

## **Student Leaders Meeting #1 – 2008/09**

**22 August 2008**

**Held at the Offices of the Council on Post-Secondary Education  
Winnipeg**

**9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
(Agenda Attached)**

### **Student Leaders in Attendance:**

CUSB: Regrets  
BU: Stephen Montague  
UM: Jonny Sopotiuik  
UMGSA: Aaron Glenn  
UW: Vinay Iyer  
RRC: Regrets  
ACC: Donna-Lynn Yaworski  
UCN: Regrets  
CFS: David Jacks

### **COPSE Staff in Attendance:**

Sid Rogers, Secretary to Council  
Dan Smith, Senior Policy Analyst

---

### **Introduction**

The meeting came to order at 9:00 am. Participants were welcomed and introductions were made. The agenda of the meeting can be found at Attachment 1.

### **Purpose of the Meeting**

The purpose of the meeting was reviewed. COPSE staff noted that meetings with student leaders are an important way for COPSE staff to understand student perspectives. These meetings, which have been held on a semi-regular basis, provide an opportunity for dialogue and discussion of issues important to COPSE and to students.

Meetings have been held in the past between 2004 and 2006. Meetings were not held between COPSE staff and students in 2007. However, it is important to note that student leaders have met with the Council each year during the Estimates process, and they have continued to meet with the Minister of Advanced Education and Literacy on various issues.

Notes from earlier meetings between COPSE and student leaders are available on COPSE's website at: (<http://www.copse.mb.ca/en/consultations/proceedings.html>).

## **A Brief Introduction to COPSE**

COPSE reviewed the role and duties of COPSE. This is summarized in Attachment 2.

## **Update on Various Items**

1. ***Student Association Legislation***: arising from a request made by students in 2007, government has pursued the issue of creating legislation that would recognize student unions as the sole representative of students, among other things. Student leaders were advised that this legislation is on hold because of the following issues:
  - a. the separation of the U of M Graduate Student Association from UMSU creates some uncertainties as to how to proceed with student association legislation that must be resolved; and,
  - b. a lack of clarity as to how to at once recognize the major student associations (e.g. UMSU, AECUSB) while at the same time protecting the roles and rights to exist of other student groups – such as college, faculty or other constituent student group governments (e.g. St. Paul's College Student Association Council).
2. ***UM Amendment Act (GSA – UMSU)***: this amendment would recognize the fact that UMSU and the U of M Graduate Students' Association have different interests and thus need to be recognized in the governance features in the University (i.e. Board of Governors, Senate and Community Council). Work is continuing on developing this amendment.
3. ***Annual Estimates Process (Fall)***: the annual Estimates process followed by COPSE was briefly summarized by COPSE staff. Students are consulted each year at the same time as institutions and faculty about the priorities and needs of the post-secondary system. Student leaders were advised that they would be contacted in the near future by COPSE to set up the meeting dates.

## **Commission on Tuition Fees & Accessibility to PSE in Manitoba**

COPSE staff and students discussed the role and mandate of the Commission. Students wondered if the Commissioner, Dr. Ben Levin, would be meeting with them. COPSE staff indicated that this was up to the Commissioner, but that the Minister had sent students a letter indicating that he would likely be in touch with the students to hear their opinions.

COPSE staff also advised that there was an opportunity for students to prepare and provide submissions to Dr. Levin through the website.

### **Amendment to the COPSE Act**

COPSE staff discussed an amendment to *The Council on Post-Secondary Education Act* whereby COPSE would have the authority to require individual level data from colleges and universities regarding staff and students.

COPSE staff outlined the authority that the amendment would give COPSE, and had a detailed discussion of the limitations that were placed on COPSE with respect to the collection of these data. Student leaders were generally supportive.

### **Other**

COPSE staff and student leaders discussed capital construction projects. They indicated that any delays in approving projects mean that the costs of the projects increase over time. There was some discussion of this specifically related to an infrastructure request by Brandon University that has implications for BUSU.

### **Next Meeting**

A timeframe for the next meeting was generally discussed as being in January 2009. Dan Smith will arrange the next meeting.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 pm.

## **Attachment 1**

### **AGENDA**

22 August 2008  
Council on Post-Secondary Education  
Boardroom 1  
410-330 Portage Avenue  
9:00 am – 12:00 pm

### AGENDA

1. Purpose
2. A Brief Introduction to COPSE
3. Update on Various Items
  4. Student Association legislation
  5. UM Amendment Act (GSA – UMSU)
  6. Annual Estimates Process (Fall)
4. Commission on Tuition Fees & Accessibility to Post-Secondary Education in Manitoba
5. Proposed Amendment to the COPSE Act
6. Other
7. Adjournment

W:\educps1\Consultation\22 Aug 08\Notes from Meeting with Student Organizations - 22 Aug 08.doc

## Attachment 2

# Council on Post-Secondary Education

## 1.0 Council's Strategic Leadership

### 1.1 Overview

COPSE is a provincial agency created to serve as an intermediary between post-secondary institutions and government. COPSE was created by an Act of the Manitoba Legislature in November 1996 and commenced operation in April 1997. COPSE's primary purposes, duties and powers are identified in *The Council on Post-Secondary Education Act*. COPSE is composed of eleven members appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council, including a chairperson and is supported by a staff Secretariat.

