

## **Student Consultation Session #2**

**October 7, 2004**

**Held at Boardroom 470 A & B  
800 Portage Avenue  
Winnipeg**

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

### **Students in Attendance:**

CSB: Renaud Lafond  
BU: Meeghan Gavin  
UM: Amanda Aziz, Rob Marriott  
UW: Joey Jakob, Matthew Gagne  
RRC: Ryan Mariani, Becky Turner  
ACC: none attending  
UCN: none attending

### **Staff in Attendance:**

Louise Gordon, Executive Director  
Susan Deane, Program Coordinator  
Dan Smith, Senior Policy Analyst  
Kim Browning, Policy Analyst

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### **Introductions**

Introductions were made and students were welcomed to the meeting. The agenda was distributed.

Student representatives began the discussion with the presentation and distribution of a paper on “The Applicability of B.C. models of consultation in the Post-Secondary Education sector to Manitoba”. The paper was presented in response to the Council’s request for further information on this topic at its September Council meeting with students.

The paper discusses 10 committees composed of a cross section of post-secondary education stakeholders established in BC when the former government was looking at restructuring aspects of post-secondary education to deal with policy and research issues. Students suggested the Paper could be used as a guideline for consultation with COPSE, while acknowledging that not all committees would be applicable to Manitoba.

## Discussion of Student Issues and Council Commitments

### Student Issue:

- That students and COPSE work together on subcommittees created to work on post-secondary education issues.
- **Council Response:** *There are working groups that already exist with the post-secondary institutions to address many of the issues raised in the paper, such as student financial assistance, credit transfer, educational technology, and prior learning assessment. While there may not be opportunity for student involvement in these existing committees, the Council would like to develop a process for consultation with students and identify the issues to work on together. Staff suggested the following topics for consultation that are relevant to the present and future post-secondary system: accessibility, UCN, integration of credit transferability, use of learning technologies, Campus Manitoba, Aboriginal education, growth of private education, and student aid. These issues could form part of a larger strategic plan for consultation. Staff would also be interested in students' thoughts on areas for research based on data in the Statistical Compendium.*

*It was also noted that the Council members are volunteers and are not available to attend subcommittee meetings in addition to the regular Council meetings.*

### Student Issue:

- To have input on all COPSE-related issues, such as tuition.
- **Council Response:** *The Council is willing to work with students to hear their opinions. The next opportunity for student input is the Council's estimates meetings with the institutions. Student representatives will have one half-hour to raise any post-secondary issues with the Council, and are encouraged to bring whomever they wish to the meetings. Students should be aware however, that while their input on issues such as tuition is welcome, it may not be part of the final decision-making that is managed by the Government.*

### Student Issue:

- To have broader representation from faculty, administration and support staff at the meetings with COPSE.
- **Council Response:** *The Council may consider hosting a one-day workshop involving members of the post-secondary education community such as students, faculty and administration at some point in the future should resources be found.*

### Student Issue:

- COPSE has the mandate to be consultative. Students asked COPSE how meaningful consultation can take place without structural change.
- **Council Response:** *The Council is willing to work with student representatives to help meet its mandate of consulting with its post-secondary education partners. To*

*this end, the Council would like to establish a consultative process and identify issues for consultation. While the Council staff and students agree that consultation must be meaningful, it need not require structural change. Consultation can be a “blue sky process”, but must be one that is meaningful, conceptually understood, and endures beyond the incumbency of current student representatives. Council staff provided a “Primer on Consultation” to students that outline guidelines and suggestions for a consultation process. The scheduling of monthly consultative meetings can be a starting point.*

*Council staff gave several examples of changes that had occurred in relation to meetings with student representatives. These include a student orientation and consultation session that was held in late August, a willingness to establish a consultation process and issues for discussion, a commitment to meet regularly with student representatives, and a request for input on the Council’s Accountability Paper.*

**Student Issue:**

- Students feel they react to issues, as they are unable to be present at meetings to discuss decisions before they are made.
- **Council Response:** *Student representatives have the opportunity to have input before decisions are made at the board level of their institutions. This is the venue for students to raise their concerns on issues such as institutional budgeting and programming before the decision making by the Council. However, the Council has the authority and mandate to make decisions about institutional issues and cannot delegate this responsibility to stakeholders.*

**Student Issue:**

- To meet with the Minister, rather than with Council staff.
- **Council Response:** *The Minister is aware of and understands the issues that concern students, however the Minister would not be available to meet on a regular basis. The Minister’s preference is for Council staff to work with student representatives to develop a consultative process and identify issues.*

**Student Issue:**

- To have student representation on the Council.
- **Council Response:** *All Council members are Government appointed representatives that do not hold any institutional affiliation. Appointing institutional student representatives to the Council would bias the objectivity and neutrality of decision making on the Council. However, student representatives are welcome to make presentations to the Council at designated times.*

**Student Issue:**

- To receive summary notes or oral reports on projects and activities involving the Council staff.

- **Council Response:** *Summaries on projects and activities involving the Council staff can be made available to student representatives at the consultation meetings.*

## **Summary of Discussion and Next Steps**

In preparation for the student consultations, staff will:

- Identify the issues currently being considered as part of a strategic plan for student consultation.
- Schedule regular meetings with student representatives for consultation on post-secondary issues. Dan Smith from the Council staff will meet with student representatives. Meetings will be scheduled monthly at the beginning and probably bimonthly thereafter. Minute taking will be shared amongst institutional representatives.
- Identify issues for consultation. The Accountability Paper will be a starting point for consultation.
- Distribute agenda items to student representatives in advance of the meetings. Students can e-mail Dan with suggestions for topics.
- Prepare summaries of projects and activities involving Council staff to share and discuss with student representatives. Oral reports can be provided.
- Consider scheduling a one-day stakeholder consultation session.

## **Date of Next Meeting**

Friday, November 5, 2004, 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Location: Council on Post-Secondary Education Boardroom, 410-330 Portage Avenue

At the conclusion of the meeting, students were thanked for their participation. Staff committed to sharing the proceedings of the meeting as soon as they were available.

*Notes prepared by Kim Browning*

**The Council on Post-Secondary Education  
Meeting with Student Leaders**

**Thursday, October 7, 2004**

**2:00 pm to 4:00 pm**

**at**

**Boardroom 470 A & B**

**800 Portage Avenue**

**Winnipeg MB**

**Agenda:**

Determining Issues to be worked on together

Developing a process for Review/Joint Work

Follow-up items from September 10<sup>th</sup> Council meeting

Meetings at the institutions

Date of Next Meeting

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