

## **Student Consultation Session #3**

**05 November 2004**

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

**2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
(Agenda Attached)**

### **Students in Attendance:**

CSB: Solange Buissé  
BU: Meeghan Gavin  
UM: Cathy Van De Kerckhove, Rob Marriott  
UW: Susan Amyot  
RRC: Ryan Mariani, Becky Turner  
ACC: none attending  
UCN: none attending

### **COPSE Staff:**

Dan Smith, Senior Policy Analyst

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### **Introduction**

Introductory remarks were made, including a summary of the budget consultation process to date. It was noted that there was a great deal of symmetry among the comments made by students, faculty and institutions, although the level of detail differed.

### **Accountability Policy/Framework Discussion**

This part of the agenda was geared towards getting feedback about the discussion paper *The Developing Post-Secondary Accountability Framework in Manitoba*, circulated to students and to institutions in summer 2004.

There was a general discussion regarding what an accountability framework was. Component parts were sketched out, and their uses and implications discussed. There was a discussion regarding the uses of accountability, and in particular, indicators. Some students urged caution in how indicators are being used as there is a danger that they can direct the system in ways that may not be positive or intended. This was a concern that has also been raised by institutions during the consultation process.

Students generally appreciated being involved in a process of discussing accountability. However, they indicated that they would have preferred starting out with a blank slate

and developing a policy from the ground up. Staff indicated that accountability mechanisms existed prior to the beginning of the policy, so any process to develop a more systematic framework would necessarily appear to be “starting in the middle.”

One student association indicated that the discussion paper is vague when it comes to outlining the future direction of an accountability policy or framework. This may be inevitable until there is a better sense of what specific items and measurements will be included accountability framework.

### **Council Activity Profile**

The “What is COPSE Doing” document was discussed. Student associations indicated that the format was useful as it provided a summary of the current activities of the Council.

Students expressed an interest in the initiative to recruit Aboriginal students into teacher education programs. This is a priority area for the government.

There was a discussion regarding the University College of the North. Specifically, the discussion centred on concerns that have come up from the Manitoba Organization of Faculty Associations (MOFA) and the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT) about the status of UCN degrees and its governance arrangements. Specifically, students were interested in any response that the government might have regarding the division of powers between the Learning Council and the Governing Council.

Council staff indicated that the issue was well know to government. However, given that UCN has been operating for only 5 months, there may be a reluctance to act too quickly before the issue is fully understood and implications known.

Some student expressed frustration about the slow speed at which government appointments to Boards of Governors are made. Students indicated that students are six months into their terms on some Boards, yet some student board positions are unfilled.

### **Future Topics**

A discussion of possible topics for future meetings was held. The following items were suggested:

- Student Union Legislation (could include a discussion of *The Brandon University Act*, issues such as control of financial statements, etc).
- Aboriginal Funding
- International Student Tuition Fees
- Participation Rates

Students asked if they could review the notes of the meeting prior to them being posted on the Council's website. Staff agreed, provided that all agree to a speedy turnaround of the notes to ensure that they can go before COPSE at the next meeting.

### **Date of Next Meeting**

Friday, 14 January 2005, 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Location: Council on Post-Secondary Education Boardroom, 410-330 Portage Avenue  
(Details to be confirmed prior to meeting).

Note that some students expressed a desire that they participate over the phone. Those wishing to participate by phone should advise Dan Smith (945-4720, [dsmith@copse.mb.ca](mailto:dsmith@copse.mb.ca)) so that arrangements can be made.

At the conclusion of the meeting, students were thanked for their participation. Staff committed to sharing the notes of the meeting as soon as possible.

## **Meeting with Students' Association Leaders**

### **Time**

Friday 05 November 2004

2:00 pm to 4:00 pm

### **Location**

Council on Post-Secondary Education

Boardroom 1

410-330 Portage Avenue

Winnipeg MB R3C 0C4

### **Participants**

College and University Students' Association

COPSE Staff

### **Agenda**

1. Introduction
2. Accountability Policy/Framework (see attached document)
3. Activity Profile (See attached document)
4. Future Topics
5. Next Meeting
6. Other
7. Adjournment