

Student Leaders Meeting #5 – 2006/07

30 November 2006

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

1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
(Agenda Attached)

Student Leaders in Attendance:

CUSB: Chantal Th  roux
BU: Regrets
UM: Garry Sran, Rachel Gotthilf
UMGSA: Regrets
UW: Kate Sjoberg
RRC: Rex Masesar
ACC: Regrets
UCN: Regrets

COPSE Staff in Attendance:

Sid Rogers, Secretary to Council
Susan Deane, Manager, University Relations
Dan Smith, Senior Policy Analyst

Introduction

The meeting came to order at 1:30 pm. Participants were welcomed and introductions were made.

Review of Notes from Last Meeting

The notes from the previous meeting were reviewed.

Follow-up on Items Raised in the Last Meeting

1. **Student Housing:** Susan Deane reported back on the issues raised regarding student housing. A handout was distributed that summarized the issue (attached). COPSE committed to (1) finding out if Manitoba Finance is pursuing the issue of changes to *The Residential Tenancies Act* relating to student housing and (2) determining if *The Residential Tenancies Act* applies to other non-profit organizations.

Students indicated that they would follow-up with the Minister of Finance on the issue as well.

- 2. Working Groups:** Sid Rogers noted that at this point he did not want to bring stakeholders into the mix. Sid noted that he wanted to start with a student-oriented issue and look at it in some depth – perhaps spending a half-day or more on a particular topic.

Students noted an interest in discussion a vision for post-secondary education in Manitoba, and focus on a specific issue, such as credit transfer, or Aboriginal education needs).

Students were not looking for a town-hall type forum, but were interested in having a discussion around the table, and document it as a stakeholder perspective to assist COPSE and/or government in decision-making.

- 3. Right to Organize Legislation:** Students distributed a proposal, and COPSE committed to examining it and making a recommendation to government.

Other Issues

Tuition Fee Tax Benefit: students recognized that the 60% tuition tax benefit was less of an accessibility option and more of a retention strategy. Students indicated that they would be communicating their perspectives on the issue directly with the Minister of Finance.

Other Fees: students are concerned that other fees will increase again and asked if a more proactive approach will be taken in 2007/08. Students expressed a concern about the “reasonable and justifiable” approach that was taken in 2006/07. Sid Rogers noted that he cannot speak about what might occur in the next Provincial Budget.

Next Meeting

A meeting timeframe was not set. Dan Smith will arrange the next meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm.

COPSE/Student Leaders Meeting # 5 – 2006/07

AGENDA

Time

Friday 30 November 2006
1:30 pm to 3:30 pm

Location

Council on Post-Secondary Education
Library Boardroom
410-330 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg

Participants

College and University Students' Association Leaders
COPSE Staff

Agenda

1. Introduction
2. Review of Notes from Last Meeting
3. Follow-up on items raised in last meeting
 - a. Student Housing at U of W
 - b. Working Groups
 - c. Right to Organize Legislation
4. Throne Speech, November 2006
5. Other
6. Next Meeting
7. Adjournment

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Attachment: Student Housing Issue

Notes Regarding student Housing Issues raised by students at the UW.

- The UW is responsible for four housing units and the space leased at Lions Manor. For these units there is a mechanism to address both maintenance and disciplinary issues that may arise.
- The units have residential assistants that are employed by the UW to offer the supports that students need. If students feel that their issues are not being adequately addressed by the RA's they can take the issue up with Lyn Jones the Housing Coordinator at UW, if the issue is still not resolved then the student can take it up with Kelly Brown who is VP for student services.
- The UW also has an off-campus residency listing of other facilities that are inspected by the UW for levels of adequacy in terms of housing, but have no responsibility beyond that. The student must sign their own lease and manage their own affairs. The UW claims that this is made clear in the information provided to the students.
- The problems arise from what are termed as 'shared accommodations' these arrangements do not fall under the Residency Tenancy Bureau and therefore the tenant has no rights and no mechanism by which to make an appeal other than the small claims court. This issue is beyond the scope of the UW.