The primary legislative purposes of COPSE are to:

- ⊕ plan and coordinate the development of a post-secondary education system that promotes excellence and accessibility
- ⊕ assess post-secondary educational needs and set priorities for their provision
- ⊕ promote fiscal responsibility and accountability
- ⊕ review and approve new and modified university and college programming
- ⊕ allocate funding to colleges and universities each year

COPSE's role is clearly one of system planning and coordination, and not institutional governance. Governance and ongoing management of institutions is the role of their governing boards.

### 1.2 COPSE Duties and Powers

#### ***Planning and Coordination Responsibilities***

A major role of COPSE is to plan and coordination the post-secondary system in the province. Specific planning and coordination duties and powers conferred on COPSE in legislation include:

- ⊕ Assess on an ongoing basis the post-secondary educational needs of the province and the ability of universities and colleges to meet those needs
- ⊕ Determine the priorities for the provision of post-secondary education
- ⊕ Advise and assist universities and colleges in planning for the development and delivery of academic programs, services and facilities.
- ⊕ Advise and assist universities and colleges in the development of a clear mandate for each institution.
- ⊕ Develop and implement accountability requirements for each university and college for the core functions of teaching, research and service, including the development of consistent and effective criteria for measuring their performance
- ⊕ Facilitate the implementation of appropriate credit transfer arrangements between universities and colleges.

- ⊕ Develop policies for specialization and cooperation in the delivery of post-secondary programs and services.
- ⊕ Exercise the authority of the Minister under *The Degree Granting Act*, *The Colleges Act*, and *The University College of the North Act* .

### **Academic Program Responsibilities**

COPSE is responsible for approving new and modified academic programs, services and facilities at colleges and universities. COPSE has developed policies and procedures related to such approvals.

- ⊕ Approve new or significantly modified programs of study, services, or facilities at a university or college, setting terms and conditions on that approval as appropriate.

### **Funding Responsibilities**

COPSE receives each year from government global funding for the post-secondary system. COPSE then allocates that funding based on its analysis of needs within the system.

- ⊕ Inquire into the financial requirements of universities and colleges, and prepare an annual funding plan including a budget for the fiscal year for the operating, capital and special purposes for colleges and universities.
- ⊕ Allocate funding to universities and colleges, or to programs within universities and colleges, with a view to avoiding unnecessary duplication of effort and expense within the post-secondary education system.
- ⊕ Establish policies for tuition fees charged by universities and colleges.

### **Other Legislative Responsibilities**

Many of COPSE's duties and powers include the requirement to consult with universities, colleges and students on specific matters. This consultation helps COPSE in developing its annual funding plan and priorities for post-secondary education.

- ⊕ Consult with colleges, universities and students
- ⊕ Review and evaluate post-secondary programs and services and any other related matters, including appointing a person or committee to review and report on any matter concerning a university or college or causing an audit to occur.
- ⊕ Advise the government on post-secondary education and related matters.

## **2.0 Strategic Plan**

### **2.1 Mandate**

COPSE's mandate, as stated in *The Council on Post-Secondary Education Act*, is “. . . to plan and co-ordinate the development of a post-secondary education system in the province that promotes excellence in and accessibility to education, supports the co-ordination and integration of services and facilities, and promotes fiscal responsibility.”

## **2.2 Guiding Principles**

COPSE utilizes the following principles to guide its work.

COPSE's decisions will be:

- ⊕ Timely
- ⊕ Fact-based
- ⊕ Consistent with a systems approach
- ⊕ Consultative
- ⊕ Balanced with social, cultural, and economic priorities.

COPSE will:

- ⊕ Be proactive
- ⊕ Encourage program innovation
- ⊕ Encourage institutions to work together and promote portability of student credentials
- ⊕ Encourage institutions to deliver relevant programs
- ⊕ Promote the importance of post-secondary education
- ⊕ Encourage research relevant to the priorities of Manitoba
- ⊕ Foster the application of technology.

The post-secondary education system will be:

- ⊕ Cost effective
- ⊕ Accessible
- ⊕ Accountable
- ⊕ Learner focused
- ⊕ Transparent
- ⊕ Articulated and integrated
- ⊕ Relevant.

## **2.3 Goals**

The following goals were approved by COPSE in April 2007 and reviewed in March 2008:

1. Develop options for government regarding an affordability / accessibility strategy that focus on priority groups based on need
2. Develop a decision-making framework for the program funding under the control of COPSE
3. Develop a decision-making framework for capital development in the system
4. Articulate options for the implementation of a quality assurance process for Manitoba and develop a recommendation
5. Mitigate the impact of projected enrolment declines by focusing on priority groups