working with other stakeholders on various different projects.

Dr. Nordman noted that he is looking to include working groups into the normal processes in the Council Secretariat, including strategic issues such as system coherence, programs, funding, articulation and credit transfer, etc.

University College of the North: Students noted the concerns that were raised by CAUT in terms of academic integrity issues at UCN (academic freedom, tenure, among others). Dr. Nordman noted that the issue of tenure and academic freedom were addressed through bylaws and through the collective agreement process at UCN. In terms of the academic autonomy of UCN, Dr. Nordman noted that the concern is that the Learning Council does not have the same powers as does a university senate. This is because UCN is designed to be a university college, and not a university. Government has committed to reviewing the organization of the UCN, including the

Learning Council, after two years of operation (the Learning Council officially begins its operations in July 2006).

BUNTEP Transfer: They noted that the transfer of the Brandon University Northern Teacher Education program (BUNTEP) appeared to be progressing, and students expressed concern that this transfer be done in a manner that is fair. The Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) and the Brandon University Students Union (BUSU) noted that students were CFS and BUSU members.

Dr. Nordman noted that the transfer was on target for July 2007, and that a transfer framework is in place that outlines the process and how the transfer will occur. It is expected that all union members will have successor rights as a result of the transfer.

COPSE Secretariat Organization: Dr. Nordman briefly outlined the reorganization in the COPSE Secretariat, including the duties of the Secretary of Council, and the four functional areas.

Next Meeting

Dan Smith will arrange a meeting in early July. 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.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm.

COPSE/Student Leaders Meeting # 1 – 2006/07

AGENDA

Time

Friday 19 May 2006
1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Location

U of M Aboriginal Education Centre
Boardroom
11 The Promenade
Winnipeg

Participants

College and University Students' Association Leaders
COPSE Staff

Agenda

1. Introduction
2. Review of Notes from Last Meeting
3. Other Fees
4. The 2006 Federal Budget
5. Pre-scheduling Meeting Dates for 2006/07
6. Other
7. Adjournment

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