

Student Consultation Session #1 - 2005

25 August 2005

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

**1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
(Agenda Attached)**

Student Leaders in Attendance:

CSB: Chantal Theroux
CFS: Liz Carlyle
BU: Regrets
UM: Amanda Aziz, Cathy Van De Kerckhove, Megan Gallant
UW: Kate Sjoberg, Andre Michalchyshn
RRC: Rex Masear
ACC: Regrets
UCN: Regrets

COPSE Staff:

Louise Gordon, Executive Director
Dan Smith, Senior Policy Analyst

Introduction

Introductions were done around the table.

Orientation Session

Dan Smith gave a presentation about the Council on Post-Secondary Education.

Discussion

Discussion centred around two items – the agenda forwarded by the University of Winnipeg Students' Association, and the approach that could be taken with student leaders in terms of addressing post-secondary issues.

1. UWSA Agenda Items

Fees and funding: student leaders indicated that they did not have enough information to assess the financial position of the university in terms of understanding their budget needs. They want to have more clarity in the budgeting process.

Ancillary fees: the actions with respect to ancillary fees in Summer 2005 were discussed. Student leaders outlined their frustration that any increases in ancillary fees erode the benefits of the tuition fee reduction and freeze. Student leaders support legislative or other policy action to ensure that the same situation does not arise again.

Tuition fee legislation: student leaders expressed a desire to have the freeze legislated in part to ensure that the issue gets public exposure and debate. Council staff indicated that Government is aware of the request by student leaders to legislate the tuition fee policy (including ancillary fees), but has not been disposed to act on that request to this point.

A Rae Review for Manitoba: Student leaders asked if a commission to review post-secondary education was planned for Manitoba. Council staff replied that no such review is currently being planned.

Federal Budget 2005: There was a general discussion about possible future federal dollars flowing to provinces for post-secondary education particularly relating to the agreement made by the federal government to provide provinces for funding to improve accessibility. COPSE staff indicated that currently there is not much detail on how or when the Federal Government will provide additional funds to provinces for post-secondary education.

Restructuring of Graduate Student Fees: This issue was discussed in the context of the impact on the tuition fee policy. Council staff indicated that no proposal has yet been received from the University of Manitoba, so no comment could be made.

International Student Graduate Fees: Council was asked to comment on increases in graduate student fees for international students. Council staff indicated that these fees are deregulated, and institutions are able to set those fees without policy restrictions.

Research: Data issues were discussed, particularly relating to Aboriginal student data and funding information. Council staff noted that Aboriginal student data is self-reported, and trend data are not reliable. Student leaders were directed to Council's Annual Reports for information on funding for colleges and universities.

The CFS asked for background information regarding demonstration projects being undertaken by the Canadian Millennium Scholarship Foundation in partnership with Manitoba, among other provinces. Council staff committed to following-up on that with staff of Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth.

Budget consultation 2005: Council confirmed that students would be included in the annual budget consultations for the 2006/07 Estimates process. These consultations will likely be scheduled for October/November 2005.

2. Addressing Issues

Student leaders expressed a desire to participate more fully in the discussion of post-secondary issues. They suggested a working group format that would look at specific issues.

A discussion was had regarding the possibility of a meeting with university administration, faculty leaders and students to identify common issues and seek ways to address those issues.

Student leaders also want to meet more frequently with the Council members during the regular meetings of Council. The next meeting of the Council is scheduled for the morning of 09 September 2005, and the following meeting is scheduled for the morning of 14 October 2005.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be in late September or early October based on the availability of participants. Agenda items will be solicited. Preliminary agenda items for consideration include:

- Review of meeting assessment for last year
- Discussion of meeting process goals for 2005/06

Should participants want to attend the meeting by teleconference, please advise Dan Smith (945-4720, dsmith@copse.mb.ca) well in advance so that arrangements can be made.

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Student Leaders – COPSE Orientation

Time

Thursday 26 August 2005
1:00 pm to 3:30 pm

Location

Council on Post-Secondary Education
Boardroom 1
410-330 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg MB R3C 0C4

Participants

College and University Students' Association Leaders
COPSE Staff

Agenda

1. Introduction
2. COPSE Orientation Presentation
3. Discussion
4. Other
5. Next meeting
6. Adjournment